

## Water Report: November 2006.

# Town of Star Valley Ranch: Water Status Report

## INTRODUCTION

This report is the first of many that will be distributed each month to inform the Town of about the availability of irrigation and culinary (drinking) water during the year to come. The report presents snow and precipitation data collected at an automated weather station (Snotel) at an elevation of 8380 feet along Willow Creek in the Salt River Range. The station daily measures snow depth, air temperature, water stored in snow, and precipitation.

Snow acts as a reservoir that is discharged into the ground and local rivers during the spring melt to provide irrigation and culinary water during the following summer. The relationships are simple: the greater the precipitation, the greater the water equivalent of the snow, and the greater the quantity of water to infiltrate rocks to ground water. Forecasts are possible by comparing the current data to data from previous water years.

## THE GRAPHS

The two graphs show the monthly snow water equivalent and precipitation at Willow Creek. The **Site Average** line on each graph shows the average monthly water equivalent or monthly precipitation for the site since 1982. The **WY - 2005 - 06** shows the data for the 2005 -06 water year, which extended from October 2005 through September 2006. This water year was the fourth wettest in the last 106 years and barely provided sufficient water to the Town during the summer of 2006. The **solid line** shows the data for this water year (WY - 2006 - 07), which started in October 2006. Its relationship to the other two reference lines indicates the probable availability of water during the summer of 2007.

## INTERPRETATION

Data are few. The start of the water year was wetter than average but not as wet as last year -- next summer might be drier than last summer.

