
Recent Snow-Property Research in the Western U.S.

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Recent work in the western U.S. has focused on the role of snow in the chemistry of alpine watersheds. This has required investigations of snowpack energy exchange and snow albedo, along with attempts to integrate energy balance calculations over drainage basins. Along with better understanding of the electromagnetic properties of snow, research in remote sensing has become more focused toward estimation of snowpack properties. Tracers added to snowplots in the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada complement efforts to define the chemical hydrograph from alpine snowpacks. Meltwater release from snow and gas-snowpack interactions are also being studied, using laboratory experiments and mathematical models.

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