2023 SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2183

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2183
1/18/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for snow removal grants and reimbursements; to provide a transfer; to provide for a report; and to declare an emergency.

9:33 AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the hearing on SB 2183.

Members present : Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, Mathern; Members absent: Senator Kreun

Discussion Topics:

- Snow removal grants
- Calendar phase I and phase II

9:34 AM Senator Terry Wanzek – presented the bill and verbally testified in favor.

9:44 AM Darin Hanson, Homeland Security, answered committee questions.

Chairman Bekkedahl assigned this bill to the Education and Environmental Division.

9:52 AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2183
1/25/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for snow removal grants and reimbursements; to provide for a report; and to declare an emergency.

10:29 AM Chairman Sorvaag opened the hearing on SB 2183.
Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- Snow removal payments
- County data
- Increased costs

10:29 AM Senator Wanzek, introduced the bill

10:39 AM Darin Hanson, Director North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, suggested amendments, testified in favor after amendments, testimony #16545, #16544

10:43 AM Daniel Schriok , North Dakota Association of County Engineers, Burleigh County, testified in favor of bill, testimony #15435

10:48 AM Matt Gardner, North Dakota League of Cities, testified in favor of amendment, and the bill as amended, no written testimony

10:51 AM Larry Syverson, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township, testified in favor of bill, testimony #16721

10:54 AM Brad Darr, State Maintenance Engineer North Dakota Department of Transportation, provided data for committee, no written testimony

Additional written testimony:

- Phil Murphy, ND Soybean Growers Association, testimony #14966
- Neal Messer, Commissioner, Stark County, testimony #16418
- Ben Gates, Director Emergency Management, testimony #16443
- Todd Feland, Grand Forks City Administrator, testimony #16478
- Dennis Nelson, Highway Superintendent Williams County, testimony #16488

10:56 AM Chairman Sorvaag closed the hearing.

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division
Sakakawea Room, State Capitol

SB 2183
1/31/2023

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for snow removal grants and reimbursements; to provide a transfer; to provide for a report; and to declare an emergency.

9:00 AM Chairman Sorvaag opened the hearing on SB 2183.
Members present: Senators Sorvaag, Krebsbach, Rust, Schaible, and Meyer

Discussion Topics:

- Snow removal
- Proposed amendment

9:00 AM Senator Sorvaag presented a proposed amendment LC 23.0719.02002. #27640, #27641

9:05 AM Senator Schaible moved to recommend adoption of amendment LC 23.0719.02002.
Senator Krebsbach seconded the motion.
Roll call vote taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y

Motion passed. 5-0-0

9:07 AM Senator Schaible moved to recommend DO PASS AS AMENDED
Senator Krebsbach seconded the motion.
Roll call vote taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y

Motion passed. 5-0-0

Senator Sorvaag will carry SB 2183 to the full committee.

9:07 AM Chairman Sorvaag closed the hearing

Kathleen Hall, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Roughrider Room, State Capitol

SB 2183
2/1/2023

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for snow removal grants; to provide for a report; and to declare an emergency.

8:31AM Chairman Bekkedahl opened the public hearing on SB 2183.
Members present: Senators Bekkedahl, Krebsbach, Burckhard, Davison, Dever, Dwyer, Erbele, Kreun, Meyer, Roers, Schaible, Sorvaag, Vedaa, Wanzek, Rust, and Mathern.

Discussion Topics:

- Expenditures
- Department of Transportation excluded
- Amendments
- Political subdivision focus
- Emergency clause
- Bill action

8:35AM Senator Sorvaag moved a Do Pass on amendment 23.0719.02002.

8:35AM Senator Meyer seconded the motion.

8:42AM Roll call vote:

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion carried 16-0-0.

8:42AM Senator Sorvaag moved a Do Pass As Amended.

8:42AM Senator Wanzek seconded the motion.

8:43AM Roll call vote:

Senators	Vote
Senator Brad Bekkedahl	Y
Senator Karen K. Krebsbach	Y
Senator Randy A. Burckhard	Y
Senator Kyle Davison	Y
Senator Dick Dever	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Robert Erbele	Y
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Tim Mathern	Y
Senator Scott Meyer	Y
Senator Jim P. Roers	Y
Senator David S. Rust	Y
Senator Donald Schaible	Y
Senator Ronald Sorvaag	Y
Senator Shawn Vedaa	Y
Senator Terry M. Wanzek	Y

Motion carried 16-0-0.

Senator Sorvaag will carry the bill.

8:44AM Chairman Bekkedahl closed the hearing.

Carie Winings, Chief Clerk

AG
2-1-23
(1-2)

23.0719.02002
Title.03000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Sorvaag
January 30, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2183

Page 1, line 2, remove "and reimbursements; to provide a transfer"

Page 1, line 4, remove "**EARLY**"

Page 1, line 5, remove "**SEASON**"

Page 1, line 5, remove "**AND REIMBURSEMENTS - TRANSFER**"

Page 1, line 8, replace "$30,000,000" with "$25,000,000"

Page 1, line 9, remove "early season"

Page 1, remove line 11

Page 1, line 12, remove "transportation"

Page 1, line 13, after the period insert "Of the $25,000,000, up to $20,000,000 is available for early season emergency snow removal grants under subsection 2, and any remaining amounts are available for full season emergency snow removal grants under subsection 3."

Page 1, line 15, after "an" insert "early season"

Page 1, line 18, replace "two" with "one"

Page 1, line 18, after "hundred" insert "fifty"

Page 1, line 19, remove "The"

Page 1, remove lines 20 and 23

Page 2, remove lines 1 and 2

Page 2, line 3, after "3." insert "A tribal government, county, township, or city may apply to the department of emergency services for a full season emergency snow removal grant for reimbursement of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the tribal government, county, city, or township for the period of October 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023, which exceeded one hundred fifty percent of the average snow removal cost for the seven-month period of October to April for those years during the period beginning October 1, 2017, through April 30, 2022.

4."

Page 2, line 5, remove "If the department of transportation requests"

Page 2, replace lines 6 through 8 with "An award under subsection 3 must be reduced by any amount awarded under subsection 2. A tribal government, county, city, or township may not be required to return any funds awarded under subsection 2 due to the calculation completed under subsection 3."

Page 2, line 9, replace "4." with "5."

AG
2-1-23
(2-2)

Page 2, line 9, remove "and provide"

Page 2, line 10, remove "reimbursements"

Page 2, remove lines 12 through 31

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 16

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment:

- Decreases the funding available for snow removal grants from $35 million to $25 million;
- Combines the funding available for early season and full season emergency snow removal grants and reimbursements and designates up to $20 million for early season grants and reimbursements;
- Decreases the threshold for local political subdivisions to qualify for a snow removal grant or reimbursement from 200 to 150 percent; and
- Removes the Department of Transportation from being eligible for emergency snow removal reimbursements.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2183: Appropriations Committee (Sen. Bekkedahl, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (16 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2183 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

Page 1, line 2, remove "and reimbursements; to provide a transfer"

Page 1, line 4, remove "**EARLY**"

Page 1, line 5, remove "**SEASON**"

Page 1, line 5, remove "**AND REIMBURSEMENTS - TRANSFER**"

Page 1, line 8, replace "$30,000,000" with "$25,000,000"

Page 1, line 9, remove "early season"

Page 1, remove line 11

Page 1, line 12, remove "transportation"

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Page 1, line 15, after "an" insert "early season"

Page 1, line 18, replace "two" with "one"

Page 1, line 18, after "hundred" insert "fifty"

Page 1, line 19, remove "The"

Page 1, remove lines 20 and 23

Page 2, remove lines 1 and 2

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4."

Page 2, line 5, remove "If the department of transportation requests"

Page 2, replace lines 6 through 8 with "An award under subsection 3 must be reduced by any amount awarded under subsection 2. A tribal government, county, city, or township may not be required to return any funds awarded under subsection 2 due to the calculation completed under subsection 3."

Page 2, line 9, replace "4." with "5."

Page 2, line 9, remove "and provide"

Page 2, line 10, remove "reimbursements"

Page 2, remove lines 12 through 31

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 16

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment:

- Decreases the funding available for snow removal grants from $35 million to $25 million;
- Combines the funding available for early season and full season emergency snow removal grants and reimbursements and designates up to $20 million for early season grants and reimbursements;
- Decreases the threshold for local political subdivisions to qualify for a snow removal grant or reimbursement from 200 to 150 percent; and
- Removes the Department of Transportation from being eligible for emergency snow removal reimbursements.

2023 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2183

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2183
3/6/2023

To provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for snow removal grants;

11:09 AM Chairman Vigesaa Called the meeting to order and roll call was taken-

Members present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Mock, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Pyle, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, and Representative Swiontek.

Members not Present- Representative Kempenich, Representative Bellew, Representative B. Anderson and Representative G. Stemen

Discussion Topics:

- Financial Relief for Excessive Snow Removal
- No Help from FEMA

Senator Wanzek, District 29- Reviews the bill for the committee.

11:16 AM Darrin Hanson Homeland Security Division Director- Offers support for SB 2183 and mentions language for amendment, changing 25 million to 20 million and the senate amended to remove the DOT would like to amend them back in. (Testimony # 22081 &22080)

11:31 AM Daniel Schriock- Burleigh County Highway Department – Testifies in favor of HB 2183. (Testimony #22036)

11:38 AM Larry Syverson- ND Township Officers Association -Testifies in favor of SB 2183. (Testimony # 22110 and # 22109)

11:40 AM Matt Gardner- ND League of Cities- Orally testifies in favor.

11:42 AM Joe Mathern- Township Officer, Lisbon- Orally testifies in favor of SB 2183

Aaron Birst, ND Association of Counties Orally testifies in favor.

Additional written testimony: Ben Gates- Steele County Director of Emergency Management # 22027 and Phil Murphy- NDSGA # 21931.

11:46 AM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for SB 2183

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Appropriations Committee
Brynhild Haugland Room, State Capitol

SB 2183
3/13/2023

To provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for snow removal grants;

8:38 AM Chairman Vigesaa Called the meeting to order and roll call was taken-

Members present; Chairman Vigesaa, Representative Kempenich, Representative B. Anderson, Representative Brandenburg, Representative Hanson, Representative Kreidt, Representative Martinson, Representative Mitskog, Representative Meier, Representative Monson, Representative Nathe, Representative J. Nelson, Representative O'Brien, Representative Richter, Representative Sanford, Representative Schatz, Representative Schobinger, Representative Strinden, Representative G. Stemen and Representative Swiontek.

Members not Present Representative Mock, Representative Bellew and Representative Pyle

Discussion Topics:

- Amendment

Representative Brandenburg- Explains amendment 23.0719.03001 (Testimony #24221)

Representative Brandenburg – Move to adopt amendment 23.0719.03001

Representative Monson- Seconds the Motion

Committee discussion, Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	A
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	A
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y

Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	A
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	Y

Motion Carries 20-0-3

Representative Brandenburg- Move for a Do Pass as Amended

Representative Monson- Seconds the motion.

