

Storms filling up Lake Tahoe, nears legal limit

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

It took a near-miracle but Lake Tahoe is once again holding enough water to supply Reno for as many as three years.

That's after a dismal start to winter during which snowpack in the Lake Tahoe basin was just 25 percent of the median peak on March 1.

"We will expect to be brim-full at both Boca and Stampede, just like last year," said Dave Wathen, chief deputy water master in Reno. "If we have a full Tahoe that typically gets us through three dry years."

During a snow survey on Monday at Slide Mountain, Wathen said Lake Tahoe is within about a foot of its legal storage limit with more rain and snow on the way.

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