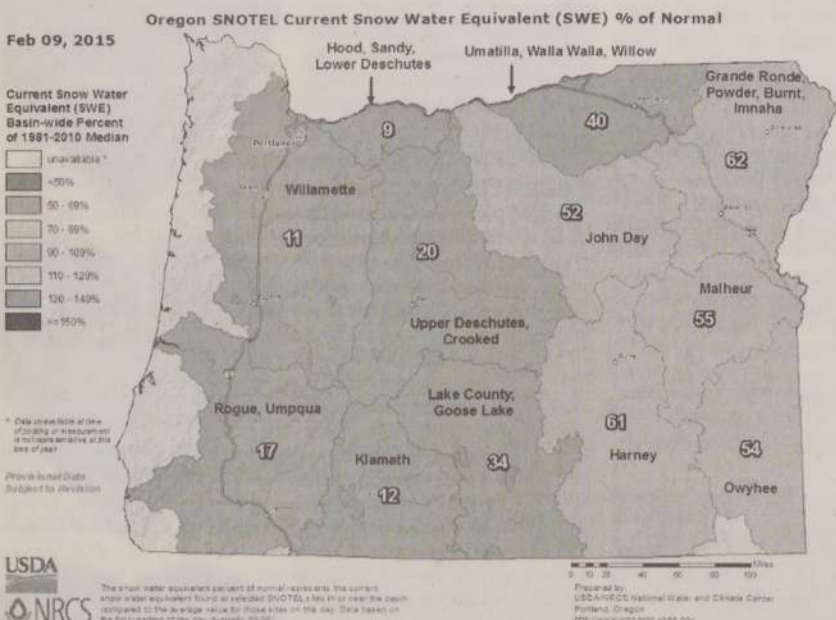


NRCS Reports Record Low Snowpack in Many Basins Across Oregon



For the second consecutive year, Oregon's mountains are experiencing record-low snowpack levels, according to the latest snow survey data from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

While the state has received near-normal amounts of rainfall since Oct. 1—the beginning of the water year—mountain temperatures have been unusually warm. As a result, 44 out of 110 long-term snow monitoring sites in Oregon measured record or near-record low levels for snowpack on Feb. 1. Some areas were snow-free for the first time on record.

"It's been a warm and rainy winter in the Oregon mountains this year. Most of our sites in the Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains are measuring record low snowpack levels right now," said Melissa Webb, a hydrologist with the NRCS Oregon snow survey team. "There is grass growing in areas that are normally buried under many feet of snow. There is still time for improvement in our snowpack, but at this point, a full

recovery is unlikely."

Without significant snowfall in Feb. and March, NRCS hydrologists predict that streams and rivers typically fed by snowmelt will experience well-below-normal flows this summer.

"Winter rainfall can help improve reservoir storage and increase streamflows during storms, but it has little effect on streamflow later in the season," Webb said.

"We depend on the snowmelt to provide a steady water supply over the summer months. While winter rain does help, it doesn't provide the same level of certainty as having a known quantity of frozen water stored in the mountain snowpack," Webb added.

NRCS releases reports at the beginning of each month during the snowpack season, Jan. 1 through June 1. All water supply reports are available on the NRCS Oregon snow survey website at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow

Oregon SNOTEL current Snow Water Equivalent, percent of normal as of Feb 6, 2015. The snow water equivalent represents the depth of water in the snowpack expressed in inches if the snowpack were melted.

Young Chef's Interest Fueled by Pasta at Borello's

By Gina Perkins

"One day we ate at Borello's in Sumpter, and that next week, he asked me to go to the store and pick up pasta, mushrooms, shrimp, etc. I asked him why, and he said that he was going to make that great pasta from Sumpter. Well, that was his start. He hasn't stopped yet," said Roberta Vanderwall about her son, Riley Huddleston.

Huddleston who is now the Executive Chef at the Hotel Godfrey in Chicago competed in an elite cooking competition in New York this week. As one of 10 finalists from the U.S., if chosen, will advance to the San Pellegrino Young Chef's final competition in Milan, Italy the end of June.

Vanderwall was born and raised in the Haines area and after living in Montana, relocated to North Powder when her son was in the first grade. Huddleston attended North Powder School until the sixth grade when his family moved. Betty and Bert Vanderwall are his grandparents and his father is Wade Huddleston.

According to his resume, prior to his career as a chef, Huddleston launched the Boise Fry Company at the age of 23, a "burgers on the side" concept, which he still co-owns. The restaurant's fries were named "America's Best French Fries" by U.S. Travel News in 2013 and "Best French Fries in the U.S." by Travel + Leisure in 2012.

Huddleston has also served as chef de cuisine at Mortimer's in Boise. He is a believer in giving back and has worked with non-profits like Common Threads in Chicago. He started his formal culinary education at the New England Culinary Institute located in Tortola, British Virgin Islands.



Riley Huddleston

Submitted photo



Recommended Reads at Betty's Books

"Everything I Need to Know About Love" is the third installment in the popular series of books featuring images from a number of vintage Little Golden books. Each one lists the title, illustrator and date of publication and is paired with a few words of advice. These are a great trip down memory lane for those who grew up with Little Golden books and make great gifts at just \$9.99 for a nice hardcover edition.

Another great series for children and adults to share is the We Both Read series by Treasure Bay Publishing. The left page is for the adult to read and the right side for the child. They are ranked by various reading levels, from pre-K through level 3. Nicely illustrated and covering a wide range of topics, both fiction and non-fiction, they provide a great way to promote reading together. They are in paperback for \$5 each.

One of our staff favorites is "Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea" by Barbara Demick, a journalist who follows the lives of six North Korean citizens over fifteen years. Balancing their personal stories with more general history, it's a tremendous way to learn about a country and way of life so remote from our own.

The book "Astoria" by Peter Stark is now available in paperback for \$15.99. As mentioned before, it is a comprehensive account of the 1811 expedition by two parties sent out by John Jacob Astor to claim the mouth of the Columbia for his fur-trading enterprise. The overland party came right through this valley mid-winter and a baby was born to Marie Dorion near North Powder.



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