

Officials hope spring rains will make up for lack of winter snow

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Sparse snowfall this winter is causing concern throughout Wyoming. The state's snow pack is presently 73 percent of the average amount of snow for this time of year. In Evanston, snow pack levels are only about 50 percent of normal, as evidenced by this patchy view of a grassy hillside near Evanston. HERALD PHOTO/Becky Crum

Wyoming's state snow pack is only registering 73 percent of the average amount of snow, said Demont Grandy, Lincoln County District Conservationist, which means several pretty significant storm events are needed to bring snow levels back to normal.

"We are only registering half of normal. You can have a foot of snow and it may only raise us up five or ten percent. When you get so far behind, it doesn't really respond a lot," Grandy said.

Grandy said he doesn't know what will happen. He said the state is pretty dry right now.

"I think we are in what they call an El Niño effect. There are a lot of storms going to the south and the north of us. We aren't picking up the normal moisture pattern that we normally do this time of year," Grandy said.

Grandy said last year the southwest Wyoming snow pack was 90 percent of normal. He said it is quite a bit lower this year than it was last year at this time.

"The upper Bear River Basin as a whole this year is only averaging 57 percent of normal for this time of the year. We are hoping we will have those spring rains that we had last year during May and June. That is typical for an El Niño type weather pattern. When we don't pick up snow in the winter months, we usually have a wet spring. We hope that happens this year," Grandy said.