

AFTER THE FIRE

[**KNOW THE SNOW**
TO PREPARE FOR THE FLOW]

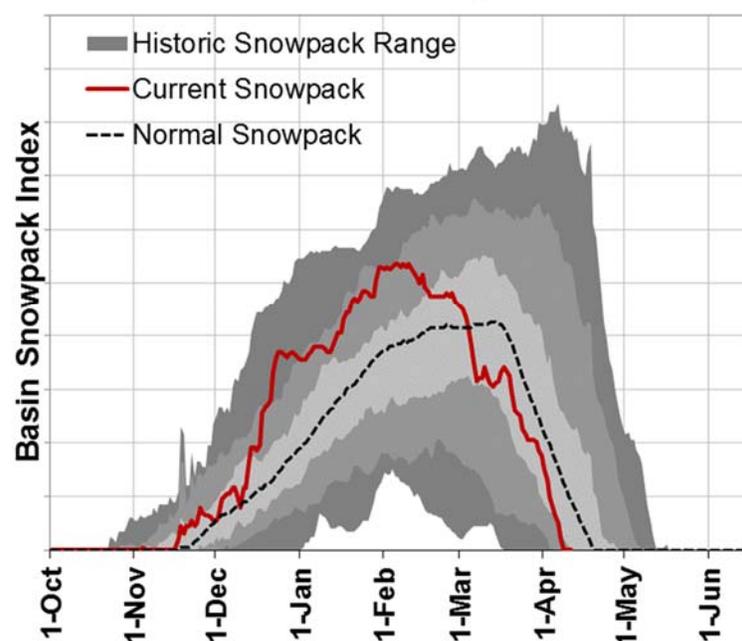
USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Canyon Creek Fire—John Day, Oregon

Mountain Snowpack

Today's Summary for Apr. 11, 2016

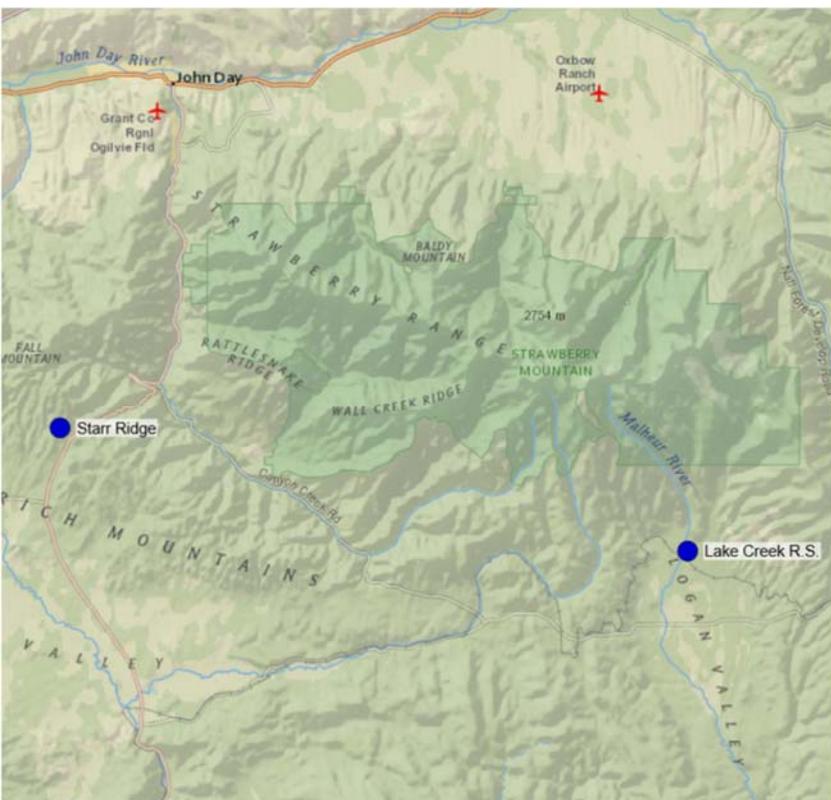
- The sites south of John Day, located in or near Canyon Creek have melted out snowpack. Information from flights over the watershed indicate that the snowpack that remains in the watershed is primarily above 6000' or higher. This snowpack is very dense and should continue to melt over the next week.
- Water year-to-date precipitation has been above average. The last week has seen no mountain precipitation in the Canyon Creek watershed
- The National Weather Service (NWS) 7-day mountain forecast calls for warm temperatures today and tomorrow with increasing chances for rain/snow mix and snow on Wednesday and Thursday before returning to mild conditions later in the period. The NWS River Forecasting Center is not forecasting imminent flooding at this point.
- The remaining snow in the watershed most likely has densities well above 40%, meaning the snow is quite dense, and at or near the melting point. Snow density is simply (snow water equivalent/ snow depth) x 100%.
- Daily, consecutive decreases in snow water equivalent of 0.5" or greater along with densities of about 40% or greater, are an indicator to track the weather forecast. With much of the snowpack melted out, the threat of rapid snow melt-off or rain-on-snow has been minimized.



