

Ski town housing crisis not unique to Tahoe



Some ski towns like Vail have mega houses that are seldom used.
Photo/LTN

By Megan Michelson, Powder

Take a drive through any ski town, and chances are you'll find a lot of dark houses. Fancy homes where nobody lives, million dollar crash pads where the lights shine just a few times a year.

In Mammoth, it's not just ski bums and twentysomethings who can't find places to live. Cops, teachers, and nurses are struggling, too. According to a recent Mammoth housing study, 52 percent of homes are empty most of the year—used intermittently by vacationers. Of properties in the full-time rental pool, less than 2 percent are vacant, meaning if you want to score an apartment, you better call within minutes of the ad being posted and be prepared to compete.

The same thing is happening in ski towns across the country: Not only is housing overpriced, but it's practically impossible to find. In Tahoe, 76 percent of locals fork over

more than the nationally recommended 30 percent of their income on housing and the wait time for affordable units can take up to two years.

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