



# This week's SNOW REPORT

Information compiled by Amber Travsky

## Quick numbers

### Wyoming downhill areas

**Grand Targhee:** 30-inch base; 74 trails and 3 lifts open.

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

**Jackson Hole Mountain Resort:** 18-inch base; 20 trails and 3 lifts open.

**Sleeping Giant Ski Area:** Opens Friday.

**Snow King Ski Area:** Opens Dec. 19.

**Snowy Range Ski Area:** 28-inch base; 13 trails and 4 lifts open.

**White Pine Ski Area:** 9-inch base; 25 runs and 2 lifts open.

### Colorado downhill areas

**Arapahoe Basin:** 25-inch base; 34 trails and 6 lifts open.

**Breckenridge:** 25-inch base; 40 trails and 10 lifts open.

**Copper Mountain:** 23-inch base; 50 trails and 8 lifts open.

**Eldora:** 25-inch base; 31 trails and 6 lifts open

**Keystone:** 24-inch base; 81 trails and 18 lifts open.

**Loveland:** 27-inch base; 22 trails and 6 lifts open.

**Steamboat:** 21-inch base; 67 trails and 8 lifts open.

**Winter Park/Mary Jane:** 26-inch base; 76 trails and 19 lifts open.

Windy conditions are forecast to continue the next couple days with possible snow flurries at the high elevations of the Snowy Range and Sierra Madre Mountains. Winds should gradually subside through Friday but could remain gusty in wind-prone areas. There's a chance for snow beginning Friday with the arrival of cooler temperatures.

In spite of the lack of recent new snow and even reductions in base snow levels at many ski resorts, more acreage that is skiable is opening up at most areas, thanks to snowmaking efforts.

Conditions at the **Snowy Range Ski and Recreation Area** are good. Two inches of snow fell early in the week and that, along with increased snowmaking capacity, will allow more trails to open this week. Mother Nature is expected to deliver some natural fluff Thursday and Friday, setting up some nice conditions for the weekend.

**Steamboat** expanded its skiable terrain last weekend, with a total of 702 acres or 23.7 percent of the mountain. While they've not seen any big dumps of snow recently, the slopes have been blanketed with several light snows of 1 to 3 inches to add a nice cushion over the groomed surfaces.

For those opting to head into the backcountry of the **Medicine Bow Mountains**, it looks to still be a good weekend for Christmas tree hunters but expect snowy conditions Friday and into Saturday. Access at the lower elevations is possible on foot, but higher up, skis and snowshoes are recommended.

At **Keystone**, near Rob Roy Reservoir, 39 inches of snow has fallen so far this

season, the same as last week, according to Don Day Jr. at [dayweather.com](http://dayweather.com).

Grooming kicked off last weekend at **Chimney Park**, off of Highway 230 above Woods Landing. The primary focus of the U.S. Forest Service groomer was packing and rolling the trails while also removing deadfall. Trees are toppling over all across the mountain range, making their removal an on-going process.

U.S. Forest Service personnel also packed and rolled the ski trail from **Green Rock to Barber Lake** late last week. This trail is off U.S. Highway 130. The trails at **Corner Mountain**, also along Highway 130, had snow-free patches closer to **Barber Lake**. Numerous trees are down across the trails, but U.S. Forest Service personnel hope to have those cleared this week.

Personnel at the **Colorado Avalanche Information Center** report the avalanche danger for the southern Wyoming and northern Colorado mountains is rated "low" at all elevations. There's the potential to trigger an avalanche on steep slopes where the wind has created stiff slabs above the many layers of weak snow.

Toppling trees also plague the groomed ski trails as well as the multi-use trails at the **Happy Jack Recreation Area**. The trail groomers with the Medicine Bow Nordic Association are diligently attempting to keep up with removing the trail debris, but the recent strong winds exacerbate such efforts.

The ski trails are in good shape although the snow base is quite thin. That means the setting of classic tracks will have to wait until more snow arrives.

The multi-use trails have seen a lot of traffic already this season, giving them a solid base. Snowbikers and snowshoers are urged to use these trails instead of the trails groomed for skiing.

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service snow measuring station reports a snow depth of 19 inches at **Cinnabar Park**, near Rob Roy Reservoir, a decrease of 3 inches since last week. There's 27 inches at **Sand Lake** on the northern end of the **Medicine Bow Mountains**, a 3-inch decrease from last week, and there's 23 inches reported at **Brooklyn Lake**, a decrease of 2 inches from last week. The measuring stake on Crow Creek on **Pole Mountain** shows 10 inches, a decrease of 2 inches from last week.

## Cross-country skiing

**Pole Mountain/Happy Jack Recreation Area Nordic ski trails:** Conditions are good with a packed and groomed base; classic tracks will be set once there's more snow depth.

**Chimney Park Nordic ski trails:** Trails were packed last week by U.S. Forest Service personnel; keep an eye out for fallen trees across the trails.

**Snowy Range backcountry conditions:** Good conditions with some wind-scoured areas, but snow coverage is good as the base is just beginning to form.

## Snowmobile conditions

**Snowy Range:** Good conditions for the early season; some rocks and stumps are still exposed, especially in wind-prone areas; coverage is thin along Highway 130.