Committee discussion- Roll Call Vote-

Representatives	Vote
Representative Don Vigesaa	Y
Representative Keith Kempenich	Y
Representative Bert Anderson	Y
Representative Larry Bellew	A
Representative Mike Brandenburg	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Gary Kreidt	Y
Representative Bob Martinson	Y
Representative Lisa Meier	Y
Representative Alisa Mitskog	Y
Representative Corey Mock	A
Representative David Monson	Y
Representative Mike Nathe	Y
Representative Jon O. Nelson	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Brandy Pyle	A
Representative David Richter	Y
Representative Mark Sanford	Y
Representative Mike Schatz	Y
Representative Randy A. Schobinger	Y
Representative Greg Stemen	Y
Representative Michelle Strinden	Y
Representative Steve Swiontek	y

Motion Carries 20-0-3 Representative Brandenburg will carry the bill.

8:45 AM Chairman Vigesaa Closed the meeting for SB 2183

Risa Berube, Committee Clerk

23.0719.03001
Title.04000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Brandenburg
March 7, 2023

DK
1 of 1
3-13-23

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2183

Page 1, line 7, replace "$25,000,000" with "$20,000,000"

Page 1, line 11, replace "$25,000,000" with "$20,000,000"

Page 1, line 11, replace "$20,000,000" with "$15,000,000"

Page 1, line 19, after "December" insert "for the four lowest cost years"

Page 2, line 2, after "April" insert "for the four lowest cost years"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2183, as engrossed: Appropriations Committee (Rep. Vigesaa, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (20 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2183 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 7, replace "$25,000,000" with "$20,000,000"

Page 1, line 11, replace "$25,000,000" with "$20,000,000"

Page 1, line 11, replace "$20,000,000" with "$15,000,000"

Page 1, line 19, after "December" insert "for the four lowest cost years"

Page 2, line 2, after "April" insert "for the four lowest cost years"

Renumber accordingly

TESTIMONY

SB 2183

Testimony on 2183

Chairman Sorvaag and Committee,

My name is Phil Murphy representing the ND Soybean Growers Association. The NDSGA favors this bill which would help restore access in rural areas due to excess snow. Besides school busses, first responders and overall quality of life such as getting to work, grocery shopping, etc., those roads are important for farmers to get their inputs and outputs where they need to be. Whatever you can do to help keep our state moving during extraordinary snowfall would be much appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony Prepared for the
Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee
January 23, 2023
By: Daniel Schriock PE, Burleigh County Assistant Engineer

North Dakota Association of County Engineers

RE: Support for SB 2183 – Relating to snow removal grants and reimbursements; transfer; report; and emergency declaration

Chairman Sorvaag and Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2183. I am Daniel Schriock, the Assistant County Engineer for Burleigh County, and I also serve on the legislative committee for the ND Association of County Engineers. I am here in support of SB 2183.

2022 snow removal costs have already made a large impact to the local entities including county, tribal, city, and townships. The problem with these early season storms, is that they have a tendency to linger throughout the entire winter season due to continuous wind which causes snow already on the ground to blow and drift, along with additional snowfall events causing issues with an already at capacity ditch and storage system. For this reason, you will often see counties and other entities out plowing roads, ridging snow up in fields, dozing back snow in ditches, and hauling snow away to create additional space in the case for future snow events for days or even weeks after the initial snow event has subsided. These additional costs on top of historic fuel prices have caused costs this winter season to skyrocket.

The storms that hit Burleigh County in November and December caused massive snow issues. The November storm filled up the majority of our storage in the ditches and fields, and the low temperatures have done little to help from a melting standpoint. After the November storm we incurred many strong wind days that required our crews to plow roads several times over even after ridging in fields had taken place. The December storm occurring towards the end of the month forced crews to do the best as they could clearing as much space as possible for any potential future storms. Beginning in January we employed a few local contractors to aid us in snow dozing. This task of using low ground pressure dozers to push the snow back to the Right of Way limits helps to free up storage

in the event of blowing snow or another large storm event. Since Burleigh County does not have the equipment nor manpower to undertake this task we must take quotes from local contractors who work around the clock to complete this task. This snow dozing can be quite burdensome on county's budgets; in Burleigh County's scenario, we are seeing $25k-$30k per day in costs that weren't originally budgeted for. This scenario is not uncommon for counties, where after a storm it may take two weeks to a month to remediate the removal and hauling of snow from a major storm. We would appreciate your consideration if there are any remaining funds in the first section of this bill after all requests have been submitted, to roll over those remaining funds to the second section of the bill. This would allow political subs and tribes to have the opportunity to request these funds, as the majority of snow removal costs may be in the second half of the winter season. Another consideration would be to reduce the 200% requirement. This would allow for more flexibility in what is reimbursable due to the unforeseen nature of these winter storms.

Chairman Sorvaag and committee members, I would like to reiterate that NDACE supports this bill. Approving these funds for use for snow emergency costs will help to alleviate some of the burden that the State, and Local Entities were not prepared for when it comes to their budgets.

Testimony Prepared for the

Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee

January 25, 2023

By: Neal Messer, Commissioner, Stark County

RE: Support for SB 2183 – Relating to snow removal grants and reimbursements; transfer; report; and emergency declaration

Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Education and Environment Committee, thank you for allowing me to come before your committee today. My name is Neal Messer, I currently serve as a County Commissioner for Stark County. I am here to testify in favor of SB 2183. SB 2183 as proposed would assist and help offset the tremendous extra costs our road departments incurred in response to the November and December storms that took place in our area.

The April, November and December 2022 snow storms made for an extremely tough and demanding year for road crews in our area. According to the National Weather Service, Stark County received over 70 inches of snowfall during 2022. In fact, we were within 2-3 inches of the highest amount ever recorded. Normally that amount would be around 30 inches in a calendar year. Stark County, like most other political subs, budget for "normal" amounts of snowfall.

According to our calculations that would be in line with the October through December timeframe proposed in SB2183, Stark County spent $472,062.33 in snow related expenses, when the 2017-2021 five year average was $59,741.30. That's 790% above the five year average.

In addition to the traditional expenses of opening roads, we also spent a lot of time and resources assisting in "emergency calls." Because Stark County Highway 10 runs parallel with I-94, many travelers think they can beat the system by googling alternate routes when I-94 has been closed by the NDDOT. Most of those calls are out of state travelers who end up getting stranded on Highway 10. Although we had numerous assists in this regard, one out of state traveler stands out. When he got stranded, the only clothes he had was a shirt, (no coat), jean shorts and flip flops on his feet. He ended up with severe frost bite and had to be transported twice, once to the Richardton Nursing home, and then the next day to the hospital in Dickinson for medical treatments. We of course, opened the roads for both of those trips. We also assisted in getting ambulances to and from at least three medical emergencies in our county. We also made emergency routes available both on the roadways and on private property to allow emergency utility personnel to repair downed power lines, so that our citizens could get their power restored. Keep in mind, all of this took place with record fuel prices staring us in the face.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill. I ask that this committee consider a do pass recommendation for SB 2183.

STEELE COUNTY
Emergency Management

201 WASHINGTON AVE W
PO BOX 275
FINLEY ND 58230
(701) 524-2442

Emily Wigen	AUDITOR	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:	
Kari Dekker	TREASURER	1st Dist. Brandon Oxton	Finley
Jenny Foss	RECORDER/CLK of COURT	2nd Dist. Richard Strand	Finley
Charles A. Stock	STATES ATTORNEY	3rd Dist. Perry Brown	Hope
Wayne Beckman	SHERIFF	4th Dist. Brandon Krueger	Hope
STEELE CO. PRESS	OFFICIAL PAPER	5th Dist. Don Huso	Finley

Testimony Prepared for the Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee
January 24, 2023
By: Ben Gates, Director of Emergency Management, Steele County

RE: Support for SB 2183 – Relating to snow removal grants and reimbursements; transfer; report; and emergency declaration

Chairman Sorvaag and Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2183. I am Ben Gates; Director of Emergency Management in Steele County and I am writing to you in my capacity within that role. I am writing in support of SB 2183.

The ending months of 2022 was a hard year on our Highway Department. From good weather to freezing rain to then feet of snow, our Highway Department worked an extraordinary amount to ensure that the public roads were in good enough shape for the rest of the traveling public. This required long hours with a stretch there in December of about 15 days straight of 16+ hour days. You won't have to look far to see the same process repeated across the State to include other counties, cities, and townships.

With this increase in hours, costs to operate obviously increased. We did the math according to the bill as written and found that our 5-year average for snow removal in the months from October to December from 2017 to 2021 was $35,954.17. Our total expenditures for snow removal from October 2022 to December 2022 was $107,396.06. In 3 short months, we almost **TRIPLED our expenses related to snow removal**. Doing the math further according to the bill, we estimate that a reimbursement grant would total near $16,978.09 as the bill is currently written. This is a **MAJOR cost-savings/return** for a county of only 1,800 population. Needless to say, we are in full support of this bill passing through Legislature.

To date, we have NOT enlisted the help of the Cities or the Townships for their information/cost estimates. In speaking with a just a few of the Township Officers and one City Auditor, we are seeing a large range of estimates from 150% to over 400% in snow removal costs compared to the previous 5 years' average. The benefit for this type of bill is extreme and will be well welcomed throughout Steele County.

I would encourage the committee to consider some amendments to the bill. The first amendment would address the 200% question as discussed in the Committee Work on January 18, 2023. My

STEELE COUNTY
Emergency Management

201 WASHINGTON AVE W
PO BOX 275
FINLEY ND 58230
(701) 524-2442

Emily Wigen	AUDITOR	
Kari Dekker	TREASURER	
Jenny Foss	RECORDER/CLK of COURT	
Charles A. Stock	STATES ATTORNEY	
Wayne Beckman	SHERIFF	
STEELE CO. PRESS	OFFICIAL PAPER	

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:		
1st Dist.	Brandon Oxton	Finley
2nd Dist.	Richard Strand	Finley
3rd Dist.	Perry Brown	Hope
4th Dist.	Brandon Krueger	Hope
5th Dist.	Don Huso	Finley

recommendation would be an amendment consideration to lower this to 150%. By doing so, this would address a larger majority of the Townships and Cities in my jurisdiction (and I'm sure throughout the State) and it would also allow for a larger majority of the funding to be dispersed. This amendment would be applied to both Section 1 and Section 2 of the bill.

The second amendment would address language considering the "roll-over" of any additional funding from Section 1 to Section 2. As we are all well aware, there is still a lot of winter left. From now through the end of April, we could still potentially see significant precipitation in the form of snow to rain, or any mixture there between. It would help ensure some flexibility in the funding portion in the event of any additional winter storms that we may receive.

Chairman Sorvaag and Committee Members, again, I would like to thank you for your consideration of this bill. On behalf of the Townships and Cities within and Steele County itself, I would like to reiterate that we fully support this bill.

