



**SHERIDAN COUNTY SNOWPACK REPORT**

**May 1, 2022**

Snowpack snow-water content in the Bighorn Mountains on May 1<sup>st</sup> jumped above median for the first time in 2022. Nearly all sites exceeded median values, with individual sites ranging from 93% to 192% of median. All sites, except one, gained snow-water content during the month of April. Composite snow-water data – Snotel site data combined with manually collected snow-course data – in Tongue River drainage averaged 125% of median. In the Clear Creek watershed, basin-wide composite snow-course and Snotel data averaged 113% of median. The Powder River basin including Clear Creek, averaged a bit higher as a whole, based on Snotel site data, at 115% of median.

This month’s Tongue River drainage snowpack snow-water is higher than one year ago, at 121% of 2021 levels on a basin-wide average. The Clear Creek watershed average snow-water data is also higher than a year ago as well at 110% of 2021.

Powder River basin Snotel sites indicates Total Water Year to Date precipitation at 101% of average as of May 1, 2022. The Tongue River basin precipitation Water Year to Date was a bit higher at 110% of average.

May 1<sup>st</sup> Snotel site data across all Wyoming river basins on showed extreme differences in percent of median snow-water. This month the lowest percent of median basin in the State was the South Platte River which reported no snow water at the one site in the basin – or 0% of median. Similarly stark, were the Cheyenne and Belle Fourche River basins, which recorded the upper reporting limit of 417% of median. While significant, these data may not be entirely reflective due to statistical factors related to typically declining snowpack that can result in extreme reports.

Manual snow course data presented in this report were collected April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. Snotel data in this report is as reported May 1<sup>st</sup>. Snotel data collectors are permanent, remote sites that transmit real-time snow-water content and precipitation data via satellite link. 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

Site	Site Elevation	Observed Snow Depth (Inches)	Observed Snow Water Content (Inches)	30 year Median Water Content (Inches)	2022 Observed as % of Median	2022 Observed as % of Last Year
<b>Tongue River Drainage</b>						
North Tongue Snow Course	8450'	31	15.8	11.9	133%	136%
Sawmill Divide Snow Course	9260'	27	15.6	14.3	109%	99%
Woodrock Snow Course	8440'	26	11.2	9.8	114%	137%
Bald Mountain Snotel	9380'	66	19.5	21.0	93%	88%
Big Goose Snotel	7990'	32	10.0	8.4	119%	122%
Bone Springs Snotel	9350'	64	19.4	17.6	110%	101%
Burgess Junction Snotel	7880'	53	14.7	12.1	121%	125%
Dome Lake Snotel	8880'	55	15.1	11.4	132%	117%
Sucker Creek Snotel	8880'	55	15.2	12.6	121%	120%
Tie Creek Snotel	6870'	12	5.0	2.6	192%	167%
				Average:	125%	121%
<b>Clear Creek Drainage</b>						
Soldier Park Snow Course	8720'	***	***	4.8	***	***
Sourdough Snow Course	8460'	***	***	6.4	***	***
Cloud Peak Snotel	9860'	55	16.6	16.0	104%	113%
Hansen Sawmill Snotel	8360'	16	5.6	4.2	133%	127%
Powder River Pass Snotel	9480'	33	10.1	10.0	101%	91%
				Average:	113%	110%
*** Not Measured; Inaccessible						