



Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin – May 15th, 2012

The May 15th snow survey is now complete. Data from 34 snow courses and 53 snow pillows around the province and climate data from Environment Canada have been used to form the basis for the following reports¹.

Weather

Cool and dry conditions were present throughout the province through the early part of May. High pressure ridging starting in the second week in May led to two warming periods. The second ridge towards the middle of the month created 3 to 4 days of hot weather, particularly through the Interior, Okanagan-Kettle, Similkameen, and Kootenays. In general conditions have been drier than normal through the first half of May.

Snowpack

The snow melt season is now proceeding steadily. A number of hot spells through late-April and early-May has led to significant dwindling of the mid-elevation snow pack, particularly in the Similkameen, Okanagan, Kettle, Kootenay, and Interior. Despite the warm weather and snow melt at mid-elevations, snow melt has been limited at upper elevation sites.

Significant snow packs are still present at high elevations across the province, with above average to well above average snow basin indices in all regions except the Okanagan. The delay in snow melt season, particularly in high elevation locations, has led to an increase from May 1st snow basin index values in the Upper Fraser, Middle Fraser, Nechako, North Thompson, South Thompson, Kootenay, Similkameen, South Coast, Peace and Skeena-Nass.

BC Snow Basin Indices – May 15, 2012

Basin	% of Normal	Basin	% of Normal
Upper Fraser	167%	Kootenay	154%
Nechako	150%	Okanagan-Kettle	95%
Middle Fraser	118%	Similkameen	113%
Lower Fraser	125%	South Coast	122%
North Thompson	124%	Vancouver Island	129%
South Thompson	117%	Peace	117%
Columbia	123%	Skeena-Nass	158%

1. Every effort is made to ensure that data reported on these pages are accurate. However, in order to update the graphs and indices as quickly as possible, some data may have been estimated. Please note that data provided on these pages are preliminary and subject to revision upon review.



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Outlook

Typically the freshet snow melt season in British Columbia lasts from May to the end of June or early July. With significant snow pack at higher elevation, seasonal flood risk is still present through most regions of the province. Snow packs are still at levels of concern for increased flood risk in the Upper Fraser, Nechako, Columbia, Kootenay, Peace, and Skeena-Nass basins. Basins with nearer to normal snow packs (e.g. Thompson) have normal seasonal flood risk, and under adverse weather conditions, flooding is still a possibility.

Snow melt at mid-elevations through the Similkameen, Okanagan, Kettle and South Interior has led to diminished on-going seasonal risk in these regions.

Above-normal seasonal runoff is expected throughout the province. Currently rivers around the province are, in general, flowing at near seasonal levels for this time of year and are below levels of concern for flooding.

Current 30-day temperature forecasts from Environment Canada are for above-normal temperatures through the southern half of the province. Seasonal forecasts for May through July are for a higher probability of warmer than normal temperature in eastern BC, and cooler than normal in coastal BC. Precipitation forecasts for the May through June period are for a higher probability of below normal precipitation for coastal BC, and normal precipitation through eastern BC.

