

FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Modoc NF – Pacific Southwest Region

225 W. 8th St. Alturas, CA 96101

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/modoc>

The snow survey results are in.

Modoc National Forest personnel recently conducted snow surveys at select sites across the Forest. There are four snow measurement sites on the Forest, using a SNOTEL and snow course.

A SNOTEL is a small structure which houses electronic weather measuring equipment. The SNOTEL consists of devices to measure snow depth, water content, rain and electronic equipment to transmit information remotely. Installation of the SNOTELs began in 1979.

Snow courses have been in place much longer, with the Adin and Cedar Pass snow courses established in 1930 and another located in the North Central Devil's Garden established in 1939.

The following are measurements taken from three of the snow survey sites still in use on the Forest:



Blue Lake Ranch survey site



Adin Mountain Survey Site

The Adin Mountain (Sweagert Flat) snow survey was completed on 2/2/16. Snow depth was 48.7 inches compared to the long-term average of 27 inches. *This is the highest recorded snow depth at the Adin Mountain snow survey site in the month of February since 1969 (51 inches).* Water content was 15.4 inches compared to the long-term average of eight inches.

The Blue Lake Ranch snow survey was completed on 2/1/16. Snow depth was 37.8 inches compared to the long-term average of 23 inches. *This is the highest recorded snow depth at the Blue Lake snow survey site in the month of February since 1995 (41 inches).* Water content was 11.6 inches compared to the long-term average of 6.6 inches.



Blue Lake Ranch survey site

The Cedar Pass snow survey was completed on 1/28/16. Snow depth was 50.4 inches compared to the long-term average of 33.7 inches. *This is the highest recorded snow depth at the Cedar Pass snow survey site in the month of February since 1999 (51 inches).* Water content was 17.4 inches compared to the long-term average of 10.3 inches.



Cedar Pass survey site

For current SNOTEL information containing snow water equivalent and snow depth go to:
<http://1.usa.gov/1nYDli3>

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for the greatest good