



News Release

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February 1st Snow Survey Results

FORT JONES, CA – Employees of the Salmon-Scott River Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest have completed the February 1st snow surveys. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program, which is operated by the California Department of Water Resources.

The first snow measurements of 2016 indicate that the depth and water content of this winter's snowpack is in much better condition compared to the last several years at this time. According to the current measurements for the snow courses, the snowpack has an above average depth of 132% and a water content of 151%, as assessed against historical averages for February 1st. Precipitation from early season storms have contributed to the current snowpack accumulation. However, many months of winter remain, 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 existing 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 snow shoes and snowmobile.

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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 the information is used to help the State forecast the amount of water available for agriculture, power generation, recreation, and stream flow releases later in the year.

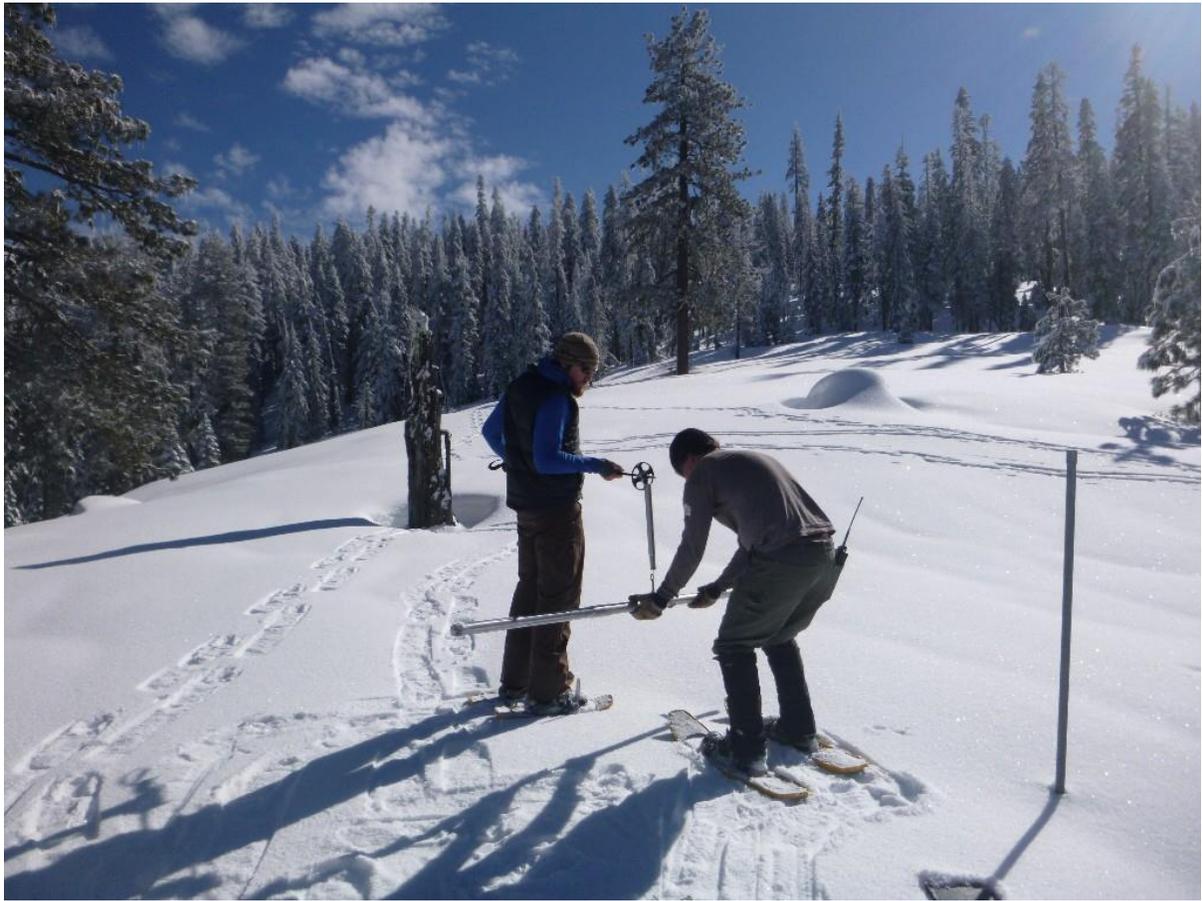
For more information, go to the California Department of Water Resources

Website: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow>. All news releases are posted on the Klamath

National Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath/news/>

February 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')	70.4"	50.0"	141%	25.4"	19.2"	132%
Middle Boulder 3 (Established 1948 / Elevation 6200')	63.5"	48.9"	130%	31.2"	17.6"	177%
Dynamite Meadow (Established 1955 / Elevation 5700')	47.4	38.2	124%	23.2"	12.4"	187%
Swampy John (Established 1951 / Elevation 5500')	72.0"	57.0"	126%	25.0"	20.0"	125%
Scott Mountain (Established 1986 / Elevation 5900')	56.3"	40.1"	140%	20.3"	15.2"	134%
Total average	132%			151%		



U.S. Forest Service employees weighing a snow core at the Scott Mountain snow survey site, February 1, 2016.

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