

# SWEet! Oregon's Snowpack and Water Supply



Where do YOU get your water? What are the characteristics of Oregon's snowpack and how have they changed over time? In this activity we will be looking at current and past snow data and the affects it can have on our local economy.

## SNOTEL-

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) operates and maintains an automated system (*SNOwpack TELemetry* or **SNOTEL**) designed to collect snowpack and related climatic data in the Western United States and Alaska and to develop accurate and reliable water supply forecasts. For over 30 years **SNOTEL** sites in Oregon and the west have collected data on snow depth and **SWE** (*snow water equivalent*). We will use yearly SWE data to look for changes and to relate our snowpack to Oregon's Economy.

A. Using the data in the table, graph the SWE for your site over time (1980-2012).

B. Analyze your results:

1-What trend do you see on the graph?

2-Compare your graph with another group and discuss your observations.

3-After your discussions what do you think the possible effects will be of less snow in Oregon? Who/What could be effected? How might they be effected?

4-What questions do you still have? List 1+.

## Maximum Yearly SWE (measured in inches)

Water Year	Summit Lake	Hogg Pass	Santiam Jct.
	5610 ft.	4790 ft.	3740 ft.
1980		30.1	10.1
1981		17.8	4.3
1982	56.3	61.8	37.1
1983	50.5	31.3	17.8
1984	63.5	46.6	18.3
1985	48.1	48.8	32.7
1986	42.8	39.4	18.5
1987	37.8	38.8	18.5
1988	33.9	37.4	15
1989	58	56	29.6
1990	30.1	31.5	18.7
1991	35	31.5	10.4
1992	26	19.8	4.7
1993	59.8	48.1	25.3
1994	25.1	29.2	12.8
1995	44.8	42.6	18.8
1996	39.4	48.8	14.1
1997	49.8	52.1	21.7
1998	39.4	37.2	13.2
1999	69.7	68.5	37.2
2000	40.7	45.5	20.7
2001	27.1	24	8.5
2002	48.6	54	26.2
2003	35.4	27	7.2
2004	49.6	32.5	17.8
2005	29.5	10.6	4.1
2006	53.1	40.2	19.7
2007	42	22.4	12.7
2008	55.3	50.3	38.4
2009	43.9	29.9	21.1
2010	42.1	25	5.4
2011	54.5	31	24.7
2012	43	33.2	20.1