I'm not sure I will be able to join the next hearing online or in person, so I would entertain any questions via email at bgates@nd.gov or via phone at 701-270-1738. Thank you.

Ben Gates
Director, Emergency Management
Steele County
C: 701-270-1738
E: bgates@nd.gov

255 N. 4th St.
PO Box 5200
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5200

CITY OF GRAND FORKS NORTH DAKOTA

City of Grand Forks
(701) 746-4636

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2183
Appropriations – Education and Environment Division
January 25, 2023

Todd Feland, City Administrator
City of Grand Forks, ND

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Todd Feland and I'm the City Administrator for the City of Grand Forks. I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and express my support to this important funding legislation.

It is no secret that winters in the northern Red River Valley and the State of North Dakota can be tough. We don't panic when we get the amount of snow that could significantly impact other parts of the country. However, some winters are tougher and worse than others such as the winter of 2022-23.

Just a couple of examples from the current winter season. The five winters prior to this one, the City of Grand Forks averaged a little over 6300 regular, overtime, and equipment hours for our winter operations and so far this year we are at nearly 10,000 hours. The five winters prior to this one, the City of Grand Forks averaged hauling just under 800 truck loads of snow out of the City and so far this winter we have hauled a little over 3,600 truckloads.

Grand Forks, like every other city in North Dakota, has taken a large hit to our winter operations budget this year and any support from the state would be very appreciated.

If we could ask for one amendment to this bill. The bill currently states that a political subdivision would need to hit 200% of its 5-year average to receive state funding support. Even with the numbers we have provided, we are only at about 160% of our five-year average. It is significant but would not quality for assistance with this program. We would ask that the threshold for assistance be dropped to 150% of a five year average or some other percentage that is a reasonable and attainable benchmark.

With this amendment, we ask for a DO PASS on SB 2183

Thank you.

Williams COUNTY

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 2183
Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee
January 25, 2023 | 8:30 am

Chairman Sorvaag and Senate Appropriations – Education and Environment Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 2183. My name is Dennis Nelson and I am the Highway Superintendent for Williams County.

Since the beginning of November, the Williston area in northwestern Williams County has received approximately 25 inches of snow and the Bismarck area has received more than double that amount (https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=bis). Not only did we get a lot of snow, we got a lot of snow early and fast. This incredible amount of snow has led to long hours of plowing, sanding, and hauling, which has also meant paying overtime and increased fuel costs.

SB 2183 would enable cities, townships, counties, and tribal entities to have an alternative means for reimbursing the costs that went above and beyond our normal snow removal budget amounts as well as help meet the needs for whatever weather is yet to come in the next few months. Not every roads budget is the same across the state, but usually spending more money for snow removal so early in the season can mean that funds are pulled from projects planned for that summer.

The reimbursable funds that this bill carries out would be especially beneficial for townships, which typically have very limited budgets that are specific to individual projects. Townships are not afforded the same diverse funding resources that cities and counties are, especially in the time of need – like when a winter storm hits – and expending dollars outside of their budget can be extremely financially burdensome. Plowing township roads is critical for oilfield and agricultural traffic to continue moving through the winter to bring their products to market and for our rural citizens to safely be able to travel to and from their homes. No one wants to be stranded on an unplowed road in town or in the country – it is dangerous for our citizens and our first responders alike.

My testimony is in support of this bill, but I do have two requests for possible amendments for your consideration:

1. If there are any remaining funds in the first section of this bill after all requests have been submitted, please consider rolling over the remaining funds to the second section of the bill. Political subdivisions and tribal entities would then have the opportunity to request the funds, second half of the winter season may pose an even greater need for snow removal.
2. A reduction in the 200% requirement would increase the ability to respond to the unpredictability of future winter storms and allow for more flexibility in reimbursement.

Approval of these funds for snow emergency costs will help us to keep our roads clear in the present and keep our projects on track in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dennis Nelson
Williams County Highway Superintendent

Dennis Nelson, Highway Superintendent
PO Box 1305 | 5218 141st NW | Williston, ND 58802-1305 | Phone 701.577.4521 | dennisn@co.williams.nd.us

NORTH Dakota | Emergency Services
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State Funded Early Snow Removal Assistance Policy

Purpose
This document describes the procedures necessary to obtain state funding for early snow removal costs incurred during the months of October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. This document also outlines expenses that are and are not eligible for reimbursement.

Scope and Audience
This policy applies to all qualifying jurisdictions within the State of North Dakota including the ND Department of Transportation (NDDOT), counties/townships, cities, and tribal entities.

Background and Authority
Senate Bill 2183 of the 68th Legislative Assembly of North Dakota appropriated (insert final dollar amount for early snow removal) to the Office of the Adjutant General to provide early snow removal grants to the NDDOT, counties/townships, cities and tribal entities for the period of October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Reimbursement Rates
- A jurisdiction must have spent over 200% of its five-year (2017-2021) average for the months of October, November, and December 2022.
- Eligible Applicants that meet the prerequisite will be reimbursed 60% of eligible expenses incurred over 200% of the five-year (2017-2021) average for the three-month period.
- If the total amount of eligible requests exceeds the funding appropriated by the legislature, each eligible jurisdiction will receive a prorated amount of their eligible request.

Reimbursement Process
- NDDES will provide each qualifying jurisdiction with an Application for Disaster Assistance form that needs to be filled out, signed, and returned to NDDES no later than February 15, 2023.
- The NDDOT, counties, cities, and tribal entities will be considered stand-alone applicants. Townships may request reimbursement but must do so through the county in which they are located.
- NDDES will provide two spreadsheets that each applicant will be required to complete in order to claim expenses.
    - The “Historical Data” spreadsheet should capture the applicant’s historical costs from 2017 to 2021 so an average can be calculated. Note that counties will have to report costs for townships within their jurisdiction. Also, note that there is a separate tab for counties and cities as well as a sample tab for each.
    - The “Current Year Expenditure” spreadsheet should capture the applicant’s actual snow removal costs for the period of October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Note there is a separate tab for counties and cities as well as a sample tab for each. Also, if claiming force account labor and/or equipment, a completed “FA Labor & Equip” spreadsheet (included in this packet) must be included.
- Invoices, receipts, force account equipment and labor summaries, and proof of payment must be submitted with the “Current Year Expenditure” spreadsheet to support claimed costs for October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

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- If a receipt or invoice has multiple line items, the applicant must indicate which items they wish to claim for reimbursement.
- Claims for reimbursement should be mailed as soon as supporting documents are available, but no later than March 31, 2023. Claims submitted after March 31, 2023 are not guaranteed to be funded.

Important Deadlines

- Application for Disaster Assistance form must be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Justin Messner, jmessner@nd.gov, no later than February 15, 2023.
- "Historical Data" spreadsheet must be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Justin Messner, jmessner@nd.gov no later than February 28, 2023.
- "Current Year Expenditure" spreadsheet along with supporting documentation ("FA Labor & Equipment" spreadsheet, invoices, receipts, and proof of payment) must be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Justin Messner, jmessner@nd.gov no later than March 31, 2023.
- Payments for eligible costs will be made by NDDES no later than April 30, 2023.

Reimbursable Items

The items listed below must be reasonable and necessary.

- Contractor costs
- Equipment rental plus operator, fuel and small repairs
- Equipment hours (This is for applicant owned equipment used for snow removal. You must provide a spreadsheet or a calendar for each month showing the dates and hours used for snow removal. You will also need to provide an equipment listing with equipment size (include moldboard lengths for snowplows), model, and capacity, as applicable. NDDES will use FEMA rates for the purposes of reimbursement).
- Consumable materials (sand, salt, and cutting edges).
- Personnel and benefits (labor hours claimed should be the same as hours claimed for equipment costs and should also indicate which piece of equipment each operator was using). You must provide time sheets or a calendar for each month indicating which hours were used specifically for snow removal. Eligible costs will be the hourly rates for both regular and overtime, as well as fringe benefits.
- Pushback and hauling

Non-Reimbursable Items

- Snow removal operations conducted prior to October 1, 2022 or after December 31, 2022
- Equipment drive train repair or replacement
- Tire replacement
- Windshields and windows
- Tow ropes or log chains
- Employee time while doing work other than direct snow removal
- Miscellaneous items such as bolts, nuts, screws, washers, etc.
- Batteries
- Miscellaneous office supplies
- Utility bills for offices/shops
- Employee or Municipal Official time and travel expense for checking roads

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TESTIMONY OF
DARIN T. HANSON
HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION DIRECTOR
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BEFORE THE 68th LEGISLATIVE SESSION
SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 25, 2023
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2183

Chairman Bekkedahl, members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, my name is Darin Hanson and I'm the Homeland Security Division Director at the Department of Emergency Services (NDDES) for the State of North Dakota. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2183.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the 2022-2023 winter season has already proven to be far above normal in terms of snowfall totals. Through January 12, 2023, areas such as Dickinson, Bismarck, and Jamestown have already received more snow than they would normally receive for an entire winter season. With the NWS predicting lower temperatures and more precipitation through the next few months, there is still potential for more winter storms and additional snow removal costs before the winter season is finally over.

Generally, the State of North Dakota tries to use federal funding whenever possible to address impacts from natural hazards. However, when it comes to snow removal assistance, the funding that is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under their Public Assistance (PA) Program is simply too limiting to be of much use when dealing with an above average winter season. According to federal regulations, FEMA will only provide 48 hours of snow removal assistance to a county or tribe that received enough snow from a single storm to break their historical record or come within 10% of their historical record. Additionally, that county or tribe is then required to exceed their disaster cost threshold based on only 48 hours of snow removal expenses before they can be included as part of a federal disaster declaration. Exceeding those damage thresholds with only 48 hours of snow removal costs is extremely difficult for most counties and tribes to accomplish, and for larger counties such as Burleigh or Cass, it's basically impossible because their thresholds to be included are so high due to their population base.

Senate Bill 2183 would give some reprieve to our tribal governments, counties, cities, and townships that have already been left with dwindling budgets that have been sapped due to large snowstorms that impacted the state in late 2022. Additionally, the bill provides an opportunity for the ND Department of Transportation to offset snow removal costs. Senate Bill 2183, as proposed, would provide $30,000,000 in state funding to qualifying applicants for early snow removal costs incurred from October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, as well as an additional $5,000,000 for season wide snow removal costs incurred from October 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023.

At this time, NDDES would recommend amending the proposed legislative bill to only focus on the early snow removal costs that were incurred between October 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, and also reducing the proposed appropriation for that date range from $30,000,000 down to $20,000,000. The current snowfall totals that have impacted the state have been much higher than average, but a similar snow removal bill that was approved in 2011 for $9,000,000 was fully utilized and helped offset the increased costs of snow removal at that time. An increase to

$20,000,000 would keep in line with inflation, help address increased costs incurred by the ND Department of Transportation and stay in line with the Governor's expectations as mentioned during the 2023 State of the State address.

