

March 13, 2026

Snowpack in Middle Park Near or at Record Low

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kremmling Field Office snow surveyors Mark Volt and Maureen Gutsch conducted snow survey measurements during the last days of February.

Snowpack in the high elevation mountains above Middle Park now ranges from 59% to 88% of the 30-year average, with the overall average for Middle Park at 65%. Snow density is averaging 25%, which means that for one foot of snow there is only 3 inches of water. These measurements and averages are from high elevation snow courses and SNOTEL sites. Low and mid snowpack is currently nonexistent.

All Colorado river basins are reporting record lows snowpack. Reported readings for the major river basins in Colorado are as follows: Colorado River Basin 65%; Gunnison River Basin, 65%; South Platte River Basin, 69%; Yampa and White River Basins, 68%; Arkansas River Basin, 47%; Upper Rio Grande Basin, 52%; San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins 86%; and the Laramie and North Platte River Basins, 56% of average for this time of year.

Most of the snow courses around Middle Park have been read since the 1940s. Snow course readings are taken at the end of each month, beginning in January and continuing through April. March is historically the snowiest month, and the April 1 readings are the most critical for predicting runoff and summer water supplies, as most of our high-country snowpack peaks around that time.

For further information, including real-time snow and precipitation data for SNOTEL (automated Snow Telemetry) sites, visit <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>.



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