

Snow Water Equivalent Reports: 2007 – 2008 Water Years.

2008 No.5

Town of Star Valley Ranch Water Status Report April, 2008

May 12, 2008,

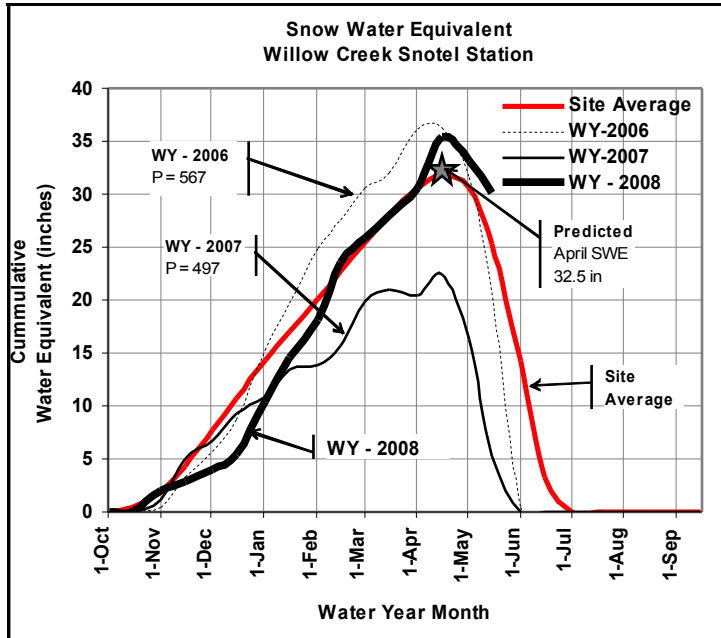


Figure 1. Accumulation of snow water equivalent for this water year (2008) compared to previous water years for the Willow Creek Snotel Station at 8380 feet southeast of Bedford, WY.

Water Status Reports

This water status report is based on snow moisture data from the automated Willow Creek Snotel station located at an elevation of 8380 feet in the Salt River Range near Bedford. Snow depth, air temperature, water stored in snow (snow water equivalent - SWE), and precipitation are measured hourly and reported here for the 1st and 15th of each month. Special Report No. 1 (December, 2006) describes methods to interpret the SWE data presented here.

April

What an unusual month! It was so wet that this winter has moved from an average one to one that approaches and to some extent may exceed the very wet winter of 2006 (the sixth wettest on record). During April nearly 5 inches of water was added to the snow pack which moved us from average to to 119% of average. Perhaps what is more important for our summer water supply is that water has continued to be added to the snow pack so that as of May 12, the snow pack remains above 30 inches (147% of the water available in 2006) or 570% of last year's snow water at this time! The slow snow melt and wet spring will serve us well in July.

The predicted discharge from Prater Spring this summer should equal or exceed the 567 gpm of 2006.

About the Graph

The graph shows the monthly snow water equivalent for various water years (WY). A WY begins in October (the month with the lowest stream flow) of one calendar and continues to September of the following calendar year; it is named for the second calendar year. The **Site Average** line shows the average monthly SWE for the site since 1982. The **heavy black line** is the measured SWE for the current water year (WY-2008). The **WY-2006** and **2007** lines show the data for the last two water years. The **callouts** present the June discharge in gallons per minute (gpm) as measured at Prater Spring in 2006 and 2007.

Date	Water Year Snow Water Equivalent (inches)				Site Av.
	Site Av.	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1-Oct	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
15-Oct	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0%
1-Nov	1.9	0.5	1.2	2.0	105%
15-Nov	4.3	3.3	5	2.9	67%
1-Dec	7.7	5.7	6.7	4.0	52%
15-Dec	10.7	8.7	9.3	5.5	51%
1-Jan	14.3	15.3	10.9	10.5	73%
15-Jan	17	19.7	13.4	14.6	86%
1-Feb	20.2	24.9	13.8	18.1	90%
15-Feb	22.7	27.6	15.7	23.6	104%
1-Mar	25.4	30.6	19.9	25.9	102%
15-Mar	28	32	21.2	28	100%
1-Apr	30.6	36.1	20.5	30.6	100%
15-Apr	31.9	36.3	22.4	35.5	111%
1-May	30.6	31.6	16.3	33.1	108%
15-May	25.3	20.7	5.3	30.2	119%
1-Jun	14.3	0.5	0.0		
15-Jun	3.3	0.0	0.0		
1-Jul	0	0	0		