



News Release

U.S. Forest Service
Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka CA 96097
Voice: 530-842-6131
Email: klamathinfo@fs.fed.us
Web: www.fs.usda.gov/klamath

Media Contact: Ian Shackelford
530-841-4485

ishackelford@fs.fed.us



Snow Survey Contact: Maija Meneks
530-468-1272

March 3, 2016

March 1st Snow Survey Results

FORT JONES, CA – Employees of the Salmon-Scott River Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest have completed the March 1st snow surveys. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program, to help the State forecast the amount of water available for agriculture, power generation, recreation, and stream flow releases later in the year.

The March snow measurements for 2016, while vastly improved compared to the last several years, nonetheless show a decline from February. Warm temperatures and rain from several storms melted some of the snow. According to the current measurements, the snowpack has a slightly below-average depth of 83%, and a near-average water content of 98%, as assessed against historical averages for March 1st. Looking ahead, there is still opportunity for additional snow with most locations historically reaching their annual maximum by late-March and early-April.

The snow surveys are measured monthly during the winter and spring months (February-May). District employees travel to specified sites to collect information about snow accumulation in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley. The measuring sites are designated locations that quantify snow depth and moisture content. Snow site locations vary, with some located close to forest roads while others require hours of travel by snowshoe and snowmobile.

The snow depth and water content are measured by a snow sampling tube with a cutter end that is driven through the snow pack, measuring depth. The snow core is then

weighed to determine the water content (water equivalent). The information is forwarded to the State of California, where the data is compiled with other snow depth reports and becomes part of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys program. The data is managed by the California Department of Water Resources, and more information is available on their website at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow>.

All news releases, including past snow survey results, are posted on the Klamath National Forest’s website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/newsarchives/klamath/newsarchive>.

March 1st 2016 Snow Survey Results Scott River Sub-Basin

Snow Course	Snow Depth			Equivalent Water Content		
	Measured	Historic Average for March	% of Historic Average	Measured	Historic Average for March	% of Historic Average
Middle Boulder 1 (Established 1946 / Elevation 6600’)	56.4"	65.1”	87%	27.6"	26.0”	106%
Middle Boulder 3 (Established 1948 / Elevation 6200’)	53.9"	60.0”	90%	23.9"	23.1"	103%
Dynamite Meadow (Established 1955 / Elevation 5700’)	27.1"	47.0”	58%	10.2”	16.2”	63%
Swampy John (Established 1951 / Elevation 5500’)	64.4"	71.0”	91%	28.0"	24.9”	112%
Scott Mountain (Established 1986 / Elevation 5900’)	45.8"	51.1”	90%	21.0"	19.6"	107%
Total average			83%			98%

BELOW:

Photo of U.S. Forest Service employees weighing a snow core at one of the Boulder Basin sites near Callahan, March 2, 2016.

Photo of U.S. Forest Service employees snowshoeing to one of the Boulder Basin sites near Callahan, March 2, 2016.



U.S. Forest Service employees weighing a snow core at one of the Boulder Basin sites near Callahan, March 2, 2016.



U.S. Forest Service employees snowshoeing to one of the Boulder Basin sites near Callahan, March 2, 2016.

###