

The Agricultural Experiment Station

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO.

Poudre River Bulletin.

Reports of snow actually present in the mountains give positive indication of the water supply available for the coming year, but does not indicate how that supply may be distributed, due to warm weather, rain or other conditions. Yet, it should not be forgotten that the absence of a large snow deposit at this date does not necessarily indicate a deficiency of water, because a large part of the supply for the year falls late in April and in May. The average and the lowest recorded precipitation at Fort Collins from a record of over twenty years is as follows:

Month	Inches	Lowest Record	Year
Nov39	0.00	1888
Dec.....	.35	0.00	1888
Jan.....	.58	.02	1893
Feb.....	.61	.03	1896
Mar.....	.90	.14	1893
April.....	2.20	.89	1894
May.....	2.96	1.01	1899

Thus the precipitation in April and May averaged more than twice as much for the preceding four months. It is often the case that the rain and snow of April and May, and even later months have converted unpromising prospects into abundant harvests.

Early in the month inquiries were sent to numerous residents of good knowledge and close observation living in the mountains, and who might have information of the snow as it now is. The replies were not received at the same time and do not indicate the condition at the same date. Approximately they represent the condition about April 15. The

general tenor of the information is to indicate that on the Poudre watershed there is at levels of 9,000 feet and above, about the same as usual at this season of the year, but that on the Big Thompson there is less. The reports of the weather bureau also indicate that their information shows less on most of the other watersheds.

Mr. Zimmerman of Home, for the Upper Poudre, reports 12 inches of snow at 7,500 feet, 36 inches in green timber, 12 in the open at 9,000 feet; 48 inches deep in the green timber, and 16 inches in the open at an elevation of 10,000 feet.

George M. Ragan reports 36 inches deep in timber, six inches deep in the open at 9,000 to 9,500, well packed.

J. S. Peddicord, at Chambers Lake, reports snow four feet deep.

Mr. Nungesser of Elkhorn, reports the snow as about 30 to 38 inches from 9,000 to 9,500 feet in green timber, and 14 to 18 inches in the open toward Ball mountain.

Mr. Stewart reports the snow on McIntire creek, running into the Big Laramie as 30 to 36 inches deep in the timber and 12 inches deep in the open, drifted, at 8,500 feet. All open country is bare.

Mr. Pache, on the Laramie, thinks the snow rather less than usual.

Mr. Tedmon and Mr. Watrous, from St. Cloud, on the North Poudre, report more snow than usual. Snow is 6 to 12 inches deep in the timber, none at all in the open except where drifted, up to

7,500 feet. About 2 feet in timber at 8500 feet.

On the west and southwest of Estes park the reports through Messrs. Lamb, Mills, Cleave and Sprague, indicate a very low snow fall at timber line.

Mr. Barnes of Pinkhampton, reported at the beginning of the month, a depth of 2 feet of snow on the hay bottoms near him in North park, and that there was more snow on the mountains to the east than to the west of the park.

In the mountains the ground is generally dry and will absorb much moisture. Other reports have been received from

Mr. Batterson and Mr. Bishopp, of Virginia Dale; Mr. Smith of Gleneyre, Mr. Autrey of Boxelder. Their general tenor confirms the reports of the others given in more detail.

The nilometer has been placed in position and records obtained for a couple of months past. The average for the week ending April 22, has been about 130 cubic feet per second for the previous week, a little over 100 feet. or below the normal, as far as the record extends. L. G. CARPENTER, Director.

April, 1902.