The final funds that are appropriated for this bill will be distributed via grants that the NDDOT, counties, cities, and tribes would apply for through the NDDES. Townships are also eligible to receive state funds for their increased snow removal costs, but they will be required to apply for funding through their respective county. NDDES would be the administrative agency for these grants, which is a process that we are familiar with having done a similar reimbursement program in 2009 and 2011.

To qualify for an early snow removal grant, a jurisdiction must have spent more than 200% of its 5-year snow removal average for the months of October, November, and December 2022. Those that qualify can be reimbursed 60% of their eligible expenses incurred over those time periods. And if the total amount of eligible requests exceeds the funding appropriated, each eligible jurisdiction would receive a prorated amount of their eligible request.

Some of the reimbursable items a local jurisdiction could claim for reimbursement would include:

- Contractor costs
- Equipment rental plus operator, fuel and small repairs
- Equipment hours
- Consumable materials (sand, salt, and cutting edges).
- Personnel and benefits
- Pushback and hauling

Mr. Chairman, this completes our testimony. I'd like to reemphasize that local jurisdictions have already stretched their budgets to pay for snow removal expenses. There is a lot of winter left to contend with and storms are likely to impact the state, Senate Bill 2183 would provide tremendous relief to our local jurisdictions, freeing up funds for potential future events. Also, NDDES is familiar with the grant distribution process and is equipped to handle fund distribution from the state to our local communities.

Support SB 2183

Senate Appropriations Committee – Education and Environment Division

January 25, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Sorvaag and Committee members.

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville, I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County, I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township, and I am also the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents nearly 6,000 Township Officers that serve in more than 1,100 dues paying member townships.

Townships across the state are desperately working to reopen roads and then keep them open so their citizens have access to emergency services, mail, school busses, and other basic needs. Many also need roads open to get to work or haul grain or tend to the needs of livestock..

I have included two photos on the next page. The first was sent to me by a resident in my township. Of course, it shows a snowy road, but the point is this road had been opened the last time we had a snow event, this road has been again reduced to 4-wheel drive pickups only, by drifting because of moderate winds for a couple of days. This cycle is likely to continue until spring and will get worse because of the snow being pushed up in ever higher ridges. The next time the snow moves it will fill the cut to the new height.

Some are investing substantial money to provide road opening help. It seems the snow trail resorts have pulled all their old snow tractors out of the woods and put them on the market for $30,000 or more. The second photo is a snow dozer or groomer tractor, the machine of choice if snow needs to be pushed away to reopen a road. In snow these will outperform the largest bulldozers, if you can find one, several of these have been put into service across the state but like many other townships mine does not have access to one. Our contractor will come out with bulldozers and run up huge bills to open a few of the worst sites.

We don’t yet know what the cost is going to be, it will be a while till all the bills are in and it is possible that March will be even worse than what we have seen so far. But March would be a bit late to start a proposal that could help townships deal with huge snow removal bills. Please advance SB 2329 to keep it alive.

Chairman Sorvaag and Committee Members, that concludes my prepared testimony. On behalf of the membership of NDTOA, I ask that you give SB 2183 your favorable recommendation and I will try to answer any questions.

January 15, 2023 Roseville Township, Trail County

Testimony on 2183 for House Appropriations

Chairman and Committee,

My name is Phil Murphy representing the ND Soybean Growers Association. The NDSGA favors this bill which would help restore access in rural areas due to excess snow. Besides school busses, first responders and overall quality of life such as getting to work, grocery shopping, etc., those roads are important for farmers to get their inputs and outputs where they need to be. Whatever you can do to help keep our state moving during extraordinary snowfall would be much appreciated. Thank you for your consideration.

STEELE COUNTY
Emergency Management

201 WASHINGTON AVE W
PO BOX 275
FINLEY ND 58230
(701) 524-2442

Jana Flaten	AUDITOR	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:	
Kari Dekker	TREASURER	1st Dist. Brandon Oxton	Finley
Jenny Foss	RECORDER/CLK of COURT	2nd Dist. Richard Strand	Finley
Charles A. Stock	STATES ATTORNEY	3rd Dist. Perry Brown	Hope
Wayne Beckman	SHERIFF	4th Dist. Brandon Krueger	Hope
STEELE CO. PRESS	OFFICIAL PAPER	5th Dist. Don Huso	Finley

Testimony Prepared for the House Appropriations Committee
March 4, 2023
By: Ben Gates, Director of Emergency Management, Steele County

RE: Support for SB 2183 – Relating to snow removal grants and reimbursements; transfer; report; and emergency declaration

Chairman Vigesaa and the House Appropriations Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2183. I am Ben Gates; Director of Emergency Management in Steele County and I am writing to you in my capacity within that role. I am writing in support of SB 2183.

As is stated in my previous testimony, we have seen a hardship in Steele County with the continued snow we have received throughout the winter months. The hardships have continued into the beginning of 2023 as well as indicated by our accounts receivable. Unfortunately, our A/R is a month behind. Thus, work completed in December 2022 was billed in January 2023 and in some cases not paid until February 2023. These cases are repeated across the State to other counties, cities, and townships.

Attached to this document is an excel spreadsheet, converted to a .pdf file, detailing the reimbursements back to the Townships and the County if this bill were to pass as written. In total, 12 of the 20 townships in Steele County will be included in this grant, including the County as a whole. The total amounts shown are indicative of final numbers from the October – December (early) snow season and are **NOT** inclusive of the (late) snow season of January – April. These numbers can be seen broken down among each township and the County; however, the total grant amount back to Steele County would be **$37,568.88.** This amount is over 1 mill that Steele County levies during its budget cycle.

Taking into consideration the new budget year (Steele County's fiscal year is January – December), we have almost **QUADRUPLED** our annual snow removal budget. This, again, is indicative across most of the State. As the snow season continues, Steele County is considering again to hire more contractors to come in and push the snow back away from the right-of-way along the County roads to reduce drifting and blowing snow concerns. To date, contractors have been paid almost $20,000 with an additional $35,000 request coming at the next County Commission meeting.

In addition to the County, each Township and City has been affected in a similar fashion. From a township standpoint, most of these townships were heavily affected in the Spring 2022 Flood and are still recovering from this event in all aspects, including financially. This snow season has created a burden that goes above and beyond what the townships can handle. This last year (2022) has been an

STEELE COUNTY
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Charles A. Stock STATES ATTORNEY
Wayne Beckman SHERIFF
STEELE CO. PRESS OFFICIAL PAPER

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
1st Dist. Brandon Oxton Finley
2nd Dist. Richard Strand Finley
3rd Dist. Perry Brown Hope
4th Dist. Brandon Krueger Hope
5th Dist. Don Huso Finley

intense year for the citizens across the State – heavily affected are these smaller jurisdictions that just don't have the tax base required to produce the funding needed to support the continued flood recovery and snow response efforts.

When the snow season is all said and done, Steele County could potentially see an additional 25% - 30% increase in snow removal costs. Steele County, like most across the State, takes the approach to keep taxes as low as possible for the citizens in the County. A reimbursement grant like the one proposed allows for instant tax relief by allowing almost 2 County Mills to come back into the County immediately and therefore helps to lower the total amount that will need to be levied during the upcoming budget cycle.

This bill was amended and passed unanimously in the Senate to include $20 million in the early (Oct – Dec) snow season with an additional $5 million for the late (Jan – Apr) snow season with a rollover clause for any funding not used in the early snow season to rollover to the late snow season. Additionally, the amended bill indicates a 150% comparison to the previous 5 years average with a reimbursement grant of 60% of the 150% comparison. This bill was amended as such at the requests of other Counties, Cities, and Townships.

This bill is a good bill – plain and simple.

Chairman Vigesaa and Committee Members, again, I would like to thank you for your consideration of this bill. On behalf of the Townships and Cities within and Steele County itself, I would like to reiterate that we fully support this bill. We would like to encourage the Committee to pass this bill and expedite it to the House Floor for an immediate vote so as to expedite the funding back to the jurisdictions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben Gates
Director, Emergency Management
Steele County
C: 701-270-1738
E: bgates@nd.gov

Testimony Prepared for the
House Appropriations
March 5, 2023
By: Daniel Schriock PE, Burleigh County Assistant Engineer

RE: Support for SB 2183 – Relating to snow removal grants and reimbursements; transfer; report; and emergency declaration

Chairman Vigesaa and House Appropriations Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2183. I am Daniel Schriock, the Assistant County Engineer for Burleigh County, and I also serve on the legislative committee for the ND Association of County Engineers. I am here in support of SB 2183.

2022-2023 snow removal costs have made a large impact to the local entities including county, tribal, city, and township budgets. The problem with early season storms is they have a tendency to linger throughout the entire winter season due to continuous wind, which causes snow already on the ground to blow and drift, along with additional snowfall events causing issues with an already at capacity ditch and storage system. For this reason, you will often see counties and other entities out plowing roads, ridging snow up in fields, dozing back snow in ditches, and hauling snow away to create additional space in the case for future snow events for days or even weeks after the initial snow event has subsided. These additional costs on top of historic fuel prices have caused costs this winter season to be exceptionally high.

The storms that hit Burleigh County in November and December caused massive snow issues. The November storm filled up the majority of our storage in the ditches and fields, and the low temperatures did little to help from a melting standpoint. After the November storm, we incurred many strong wind days that required our crews to plow roads several times over even after ridging in fields had taken place. The December storm occurring towards the end of the month forced crews to do the best as they could clearing as much space as possible for any potential future storms. Beginning in January, we employed a few local contractors to aid us in snow dozing. This task of using low ground pressure dozers to push the snow back to the Right of Way limits helps to free up storage in the event of blowing snow or another large storm event. Since Burleigh County

does not have the equipment nor manpower to undertake this task, we must take quotes from local contractors who work around the clock to complete this task. This snow dozing can be quite burdensome on county budgets; in Burleigh County's scenario, we saw an approximate cost of $25,000 - $30,000 per day that wasn't originally budgeted for. This scenario is not uncommon for counties, where after a storm it may take two weeks to a month to remediate the removal and hauling of snow from a major storm. The changes that were made to the original bill are very beneficial and allows political subs more flexibility in what is reimbursable due to the unforeseen nature of these winter storms.

Chairman Vigesaa and committee members, I would like to reiterate that NDACE supports this bill. Approving these funds for use for reimbursement for some of our snow emergency costs will help to alleviate some of the burden that the state and local government entities were not prepared for when it comes to their budgets.

APPENDIX 1

North Dakota Winter Season 2022-2023 Snowfall Data for NDDES (through January 12th, 2023)

Prepared: January 13, 2023 16:00 CST

Overview

Through January 12, for the 2022-2023 winter season, North Dakota's snowfall was running above what is normal to date. In some areas it was much above normal. In fact, in some locations, the amount of snow that has fallen so far this season exceeds the normal amount received over an entire season. For example, Bismarck has received 51.9 inches so far this season (through January 12). The normal amount to date is 24.5 inches. The normal amount for an entire snow season is 50.5 inches.

