

February 3, 2011

## Snowpack above Middle Park well above average

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Kremmling Field Office snow surveyors Mark Volt and Jenny Stricker took the February 1 snow survey measurements during the last days of January.

Snowpack in the high-elevation mountains above Middle Park now ranges from 111% to 170% of the 30-year average. Last year snowpack at this time was only about 65% of average.

Snow density is averaging 25%, which means that for a foot of snow there are 3 inches of water. This is pretty dense snow for this time of year.

Reported readings for the major river basins in Colorado are as follows: The upper Colorado River Basin averages 126%; Gunnison River Basin, 125%; South Platte River Basin, 116%; Yampa and White River Basins, 120%; Arkansas River Basin, 97%; Upper Rio Grande Basin, 86%; San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins 106%; and the Laramie and North Platte River Basins, 130% of average for this time of year.

Most of the snow courses around Middle Park have been read since the 1940s. Snow course readings are taken at the end of each month, beginning in January and continuing through April. March is historically the snowiest month, and the April 1 readings are the most critical for predicting runoff and summer water supplies, as most of our high country snowpack peaks around that time.

For further information, including real-time snow and precipitation data for SNOTEL (automated Snow Telemetry) sites, visit <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>.



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**NRCS Kremmling Field Office snow survey for February 1, 2011, compared to long-term average.**

Snow course or SNOTEL	Last year		This year		30-year average (1971 - 2000)		Percent of average	
	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content	Snow depth	Moisture content
	------(inches)-----						------(%)-----	
Arapaho Ridge ST	43	10.5	77	19.3		15.0		125%
Arrow ST	22	4.1	39	9.8		8.6		114%
Berthoud Summit ST	38	10.1	62	15.5		11.1		140%
Buffalo Park ST	30	6.1	50	12.5		8.8		142%
Columbine ST	46	12.1	88	21.9		16.5		133%
Copper Mountain ST	29	5.9	54	13.6		8.7		156%
Corral Creek SC	30	4.3	46	12.0	42	10.1	110	119%
Elliot Ridge ST	31	7.7		12.2	<i>New site</i>		<i>New site</i>	
Fremont Pass ST	37	8.0	54	13.5		10.4		130%
Gore Pass SC	25	4.4	44	11.2	30	7.1	147%	158%
Granby SC	18	3.4	34	8	23	4.7	148%	170%
Grizzly Peak ST	31	7.0		16.2		10.7		151%
Jones Pass ST	29	6.0		12.3		9.7		127%
Kremmling Reservoir SC	31	6.1	53	15.4	38	9.6	139%	160%
Lake Irene ST	45	11.5		21.7		16.2		134%
Lynx Pass ST	23	4.9		10.4		7.7		135%
Middle Fork Camp SC	21	3.5	31	7.2	29	6.5	107%	111%
Phantom Valley ST	21	5.9		9.9		6.4		155%
Stillwater Creek ST	14	2.9		7.9		5.4		146%
Summit Ranch ST	22	5.0		7.8		6.7		116%
Willow Creek Pass SC	24	5.1	44	11.2	34	8.2	129%	136%
<i>Average</i>							<b>130%</b>	<b>138%</b>

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## NRCS Kremmling Field Office snow survey February 1 moisture content records.

Snow course or SNOTEL	<u>Highest Feb. 1 moisture content</u>			<u>Lowest Feb. 1 moisture content</u>		
	(inches)	(%)	(year)	(inches)	(%)	(year)
Arapaho Ridge ST (read since 2003)	19.3	125%	2011	9.4	63%	2003
Arrow ST	13.5	157%	1984	2.6	30%	1941
Berthoud Summit ST	17.1	154%	1984	5.0	45%	1981
Buffalo Park ST (read since 1996)	14.7	167%	1997	4.6	52%	2002
Columbine ST	28.0	170%	1978	5.1	31%	1981
Copper Mountain ST	14.5	167%	1997	3.5	40%	1981
<b>Corral Creek SC (read since 1995)</b>	15.6	154%	1997	<b>4.3</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>2010</b>
Fremont Pass ST	16.2	156%	1952	5.0	48%	1981
Gore Pass SC	11.7	165%	1997	1.3	18%	1981
Granby SC	10.6	226%	1997	1.1	23%	1981
Grizzly Peak ST	18.9	177%	1996	3.6	34%	1981
Jones Pass ST (read since 2000)	17.2	177%	1997	3.3	34%	1963
Kremmling Reservoir SC (read since 2001)	15.4	160%	2011	5.6	58%	2002
Lake Irene ST	26.4	163%	1962	6.0	37%	1977
Lynx Pass ST	13.4	174%	1978	1.6	21%	1981
Middle Fork Campground SC	11.6	178%	1952	1.8	28%	1981
Phantom Valley ST	10.6	166%	1996	2.9	45%	1981
Stillwater Creek ST (read since 1986)	10.8	200%	1997	2.2	41%	1981
Summit Ranch ST	12.1	181%	1984	4.0	60%	1981
Willow Creek Pass SC	17.6	215%	1984	2.2	27%	1981