

## Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

The June 1<sup>st</sup> snow survey is now complete. Data from 22 snow courses and 47 snow pillows around the province (including some out-of-province sampling locations), and climate data from Environment Canada, have been used to form the basis for the following reports<sup>1</sup>.

### Weather

The month of May began with widespread, unseasonably warm temperatures and dry conditions that persisted for 8-9 days due to the establishment of a stable high pressure ridge over BC. Weather through the second half of May was more unsettled, with the prevalence of cooler and wetter conditions. Province-wide temperatures were 0.5 to 2.0 °C above normal through May, with slightly above normal precipitation through most regions.

### Snowpack

Snowmelt has been rapid through the month of May. Snow basin indices are well below normal (<70%) through most regions of the province (Table 1 and Figure 1). Near normal snow pack exists in the North Thompson and South Thompson. In the Columbia, snow melt has been more limited and current snow packs are above normal (131%) in the Columbia. Low snow basin indices at this time of the year are reflective of an earlier than normal snow melt season, with current snow pack conditions being similar to what might be expected to occur in mid-June (i.e. melt season is 1 to 2 weeks ahead of normal this year). This year's snow pack melt contrasts significantly with the past two years, where snow melt was delayed by 2-3 weeks (Figure 2).

Snow water-equivalent data is currently being estimated at three automated snow pillow sites (Table 2). Detailed Snow Survey Data are available at <http://bcrcfc.env.gov.bc.ca/data/survey/>.

**Table 1: BC Snow Basin Indices – June 1, 2013**

Basin	% of Normal	Basin	% of Normal
Upper Fraser	84%	Kootenay	63%
Nechako	47%	Okanagan-Kettle	76%
Middle Fraser	40%	Similkameen	35%
Lower Fraser	51%	South Coast	67%
North Thompson	100%	Vancouver Island	68%
South Thompson	105%	Peace	42%
Columbia	131%	Skeena-Nass	30%

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.



Ministry of  
Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resources

**RIVER FORECAST CENTRE**

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### **Outlook**

Seasonal flood risk from snow melt alone is starting to ease in many regions of the province, including the entire mainstem of the Fraser River, and the North Thompson, Okanagan, Similkameen, Kootenay, Peace and Skeena Rivers. On the South Thompson River and upper Columbia River (e.g. at Donald and upstream), the peak typically occurs later in the season, therefore there may be another 2 weeks of on-going risk on these systems, particularly with the higher remaining snowpack in the Columbia region. Flooding is still possible in any region if areas receive extreme rainfall.

With below normal snow packs and an earlier snow melt in many regions for this time of year, summer low flow periods are expected to occur earlier than normal. In particular this includes the Nechako, Middle Fraser, Lower Fraser, Columbia, Kootenay, Okanagan, Similkameen Peace, Skeena-Nass and Vancouver Island. Lower summer flows are expected in these regions if spring and summer weather is near normal or drier/hotter than normal.

The next snow bulletin will be released on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Produced by: BC River Forecast Centre  
June 6, 2013

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Figure 1: Basin Snow Water Index - June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

