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ASPEN/SNOWMASS HAS OVER FIVE FEET OF PRE-SEASON SNOW

Last Night's Storm Left Ten Inches *and It Is Still Snowing*

Aspen/Snowmass, CO., October 26, 2006 – Another early winter storm dumped up to 10 inches of snow on area peaks, bringing the Aspen/Snowmass pre-season snow total to more than five feet. Snowmass received 10 inches overnight, Aspen Mountain saw 9 inches, and Aspen Highlands was hit with 8 inches. Buttermilk, at a lower elevation, received 6 inches.

Crews are working on all four mountains to prepare for the season. Snowcats are track packing on Snowmass, Aspen Mountain and Aspen Highlands. Snowmaking crews have been prepping and testing lines and are ready to begin making snow with an extended period of cold weather. Some areas have now been packed twice and **base depths are in the 18 to 20 inch range on the upper mountain.** More than two feet of snow is on the ground in Highland Bowl and crews will begin boot packing after this storm.

“With every inch that falls the smiles get bigger around here,” said Rich Burkley, general manager mountain operations, Aspen Skiing Company. “We’re doing everything we can to keep the snow around and keeping our fingers crossed for more of the same.”

Snowmass and Aspen Mountain are scheduled to open in 28 days, on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23. Aspen Highlands and Buttermilk are scheduled to open Saturday, Dec. 9.

World Cup ski racing is also less than a month away, with the world’s fastest women skiers taking center stage on opening weekend at Aspen Mountain for the **Sirius Satellite Radio Aspen Winternational Nov. 25-26.**

When skiers and riders return they’ll find more than \$23 million dollars in on-mountain improvements including the new Elk Camp Gondola at Snowmass (opening mid-Dec.), and new cabins on Aspen Mountain’s Silver Queen Gondola.