



United States Department of Agriculture

SHERIDAN COUNTY SNOWPACK REPORT

May 1, 2018



As the weather warms up, we are beginning to see snowpack water content decreasing at some sites across the eastern Bighorns as of May 1, 2018. Snow water continues to be near median in the northern Bighorns, and remains above median in the southern Bighorns. Tongue River watershed snow water content remains just below median, at 99% on average, according to composite snow-water data from Snotel and manually collected snow-course sites. Clear Creek watershed snow water content jumped substantially higher than last month at 170% of median. This is likely due to a combination of new snow and maintaining snow later than typical, resulting in higher than median now water without substantial amounts of new snow. Powder River Basin Snotel data indicates snow-water in the basin as a whole more similar to Tongue River, at 118% of median.

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Total Water Year to Date Precipitation remains below average at 84%, at Tongue River drainage Snotel sites. Total Water Year to Date Precipitation at Powder River drainage Snotel sites also remains above average at 114% of average. Manual snow course data included in this report was collected April 23, 24, and 25, so does not include the moisture from April 30. Snotel data in this report is as reported May 1.

Snotel data across Wyoming continue to show the northern basins above median on May 1. The Lower North Platte River basin remains is the lowest at just 41% of median, while the Belle Fourche River basin are the highest in the State, well above 200% of median.

Snotel data collectors are permanent, remote sites that transmit real-time snow water content and precipitation data through a west-wide computer network. Daily data from these sites, as well as other water supply-related reports and products can be accessed through the Water link under Topics on the Wyoming NRCS Homepage at www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov.

Table with 7 columns: Site, Site Elevation, Observed Snow Depth (Inches), Observed Snow Water Content (Inches), 30 year Median Water Content (Inches), 2018 Observed as % of Median, 2018 Observed as % of Last Year. Rows include Tongue River Drainage (North Tongue Snow Course, Sawmill Divide Snow Course, Woodrock Snow Course, Bald Mountain Snotel, Big Goose Snotel, Bone Springs Snotel, Burgess Junction Snotel, Dome Lake Snotel, Sucker Creek Snotel, Tie Creek Snotel) and Clear Creek Drainage (Soldier Park Snow Course, Sourdough Snow Course, Cloud Peak Snotel, Hansen Sawmill Snotel, Powder River Pass Snotel). Includes an average row for each drainage and a note: \*\*\* Not Measured; Inaccessible.