This graph shows today's mountain snowpack levels recorded at two NRCS snow telemetry (SNOTEL) sites in south of John Day, Oregon.

- The Pendleton National Weather Service office website includes links to the current radar, forecasts, stream gages and will also include additional precipitation data from new gages when installed.

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pdt/forecast/canyon_creek_dss/index.php



Where does the John Day snow data come from?

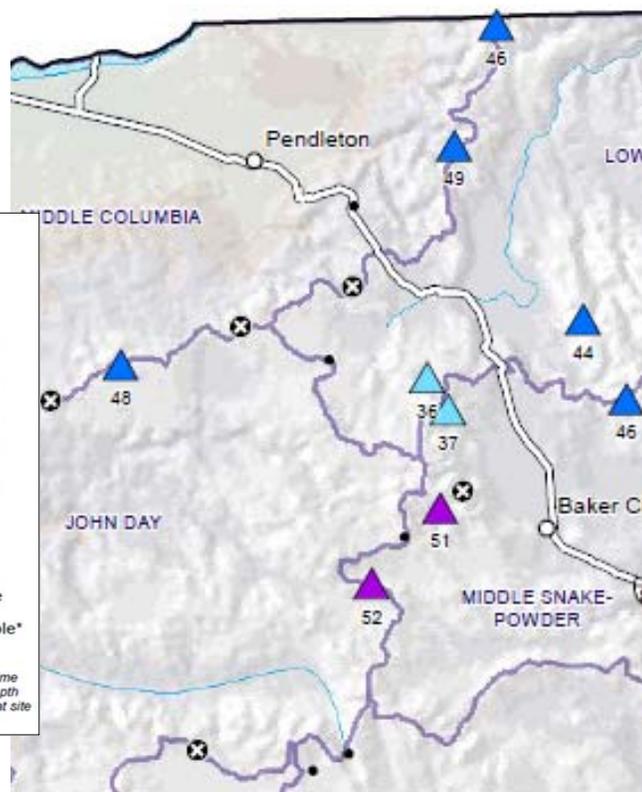
The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has two automated snow telemetry (SNOTEL) sites in the John Day area, shown here on this map. These sites record data every hour such as the snow water equivalent (SWE) level, which is the amount of water stored in the snow, the snow depth, precipitation, air temperature, and more. See the table below for today's data readings at these sites. For the latest, real-time data, check the NRCS Snow Survey website.

● NRCS snow telemetry (SNOTEL) site

Site	Elevation	Snow Water Equivalent inches	SWE % of Normal	Snow Depth inches	Snow Density %	Precipitation (Oct. 1 to date) inches	Precipitation % of Average	Midnight Air Temperature (Degrees F)
Starr Ridge	5,250	0.0	0%	0	0%	15.2	106%	46
Lake Creek R.S.	5,240	0.0	0%	0	0%	19.3	102%	35

What's the current snow density?

This map shows the current snow densities at NRCS snow survey sites across the region. When snow density reaches 40% or more, there is a greater risk for flooding if a moderate or heavy rainstorm falls on top of that snow.



Get the latest data online at:
www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow
 For questions, contact:
 Scott Oviatt, NRCS Snow Survey
 503-414-3271, Scott.Oviatt@or.usda.gov
 National Weather Service Pendleton
 541-276-7832, www.wrh.noaa.gov/pdt