



## **Howelsen Hill Opens Saturday for 106<sup>th</sup> Winter Season** *Tremendous Snowmaking Efforts Make Skiing & Riding Possible*

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-December 1, 2021**-Historic Howelsen Hill will open for its 106<sup>th</sup> consecutive season on Saturday, December 4 and is set to operate for the first time into April during the upcoming 2021/22 winter season.

“While Mother Nature hasn’t shown up yet, Howelsen’s snowmaking crew sure did in a big way,” said Howelsen Hill Ski & Rodeo Manager Brad Setter. “Crews have cranked out every flake possible despite unseasonable conditions and their hard work has enabled the community to enjoy their first turns at their hometown hill this weekend.”

North America’s Oldest Operating Ski Area will feature very limited terrain entirely on snowmaking conditions for opening weekend, which also includes the first Ski Free Sunday.

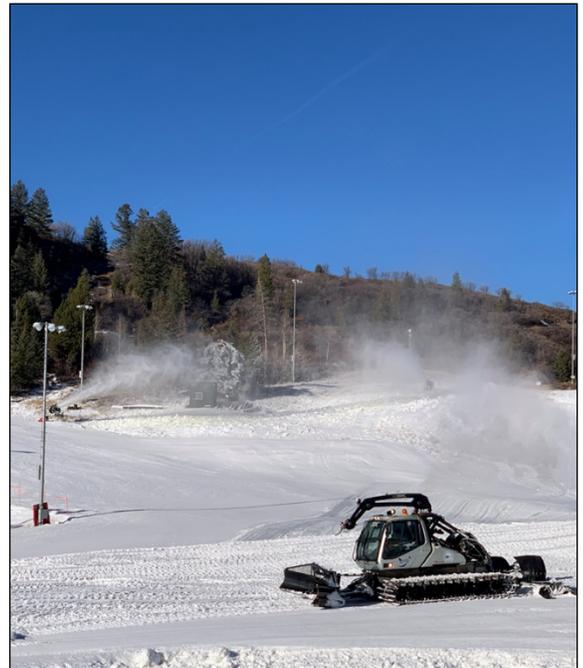
Skiers and riders should understand that only a portion of the expert trail, The Face, and the Pony beginner area will be available. The Poma lift will operate out of either the first or second exit depending upon snow to access the expert trail. Lift tickets and season passes are available out of the fireplace room in the historic lodge.

There will be **no intermediate terrain or Nordic trails available** at this time. The city will announce when additional terrain, Nordic trails and the new Barrows triple chairlift will open based on new snow and additional snowmaking over the coming weeks.

The popular Ski Free Sunday program will start this Sunday, Dec. 5, and run every Sunday through closing day, April 3. Skiers and riders, including season passholders, will need to obtain a complimentary Ski Free Sunday lift ticket to access available terrain/lifts each Sunday.

While winter is late to arrive, numerous improvements to the historic ski area are ready for the coming year. The new Barrows triple chairlift is standing by to speed skiers and riders to the top in comfort once conditions allow. The Outrun Snack Bar is cooking up new and delicious menu options along with managing the popular Howelsen Huts. Final touches are being made on a new self-standing ticket booth constructed from the old Barrows lift shack.

“With the forecasted weather pattern, I don’t foresee additional terrain or lifts for at least a week,” continued Setter. “However, we’re standing by around the clock to jump into action and ask the public to stay clear of snowmaking areas, snow piles and equipment at all times.”



While crews work at all hours to ready the hill, individuals have come extremely close to working equipment and grooming machines that is unsafe. Individuals should be aware that unmarked snowmaking hose, the winch cat cable and other hazards exist during snowmaking and hill prep. For the safety of on-hill staff and the public, please stay well away from all equipment, out of closed areas and adhere to all signage.

The Stables trailhead will be closed for the season today as crews move into this area starting this evening for snowmaking efforts.

A special ribbon cutting ceremony to officially welcome the Barrows chairlift is planned in the new year regardless of when the lift first spins. The event will celebrate the unique partnership between the city, Smartwool, VF Foundation and the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club which worked together to bring the multi-million-dollar SkyTrac lift to the hill and community.

The city will operate Howelsen Hill seven days a week from 11am to 8pm Monday through Friday and 10am to 4pm on weekends. Visit [steamboatsprings.net/ski](http://steamboatsprings.net/ski) for additional information, ticket/season pass pricing and updates or by calling 970.879.8499.

Howelsen Hill Ski Area is owned and operated by the City of Steamboat Springs and is a skiing institution across the community, Colorado, and the nation. Skiing since 1915, the ski area has been the training ground for more than 90 Winter Olympians, athletes from the acclaimed Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club and generations of snow loving families.

-WeServeTheCity-

### **Contact**

Brad Setter, Howelsen Hill Ski & Rodeo Manager, 970.871.7035 or [email](#)

Emily Hines, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, 970.871.7031 or [email](#)

Angela Cosby, Parks & Recreation Director, 970.871.7017 or [email](#)