SnoCountry Snow Reporting Guide

The purpose of this guide is to help snow reporters submit their mountain's snow report quickly, easily, and most important, accurately. This guide will start from the top and go through the whole report but if there are any additional questions please feel free to reach out to us directly. Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

1. Above the report

There is some basic information above the report, most of which you can read once and not worry about on a daily basis. The exception being, on a daily basis, you can see when your last report was filed and who sent it.

Also if someone on the SnoCountry staff has a message for you it will show up here:
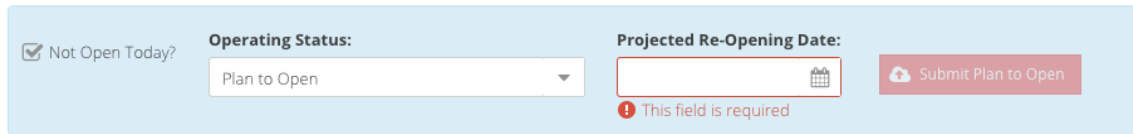

2. The Daily Snow Report

The first part is pretty straightforward, we just want to know who is filing the report in case we need to get in touch with you with questions. The report date and time is time

stamped automatically when you submit it so there is no need to do anything with the Date field here.

This part only needs to be filled out if you ARE NOT open! If you are open you can skip right over this box. If you are closed there are a few different options here you need to choose from depending on your situation. These are:

Opening Soon for Snow Sports: This is generally used early season when you want to access your report for training purposes or testing. It is also the default status to return to in the preseason if your Plan to Open date isn't obtainable but a new date hasn't been set yet.

Plan to Open (requires a date): Use this if you have not yet opened at all for the season and have an opening date in mind.

Reopen (requires a date): Use this once you have been open but need to close for any reason and know when you are going to reopen.

Reopen TBA: Use this if you have been open but need to close for any reason and are not sure when you will reopen.
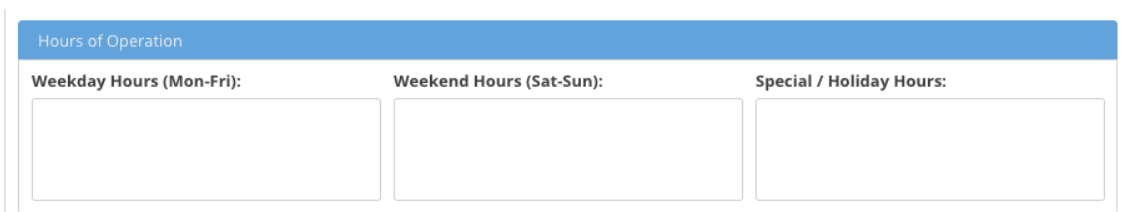
Closed for Snow Sports: This is ONLY used at the end of the season. It signals to us that you are closed for the season with no intent of reopening until next year.

To simplify the reporting process, if you are closed you can use the red button in this field to submit your information to SnoCountry without scrolling to the bottom of the report.

Notice there are two tabs here. The first one is the default report tab for Conditions/Weather, the second one is for Comments/Events/Deal which will not be covered here beyond pointing out that this is where you can list and events or deals that you are running as well as write a short (max 500 characters) blurb about the current day at your ski area. This information will appear on your resort's page on Snocountry.com

Here is where you list your current hours. Please note that we have very specific formatting requirements for hours and will routinely adjust what you enter to match our formatting. We included an Appendix at the end of this document with some examples of how to enter certain hours. Also, the Special Hours field is especially important to us if an area isn't open 7 days a week. We will put in something like "Open Thu-Sun" and it is important that stays there. It is how we ensure we don't show an area as open when they are not. Holiday hours can go in up to two weeks before the actual date.

How to report snow:

The daily reporting form should help to simplify the snow reporting process for ski areas that report on a daily basis. It should also make it easier for a ski area to fix their snow totals if they should miss a day or forget to enter snow that fell previously. Here are some quick instructions on how the new snow field works.

First, enter any new snow for the day, and update your season total here:

Today's Snow:	Season Total:
8-10"	50

This is the ONLY place snowfall from today should go. **Please report snow in whole numbers or a range.**

If you find that snowfall from previous days needs to be adjusted you can do that here:

2017-18 Snow Archive (Click to edit)

Date ↓	Min	Max	+
2017-11-26	6	8	▬
2017-11-22	3	5	▬
2017-11-21	3	5	▬
2017-11-20	10	12	▬
	28" archive total		

You can add dates using the "+" symbol, and delete dates using the "–" symbol. You can also adjust the amounts from dates already in your list by changing the Min and/or Max numbers. If you don't report snowfall in a range, only the Min number will be used and the Max number will be 0, this is normal and you don't have to put the same number in both fields. Also, make sure there is only one entry per date.

When you are done simply hit the reload button in the upper right of the box to reload the Snow Archive with the corrections.