Many of the storms that brought the snow were accompanied by gusty winds, and in most cases, it remained windy for several days after the snow had ended. This resulted in snow drifting back into areas that had already been cleared. The same snow was having to be moved or removed multiple times.

Tables of Data

Location	Normal Snowfall (entire season)	Snowfall this Season (through Jan 12, 2023)	Normal to date (Jan 12)	Departure
Dickinson	44.0 inches	54.0 inches	19.2 inches	+ 34.8 inches
Bismarck	50.5	51.9	24.5	+ 27.4
Jamestown	46.1	54.5	24.3	+ 30.2
Grand Forks	48.4	38.3	24.8	+ 13.5
Fargo	51.4	28.1	24.2	+ 3.9

Data for October 1, 2022 through January 12, 2023

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Name	Station Type	Total Snowfall
STREETER 5 NW	COOP	62.0
ELGIN	COOP	58.0
MC CLUSKY	COOP	55.0
CARRINGTON 4 N	COOP	54.5
JAMESTOWN 0.8 WSW	CoCoRaHS	54.5
DICKINSON RANCH HQ	COOP	54.0
BISMARCK MUNICIPAL AP	WBAN	51.9
Bismarck Area	ThreadEx	51.9
BISMARCK WFO	COOP	51.8
HEBRON	COOP	50.5
SYKESTON	COOP	49.8
CATHAY 6.5 N	CoCoRaHS	49.0
LISBON	COOP	48.8
NAPOLEON	COOP	48.5
BISMARCK 1.3 WNW	CoCoRaHS	48.2
MC HENRY 3W	COOP	48.0
FORT YATES	COOP	48.0
NEW SALEM 5NW	COOP	46.8
GRASSY BUTTE 2ENE	COOP	46.5
DICKINSON	COOP	46.1
HAZEN 0.4 ESE	CoCoRaHS	46.1
PRETTY ROCK	COOP	45.8
HAZELTON 4NW	WBAN	45.4
PETERSBURG 2 N	COOP	44.8
HEART BUTTE DAM	COOP	44.7
MONTPELIER	COOP	43.5
MANDAN 1.7 SSE	CoCoRaHS	42.9
UNDERWOOD	COOP	42.2
GARRISON	WBAN	42.0
BEACH 0.3 SSE	CoCoRaHS	41.8
TURTLE LAKE	COOP	41.0
BOWMAN	COOP	40.9
JAMESTOWN STATE HOSP	COOP	40.5
COURTENAY 1 NW	COOP	40.5
CASSELTON AGRONOMY FARM	COOP	40.2
SHIELDS	COOP	39.0

Data for October 1, 2022 through January 12, 2023

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Name	Station Type	Total Snowfall
DUNN CENTER 1E	COOP	38.6
GRAND FORKS UNIV (NWS)	COOP	38.3
LA MOURE 4.6 ESE	CoCoRaHS	38.2
KEENE 3S	COOP	37.0
LARIMORE 0.4 SE	CoCoRaHS	36.9
BOTTINEAU	COOP	36.4
HAZEN 0.4 SW	CoCoRaHS	36.2
CENTER 4SE	COOP	36.0
LAKE METIGOSHE STATE PARK	COOP	35.8
MAX	COOP	35.0
DICKINSON 1.1 WNW	CoCoRaHS	34.0
CROSBY	COOP	33.5
GRAND FORKS 3.9 N	CoCoRaHS	33.3
FARGO 3.6 NNE	CoCoRaHS	33.0
PINGREE 5.4 NW	CoCoRaHS	32.6
FARGO 2.1 N	CoCoRaHS	31.6
MC LEOD 3 E	COOP	31.5
MONTPELIER 3.3 ESE	CoCoRaHS	31.3
VELVA	COOP	30.7
GRAND FORKS 3.4 SSE	CoCoRaHS	30.1
MAYVILLE	COOP	30.0
TOWNER 11.9 SE	CoCoRaHS	30.0
FARGO 4.4 NNE	CoCoRaHS	29.9
WILLISTON	COOP	29.7
PEMBINA	WBAN	29.5
DICKINSON 2.4 NW	CoCoRaHS	29.5
KILLDEER	COOP	29.0
RHAME 1.9 E	CoCoRaHS	29.0
EDGELEY 5.2 NW	CoCoRaHS	28.9
WATFORD CITY	COOP	28.8
ELLENDALE 7.3 NW	CoCoRaHS	28.4
HAZEN 6.5 SSE	CoCoRaHS	28.3
FARGO HECTOR INTL AP	WBAN	28.1
Fargo Area	ThreadEx	28.1
LANSFORD	COOP	27.9
COOPERSTOWN 0.4 WNW	CoCoRaHS	27.5
BOTTINEAU 6.4 ENE	CoCoRaHS	27.3

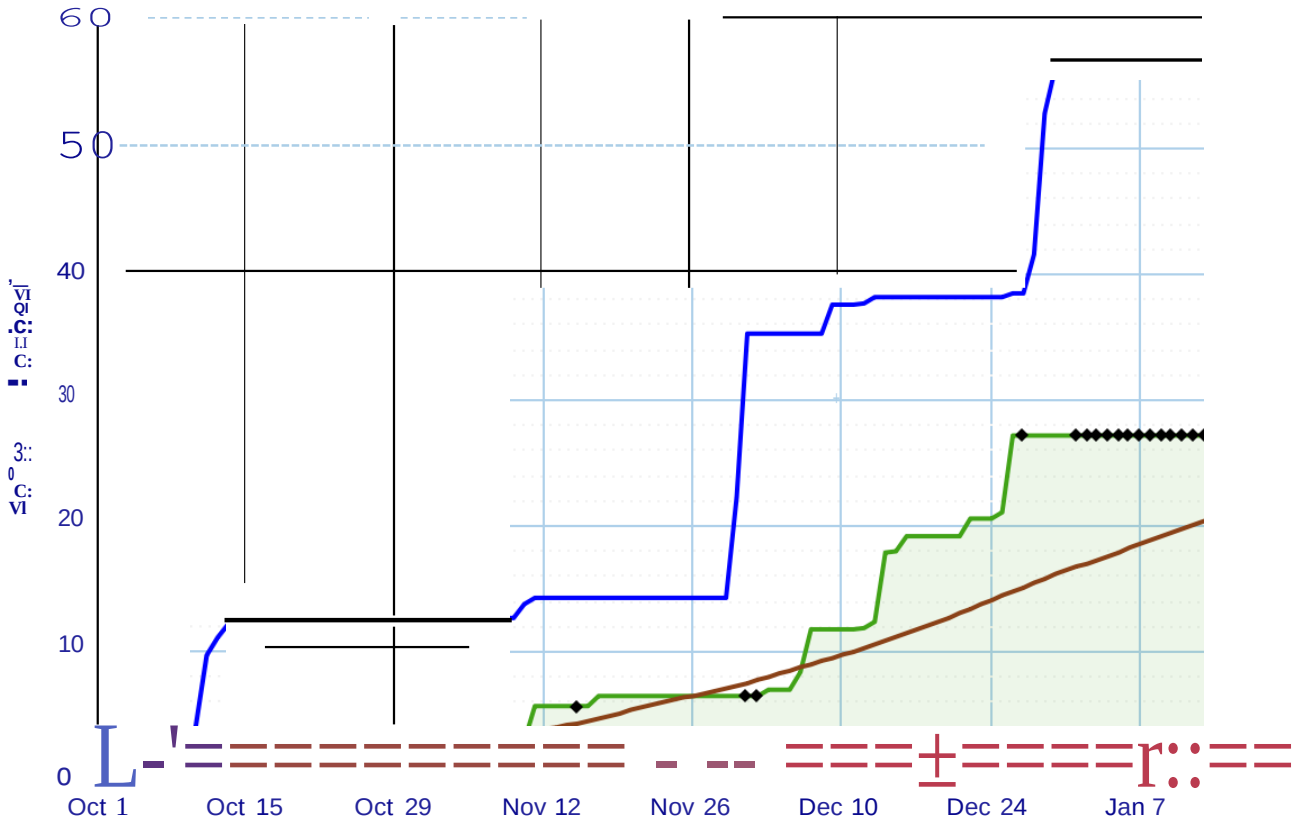
Data for October 1, 2022 through January 12, 2023

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Name	Station Type	Total Snowfall
ASHLEY	WBAN	27.1
KULM 4.0 NNE	CoCoRaHS	27.0
WESTHOPE 0.1 N	CoCoRaHS	27.0
CAVALIER 7.9 WNW	CoCoRaHS	26.8
MINOT EXP STATION	COOP	26.7
WEST FARGO 3.8 SSE	CoCoRaHS	26.7
FARGO 3S	COOP	26.4
WATFORD CITY 1.3 NNW	CoCoRaHS	26.1
TOWNER 2 NE	COOP	25.9
LISBON 0.5 ENE	CoCoRaHS	25.9
MAXBASS 4.9 ENE	CoCoRaHS	25.9
SOUTH HEART 4.9 WNW	CoCoRaHS	25.6
GRANDIN 7.1 ENE	CoCoRaHS	25.4
SHARON 7.9 ENE	CoCoRaHS	25.0

Accumulated Snowfall - ASHLEY, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

