



## SHERIDAN COUNTY SNOWPACK REPORT

May 1, 2024

The first of May brings the final Sheridan County Snowpack Report of 2024. It is no surprise with spring weather having been the theme for the month of April, that Bighorn Mountain snow-water content remains below median. Despite spring conditions, most SNOTEL sites in the Bighorns increased snow-water for the May 1<sup>st</sup> report. The exception was in the southern Bighorns where several sites lost snow-water through the month of April. Snowpack water content was extremely variable as percent of median as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Spring conditions also made for inaccessible site and no measurements at several manually collected snow course sites.

Observations for individual sites, both SNOTEL and snow courses, ranged from 0% to 123% of 30-year median, though most sites remained in the 70-90% of median range. Tongue River watershed composite snow-water data (SNOTEL remote-site data combined with manually collected snow-course data) reflect the basin at 69% of median; up slightly from April 1, when it was 67% of median. The Clear Creek basin snow-water percent of median improved more significantly since last month's report, which starts May at 80% of median, compared with 72% on April 1<sup>st</sup>. As has been the trend this year, the Powder River watershed, which includes the Clear Creek drainage, averaged lower suggesting less snowpack water in the southern portion of the basin. The basin reported 64% of median, based on SNOTEL site data alone, though it is up a bit from last month.

Compared to last year, both the Tongue River and Clear Creek watersheds snowpack snow-water is about two-thirds of what it was this time in 2023. Clear Creek is 66% of one year ago, while Tongue River is 67% of May 1, 2023.

Also continuing this winter's trend, despite mild weather conditions, Total Water-Year-to-Date Precipitation at SNOTEL sites in both the Tongue River and Powder basins remains near median. The Tongue watershed is 96 percent of median, while the Powder River basin is at 99% of 30-year median precipitation data. So, though it has not stayed with us as snowpack, both watersheds have received more or less 'normal' precipitation at SNOTEL sites since the beginning of the 'water year', last October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Statewide snowpack water levels have declined across most of Wyoming, though less rapidly in the western half of the State. The three eastern 'prairie' watersheds, the Belle Fourche, Cheyenne, and South Platte, now have snowpack water well below 50% median. The South River basin is the State's lowest this month, at just 14% of median. Leading the State this month, the Wind River basin was the highest at 99% of 30-year median.

Manual snow course data in this report were collected between April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. SNOTEL data is as reported, end-of-day, on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Remember, SNOTEL data collectors are permanent, remote sites collecting and transmitting real-time snow-water content and precipitation data via satellite link across the West. Daily data from these sites, as well as other water supply-related reports and products can be accessed through the *Wyoming Snow Survey and Water Supply* link on the Wyoming NRCS Homepage at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/wyoming>.

Site	Site Elevation	Observed Snow Depth (Inches)	Observed Snow Water Content (Inches)	30 year Median Water Content (Inches)	2024 Observed as % of Median	2024 Observed as % of Last Year
<b>Tongue River Drainage</b>						
North Tongue Snow Course	8450'	***	***	11.9	***	***
Sawmill Divide Snow Course	9260'	45	12.9	14.3	90%	96%
Woodrock Snow Course	8440'	23	6.7	9.8	68%	59%
Bald Mountain Snotel	9380'	42	14.6	21.0	70%	72%
Big Goose Snotel	7990'	17	6.5	8.4	77%	67%
Bone Springs Snotel	9350'	46	14.8	17.6	84%	84%
Burgess Junction Snotel	7880'	28	8.8	12.1	73%	67%
Dome Lake Snotel	8880'	27	9.5	11.4	83%	85%
Sucker Creek Snotel	8880'	31	9.9	12.6	79%	75%
Tie Creek Snotel	6870'	0	0.0	2.6	0%	0%
				Average:	69%	67%
<b>Clear Creek Drainage</b>						
Soldier Park Snow Course	8720'	***	***	4.8	***	***
Sourdough Snow Course	8460'	25	7.9	6.4	123%	81%
Cloud Peak Snotel	9860'	39	13.2	16.0	83%	87%
Hansen Sawmill Snotel	8360'	9	2.8	4.2	67%	42%
Powder River Pass Snotel	9480'	13	4.7	10.0	47%	54%
				Average:	80%	66%
*** Not Measured; Inaccessible						