

EASTERN SNOW CONFERENCE

REPORT  
OF THE  
SNOW SURVEY SCHEDULE COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 1978  
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Introduction:

As discussed in the 1977 report the Snow Survey Schedule Committee continues to stress the benefits of cooperative action by the members of the Conference as a method of achieving the greatest possible success under Object (C) of Article II of the Eastern Snow Conference Constitution.

Activities of 1977-78:

The S.S.S. Committee held meetings by telephone and met in Quebec City in August. As a result, we put forward our basic recommendations to the Executive for their approval as well as the 1978 Proposed Snow Sampling Schedule which you received with the call for papers from the Vice-President.

Discussion of Committee Role and Scope:

In response to a request from the President, we present as follows our proposals for the role and scope of the S.S.S. Committee within the Conference in support of Object (C).

The Snow Survey Schedule Committee should:

1. Formulate and distribute an annual schedule for the field collection of snow-depth and water equivalent data.

2. Maintain liaison with all agencies that collect, analyse, archive or publish, and use snow survey information. This includes promoting (a) the concept of uniform scheduling of snow data observations, (b) the value of systematically collected and distributed snow data, (c) the benefits of data exchange and operations in SI units and (d) the use of standard formats and procedures in data generation and handling. The purposes of such liaison and promotion are the improvement in the data base and in water resource management for hydro-power, water supply, flood protection, recreation, wildlife and other uses.
3. Promote the development of basin or region wide mapping, analysis and publication of snow survey data products on a timely basis.
4. Encourage evaluation and optimization of snow data measurement sites and total network design.
5. Evaluate and update appropriate snow survey operational rules.
6. Encourage technology development related to snow surveys such as (a) real-time data acquisition and dissemination and (b) remote sensing.

Discussion of Previous Recommendations:

After serious consideration the S.S.S. Committee urges the Eastern Snow Conference to adopt three of its 1977 recommendations as Snow Survey Operating Rules, namely;

1. That all snowpack surveys be carried out to accommodate uniform end-of-month and mid-month standard dates according to a schedule established annually by the Snow Survey Schedule Committee of the Eastern Snow Conference.
2. That all snowpack surveys be carried out in the Monday to Wednesday period of the week with as many sites as possible being surveyed on the Monday. Data from surveys is to be reported to regional centres on or before Thursday of the week.
3. That Snow Survey data be recorded on data formats after Goodison (1975).

Another recommendation regarding the setting up of regional centres for receipt and handling of all snow data in a State/Province grouping has been tacitly adopted vis-a-vis the Proposed 1978 Snow Survey Schedule. The S.S.S. Committee urges the Conference to accept this recommendation as an objective which may be worked out over time as the Committee discharges items 2 and 3 of its proposed role in the Conference.

Recommendation: That the Eastern Snow Conference adopt and implement the measures described herein.

MOTION: The Snow Survey Schedule Committee moves the adoption of its report and the implementation of the measures contained therein.

MOTION APPROVED.