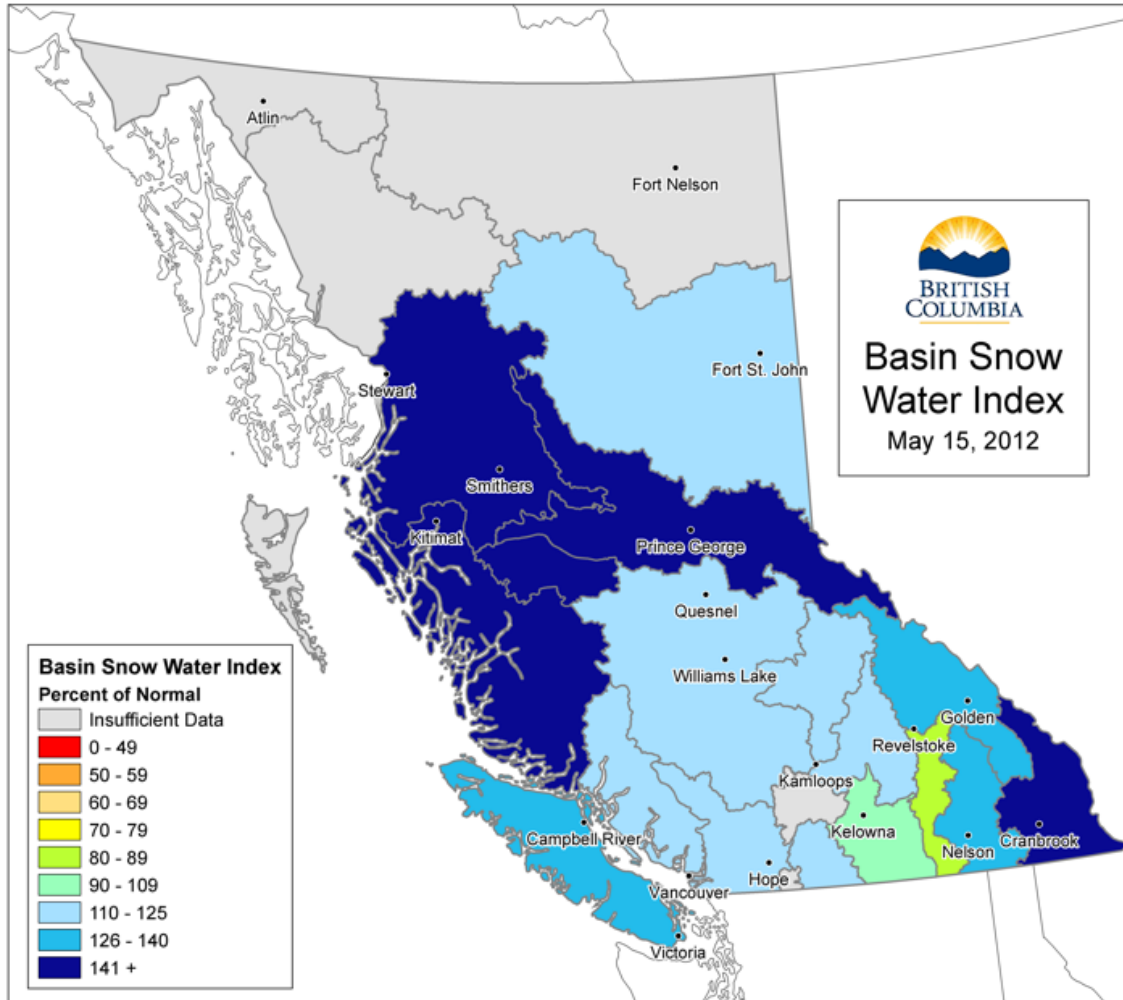
The River Forecast Centre continues to monitor snow and weather conditions across the Province and when conditions warrant, provides advisories through media releases and on the River Forecast Centre website: <http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/>. The June 1st snow bulletin is expected to be released on or before June 11th, 2012.

Produced by: BC River Forecast Centre
May 22nd, 2012



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Map 1: Basin Snow Water Index-May 15th, 2012



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UPPER FRASER Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm	
PACIFIC LAKE	770	13-May	154	728	213	519		728	0	341	34
BURNS LAKE	800							0	0	0*	17
HEDRICK LAKE	1100	15-May	183	1242	164	1024	663	1058	458	759*	11
KAZA LAKE	1190							212	212	212*	1
LU LAKE	1310	15-May	70	337	211	403	113	477	0	160*	13
BARKERVILLE	1520	15-May	54	255	109	406	149	503	0	234	34
KNUDSEN LAKE	1580	13-May	231	1170	141			1271	359	832	33
MCBRIDE (UPPER)	1620	15-May	135	642	162	466	341	638	65	396*	19
REVOLUTION CREEK	1690	15-May	282	1301	182	853	594	1237	228	713	26
LONGWORTH (UPPER)	1740	13-May	233	1178	153			1219	292	772	54
DOME MOUNTAIN	1820	15-May	233	1122	134	890	623	1204	555	839*	6
YELLOWHEAD	1860	15-May	144	839	145	582	592	829	143	579	14

