

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington Snow Survey Office
2021 East College Way, Suite 214
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-2373
360-428-7684, Ext. 141
fax 360-424-6172
web site www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/snow

Date: January, 13, 2004

To All Washington Cooperative Snow Surveyors,

Attached is the 2003-04 Snow Survey Schedule for Washington. Please review the schedule carefully and note on your calendar the dates you will need to do the surveys. Please review the attached schedules carefully as there are a number of changes from previous years.

Things to Remember

- Record the pillow and precipitation manometer levels on the snow note sheet. The manometer tapes are in feet, tenths of feet and hundredths of feet. They are not feet and inches. Double-check your readings.
- Snow Pillow and manometer measurements are to be taken at all SNOTEL sites as indicated on the schedule with an "S".
- If the snow pillow marking stakes are covered by snow and can't be seen, **DO NOT** try to estimate where to measure. Take manometer readings only and make comments on snow survey sheet.

The time to check your equipment is before the season begins. Be sure your snow sampling kit contains all the required parts. Review the "Snow Survey Sampling Guide" (Agriculture Handbook No. 169). When sampling, make sure that the tube contains a core which is representative of the entire snow profile. **Determine the snow density after each sample.** If the density is not within 5% of the other densities, resample that point.

Please use one field note sheet for each snow course measured and another field note sheet for each SNOTEL site even if there is no snow. Please be sure and calculate totals and averages for both water content and snow depth for each course/site. Double check your figures as these are what we enter in the water supply forecast procedures.

Please do the surveys within five days prior to the first of the month. The timing for the SNOTEL snow pillow and manometer readings is not as critical as for the snow courses. SNOTEL sites can be measured up to a week prior to or after the scheduled date.

Surveyors should:

- phone snow sample data in to the Data Collection Office (DCO), (503) 414-3267 for Oregon & (208) 378-5740 for Idaho reporting sites.
- keep a reference copy in your office.
- mail original copy of each field note sheet to the appropriate DCO.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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OREGON DCO:

USDA - NRCS
101 S.W. Main, STE 1300
Portland, OR 97204-3221

ATTN.: Snow Survey Notes
(503) 414-3267
fax: (503) 414-3277

IDAHO DCO:

USDA - NRCS
9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite C
Boise, ID 83709-1574

ATTN.: Snow Survey Notes
(208) 378-5741
fax: (208) 378-5735

It is important that you keep a copy of the snow note in case the originals get lost in the mail or if you get a call for the information.

Good Luck on a successful snow survey season. If you have any questions, please call the appropriate Snow Survey Data Collection Office or Scott Pattee at (360) 428-7684, ext. 141.

SCOTT PATTEE
Water Supply Specialist

Attachments

cc: Larry Johnson, ETL, Spokane
Stan Fox, DCO, Portland
Phil Morrissey, DCO, Boise
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Harold Crose, AC, Ephrata
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