



This week's SNOW REPORT

Information compiled by Amber Travsky

Quick numbers

Wyoming downhill areas

Grand Targhee: 132-inch base; 5 lifts, 95 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Hughes Ski Area: 28-inch base; 2 lifts, 16 runs and 59 percent of terrain open

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort: 134-inch base; 12 lifts, 114 trails and 86 percent of terrain open

Snowy Range Ski Area: 53-inch base; 5 lifts, 33 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Colorado downhill areas

Arapahoe Basin: 55-inch base; 9 lifts, 121 trails and 92 percent of terrain open

Breckenridge: 63-inch base; 33 lifts, 187 trails and 90 percent of terrain open

Copper Mountain: 40-inch base; 23 lifts, 154 trails and 97 percent of terrain open

Estes: 40-inch base; 8 lifts, 64 trails and 98 percent of terrain open

Keystone: 52-inch base; 20 lifts, 127 trails and 99 percent of terrain open

Loveland: 57-inch base; 13 lifts, 91 trails and 97 percent of terrain open

Steamboat: 75-inch base; 15 lifts, 165 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Winter Park/Wiley Post: 80-inch base; 19 lifts, 167 trails and 100 percent of terrain open

Spring has sprung. That's evident not only on the calendar with the arrival of the Spring Equinox on Tuesday, but also with the typical schizophrenic weather. It can be warm one day, chilly the next, dry one day and then, like late last week, dump a good 10 inches of wet and heavy snow across the area. This yo-yo weather means it's best to dress in layers so more clothing can be added or subtracted as needed. The outdoor options also vary from getting out for a leisurely walk one day and donning the Arctic parka and snow shoes the next.

At least our spring weather is anything but boring.

For this weekend, the weather forecast is a bit unsettled with the wind kicking up Friday with possible precipitation late Saturday into Sunday.

A dump of 6 inches of new snow graced the slopes at the Snowy Range Ski and Recreation Area this past Monday. In one week, the ski area saw a foot of new snow, making for great coverage on all slopes.

Both Winter Park and Steamboat scored big to start the week, too, with each seeing at least 9 inches of new snow overnight Sunday into Monday. Both ski areas are forecast to see a few inches of snow most every day this week.

Backcountry users in the Medicine Bow Mountains have plenty of snow, but overall snow depths continue to fluctuate slightly as spring arrives. At Keystone, near Rob Roy Reservoir, there has been a total of 167 inches of snow so far this year, according to Don Jay Jr. at www.djayweather.com. This is a 9-inch increase from last week and is right in step with the

160 inches that fell by this time last year.

There are no recent reports from Chimney Park, located about 9 miles west of Woods Landing. The latest snow likely helped cover the thin spots, at least for a little while. Expect user-pocked trails.

Conditions "up top" in the Snowy Range are excellent, with more snow in the forecast nearly every day now and into the weekend, although amounts won't be more than about a dusting each time. Winds will be moderate and picking up on Saturday.

Personnel at the Colorado Avalanche Information Center report the avalanche danger for the southern Wyoming and northern Colorado mountains is rated "moderate" at all elevations. New snow increased the avalanche danger. Areas with more than about 8 inches of snow and on slopes steeper than 35 degrees pose the greatest risk.

Snow arrived late last week and into the weekend in quantities that had yet to be seen this season at the Happy Jack Recreation Area on Pole Mountain. Total snow amounts were somewhere around 5-8 inches before the weekend and then another 2-4 inches by Monday. This is just what the trails needed to keep the ski season going. All ski trails except Summit Loop and Gobi's have been groomed and even have classic tracks on all groomed routes except Rollercoaster.

Conditions are good on the multi-use trails that are best accessed from the Happy Jack trailhead. Warm temperatures will likely make conditions soft and more of a workout, but there is plenty of snow.

The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service snow measuring station reports a snow depth of 78 inches at Sand Lake on the northern end of the Medicine Bow Mountains, a 5-inch increase from last week. There is 58 inches reported at the station for Cinnabar Park, a 3-inch decrease 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 72 inches, an increase of 1 inch from last week. The measuring site on Crow Creek on Pole Mountain shows 16 inches of snow, an increase of 6 inches from last week.

Cross-country skiing

Pole Mountain/Happy Jack Recreation Area Nordic ski trails: Good coverage and spring conditions with daily grooming except on Summit Loop, Gobi's and Rollercoaster trails.

Pole Mountain/Happy Jack Recreation Area multi-use ski trails: Very good conditions with some soft sections, especially on warmer days.

Chimney Park Nordic ski trails: Trails have good coverage; expect spring-like conditions with the trails user-pocked.

Snowy Range backcountry conditions: Very good ski conditions with plenty of snow that could get pretty soft as temperatures rise late in the week.

Snowmobile conditions

Snowy Range: Conditions are very good with the possibility of a bit of new snow daily, especially Saturday into Sunday.