

	United States Department of Agriculture  Forest Service	<h1>NEWS RELEASE</h1>	<b>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</b>  1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath">www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</a>	
Date: February 3, 2011		<b>For Immediate Release</b>	Contact: Tom Lavagnino (530) 841-4485 <a href="mailto:tlavagnino@fs.fed.us">tlavagnino@fs.fed.us</a>	

## February 1<sup>st</sup> Snow Survey Results for the Scott River Watershed

**Yreka, CA** -- Employees of the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest have completed the February 1<sup>st</sup> snow surveys. All five of the snow-measurement sites are located within the Scott River watershed.

The first snow measurements of 2011 indicate that the snowpack has a below average depth of 68% and a water content of 73%, as compared to the historical averages for February 1<sup>st</sup>. Low levels of precipitation coupled with warm daytime temperatures since the early season storms have contributed to the current situation. However, many months of winter weather remain, with most locations historically reaching their annual maximum readings by late-March and early-April.

During the winter and spring months (Feb-May), district employees travel to pre-determined measuring sites to collect information about the amount of snow and moisture content west of Scott Valley. Some sites are located a few dozen yards off forest roads; while others require hours of travel by snow shoes and/or snowmobile.

The snow depth and water content are measured by obtaining a core sample of snow with a specially designed and calibrated aluminum tube. The snow depth is recorded and the water equivalent of that snow sample is calculated by weighing the core of snow in the tubes. The information is forwarded to the State of California, where the data is compiled with other snow 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.

Snow survey members this month included: Carol Ballow, Isaac Flattley, Stephanie McMorris, Phil McNeal, Maija Meneks, Bill Robinson, and Susan Tebbe.

For more information, go to the California Department of Water Resources Website: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow> or contact Maija Meneks on the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District on the Klamath National Forest at (530) 468-1272.

**Table 1: February 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 Snow Survey Results Scott River Sub-Basin**

Snow Course	Snow Depth			Equivalent Water Content		
Name	2/1/2011	Historic Average for Feb	Percent Average for Feb. 1st	2/1/2011	Historic Average for Feb	Percent Average for Feb. 1st
Middle Boulder #1 6,600' elevation	32.7"	51.7"	63%	14.1"	19.8"	71%
<i>(Established 1946)</i>						
Middle Boulder #3 6,200' elevation	40.4"	50.6"	80%	13.8"	18.0"	77%
<i>(Established 1948)</i>						
Dynamite Meadow 5,700' elevation	27.9"	39.9"	70%	8.6"	12.8"	67%
<i>(Established 1955)</i>						
Swampy John 5,500' elevation	37.4"	59.9"	62%	15.8"	20.3"	78%
<i>(Established 1951)</i>						
Scott Mountain 5,900' elevation	27.3"	43.6"	63%	11.0"	15.5"	71%
<i>(Established 1986)</i>						
<b>Total average:</b>	68%			73%		



February 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 snow surveyors at Scott Mountain. (Left to right) Stephanie McMorris, Sue Tebbe, and Carol Ballow.