NECHAKO Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm	
TAHTSA LAKE	1300	15-May	N/A	1887	150	1405	1250	2346	643	1255	18
KIDPRICE LAKE	1370							1278	534	906*	2
MOUNT PONDOSY	1400	15-May	N/A	1091	169	815	543	1200	182	645	19
MOUNT WELLS	1490	15-May	N/A	760	149	584	447	950	146	510	20

MIDDLE FRASER Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm	
BROOKMERE	980	16-May	0	0	0	77		208	0	35	27
BOSS MOUNTAIN MINE	1460	15-May	81	402	87	608	396	761	184	464	18
BRENDA MINE	1460	15-May	N/A	3	N/A	208	9	208	0	0	18
BARKERVILLE	1520	15-May	54	255	109	406	149	503	0	234	34
MOUNT TIMOTHY	1660					350	122	466	0	201	42
YANKS PEAK EAST	1670	15-May	161	912	114	977	602	1125	398	800	15
PENFOLD CREEK	1680	13-May	245	1326	130	1212	950	1400	585	1019	42
GREEN MOUNTAIN	1780	15-May	N/A	1040	123	1026		1366	408	845	17
MISSION RIDGE	1850	15-May	N/A	575	151	539	451	973	0	382	35

LOWER FRASER Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
BROOKMERE	1C01	980	16-May	0	0	0	77		208	0	35	27
DISAPPOINTMENT LAKE	1D18P	1040	15-May	N/A	1852	96	2307	1327	2940	954	1924*	8
DOG MOUNTAIN	3A10	1080	14-May	270	1358	123		786	2920Z	0	1100	25
SPUZZUM CREEK	1D19P	1180	15-May	352	2211	149	1954	1523	2093	386	1485*	12
WAHLEACH LAKE	1D09P	1400	15-May	N/A	1085	113	1183	1000	1793	362	960	18
CHILLIWACK RIVER	1D17P	1600	15-May	380	2398	173	2123	1646	2175	356	1388*	17
TENQUILLE LAKE	1D06P	1680	15-May	282	1352	132	1509	1343	1677	450	1022*	11

NORTH THOMPSON Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
BLUE RIVER	1E01B	670				78		78	0	7*	10	
BOSS MOUNTAIN MINE	1C20P	1460	15-May	81	402	87	608	396	761	184	464	18
MOUNT COOK	1E02P	1550	14-May	295	1588	123	1441E	1358	1800	840	1296*	10
AZURE RIVER	1E08P	1620	15-May	206	1410	115	1212	1136	1665	720	1230	15
ADAMS RIVER	1E07	1720	12-May	192	949	133	819	783	1158	280	712	40
KOSTAL LAKE	1E10P	1770	15-May	216	1091	123	987	773	1357	562	887	27
TROPHY MOUNTAIN	1E03A	1860	12-May	211	915	150	692	657	1114	301	608	29

SOUTH THOMPSON Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
ANGLEMONT	1F02	1190				250		361	0	100	19	
CELISTA	1F06P	1500	15-May	202	1080	121	1154	889	1154	390	893*	4
ADAMS RIVER	1E07	1720	12-May	192	949	133	819	783	1158	280	712	40
SILVER STAR MOUNTAIN	2F10	1840	15-May	136	791	120	914	613	1054	100	661	53
PARK MOUNTAIN	1F03P	1890	15-May	189	941	102	1215	802	1321	474	927	27
ENDERBY	1F04	1900	13-May	276	1213	111	1269	1015	1499	662	1089	48

UPPER COLUMBIA Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
AZURE RIVER	1E08P	1620	15-May	206	1410	115	1212	1136	1665	720	1230	15
KICKING HORSE	2A07	1650					306	521	0	220		47
MOUNT REVELSTOKE	2A06P	1830	15-May	N/A	1443	111	1572E	968	1777	700	1297	18
MOLSON CREEK	2A21P	1980	15-May	N/A	1575	151	1080	1103	1702	602	1040	29