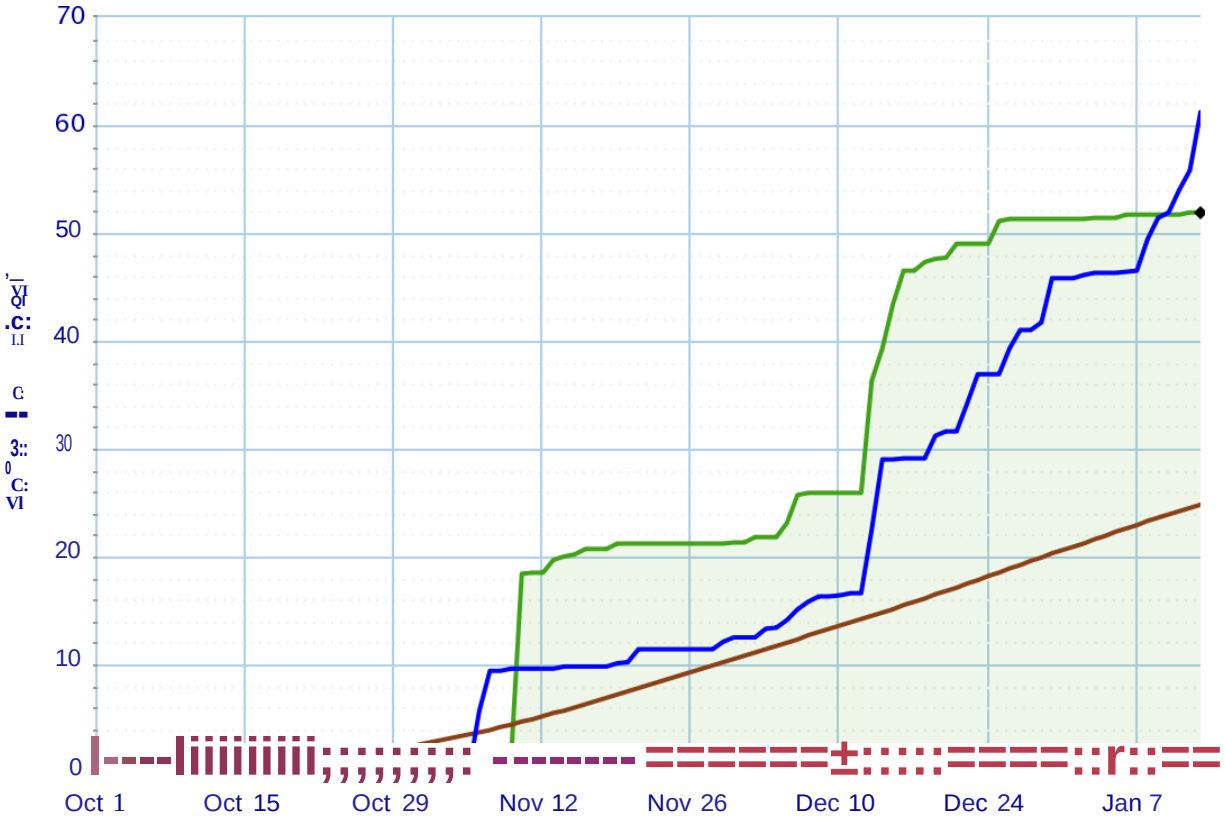


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Lowest (1897-98)
- Highest (2019-20)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - Bismarck Area, ND (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

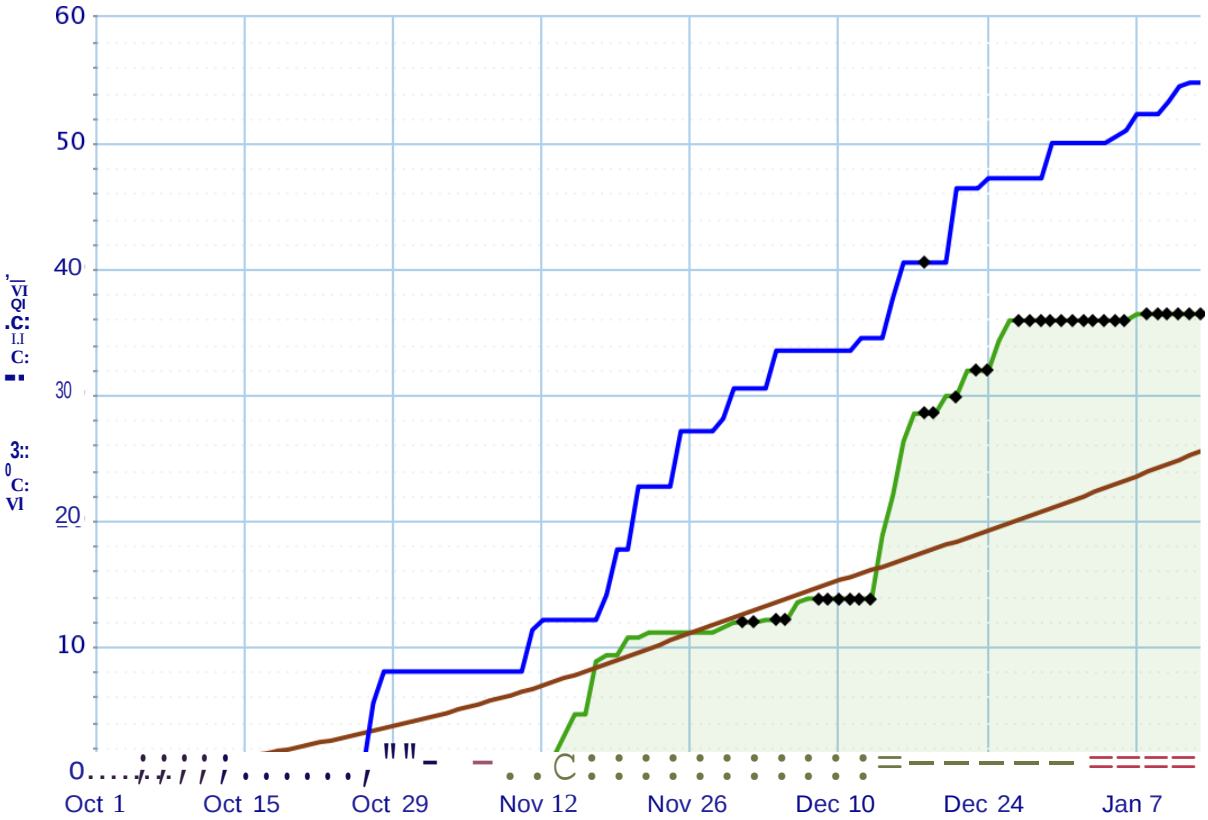


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (2008-09)
- Lowest (1902-03)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - BOTTINEAU, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

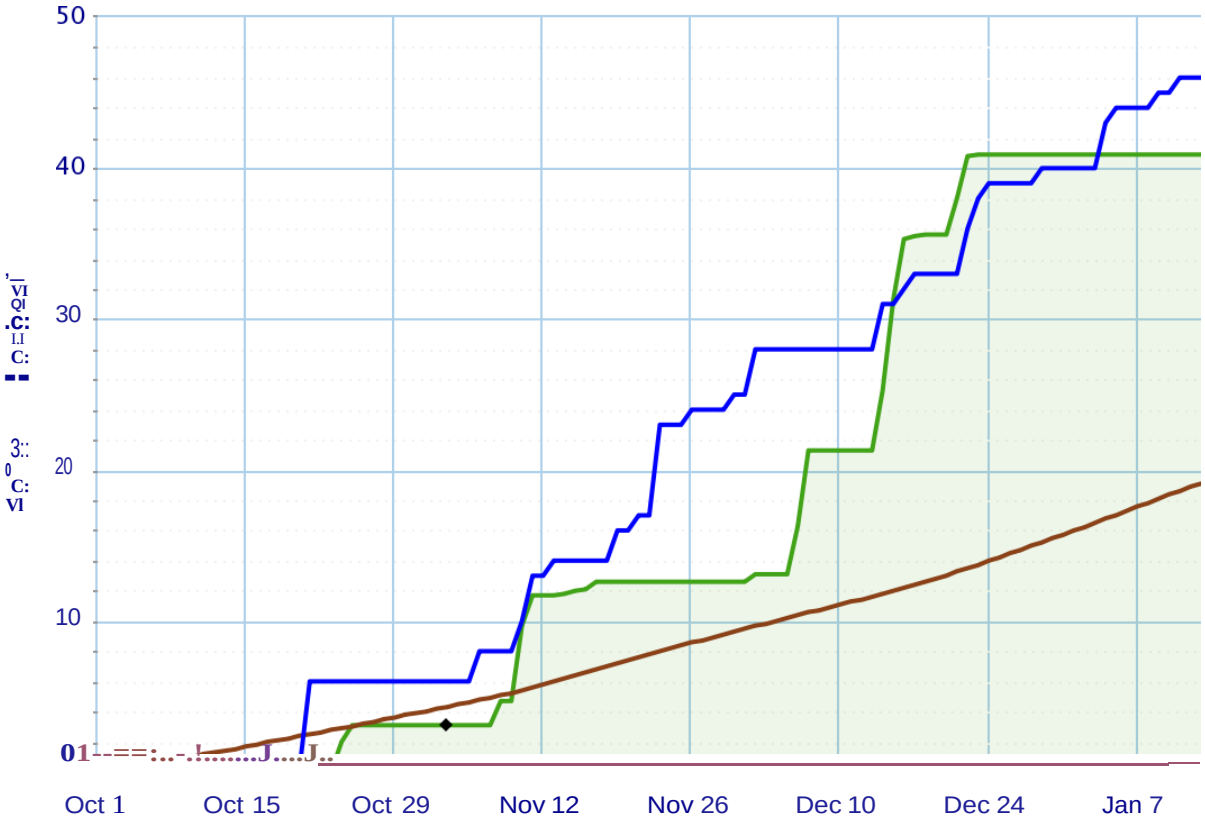


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Lowest (1907-08)
- Highest (2010-11)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - BOWMAN, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

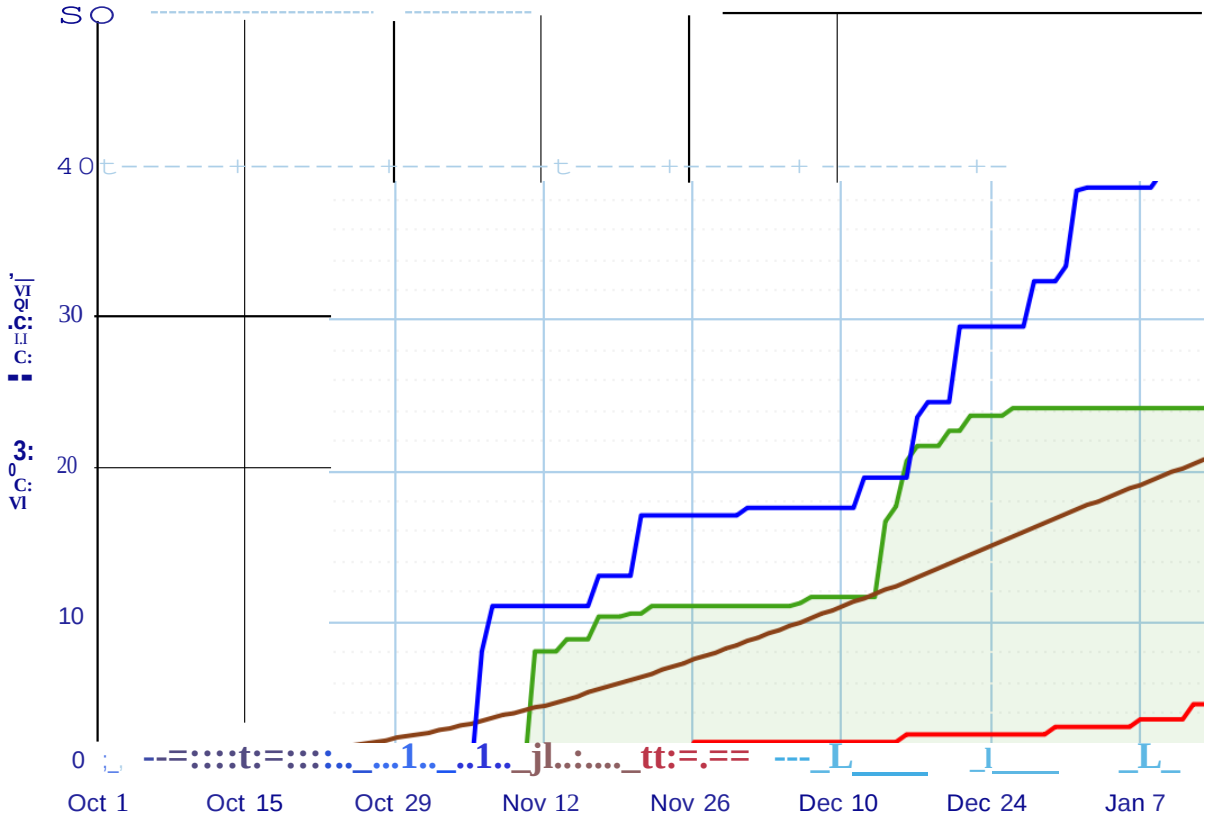


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (1996-97)
- Lowest (1939-40)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - CAVALIER ?NW, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

