

**YACHAY WASI Sacred Sites Event - Submission 13 – USA –
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Snowmaking on Nuvaduqwi ovi (San Francisco Peaks)

The city of Flagstaff in Arizona has been operating the Snow Bowl ski resort up on Nuvaduqwi ovi (the San Francisco Peaks) for many years depending on the snowfall during the winter months. In the past four years there has been little snowfall and not enough to open the ski resort. The city of Flagstaff claim to have been losing business and tourism due to lack of snow at the Snow Bowl. Snow Bowl proposed to use snowmaking machine to make snow. The snowmaking with the machine is proposed to use city wastewater so the ski resort can be open and operates when there is no snow during the winter months.

The Hopi religious leaders, Society leaders and Elders oppose the ski resort when it was first proposed for development, but were totally ignored. Now, they resist and protested against the snowmaking for the very reason that this mountain is a sacred Hopi site. The Hopi believe it is a religious site where the Kachina spirits live and the Hopi people have been depositing their prayer feathers there for the Kachina spirits since time immemorial. The Nuvaduqwi ovi (San Francisco Peaks) is the home where the Kachinam live and receive the Hopi's prayers, messages, and take them to the four directions of the world where Cloud spirits await. To the Hopi it is the sacred site that deserves respect and to remain as is. The Kachinam will put snow on the Peaks when the human intruders leave the sacred site. The city of Flagstaff and the surrounding population of all people will benefit from the snow year round.

In the protest against the snowmaking on Nuvaduqwi ovi (San Francisco Peaks, many other Arizona tribes supported the effort and the issue was heard in court in Prescott, Arizona. The Court made a decision in favor of the Snow Bowl making snow by machine. Now the tribes are pursuing an appeal to the next court. There is no definite time when this case will be heard.

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