

Ski Slope a no-go in Ashe

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Developers have given up on a planned ski slope in Jefferson.

According to Ashe Planning Director Zach Edwardson, a road is being constructed to access the property- but not for skiers.

The plan in the works appears to be for a high-end residential development.

Locally owned Vicent Properties and Florida-based Prestige Builders Partners had formed a partnership to buy and develop the Phoenix Mountain property and investigated the idea of a ski slope. The partners had hoped to create a longer ski slope than found anywhere else in the region along with an ice skating rink, restaurants, hotels and retail establishments. Developers had hoped to be ready for the 2008-2009 season. Vincent Properties recently turned its interests over to Prestige Builders.

According to Edwardson, the project's failure should have little effect on Ashe.

The ski slope was only in the preliminary planning phase.

Had plans been further developed, he said, Ashe could have suffered a bigger blow.