



This week's SNOW REPORT

Information compiled by Amber Travskey

Quick numbers

Wyoming downhill areas

Grand Targhee: 49-inch base; 90 trails and 5 lifts open.

Hogadon Ski Area: 18-inch base; 1 trail and 1 lift open.

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort: 36-inch base; 42 trails and 6 lifts open.

Sleeping Giant Ski Area: 18-inch base; no report available on lifts or runs open.

Snow King Ski Area: Opens Dec. 19.

Snowy Range Ski Area: 35-inch base; 13 trails and 4 lifts open.

White Pine Ski Area: 12-inch base; 25 runs and 2 lifts open.

Colorado downhill areas

Arapahoe Basin: 38-inch base; 37 trails and 6 lifts open.

Breckenridge: 37-inch base; 43 trails and 10 lifts open.

Copper Mountain: 28-inch base; 68 trails and 11 lifts open.

Eldora: 30-inch base; 33 trails and 7 lifts open.

Keystone: 38-inch base; 94 trails and 17 lifts open.

Loveland: 33-inch base; 40 trails and 7 lifts open.

Steamboat: 37-inch base; 91 trails and 12 lifts open.

Winter Park/Mary Jane: 35-inch base; 91 trails and 16 lifts open.

The snow dances paid off.

With new snow depths ranging from a few inches to about a foot, there is plenty of the white stuff across the region.

The snow flurries should taper off and leave the region by Thursday, but the real warm-up won't arrive until Saturday. Expect some wind between now and then until temperatures rise to the mid-40s and winds drop to around 10 mph.

The next bout of snow is expected around Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

One of the big winners in the recent snowfall is the **Snowy Range Ski and Recreation Area**. Personnel there reported 11 inches of new snow overnight last weekend and then another 10 inches overnight from Monday to Tuesday. All that powder made it possible to open the Sundance lift on Wednesday. It provides access to the Corner Mountain trails.

Steamboat and **Winter Park** also saw big boosts in their snow base this past week. Winter Park was blanketed with 16 inches of snow in 72 hours; Steamboat was close behind with 14 inches.

For those opting to head into the backcountry of the **Medicine Bow Mountains**, use caution. All the new snow atop the old crusty snow makes for areas with high instability.

Coverage is still a bit patchy on wind-prone open slopes, but the base is forming and conditions look to be quite good for the holiday season for those hoping to get out into the backcountry.

At **Keystone**, near Rob Roy Reservoir, 59 inches of snow had fallen so far this

season as of Tuesday, a 20-inch increase from last week, according to Don Day Jr at dayweather.com.

There are no reports of grooming this past week at **Chimney Park**, off of Highway 230 above Woods Landing. Expect user-packed conditions, but motorized vehicle access should be closed for the season, allowing for much better ski and snowshoeing conditions.

Expect similar user-packed conditions on all the non-motorized trails off of Highway 130, including the Corner Mountain, Libby Creek and Barber Lake trails.

Personnel at the **Colorado Avalanche Information Center** report the avalanche danger for the southern Wyoming and northern Colorado mountains is rated "considerable" above and near tree line and "moderate" below tree line.

The primary concern is the added load of new snow atop the existing weak layers deeper in the snowpack. Avoid steep slopes near and above tree line where the wind has created a stiff, cohesive slab. This terrain includes slopes on the lee-side of ridges, cross-loaded gullies and convex rollovers.

New snow has fallen steadily this past week on the trails at the **Happy Jack Recreation Area**. Grooming in the form of "corduroy" packing for the skate lanes is up and running; classic tracks have yet to be set. Hopefully this latest storm will make it possible to add the classic tracks.

The Summit Loop trail was packed for the first time this past week, but conditions along that route are marginal; skiers should use caution and look ahead for

thin patches.

Snowshoers and snowbikers are diligently packing the multi-use trails, but it is a slow process. Expect soft trails for a few days until stomping with snowshoes can compact the base.

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service snow measuring station reports a snow depth of 28 inches at **Cinnabar Park**, near Rob Roy Reservoir, an increase of 9 inches since last week. There are 32 inches at **Sand Lake** on the northern end of the Medicine Bow Mountains, a 5-inch increase from last week, and there are 29 inches reported at **Brooklyn Lake**, an increase of 6 inches from last week. The measuring stake on **Crow Creek** on Pole Mountain shows 11 inches, an increase of 2 inches from last week.

Cross-country skiing

Pole Mountain/Happy Jack Recreation Area Nordic ski trails: Conditions are good with the main routes groomed for skate technique; classic tracks will be set once there's more snow depth.

Chimney Park Nordic ski trails: Trails were user-packed with no report of recent grooming; expect plenty of powder.

Snowy Range backcountry conditions: Expect good to very good conditions with some wind-scoured areas; the base is still forming with some ground debris still exposed.

Snowmobile conditions

Snowy Range: Good to very good conditions for the early season. Use caution on steep slopes due to high instability of the snowpack.