LOWER COLUMBIA Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
FERGUSON	2D02	880				563		640	20	245		36
FARRON	2B02A	1220	14-May	13	40	36	167	16	222	0	110	32
BARNES CREEK	2B06P	1620	15-May	N/A	563	129	743	379	761	94	438	19
ST. LEON CREEK	2B08P	1800	15-May	N/A	1211	112	1478	851	1568	639	1080	18
RECORD MOUNTAIN	2B09	1890	18-May	127	335	50	930	628	1367	83	676	37
EAST CREEK	2D08P	2030	15-May	N/A	983	106	930	754	1387	461	925	30

EAST KOOTENAY Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
FERNIE EAST	2C07	1250	17-May	0	0	0	298	0	298	0	46	50
SULLIVAN MINE	2C04	1550	14-May	54	218	208	304	0	457	0	105	60
KIMBERLEY (MIDDLE) VOR	2C12	1680	18-May	12	44	N/A						
MORRISSEY RIDGE	2C09Q	1800	15-May	N/A	784	170	1024	431	1114	0	460	27
MOYIE MOUNTAIN	2C10P	1930	15-May	53	333	131	682	130	682	0	255	31
FLOE LAKE	2C14P	2090	15-May	N/A	1080	141	934	671	1088	304	765	17
KIMBERLEY (UPPER) VOR	2C11	2140	18-May	124	570	N/A						

WEST KOOTENAY Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
FERGUSON	2D02	880				563		640	20	245		36
NELSON	2D04	930				11		243	0	40		41
CHAR CREEK	2D06	1310	15-May	105	471	169	561	257	715	0	279	42
EAST CREEK	2D08P	2030	15-May	N/A	983	106	930	754	1387	461	925	30
REDFISH CREEK	2D14P	2104	15-May	375	1785	133	1672	1301	1740	972	1345*	10

KETTLE Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
FARRON	2B02A	1220	14-May	13	40	36	167	16	222	0	110	32
BIG WHITE MOUNTAIN	2E03	1680	13-May	114	475	122	640	380	732	0	390	46
GRANO CREEK	2E07P	1860	15-May	117	648	121	749	480	855	290	536*	14

OKANAGAN Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
SUMMERLAND RESERVOIR	2F02	1280	14-May	0	0	0	115	0	218	0	32	46
VASEUX CREEK	2F20	1400	15-May	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	9	39
TROUT CREEK	2F01	1430	15-May	3A	7A	23A	210	0	307	0	30	59
TROUT CREEK (WEST)	2F01A	1430	15-May	13A	50A	33A	243	58	243	58	150*	2
BRENDA MINE	2F18P	1460	15-May	N/A	3	N/A	208	9	208	0	0	18
GREYBACK RESERVOIR	2F08	1550	15-May	27	80	80	233	146	323	0	100	39
ISINTOK LAKE	2F11	1680	14-May	7	33	42	226A	0	386	0	78	46
MISSION CREEK	2F05P	1780	15-May	122	553	136	713	491	829	0	407	40
MOUNT KOBAN	2F12	1810	13-May	76	287	113	419	329	516	0	254	45
WHITEROCKS MOUNTAIN	2F09	1830	12-May	108	460	115	547	426	968	0	401	41
SILVER STAR MOUNTAIN	2F10	1840	15-May	136	791	120	914	613	1054	100	661	53

SIMILKAMEEN Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
BROOKMERE	1C01	980	16-May	0	0	0	77		208	0	35	27
HAMILTON HILL	2G06	1490				208	6	434	0	60	34	
MISSEZULA MOUNTAIN	2G05	1550	14-May	60A	78A	144A	214	0	218	0	54	48
ISINTOK LAKE	2F11	1680	14-May	7	33	42	226	0	386	0	78	46
LOST HORSE MOUNTAIN	2G04	1920	14-May	62	221	115	356	135	577	0	192	45
BLACKWALL PEAK	2G03P	1940	15-May	195	1047	148	1000	720	1481	180	706	44

