



SHERIDAN COUNTY SNOWPACK REPORT
May 1, 2019

Average Snow Water Content of Sheridan County snowpack remains below median for the beginning of May, though still shows a wide variability across the eastern Bighorns. Snowpack water content as percent of median ranges from 37% to 132% as of May 1st. Tongue River drainage snow water remains well below median, at 71% based on composite snow-water data from Snotel and manually collected snow-course sites in the watershed. The same composite of snow-course and Snotel data suggests Clear Creek snow water is higher at 99% of median, but two lower elevation mountain manual snow course sites were not accessible this month and thus are not included in the current average. Snotel data in the Powder River Basin as a whole, which includes the Clear Creek drainage, reports snow-water similar to the Tongue River drainage, at 75% of median. Both Tongue River and Clear Creek snowpack water content are substantially lower than at this time last year, with percent of last year values at 77% and 61%, respectively. Both basins show below average Total Water Year to Date Precipitation as well; 74% at Tongue River watershed Snotel sites and 79% at Powder River watershed sites.

May 1st Snotel data indicate broad variability among river basins across Wyoming. The South Platte River basin was the highest in the State at 123% of median, while most of the western and southern basins in the State are near or above median. The northeastern basins, the Belle Fourche and Cheyenne Rivers have melted out and thus hold the lowest percent of median values in the State, at 0% of median.

Snotel data included in this report was current on May 1st. Manual snow course data included in this report was collected April 26th to 30th.

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.

Site	Site Elevation	Observed Snow Depth (Inches)	Observed Snow Water Content (Inches)	30 year Median Water Content (Inches)	2019 Observed as % of Median	2019 Observed as % of Last Year
Tongue River Drainage						
North Tongue Snow Course	8450'	29	8.2	11.9	***	***
Sawmill Divide Snow Course	9260'	41	11.0	14.3	77%	63%
Woodrock Snow Course	8440'	25	6.4	9.8	65%	60%
Bald Mountain Snotel	9380'	53	17.5	20.5	85%	78%
Big Goose Snotel	7990'	25	7.4	9.2	80%	91%
Bone Springs Snotel	9350'	44	14.4	16.5	87%	65%
Burgess Junction Snotel	7880'	27	7.9	12.1	65%	70%
Dome Lake Snotel	8880'	36	6.6	11.4	58%	49%
Sucker Creek Snotel	8880'	33	10.0	12.2	82%	96%
Tie Creek Snotel	6870'	6	1.0	2.7	37%	125%
				Average:	71%	77%
Clear Creek Drainage						
Soldier Park Snow Course	8720'	***	***	4.8	***	***
Sourdough Snow Course	8460'	***	***	6.4	***	***
Cloud Peak Snotel	9860'	45	12.6	16.5	76%	75%
Hansen Sawmill Snotel	8360'	13	3.3	2.5	132%	53%
Powder River Pass Snotel	9480'	27	8.2	9.4	87%	54%
				Average:	99%	61%
*** Not Measured; Inaccessible						

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