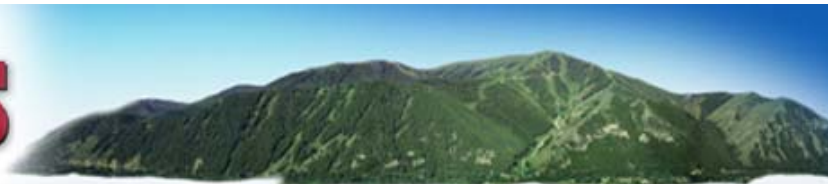


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Ski areas moaning about H-2B caps

LAKE TAHOE, Calif. -- Ski area operators are describing labor issues with the sort of language usually described for drought.

The specific source of anxiety, reports the Reno Gazette-Journal, is the cap on H-2B visas, which was reached last October. Ski resorts recently learned that the U.S. government will reject all additional applications unless Congress removes the quota.

"It's kind of a nightmare for us," said Ed Youmans, general manager of Diamond Peak, a ski resort at Incline Village.

Bob Roberts, executive director of the California Ski Industry Association, said the cap could bar 200 of the 1,500 to 2,000 foreign workers at California resorts. As well, the cap affects snowmaking experts, ski patrollers, and food-and-beverage workers.