

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING SNOW SURVEYS

- 1.** Snow surveys should be conducted each Tuesday and the data reported on the RRT web snow page whenever there is appreciable snow in the watershed. Snow surveys may also be needed if significant changes in snow cover occur between regularly scheduled surveys and warm weather or rainfall is forecast. Snow survey sites should be visited in the fall, prior to snow season, to verify that there have been no significant changes (including development) of the sites. Also, excessive debris and leaves should be removed from the site to make sampling during the snow season more debris free.
- 2.** Snow surveys are to be made in the following manner:
 - a.** Upon arrival at a snow survey site, estimate the percentage of snow cover in the immediate vicinity to the nearest 10 percent. If less than full coverage, record the percentage and report with the rest of the data.
 - b.** Proceed to an undisturbed area of the snow survey site. Push the snow sampling tube vertically through the snow and read the depth of the snow to the nearest half-inch. If snow cover is patchy, sample near center of the patches.
 - c.** Carefully lift the sampling tube, making certain that the entire core of snow is collected, and place sampling tube on scale to weigh. It may be necessary to remove some snow from around the outside of the tube and insert a flat item under the tube to keep the snow from falling out. After sampling tube is balanced on scale, read and record the water equivalent. Completely empty tube of any snow after recording water equivalent.
 - d.** Repeat steps **2b** and **2c** until three to five samples have been collected. If possible, collect samples about 50 feet from each other. Estimate the average depth of snow cover and the average water equivalent of snow at the sampling sites and record for that site.
 - e.** After completing the survey at that site, proceed to next site.