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SHERIDAN COUNTY SNOWPACK & WATER SUPPLY REPORT

MAY 1, 2010

<u>DATA SITE</u>	<u>ELEV.</u>	<u>SNOW DEPTH</u>	<u>WATER CONTENT</u>	<u>*30-YR AVE.</u>	<u>*%OF AVE.</u>	<u>*%OF LAST YR</u>
<u>TONGUE RIVER DRAINAGE:</u>						
BALD MTN SNOTEL	9375'	-	15.6"	23.5"	66%	77%
BIG GOOSE SNOTEL	7990'	-	8.7"	11.7"	74%	81%
BONE SPRINGS SNOTEL	9350'	-	12.2"	18.3"	67%	69%
BURGESS JCT. SNOTEL	7880'	-	11.7"	13.3"	88%	87%
DOME LAKE SNOTEL	8880'	-	8.8"	13.7"	64%	69%
NORTH TONGUE	8450'	29"	8.8"	13.3"	66%	73%
SAWMILL DIVIDE	9260'	42"	11.2"	15.1"	74%	68%
SUCKER CREEK SNOTEL	8880'	-	12.9"	13.2"	98%	82%
TIE CREEK SNOTEL	7080'	-	1.0"	4.2"	24%	25%
WOODROCK GUARD STA.	8440'	32"	7.8"	11.5"	68%	72%
<u>Average:</u>					<u>69%</u>	<u>70%</u>
<u>CLEAR CREEK DRAINAGE:</u>						
CLOUD PEAK SNOTEL	9860'	-	13.6"	16.3"	83%	70%
HANSEN SAWMILL SNOTEL	8760'	-	2.6"	5.0"	52%	67%
POWD. RIV. PASS SNOTEL	9480'	-	7.6"	10.9"	70%	60%
SOLDIER PARK	8780'	Melted Out				
SOURDOUGH	8460'	Melted Out				
<u>Average:</u>					<u><65%</u>	<u><65%</u>

*Period used is 1971-2000

The final snapshot for the 2010 water year shows the Tongue River Basin about 30% below normal for May 1, and about 30% below May 1, 2009. The Clear Creek Basin shows similar numbers at the higher elevation sites, with the low elevation snow courses melted out.

This summary combines manual snow course measurements taken April 26th through 28th with May 1st Snotel readings. The snow received from April 29th through May 2nd, however, raised the percent of normal about 10 points on the entire Powder/Tongue Basin. Total precipitation at the Snotel sites since October 1, 2009 on both the Tongue and Clear Creek Basins is about 83% of normal. While the snowpack suggests a below-normal water supply, the melt rate, temperature, and spring precipitation will also determine the County's water supply status for the coming summer.

Snotels on the other basins around the State on May 1st ranged from 13% of normal on the Belle Fourche, 52% on the Upper Green, and 59% on the Shoshone, to 102% on the Lower North Platte/Sweetwater/Laramie, 95% on the Little Snake, and 94% on the Upper North Platte.

Additional snowpack & water supply information for all the Western States is available on the *Water* link on the WY NRCS Homepage at www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov.

Reported by Jerry Forster, Conservation Technician