

# KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST

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# NEWS

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## March 1<sup>st</sup> Snow Survey Results

Ft. Jones, CA - The survey results for the mid-part of the 2003-2004 winter indicate that snow pack in the mountains surrounding Scott Valley is substantially above normal and that recent storms have deposited 3'-5' of fresh, light powder in the high mountains.

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) estimates that as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, over all of northern California the snowpack has a water content of 135% of normal. Based on rainfall this season and the current snowpack, DWR estimates that inflow to Shasta Reservoir will be 105% of normal this spring. Oregon data for the Rogue River basin also shows a snowpack that is well above normal, while surprisingly, rainfall in Scott Valley is still slightly below normal – at the Fort Jones, precipitation for the winter is only 89% of normal.



**Survey being conducted on Scott Mountain.**

During the winter months, district employees travel to pre-determined measuring sites (snow courses) to collect information about snow accumulation in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley (Siskiyou County). The snow courses are designated locations 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, while 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

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the core of snow in the tubes. The survey data is forwarded to the State of California where the it 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 additional information on the statewide snow situation go to this Calif. DWR, Co-op Web site summarizing all manual snow course measurements in the state:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/current/snow/courses.html>

SNOW COURSE	SNOW DEPTH			EQUIVALENT WATER CONTENT		
	Name	3/1/04	Av.	%Average	3/1/04	Av.
Middle Boulder #1 6600' elevation	107"	63"	170%	42"	25.4"	165%
	(55 year average)					
Middle Boulder #3 6200' elevation	97"	60 "	162%	28.9"	23.5"	123%
	(57 year average)					
Dynamite Meadow 5700' elevation	79"	47 "	168%	20.4"	16.6"	123%
	(47 year average)					
Swampy John 5500' elevation	114"	74"	154%	37.8"	26.8"	141%
	(44 year average)					
Scott Mountain Snow sensor 5900' elevation	94.5"	46"	205%	33"	18.1"	182%
	(19 year average)					
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>164%</b>			<b>138*%</b>

- The Scott Mtn sensor is not included in the average.

Media note: Photos are available. Please contact Brian at 530-841-4485.

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