

	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service	<h1 style="color: green;">News Release</h1>	KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 www.fs.usda.gov/klamath	
Date: February, 8, 2010		For Immediate Release	Contact: Tom Lavagnino (530) 841-4485 tlavagnino@fs.fed.us	

February Snow Survey Results Show Snow Depths and Water Content Above Normal

Fort Jones, CA – Forest personnel on the Salmon River and Scott River Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest have completed the February snow surveys.

The first snow measurements of 2010 indicate that the depth and water content of this winter’s snowpack is above average. According to the current measurements for the snow courses taken in the southern portion of Scott Valley, the snowpack has an above average depth of 146% and a water content of 128%, as compared to the historical averages for February 1. The snow course data shows the majority of the January storms accumulating snow in the southern portion of the Scott River watershed. The Swampy John course near Etna was the only measurement that showed below average numbers in depth and water content as compared to the historical averages for February 1.

Snow course data has been inventoried since 1946. Historic high measurements for Swampy John are 161.5 inches in February 1969; and 126 inches in February 2008. The historic high at Scott Mountain was 76 inches in February 1993 and 2008. Four out of the five measurement sites are above average and weather forecasts are predicting more snow accumulation at the end of this week.

During the winter and spring months (Feb-May), District employees travel to pre-determined measuring sites to collect information about snow accumulation in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley in Siskiyou County. The “snow courses” are designated locations that are used to provide information about the amount of snow and moisture for each winter month. Some sites are located a few dozen yards off of forest roads; others require hours of travel by snow shoes and snowmobiles.

The snow depth and water content are measured by probing the snow with specially designed aluminum tubes. The depth is measured and the water equivalent is calculated by weighing the core of snow in the tubes. This 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, managed by the California Department of Water Resources. The information is used to help the state forecast the amount of water available for agricultural uses, power generation, 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>. Following is the snow course data from this month’s measurements.

Snow Course Name	Snow depth			Equivalent Water Content		
	2-1-10	Av.	% Average	2-1-10	Av.	% Average
Middle Boulder #1 6600' elevation	76"	52"	146%	29"	19.9"	145%
	<i>(62 year average)</i>					
Middle Boulder #3 6200' elevation	84.6"	50.7"	166%	27"	18.1"	149%
	<i>(61 year average)</i>					
Dynamite Meadow 5700' elevation	75.5"	40.1"	188%	20.6"	12.9"	159%
	<i>(52 year average)</i>					
Swampy John 5500' elevation	50.6"	61.6"	82%	12.4"	20.8"	60%
	<i>(49 year average)</i>					
Scott Mountain 5900' elevation	69.8"	46"	151%	21"	16.3"	128%
	<i>(24 year average)</i>					
Total average from courses above:		146%		128%		

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Editor's Note: Attached are .jpg pictures that go with this release. Please contact Josh Schmalenberger, (530) 468-1297, if you need to have a separate copy of the photos. Snow survey members this month included: Phil McNeal, Jerry Padilla, Zeke Jones, Kevin Walton, Stephanie McMorris, Susan Tebbe, and Josh Schmalenberger. Special thanks to Napa Auto Parts in Fort Jones for last minute snowmobile repairs. All news releases are posted on the Klamath National Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath/news/>



Forest Service snow surveyors; Phil McNeal, Jerry Padilla, Zeke Jones at Middle Boulder Lake snow course (6600')



Jerry Padilla and Zeke Jones at Middle Boulder Lake Snow Course; depth of snow pictured = 81.5”