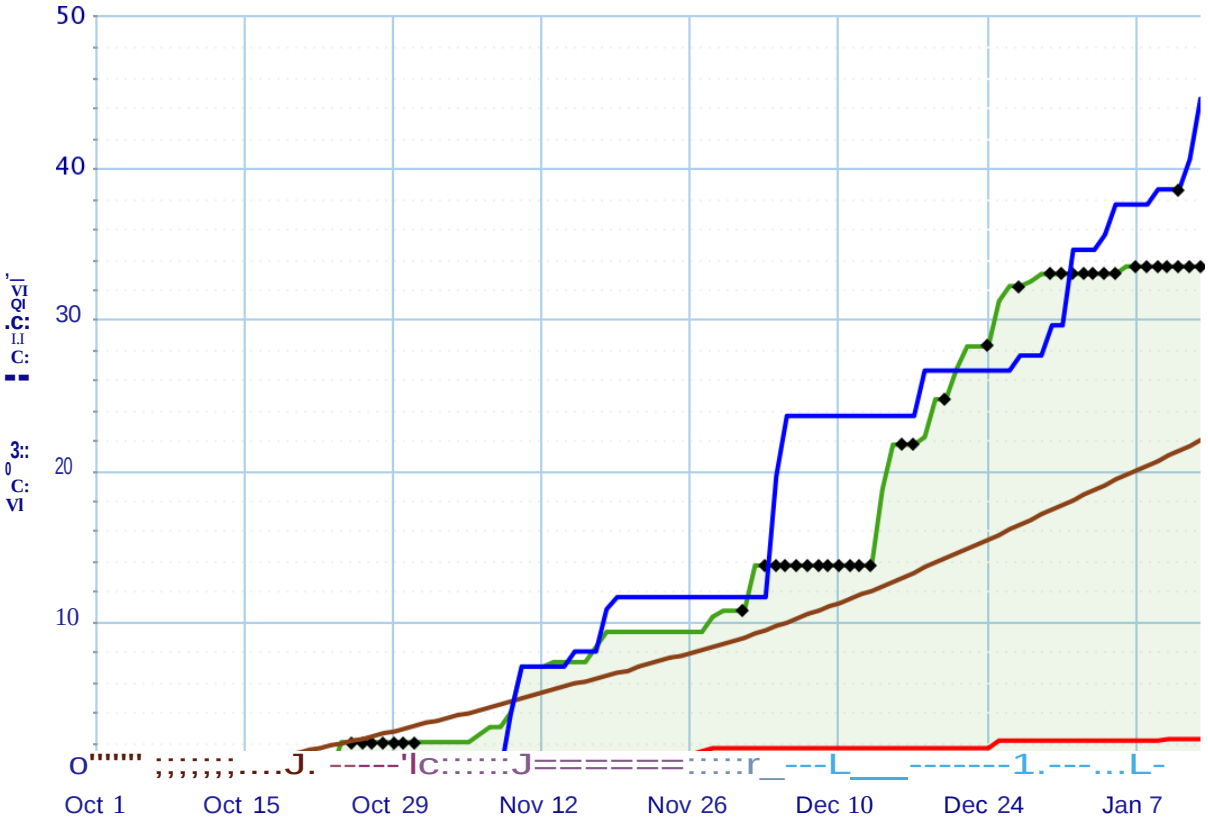


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Lowest (2011-12)
- Highest (1996-97)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - CROSBY, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

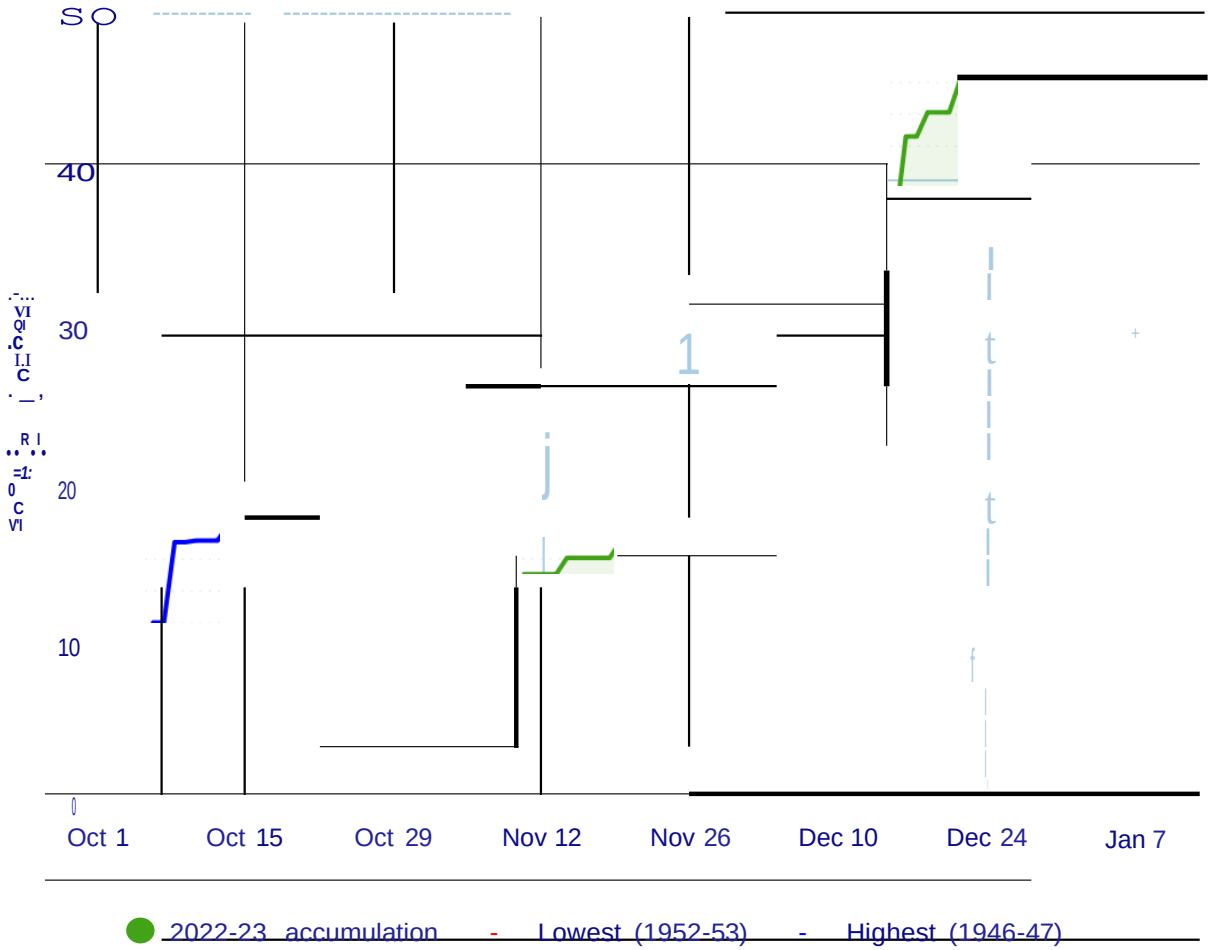


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (1998-99)
- Lowest (1920-21)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - DICKINSON, ND

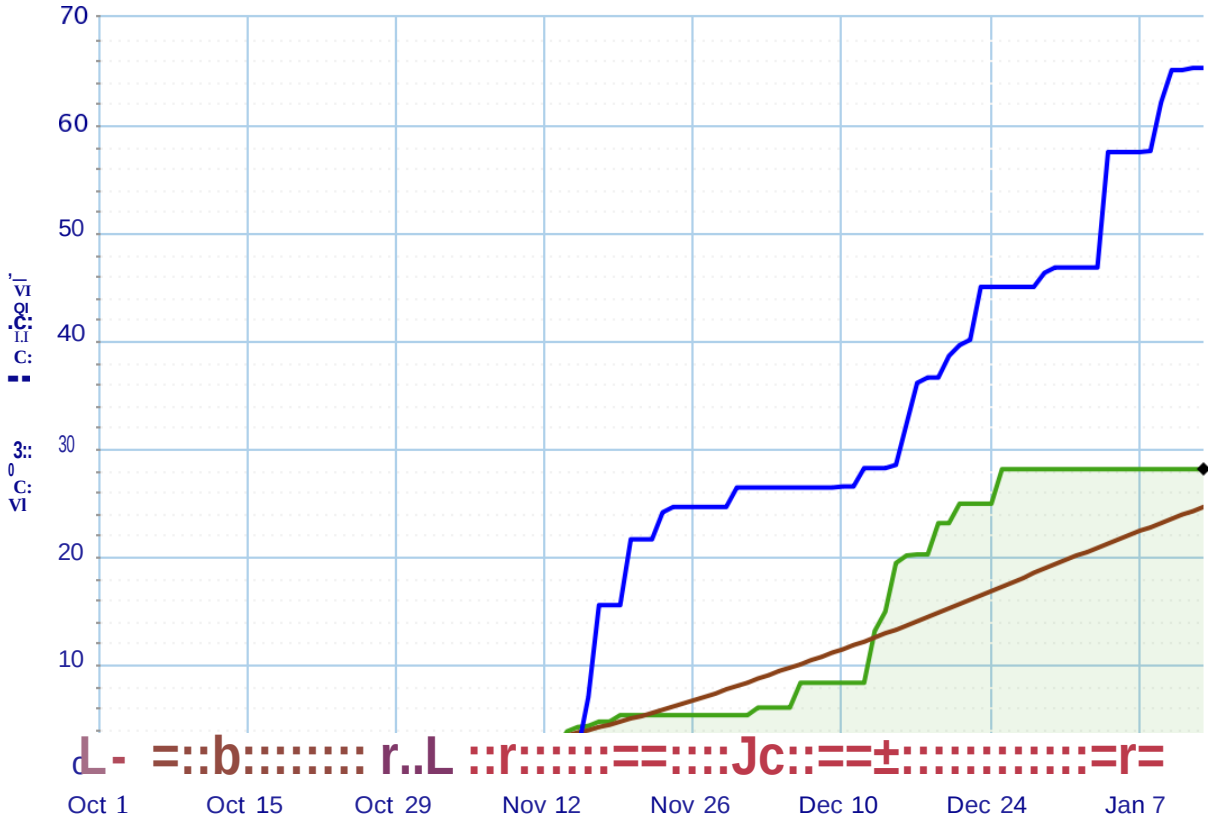
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - Fargo Area, ND (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

