

NEWS RELEASE

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February 1, 2019

Snowpack- Slightly Above Normal

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kremmling Field Office snow surveyors Mark Volt and Derrick Wyle took the February 1 snow survey measurements during the last days of January.

Snowpack in the high-elevation Mountains above Middle Park is at 117 % of the 30-year average. (1980-2010). Last year's snowpack at this time was only at 80% of average. It is still early in the winter and snowpack could change significantly by May...But we're are off to a darn good start.

Snow density is averaging 21%, which means that for a foot of snow there are 2.56 inches of water. That's pretty light, but typical for early in the winter. .

Reported readings for the major river basins in Colorado are also doing well.: The upper Colorado River Basin averages 112%; Gunnison River Basin, 104%; South Platte River Basin, 113%; Yampa and White River Basins, 108%; Arkansas River Basin, 125%; Upper Rio Grande Basin, 88%; San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins 89%; and the Laramie and North Platte River Basins 104% 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 1st. 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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NRCS Kremmling Field Office snow survey for February 1, 2019- compared to long-term average.

Snow course (SC) or	Last year		This year		30-year median (1981 - 2010)		Percent of median	
SNOTEL (ST)	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content
			(i	nches)	(%)			
Arapaho Ridge ST		11.9		14.5		13.2		111%
Berthoud Summit ST		8.3		11.5		10.6		108%
Buffalo Park ST		9.4		9.6		8.5		113%
Columbine ST		11.4		16.3		14.7		111%
Copper Mountain ST		6.4		10.4		8.0		101%
								174%
Corral Creek SC	32	6.1	41	8.7	33	8.0	124%	109%
Elliot Ridge ST		9.0		14.6	Newer site -no avei			
Fremont Pass ST		9.2		12.7		9.2		138%
Gore Pass SC			38	8.0	27	6.4	140%	126%
Granby SC	28	7.2	25	5.5	21	4.2	119%	131%
Grizzly Peak ST		9.0		12.5		9.0		139%
Jones Pass ST		6.9		11.0		7.9		139%
Lake Irene ST		11.4		13.9		14.1		99%
Lynx Pass ST		5.5		7.2		6.6		109%
Middle Fork Camp SC			33	7.1	27	6.4	122%	111%
Phantom Valley ST		6.5		5.8		6.3		92%
Stillwater Creek ST		4.7		5.1		5.1		100%
Summit Ranch ST		4.5		6.9		6.4		108%
Willow Creek Pass SC	35	8.2	37	8.4	34	8.2	109%	102%
Average (Median)								117%



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NRCS Kremmling Field Office snow survey February 1 moisture content records.

Snow course or SNOTEL	Highest F	eb. 1 moist	ure content	Lowest Feb. 1 moisture content		
	(inches)	(%)	(year)	(inches)	(%)	(year)
Arapaho Ridge ST (read since 2003)	19.3	125%	2011	9.4	63%	2003
Berthoud Summit ST	17.1	154%	1984	5.0	45%	1981
Buffalo Park ST (read since 1996)	14.7	167%	1997	4.6	52%	2002
Columbine ST	28.0	170%	1978	5.1	31%	1981
Copper Mountain ST	14.5	167%	1997	3.5	40%	1981
Corral Creek SC (read since 1995)	15.6	154%	1997	4.3	43%	2010
Fremont Pass ST	16.2	156%	1952	5.0	48%	1981
Gore Pass SC	11.7	165%	1997	1.3	18%	1981
Granby SC	12.1	303%	2017	1.1	23%	1981
Grizzly Peak ST	18.9	177%	1996	3.6	34%	1981
Jones Pass ST (read since 2000)	17.2	177%	1997	3.3	34%	1963
Lake Irene ST	26.4	163%	1962	6.0	37%	1977
Lynx Pass ST	13.4	174%	1978	1.6	21%	1981
Middle Fork Campground SC	11.6	178%	1952	1.8	28%	1981
Phantom Valley ST	10.6	166%	1996	2.9	45%	1981
Stillwater Creek ST (read since 1986)	10.8	200%	1997	2.2	41%	1981
Summit Ranch ST	12.1	181%	1984	4.0	60%	1981
Willow Creek Pass SC	17.6	215%	1984	2.2	27%	1981



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Derrick Wyle taking snow measurements on Gore Pass. Middle Park snow courses averaged 117% of normal for this time of year.