SOUTH COASTAL Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
PALISADE LAKE	3A09P	880	15-May	N/A	N/A	N/A						
DOG MOUNTAIN	3A10	1080	14-May	270	1358	123		786	2920Z	0	1100	25
ORCHID LAKE	3A19	1190	14-May	446	2280	120		1726	3730A	774	1900	29
ORCHID LAKE	3A19P	1190	15-May	425	2074	127	2555	1617	3378	536	1635*	12
UPPER SQUAMISH RIVER	3A25P	1340	15-May	360	1872	124	2669E	1621	2980E	698	1515	19
NOSTETUKO RIVER	3A22P	1500	15-May	22	703	167	943	653	943	15	420*	19
UPPER MOSELY CREEK	3A24P	1650	15-May	41	257	158	376	282	454	0	163*	23

VANCOUVER ISLAND Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
JUMP CREEK	3B23P	1160	15-May	287	1602	164	2199	1049	3500E	0	975	14
WOLF RIVER (UPPER)	3B17P	1490	15-May	N/A	1678	129	2255	1911	2719E	188	1300	22

NORTH COASTAL Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
TAHTSA LAKE	1B02P	1300	15-May	N/A	1887	150	1405	1250	2346	643	1255	18
BURNT BRIDGE CREEK	3C08P	1330	15-May	226	1358	210	800	538	1444	184	647*	13

PEACE Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
PACIFIC LAKE	1A11	770	13-May	154	728	213	519		728	0	341	34
AIKEN LAKE	4A30P	1040	15-May	N/A	159	N/A	127	0	195	0	0	24
KAZA LAKE	1A12	1190							212	212	212*	1
PULPIT LAKE	4A09P	1310	15-May	N/A	448	195	349	168	548	49	230	21
PINE PASS	4A02P	1400	15-May	N/A	1553	145	997	849	1471	416	1073	20
TRYGVE LAKE	4A11	1400							269	269	269*	1
JOHANSON LAKE	4B02	1540							178	178	178*	1
KWADACHA RIVER	4A27P	1620	15-May	N/A	279E	81	320	270	468	109	344*	24

LIARD Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm	
JADE CITY	4C15	940						162	162	162*	1

SKEEN/NASS Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
NINGUNSAW PASS	4B10	690	15-May	42	198	990			208	0	20	13
GRANDUC MINE	4B12P	790	15-May	N/A	1971	123			1980	1421	1603*	6
CEDAR-KITEEN	4B18P	885	15-May	126	777	182	495	9	949	9	428*	11
MCKENDRICK CREEK	4B07	1050	14-May	66	309	386	312		320	0	80	19
KAZA LAKE	1A12	1190							212	212	212*	1
LU LAKE	4B15P	1310	15-May	70	337	211	403	113	477	0	160*	13
TSAI CREEK	4B17P	1360	15-May	275	2065	159	1599	1308	2146	780	1298*	14
KIDPRICE LAKE	4B01	1370							1278	534	906*	2
TRYGVE LAKE	4A11	1400							269	269	269*	1
CHAPMAN LAKE	4B04	1460	14-May	156	689	136			688	238	505*	5
MOUNT CRONIN	4B08	1480	14-May	210	892	162			927	481	550	11
HUDSON BAY MTN.	4B03A	1480	14-May	159	698	158	613	415	822	160	441	39
SHEDIN CREEK	4B16P	1480	15-May	226	1270	135	968	568	1223	568	942*	15
JOHANSON LAKE	4B02	1540							178	178	178*	1

STIKINE/TAKU Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record	
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm		
NINGUNSAW PASS	4B10	690	15-May	42	198	990			208	0	20	13

YUKON Drainage Basin

Snow Course Name and Number	Elev. metres	Date of Survey	May 15 2012			Historic, Water Equivalent (mm)					Yrs of Record
			Snow Depth cm	Water Equiv. mm	% of Normal	2011 mm	2010 mm	Max. mm	Min. mm	Normal mm	
ATLIN LAKE	4E02A	730						0	0	0*	5
LOG CABIN	4E01	880					146	420	0	200	23

A - SAMPLING PROBLEMS WERE ENCOUNTERED

B - EARLY OR LATE SAMPLING

C - EARLY OR LATE SAMPLING WITH PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

E - ESTIMATED BASED ON AREAL AVERAGE

N- SCHEDULED, BUT NOT MEASURED

* - PERIOD OF RECORD AVERAGE

N/A - NOT AVAILABLE

NOTE: 1971-2000 NORMALS BEING USED