



This week's SNOW REPORT

Information compiled by Amber Travskey

Quick numbers

Wyoming downhill areas

Grand Targhee: 142-inch base; 5 lifts, 95 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Hogadon Ski Area: 28-inch base; 2 lifts, 19 runs and 70 percent of terrain open

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort: 117-inch base; 12 lifts, 113 trails and 85 percent of terrain open

Snowy Range Ski Area: 54-inch base; 5 lifts, 33 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Colorado downhill areas

Arapahoe Basin: 50-inch base; 8 lifts, 123 trails and 93 percent of terrain open

Breckenridge: 49-inch base; 32 lifts, 187 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Copper Mountain: 46-inch base; 22 lifts, 156 trails and 99 percent of terrain open

Eldora: 40-inch base; 10 lifts, 64 trails and 98 percent of terrain open

Keystone: 50-inch base; 19 lifts, 128 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Loveland: 48-inch base; 10 lifts, 86 trails and 91 percent of terrain open

Steamboat: 66-inch base; 15 lifts, 165 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Winter Park/Mary Jane: 64-inch base; 20 lifts, 166 trails and 99 percent of terrain open

The official start of spring, at least according to the calendar and with the arrival of the spring equinox, is a couple of weeks away, but already spring-like conditions are the name of the game at many ski resorts, Nordic trail centers and in the snow-covered backcountry.

Spring in the Rockies typically brings schizophrenic weather where one day can be sunny and balmy and the next brings snow and biting wind. That up-and-down routine is evident with the below normal temperatures that kicked off the week, along with the high winds. The winds should ease today as temperatures slowly rise.

Mild weather is in the forecast Thursday and Friday with a slight cooling trend Saturday. Otherwise, the weekend looks good for getting outdoors and enjoying the snow while it's still here. Of course, spring in these parts could also mean plenty of new snow yet ahead. It's just hard to tell, and the crystal ball remains cloudy.

Conditions are very good to outstanding at **Snowy Range Ski and Recreation Area**. It has seen plenty of sunshine the past week but also has had some nice bumps of new snow. A few more inches may grace the slopes before the weekend but, generally, the forecast is for some clouds and then clearing.

The big snow winner this past week was northwest Wyoming where, once again, the snow came in fast and furious. **Grand Targhee** saw a foot of fresh powder last Saturday, another 13 inches Sunday and a whopping 30 inches by Monday morning. Bring a snorkel if you head that direction, where they have a 142-inch base. Over the pass at **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort**, the snow has been plentiful, too, though not quite to the same degree. They've received 30 inches total during last weekend and this Monday. They report an

impressive 117-inch base.

Backcountry users in the **Medicine Bow Mountains** have plenty of snow, but overall snow depths continue to decrease slightly as snow settles and the wind kicks up. At **Keystone**, near Rob Roy Reservoir, there has been a total of 156 inches of snow so far this year, according to Don Day Jr. at www.dayweather.com. This is a 2-inch increase from last week. By this time last year, 151 inches had fallen and, in 2016, there had been 164 inches.

Nordic skiers report good conditions on the trails at **Chimney Park**, located about 9 miles west of Woods Landing. While there is no evidence of recent grooming, coverage is good with the trails user-packed. A few thin spots are increasing in size but are not to the point where they require taking off the skis to walk across.

Conditions "up top" in the **Snowy Range** are excellent with plenty of snow, but not that much fresh powder. Expect winds in the 30-40 mph range up high. Snow is forecasted for Thursday night, but it won't amount to much.

Personnel at the **Colorado Avalanche Information Center** report the avalanche danger for the southern Wyoming and northern Colorado mountains is rated "moderate" above and near treeline and "low" below treeline. There are freshly drifted slabs at the higher elevations. It's best to avoid steeper slopes with more than 6 inches of new or wind-drifted snow.

Signs of spring are evident at **Happy Jack Recreation Area** on Pole Mountain. Warmer temperatures with a dearth of new snow makes for hard-packed conditions, but the snow softens by mid-morning with good conditions until later in the afternoon. Due to the lack of base, classic tracks are not being set and won't be until there is more snow. Expect spring-like conditions with some bare areas appearing.

Conditions are very good to excellent on the multi-use trails that are best accessed from the Happy Jack trailhead. Luckily, snowbikes and snowshoes don't require much snow, making conditions good to very good for these modes of travel.

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service snow measuring station reports a snow depth of 75 inches at **Sand Lake** on the northern end of the Medicine Bow Mountains, the same as last week. There is 61 inches reported at the station for **Cinnabar Park**, a decrease of 2 inches from last week, and there's 64 inches reported at **Brooklyn Lake**, a 2-inch decrease from last week. The station at **North French Creek**, on the west side of the mountain, reports a depth of 73 inches, a decrease of 1 inch from last week. The measuring site on **Crow Creek** on Pole Mountain shows 10 inches of snow, a decrease of 2 inches from last week.

Cross-country skiing

Pole Mountain/Happy Jack Recreation Area Nordic ski trails: Conditions are good but with some thin areas and some spring-like conditions.

Pole Mountain/Happy Jack Recreation Area multi-use trails: Excellent conditions with trails packed via a mechanical groomer as well as user-packed.

Chimney Park Nordic ski trails: Conditions are good with no recent grooming but good snow coverage.

Snowy Range backcountry conditions: Excellent conditions with plenty of snow but not a whole lot of fresh powder; ski trails are user-packed.

Snowmobile conditions

Snowy Range: Conditions are very good but with no recent big dumps of fresh powder; expect a bit of new snow Thursday night.