



News Release

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April 1st Snow Survey Results

FORT JONES, CA – Forest Service personnel have completed the April 1st Snow Surveys on the Salmon Scott Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program, which is operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The Snow Survey program enables water managers to better estimate annual runoff available for hydroelectric generation, agriculture and municipal water use, and other water needs.

This month's survey indicates that the snow depth and water content are well below average with snow depth at 12% of normal and water content at 9% of normal compared to historical values for April (see Table 1). The snowpack – often called California's largest reservoir – normally provides about a third of the water used by cities and farms as it melts into streams and reservoirs in spring and early summer. California Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin said "We welcome the late storms but they are not enough to end the drought. We can't control the weather but we can control the amount of water we use. This drought is a wake-up call that we all have to take water conservation seriously and make it a way of life."

April 1st is an important date for snow surveying because historically early April is when the snowpack is at its maximum. For this reason, snow survey results from April inform the State forecast for annual water availability more so than data collected in other months. To gain additional data for April, three additional locations are surveyed to supplement the usual five Scott River watershed snow measurement sites. Of these, Etna Mountain and Box Camp are also in the Scott River drainage, and Wolford Cabin

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is within the Trinity River basin. These additional sites are generally considered too remote or difficult to access on a monthly basis.

The Snow Surveys are measured monthly during the winter and spring months (Feb.- May). Four of five Scott River snow courses were established between 1946 and 1955, with one added in 1986. All of them are located in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley. Some courses are located close to roads while others require hours of travel by snow shoes and snowmobile.

When conducting a snow survey, 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). In addition to snow pack water content data, precipitation, and similar historic hydrologic data are collected. 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/>

April 1st 2014 Snow Survey Results Scott River Sub-Basin

Snow Course	Snow Depth			Equivalent Water Content		
	Measured	Historic Average	% of Historic Average	Measured	Historic Average	% of Historic Average
Middle Boulder 1 (Established 1946/Elevation 6600')	4.2"	73.5"	6%	1.6"	31.8"	5%
Middle Boulder 3 (Established 1948/Elevation 6200')	2.9"	65.6"	4%	1"	28.1"	4%
Dynamite Meadow (Established 1955/Elevation 5700')	0.4"	46.6"	0.9%	0.4"	18.7"	2%
Swampy John (Established 1951/Elevation 5500')	8.3"	82.5"	10%	1.6"	32.6"	5%

Scott Mountain (Established 1986/Elevation 5900')	3.0"	52.6"	6%	1.0"	22.2"	5%
Additional Stations Completed For April						
Etna Mountain (Established 1951/Elevation 5900')	12.4"	71.7"	17%	2.3"	28.1"	8%
Wolford Cabin (Established 1949/Elevation 6150')	20.4"	85.7"	24%	6.1"	35.8"	17%
Box Camp (Established 1979/Elevation 6440')	23.5"	90.9"	26%	8.3"	36.9"	22%
Total Average	12%			9%		