**Notice that we count snowfall based on the calendar day you report it, not in a set period of hours. We do this in an effort to give the most accurate picture as to how much snow has fallen during a storm or over a period of days, no matter how often or when in the day a ski resort reports snowfall. Therefore, it is important that if you report snow on one day, you NOT add it to your Today's Snow the next day! That leads to numbers that don't match up such as in this example:**
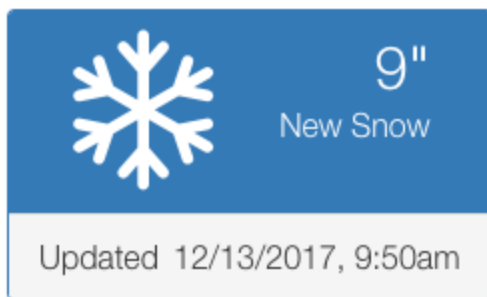
Last Snowfall	Dec 12, 2017 6"
Previous Snowfall	Dec 10, 2017 5"
Snow Comments	14" past 4 days

As you can see from their Snow Comments, this area reported that they got 14" in the past 4 days. But, on their report on the 13th, they added the snow they reported on the 12th again instead of only reporting the 3" of actual new snow since their last report.

This is why it is important to look at all the numbers you are reporting, both for today and what was reported previously, and adjust if needed.

Surface Conditions

Primary Surface > 50%:

> blank ▼

> 🛑 Primary & Secondary can not be the same.

Secondary Surface < 50%:

> blank ▼

> 🛑 Primary & Secondary can not be the same.

Base Depth Min (inches):

> [ ] ▲▼

Base Depth Max (inches):

> [ ] ▲▼

This box is for your Surface Conditions and Base Depth. A couple of notes here:

1. A Secondary Surface is only required if Machine Groomed is the Primary Surface, otherwise, it is optional.
2. Base depth doesn't have to be a range if you only measure in one spot. Both numbers can be the same.
3. Please only use Spring Conditions after March 1st otherwise use Variable Conditions. The reason being, we try to avoid having people think the ski season isn't going well or is near the end, which "Spring" can signify.
4. An appendix can be found at the end of this document defining each surface condition.

Open Terrain

% Open:

 # Trails Open: **Max:** 10

 # Lifts Open: **Max:** 9

Miles Open: **Max:** 100

Acres Open: **Max:** 500

☐ Enable Max field edit

Here is where the most important information goes. While it should be pretty straightforward there are a few things to be aware of:

1. Percent open will be calculated for us based on the number of trails open if you don't enter it manually. If trails aren't counted, it will be based on lifts.
2. Only trails and lifts are required however the more information you can provide the better so we encourage you to include your miles and acres open if you know it.
3. The system will only allow you to enter a number up to the Max Value listed to the right of each field. Those numbers should be checked annually at the beginning of the season and any necessary changes should be made. You can easily do this by checking off the "Enable Max field edit" checkbox at the bottom of this section. Checking that box will allow you to make any changes you need

to make, and unchecking it will save those changes and send the updated information to us.

Here you can list your weather and road conditions. These fields are optional but again, the more information we can get out there the better. Note that if you don't enter any weather information our system will pull that information in for you via a third-party provider based on your latitude and longitude coordinates. We ask for the forecasted noon temperatures, basically looking for the day's highs as opposed to the temperatures at the moment you are entering the report information.

This is the section for Snowmaking, Grooming and Night Skiing information. Notes on these sections:

1. The fields are optional EXCEPT for Grooming when you use Machine Groomed as a surface condition. This is simply because if your surface is Machine Groomed you are obviously grooming, whereas with the other surfaces this might not be the case. Again though, the more information we can get out there, the better.
2. These boxes are all or nothing. If you check the box off the fields below are required as well. Unchecking the boxes will clear out the information below.
3. If you are only open for evening/night hours please put the information here as well as in the trails and lifts boxes in the Open Terrain section.

Terrain Park	Halfpipe	Tubing
☐ Park(s) open today?	☐ Halfpipe open today?	☐ Tubing open?
Terrain Park Location(s):	Halfpipe Location :	Hours:
		# of Tubing Lanes:
# of Parks Open:	Halfpipe Last Cut :	
		XC Skiing
# of Features Open:		☐ XC skiing open today?
		# KM Classic:
		# KM Skating:

These fields function similarly to the ones above but:

1. The locations for terrain parks and halfpipes and the hours for tubing won't clear if the boxes are unchecked.
2. A comma should separate multiple locations.
3. Since hours for tubing won't clear even if tubing is closed you can list the hours by day if tubing isn't open 7 days a week. For example, you could put in "Thu-Sun: 9a-3p" and just make sure the tubing box is unchecked on Mon-Wed.
4. If you only offer Skating OR Classic XC skiing you can use a zero in the field of whichever one you don't offer.

