

General Comments:

Snowpack and precipitation have rebounded somewhat from low February numbers thanks to recent wet storms in southwest Montana. As of March 21, they are slightly below average. The basinwide snowpack average is 94.5%. Precipitation is 97% of average. All SNOTEL stations reported increases of 10 to 20% of average over the mid-February report. Darkhorse lake continues to lag behind, reporting 83% of average.

The March 1, 2012 NRCS Water Supply Outlook predicts streamflows at Wisdom and Melrose to be 78% and 80% of average assuming average temperature and precipitation between April and July. That prediction pre-dates the recent mid-March storms.

BIG HOLE BASIN APPROXIMATE PRECIPITATION				
		15-Jan		
	elevation	current	normal	% avg
		inches	inches	
Barker Lakes	8250	14.6	14.8	99
Basin Creek	7180	7.9	8.2	96
Bloody Dick	7600	13.9	14.4	97
Calvert Creek	6430	12.8	10.1	127
Darkhorse Lake	8600	24.2	28.9	84
Moose Creek	6200	19.9	18.7	106
Mule Creek	8300	15.3	14.8	103
Saddle Mtn.	7940	22.7	25.4	89
TOTAL		131.3	135.3	
BASIN AVERAGE		97		
BIG HOLE BASIN APPROXIMATE SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT				
		15-Jan		
	elevation	current	normal	% avg
		inches	inches	
Barker Lakes	8250	12.1	13.1	92
Basin Creek	7180	6	7.5	80
Bloody Dick	7600	11.7	11.8	99
Calvert Creek	6430	11.1	8.2	135
Darkhorse Lake	8600	24.9	29.9	83
Moose Creek	6200	16.3	16.8	97
Mule Creek	8300	13.1	14.7	89
Saddle Mtn.	7940	24.2	24.3	100
TOTAL		119.4	126.3	
BASIN AVERAGE		94.5		

-NRCS Data compiled by Mike Roberts, DNRC.