

February 1, 2014

## Snowpack is GOOD! (20% above average)

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kremmling Field Office snow surveyors Mark Volt and Noah Bates took the February 1 snow survey measurements during the last days of January. These readings were taken before the Jan.30-31 snowstorm that dumped 1-2 feet of snow in our mountains.

Snowpack in the high-elevation mountains above Middle Park is now around 120% of the 30-year average. It's still early in the season but we are doing GOOD! Last year's snowpack at this time was only 73% of average

Snow density is averaging 24%, which means that for a foot of snow there are 2.9 inches of water. The lower depths of the snowpack is very granular which is responsible for the weak snow stability.

Reported readings for the major river basins in Colorado are as follows: The upper Colorado River Basin averages 120%; Gunnison River Basin, 100%; South Platte River Basin, 123%; Yampa and White River Basins, 117%; Arkansas River Basin, 97%; Upper Rio Grande Basin, 74%; San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins 76%; and the Laramie and North Platte River Basins 119% 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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## NRCS Kremmling Field Office snow survey for February 1, 2014- compared to long-term average.

Snow course (SC) or SNOTEL (ST)	Last year		This year		30-year average (1981 - 2010) new!		Percent of average	
	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content
	------(inches)-----						------(%)-----	
Arapaho Ridge ST		11.3		14.3		13.0c		110%
Arrow ST		5.0		-		8.1		-
Berthoud Summit ST		7.4		12.4		10.8		115%
Buffalo Park ST		7.7		12.2		7.1c		172%
Columbine ST		11.7		17.9		15.0		119%
Copper Mountain ST		4.3		11.3		8.1		139%
Corral Creek SC	34	5.2	36	9.5	42	8.6c	86%	110%
Elliot Ridge ST		8.2		10.7		<i>New site c</i>		<i>New site</i>
Fremont Pass ST		6.4		9.5		9.5		100%
Gore Pass SC	28	5.2	35	8.9	30	7.1	117%	125%
Granby SC	16	3.2	28	6.8	23	4.7	122%	145%
Grizzly Peak ST		6.3		11.4		9.2		124%
Jones Pass ST		5.9		9.3		7.6c		122%
Lake Irene ST		9.3		14.7		13.9		106%
Lynx Pass ST		6.1		8.3		6.7		124%
Middle Fork Camp SC	24	4.3	32	7.4	29	6.5	110%	114%
Phantom Valley ST		4.2		6.3		6.5		97%
Stillwater Creek ST		3.4		5.8		4.4		132%
Summit Ranch ST		3.9		5.6		6.6		85%
Willow Creek Pass SC	29	5.8	34	8.1	34	8.2	100%	99%
<i>Average</i>								<b>119%</b>

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

Snow course or SNOTEL	<u>Highest Feb. 1 moisture content</u>			<u>Lowest Feb. 1 moisture content</u>		
	(inches)	(%)	(year)	(inches)	(%)	(year)
Arapaho Ridge ST (read since 2003)	19.3	125%	2011	9.4	63%	2003
Arrow ST	13.5	157%	1984	2.6	30%	1941
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
<b>Corral Creek SC (read since 1995)</b>	15.6	154%	1997	<b>4.3</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>2010</b>
Fremont Pass ST	16.2	156%	1952	5.0	48%	1981
Gore Pass SC	11.7	165%	1997	1.3	18%	1981
Granby SC	10.6	226%	1997	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