

Snow Survey



United States
Department of
Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
OREGON

Oregon NRCS Snow Survey Program

The Oregon NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program is responsible for continually monitoring weather and climate conditions in the mountainous areas of Oregon, as well as issuing streamflow forecasts for most of the state.

To collect this data, NRCS operates 56 snow courses, 75 SNOw TELelemetry (SNOTEL) sites, one Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) site, and 33 aerial markers in Oregon. The Oregon Data Collect Office (DCO) also operates and maintains 56 SNOTEL sites in Washington and four in California. In 2006, four new stations were installed in Oregon and Washington, two of which were fully funded by outside entities.

NRCS issues six monthly Oregon Water Supply Outlook Reports between January and June. Each report forecasts streamflow volumes at 117 locations. NRCS also publishes 12 monthly Surface Water Supply Indices for 14 basins in Oregon. These reports provide essential snowpack and streamflow information for water managers. This data is available online at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov.

The weather and climate data collected by NRCS plays a critical role in the daily management decisions of many private and government entities, including municipalities, businesses, wildlife managers, agricultural producers, power utilities, and others.

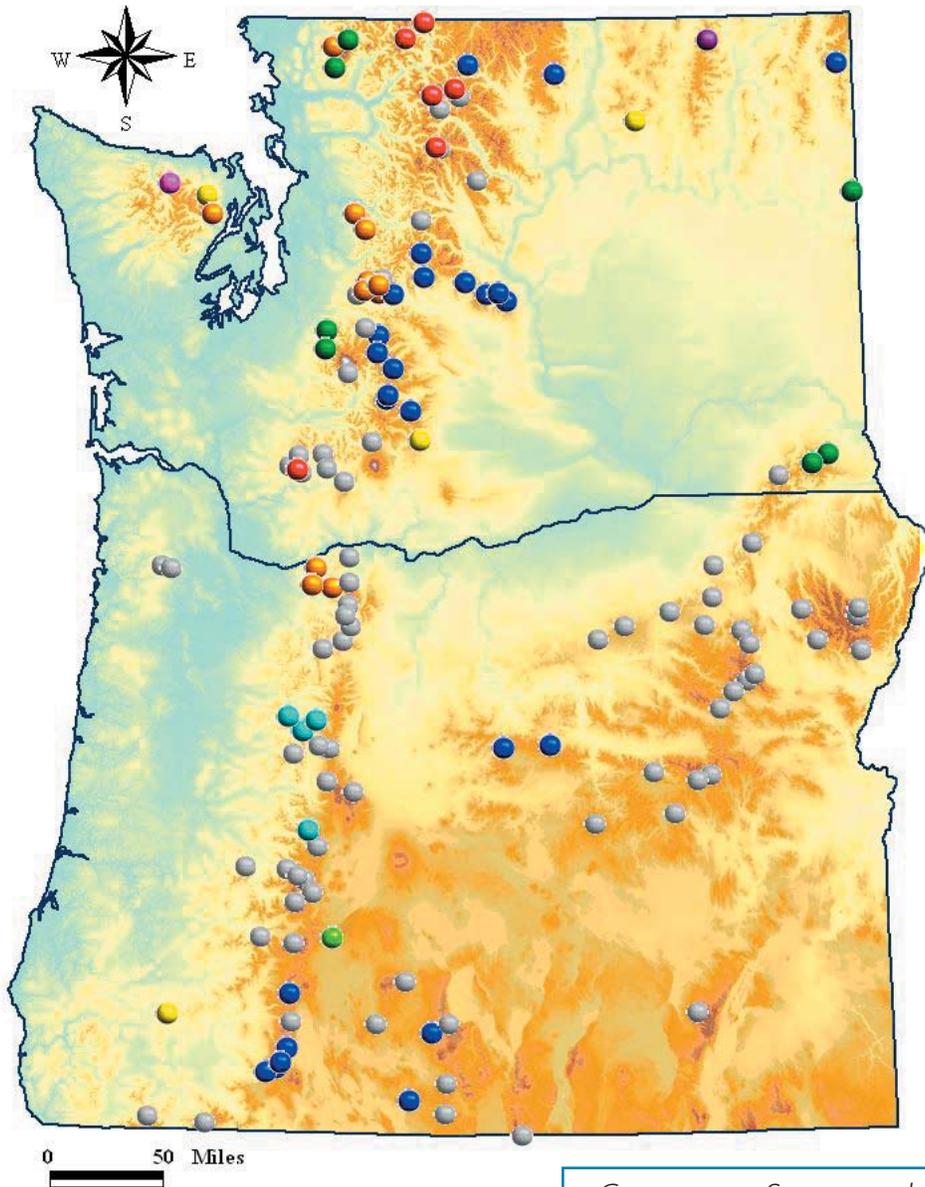
2006 Oregon Water Supply Outlook

The mountain snowpack during the 2006 water year (October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006) was generally near or above normal in Oregon. The maximum accumulation of snow on April 1 ranged between 112 percent of average in the Umatilla Basin to 164 percent of average in the Klamath Basin. By June 1, precipitation amounts as measured by the NRCS SNOTEL network were near average in all basins of Oregon. The summer months, however, were very dry, with very little precipitation measured at any SNOTEL stations. Streamflow forecasts for the spring and summer months issued on June 1 ranged between 93 and 175 percent of average. All major irrigation reservoirs were filled to near or above capacity by June 1.

Detailed summary data on the 2006 water year, including snowpack, precipitation, streamflows and reservoir storage can be found on the NRCS Oregon Snow Survey Web page at: www.or.nrcs.usda.gov.



Northwest SNOTEL Site Locations



Cooperator Sponsored SNOTEL Sites

- Irrigation
- Municipal Water Supply
- Early Flood Warning
- Hydropower
- Flood Control
- Water Supply
- Natural Resource Planning & Management
- Watershed Planning
- Climate Monitoring
- NRCS Sponsored Site

Northwest SNOTEL System

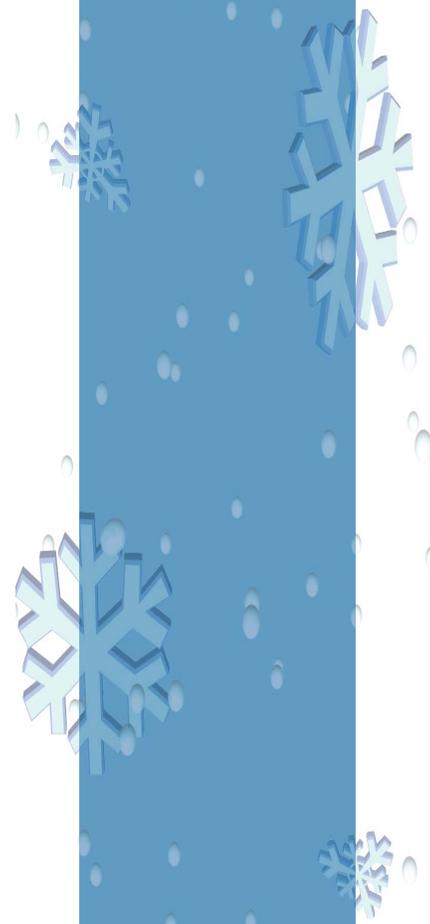
Of the 135 SNOTEL sites located in Oregon, Washington and California, over 50 percent are operated in cooperation with private, local, county and state organizations. These cooperators include tribes, irrigation districts, private groups and local, state, federal and international government entities. These water managers and many others rely on the NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Programs for timely and accurate information.



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