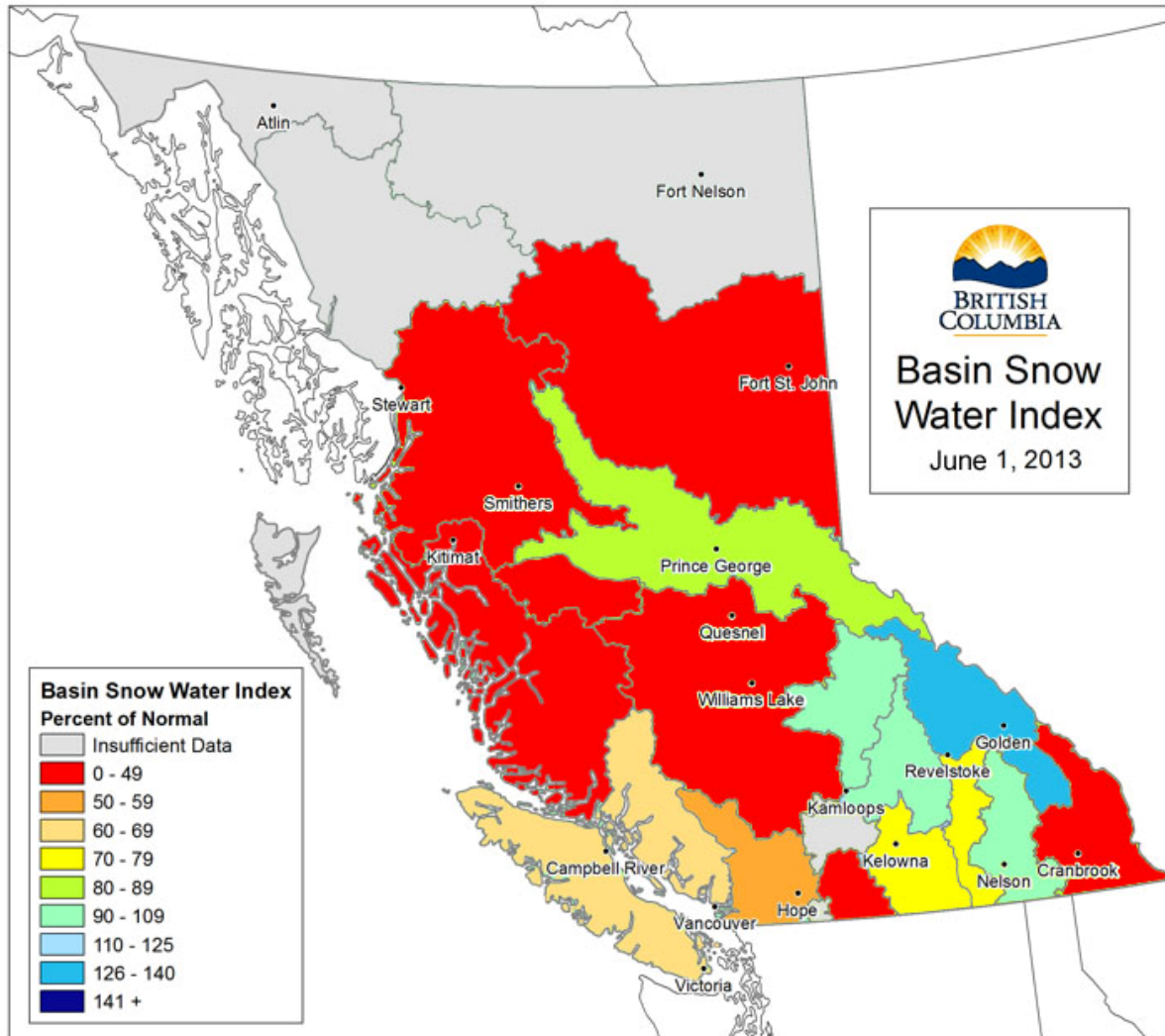
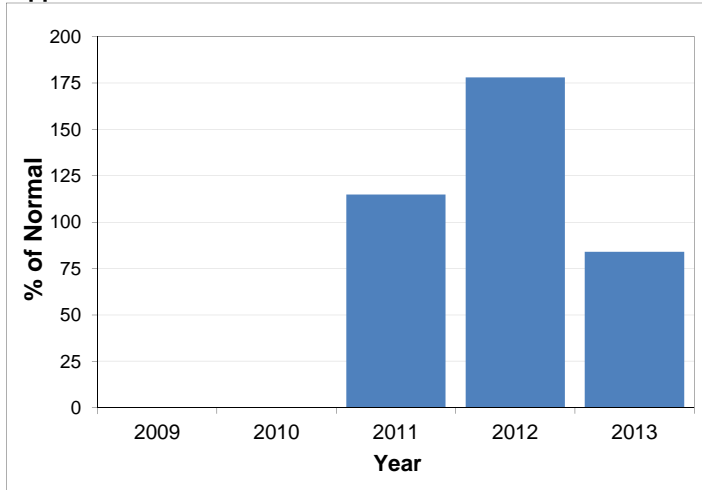


Table 2: June 1<sup>st</sup> Automated Snow Pillow Estimates

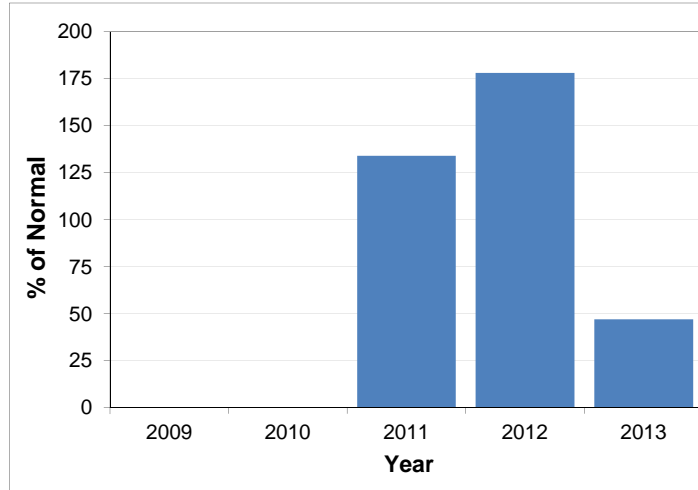
SNOW PILLOW ID	SNOW PILLOW NAME	OBSERVATION DATE	ESTIMATED Snow Water Equivalent (mm)
1E02P	MOUNT COOK	1-June	1169
2C09Q	MORRISSEY RIDGE	1-June	63
2D08P	EAST CREEK	1-June	503