🖫 Save data for Later, but do not submit!   ☁ Submit

You can now scroll back up and click on the Comments/Events/Deals tab to continue adding information to your report or choose one of these buttons to finish your report.

1. If you use "Save data for later, but do not submit" your information will be saved but we will not see your report. Generally, you use this if you need to check something before you send the report and don't want to lose the work you've already done.
2. If you "Submit" the report will be uploaded to SnoCountry and updated on our site and on the sites of our various data clients.

Appendix A - Hours Formatting

Here are some examples of how hours should be formatted (no tubing examples but the same rules apply):

1. Open 7 days a week, an hour early on Saturday and Sunday

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Mon-Fri: 9a-4p	Sat/Sun: 8a-4p	

2. Only open Thursday thru Sunday and closed Christmas day

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Thu-Fri: 9a-4p	Sat/Sun: 8a-4p	Dec 25: Not open; Open Thu-Sun

3. Open Monday, Thursday thru Saturday (Closed Tuesday and Wednesday)

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Mon, Thu-Fri: 9a-4p	Sat/Sun: 8a-4p	Open Thu-Mon

4. Open 7 days a week but only do night skiing on Friday and Saturday

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Mon-Thu: 9a-4p; Fri: 9a-9p	Sat: 9a-9p; Sun: 8a-4p	

5. Open Monday and Tuesday, then closed until Friday and open all weekend

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Mon/Tue, Fri: 9a-3:30p	Sat/Sun: 10a-3:30p	Open Fri-Tue

6. Open every day except Wednesday

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Mon/Tue: 9a-4p; Thu/Fri: 9a-9p	Sat: 9a-9p; Sun: 9a-4p	Open Thu-Tue

7. Example of a Fri-Sun part-time area with vacation hours

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Fri: 9a-9p	Sat: 9a-9p; Sun: 9a-4p	Open Fri-Sun; Dec 25: Not Open; Dec 26-29: 9a-9p; Jan 01: Not Open

8. Example of a full-time area with vacation hours (that closes for an hour before night skiing)*

Weekday Hours (Mon-Fri):	Weekend Hours (Sat/Sun):	Special/Holiday Hours:
Mon-Fri: 10a-4p, 6p-10p	Sat/Sun: 9a-4p, 6p-10p	

*The point being that if special hours are no different than regular hours you delete them

Appendix B - Surfaces

Powder (PDR) - Cold, new, loose, fluffy, dry snow that has not been compacted. Always the product of fresh, natural snowfall – not from machine-made snow

Packed Powder (PP) - Powder snow, either natural or machine-made, that has been packed down by skier traffic or grooming machines. The snow is no longer fluffy, but it is not so extremely compacted that it is hard

Hard Packed Snow (HP) - When natural or machine-made snow becomes very firmly packed. This type of snow has never melted but has been tightly compressed through grooming and continuous wind exposure. Has an edgeable surface - you can plant a pole in hard packed snow, but it takes more effort than packed powder.

Loose Granular (LSGR) - This surface results after powder or packed powder thaws, then refreezes, or from an accumulation of sleet. This is also created by machine grooming of frozen or icy snow

Wet Granular (WETGR) - Granular snow that has become wet from warm temperatures, rain, or humidity. This is typically an easy to ski surface – "ego" snow

Frozen Granular (FRGR) - Frozen granular is a hard surface of old snow formed by granules freezing together after rain or warm temperatures. A wide range of surfaces offering different textures: May be easy to turn on and others may be more difficult and require sharp edges. Will support a ski pole stuck into the surface, unlike "ice." Opaque in color

Wet Snow (WETSN) - Wet Snow is powder snow that has become moist and heavy due to a thaw or rainfall or new snow with a very high water content as it fell.

Wet Packed (WETPS) - Natural or machine-made snow that has been previously packed and becomes wet from warm temperatures, rain, or humidity.

Variable Conditions (VC) Variable Conditions is used when no primary surface (70% or more) can be determined or to describe a range of surfaces that may be encountered. For example, it could mean that part of the trails are loose granular, part are packed powder, part is frozen granular part is wet granular or any combination of the above

Spring Conditions (SC) - May not be used prior to March 1st. Spring version of Variable Conditions and used when no one surface can describe 70% of the terrain open for skiing. It is not uncommon for other evidence of spring to be present such as: Bare spots, discolored surface from melting and traffic, firm frozen snow in cool shady spots can be found while heavy wet snow is found in open sunny areas.

Corn Snow (CORN) - Usually found in the spring and characterized by large, loose granules during the day which freeze together at night, and then loosen again during the day

Windblown Snow (WBLN) - A windy day can blow the surface snow, either powder or granular, into drifts in some places, leaving a firmly packed snow base

Icy (ICY) - Not to be confused with frozen granular. A hard, glazed surface created by: Freezing rain, ground water seeping up into the snow and freezing, or rapid freezing of snow saturated with water from rain or melting. Generally translucent.