

Be patient, skiers, Huff working on it

RON WILSON
Bismarck Tribune

The answering machine at Huff Hills informs snow enthusiasts the ski area will open Thanksgiving day — maybe.

However, when an inch of snow fell Tuesday on the Bismarck-Mandan area, zealous snowboarders and skiers couldn't help but wish that somehow the message they were receiving was wrong.

"We had a lot of calls today (Tuesday) from kids wanting to know if we were open," said Jim Beck, owner of Huff Hills Ski Area. "That happens every year when we get our first snow."

The fact is, Mother Nature will determine when Huff Hills — and the state's other four ski areas — will open.

Actually, Beck isn't banking on a huge snow storm to dump a bunch of the white stuff on his ski area south of Mandan. But he would like to see things cool off — about 15 to 20 degrees for the daytime highs and cooler yet at night — so he can crank up his snow machines and make snow.

He said it takes at least 6 compacted inches to please the board-

More skiing

Huff Hills Ski Area:

■ Full-day lift tickets are \$16 for adults and \$12 for senior citizens and those 12 and under.

■ For more information, call Huff Hills at 663-6421.

Other skiing and snowboarding destinations in North Dakota:

■ Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau, 701-263-4556.

■ Frost Fire Mountains, Walhalla, 701-549-3600.

■ Bears Den Mountain, Fort Ransom, 701-973-2711.

■ Skyline Ski-Way, Devils Lake, 701-766-4035.

ers and skiers. It takes about eight days of round-the-clock snow-making to blanket the entire place.

Last winter, plenty of snow covered Huff Hills — more than enough to make skiers happy. Despite that, Beck isn't hoping for a repeat.

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