



SHERIDAN COUNTY SNOWPACK REPORT

April 1, 2024

The April Fool’s Day Sheridan County Snowpack Report is no fooling, and snow-water content remains below median on the Bighorn Mountains’ eastern slope. The month of March did see area snowpack water content improve as percent of media and observations have become more uniform since March 1st observations. Snow over the weekend also made some substantial increases at observation sites, but for the sake of comparison with snow course data collected late last week, this report’s local data does not include recent snow. As of March 29th, observations for individual sites ranged from 44% to 91% of 30-year median, with most sites reporting 60-80% of median. Composite snow-water data for the Tongue River drainage (SNOTEL remote-site data combined with manually collected snow-course data) indicate 67% of median, which is up from 61% last month. Also improving since last month, the Clear Creek drainage is higher at 72% of median, compared with 69% at the end of February. Continuing the trend of less snowpack water in the southern portion of the basin, the Powder River watershed as a whole averaged lower at 61% of median based on SNOTEL site data, similar to one month ago.

It’s no surprise with the mild weather that Tongue River and Clear Creek watershed snowpack snow-water remains significantly lower than this time in 2023. Tongue River is 61% of one year ago, while Clear Creek is 60% of April 1, 2023.

Despite a fairly dry March, Total Water-Year-to-Date Precipitation at SNOTEL sites in both the Powder and Tongue River basins remains relatively near median. The Powder River watershed is 94 percent of median, while the Tongue basin is at 95% of 30-year median precipitation data. As in the last two months, this means though it has not stayed as snowpack, both basins have received fairly ‘normal’ precipitation since the October 1st beginning of the ‘water year’.

The month of March saw above median snowpack water in much of the western half of Wyoming. Northeast Wyoming continued its trend as well, with snowpack water well below median. Continuing its 2024 streak again this month, the Bear River basin remains the highest basin in the state at 121% of 30-year median. Reflecting drying conditions in Northeast Wyoming, the Cheyenne River basin is the State’s lowest this month, at just 37% of median.

Manual snow course data in this report were collected between March 27th and 29th. SNOTEL data is as reported, end-of-day, on March 29th to make for comparable data due to weekend snow. Remember, SNOTEL data collectors are permanent, remote sites collecting and transmitting real-time snow-water content and precipitation data via satellite link across the West. Daily data from these sites, as well as other water supply-related reports and products can be accessed through the Wyoming Snow Survey and Water Supply link on the Wyoming NRCS Homepage at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/wyoming.

Table with 7 columns: Site, Site Elevation, Observed Snow Depth (Inches), Observed Snow Water Content (Inches), 30 year Median Water Content (Inches), 2024 Observed as % of Median, 2024 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).

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