# Snow Basin Index Graphs - June 1, 2013

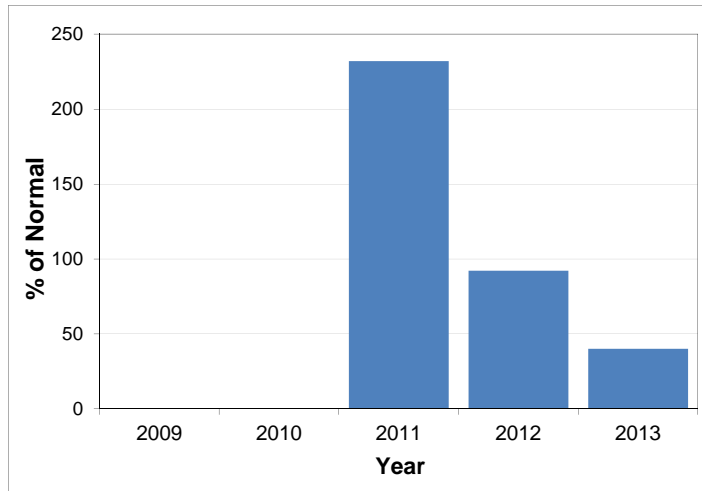
## Upper Fraser



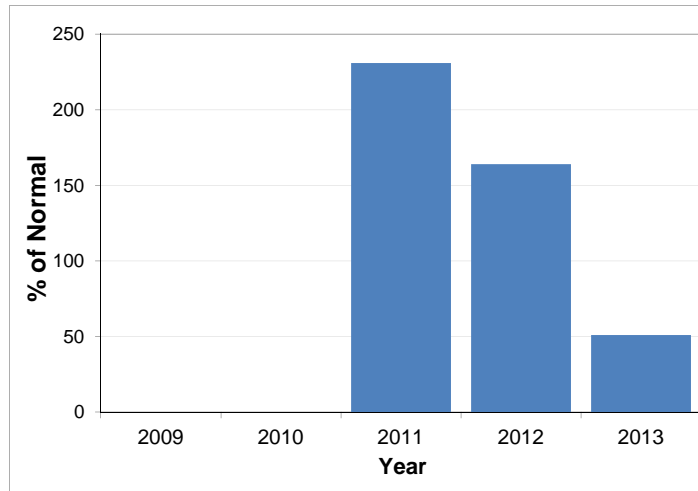
## Nechako



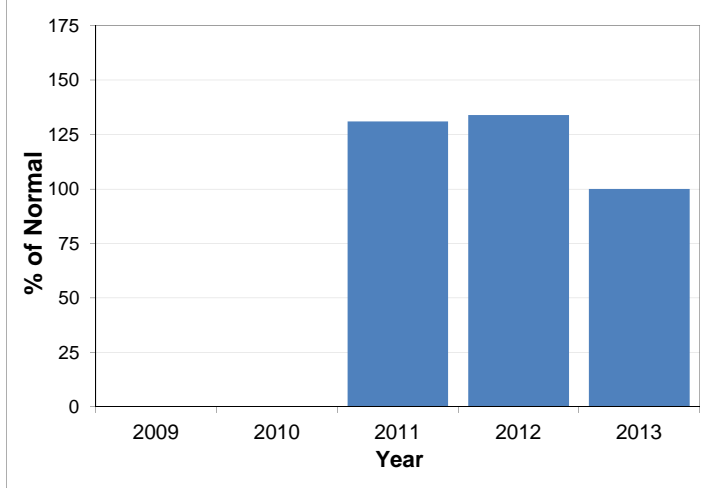
## Middle Fraser



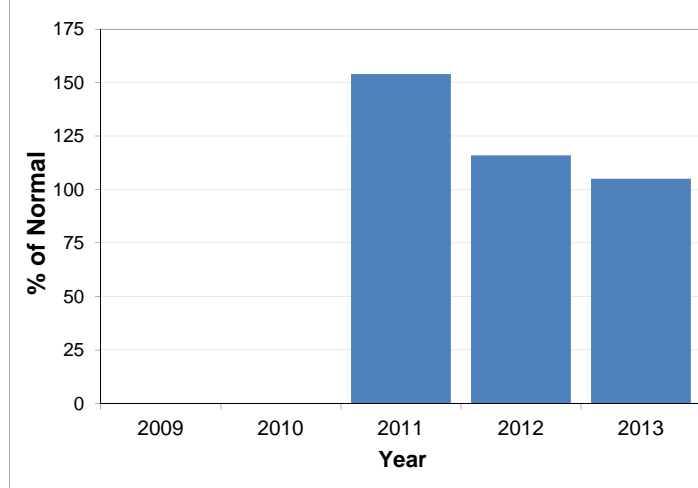
