

United States Department of Agriculture

SHERIDAN COUNTY SNOWPACK REPORT May 1, 2023

Snow-water conditions in Bighorn Mountain snowpack remain above median on May 1st. May 1 is usually the final report of the season for the Sheridan County Snowpack Report but depending on conditions we may report in June if snowpack conditions warrant. Many eastern Bighorns sites continue to exceed their 30-year medians this month, though more are below median than one month ago. Data range widely, from 87% to 235% of median as some areas begin to shed snowpack water. Tongue River watershed composite snow-water data (Snotel remote-site data combined with manually collected snow-course data) is the same as last month's report at 116%. As was the case in April, the Clear Creek drainage remained higher at 123% of median composite data on May 1. As a whole the Powder River basin, including Clear Creek, averaged lower at 109% of median based on Snotel site data.

Tongue River watershed snowpack snow-water is higher in 2023 than a year prior, averaging 122% of 2022 snowwater equivalent values. The Clear Creek drainage, though, is very similar in snow-water this year in comparison to one year ago, at 99% of May 1st, 2022, values.

Interestingly, Snotel sites Total Water-Year-to-Date Precipitation in both the Tongue and Powder River basins have fallen a bit below median this month, at 94% and 98% of median respectively.

All Wyoming river basins but the South Platte River were above median as of May 1st, according to Snotel data. The South Platte River basin dropped to just 14% of median this month and the lowest in the State. The Little Snake River basin remains quite high, at 172% of median but is eclipsed by the Belle Fourche and Niobrara River drainages which both exceed 400% of median. Take these extreme values with some salt though because this time of year very high percent of median values are common as basins begin to melt out and remaining snow-water can appear outsized in comparison to falling 30-year medians.

Manual snow course data presented were collected April 26th to 28th for this report. Snotel data in this report is as reported end-of-day on April 30th. 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 at *www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov*

		Observed	Observed Snow	30 year Median	2023	2023
	Site	Snow Depth	Water Content	Water Content	Observed as	Observed as
Site	Elevation	(Inches)	(Inches)	(Inches)	% of Median	% of Last Year
Tongue River Drainage						
North Tongue Snow Course	8450'	40	10.4	11.9	87%	66%
Sawmill Divide Snow Course	9260'	48	13.4	14.3	94%	86%
Woodrock Snow Course	8440'	38	11.4	9.8	116%	102%
Bald Mountain Snotel	9380'	57	20.2	21.0	96%	104%
Big Goose Snotel	7990'	26	9.7	8.4	115%	97%
Bone Springs Snotel	9350'	45	17.7	17.6	101%	91%
Burgess Junction Snotel	7880'	39	13.2	12.1	109%	90%
Dome Lake Snotel	8880'	30	11.2	11.4	98%	74%
Sucker Creek Snotel	8880'	36	13.2	12.6	105%	87%
Tie Creek Snotel	6870'	14	6.1	2.6	235%	122%
				Average:	116%	92%
Clear Creek Drainage						
Soldier Park Snow Course	8720'	***	***	4.8	***	***
Sourdough Snow Course	8460'	34	9.7	6.4	152%	***
Cloud Peak Snotel	9860'	46	15.2	16.0	95%	92%
Hansen Sawmill Snotel	8360'	18	6.6	4.2	157%	118%
Powder River Pass Snotel	9480'	21	8.7	10.0	87%	86%
				Average:	123%	99%
*** Not	Measured; Ina	ccesible				

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