

Red Lodge 5



III.1.4 Snowmaking

To counteract the potential negative ramifications from future drought conditions, the Red Lodge Mountain snowmaking system will be upgraded and expanded from about 40 acres to 127 acres, for an increase of 87 acres, which is slightly more than three times the existing coverage at Red Lodge Mountain.

Coverage Objectives

During the past decade, the definition of a "skiable surface" has changed significantly. As a result, ski area operators now find that snowmaking is a vital component of successful ski area operation. The amount of snowmaking required to support market demand is determined by a variety of factors, including market orientation, resource availability and cost, climatic conditions, and the physical characteristics of the mountain.

A set of coverage objectives for Red Lodge Mountain have been established, in accordance with the desires of the ski area operator. These objectives outline the volume of snow and the date by which the terrain must be covered. Table III.1.9 defines the proposed snowmaking terrain and the priority dates for coverage.

As shown in Table III.1.9, the preliminary acre-feet of snow volume necessary to meet Red Lodge Mountain's coverage objectives is as follows:

Priority	Date	Coverage
Priority 1	November 25	53 Acre-Ft.
Priority 2	December 25	141 Acre-Ft.
Priority 3	January 1	183 Acre-Ft.