## Lower Fraser



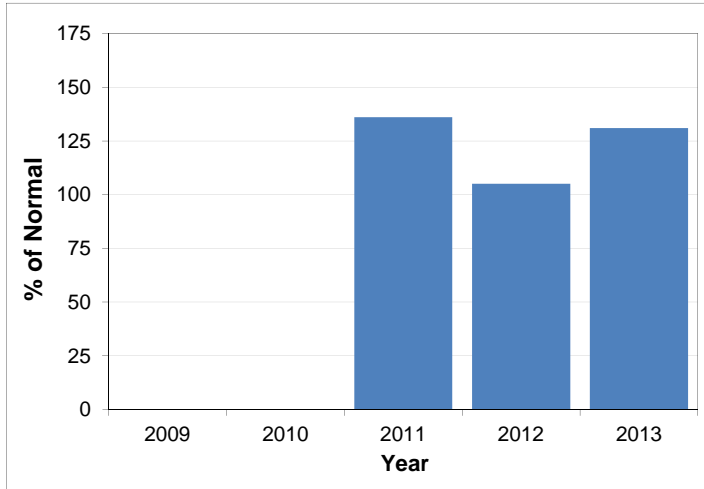
**North Thompson**



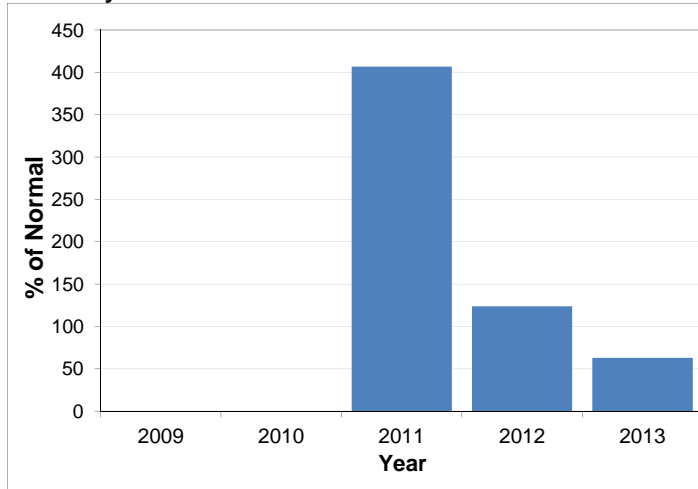
**South Thompson**



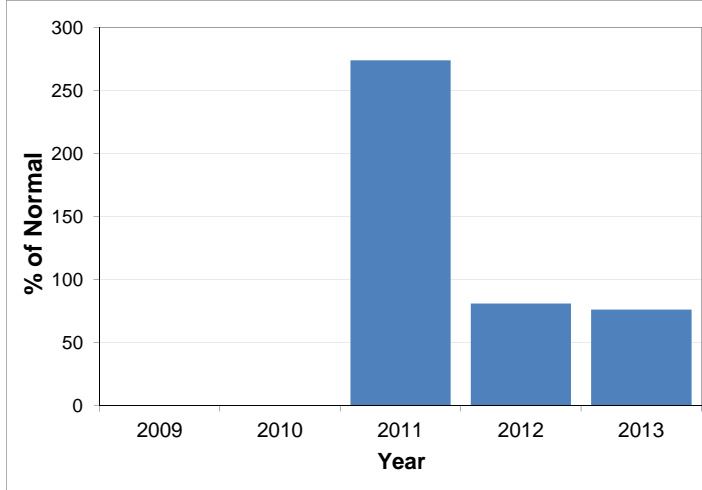
**Columbia**



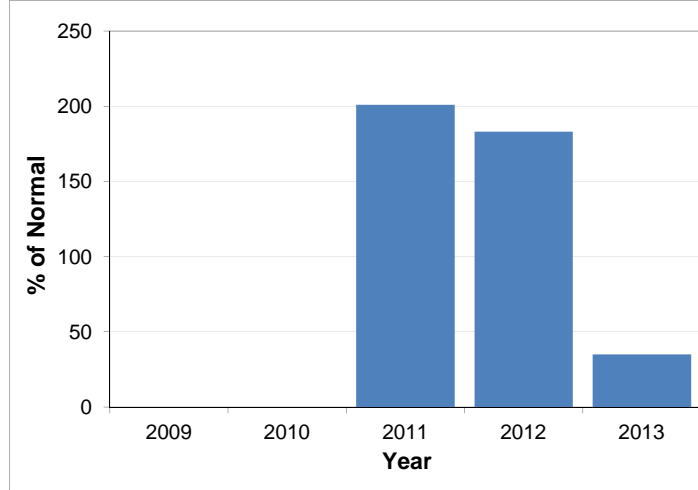
**Kootenay**



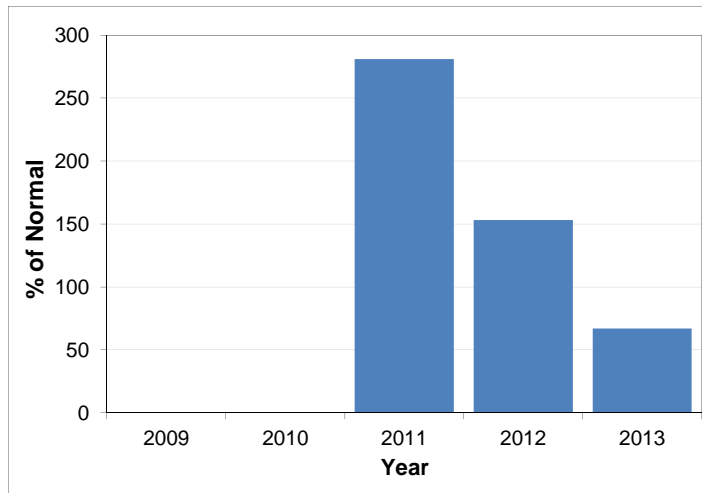
**Okanagan-Kettle**



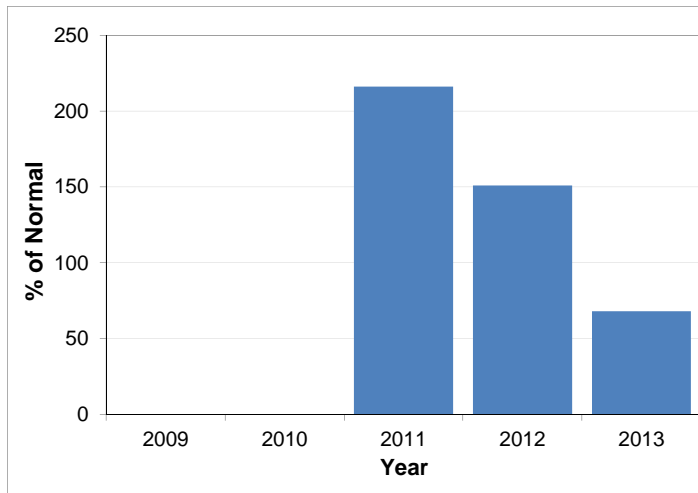
**Similkameen**



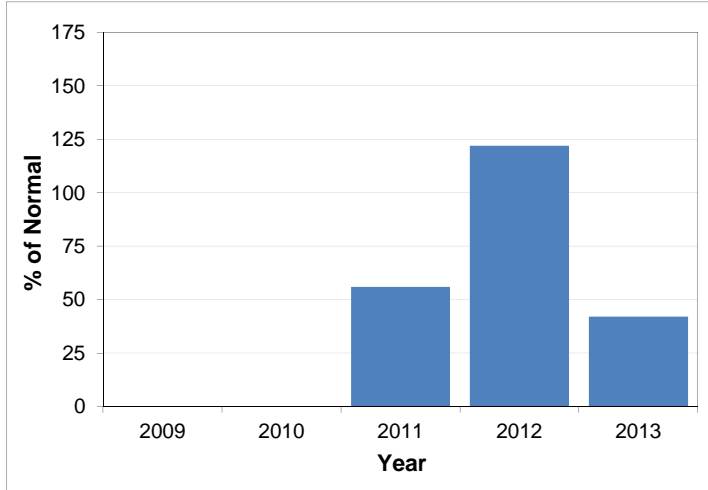
**South Coast**



**Vancouver Island**



**Peace**



**Skeena-Nass**