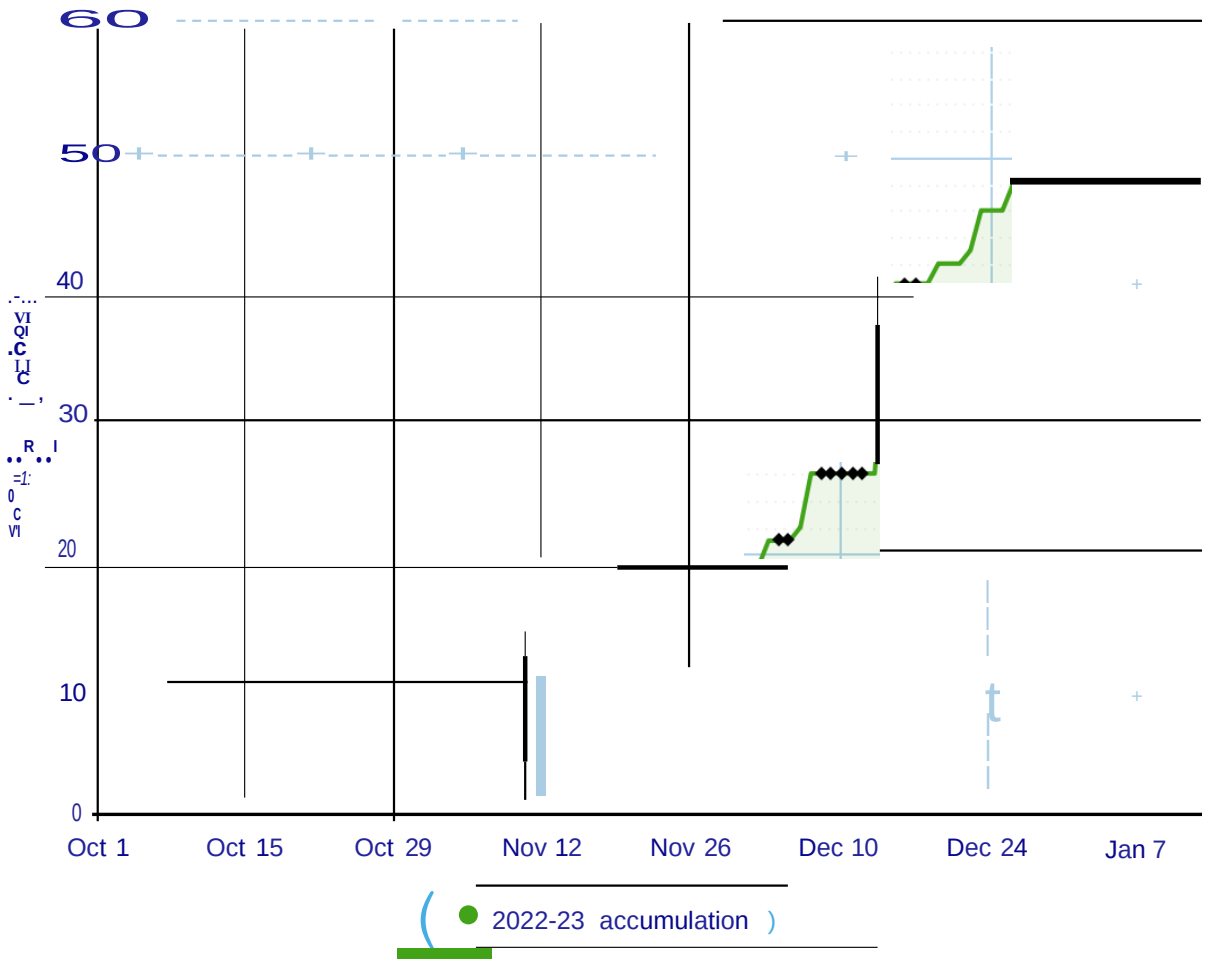


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (1996-97)
- Lowest (1957-58)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - FORT YATES, ND

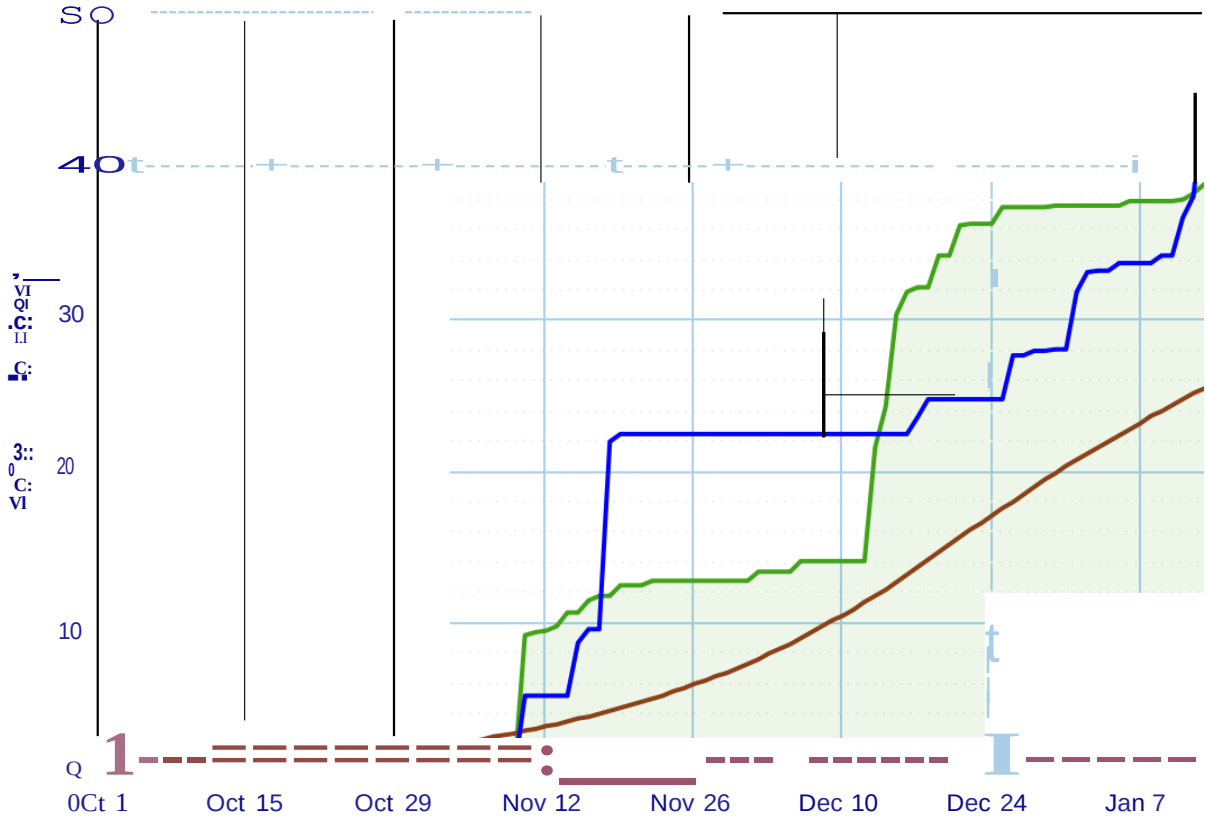
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - GRAND FORKS UNIV (NWS), ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

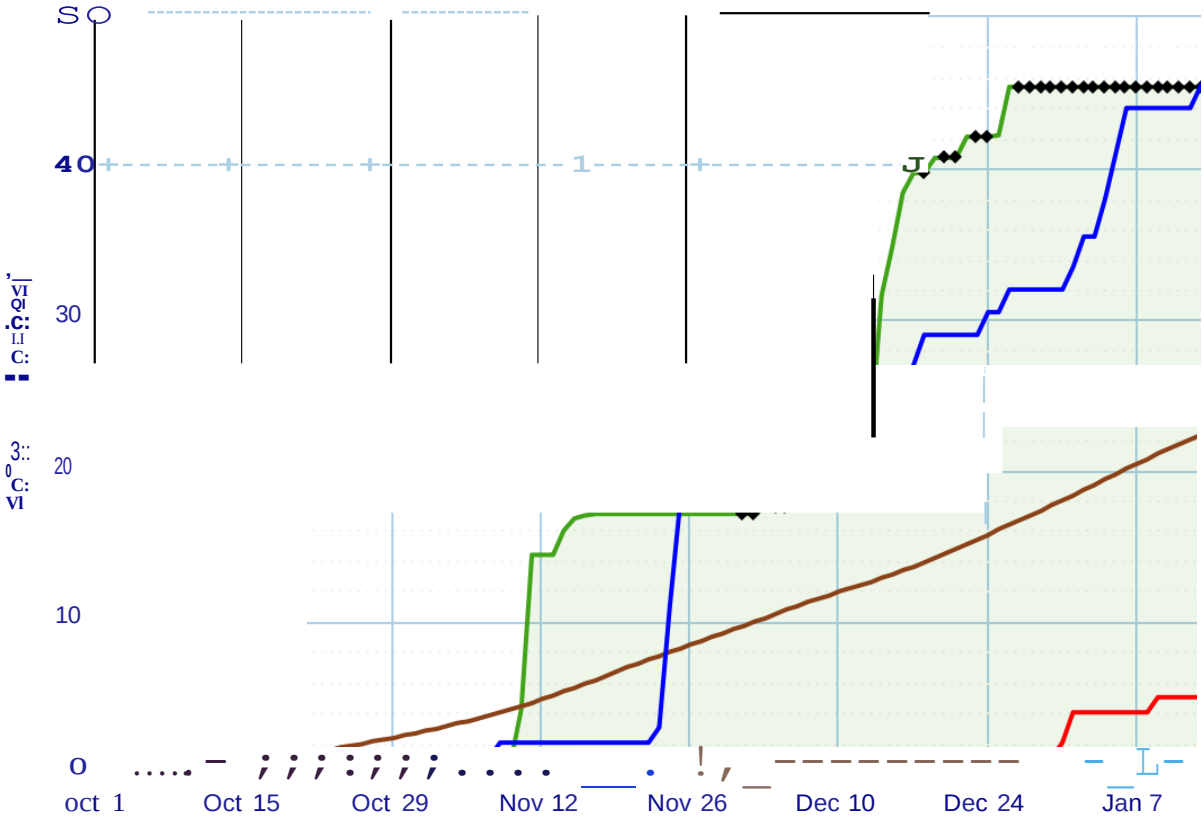


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (1998-99)
- Lowest (1994-95)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - HAZELTON 4NW, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

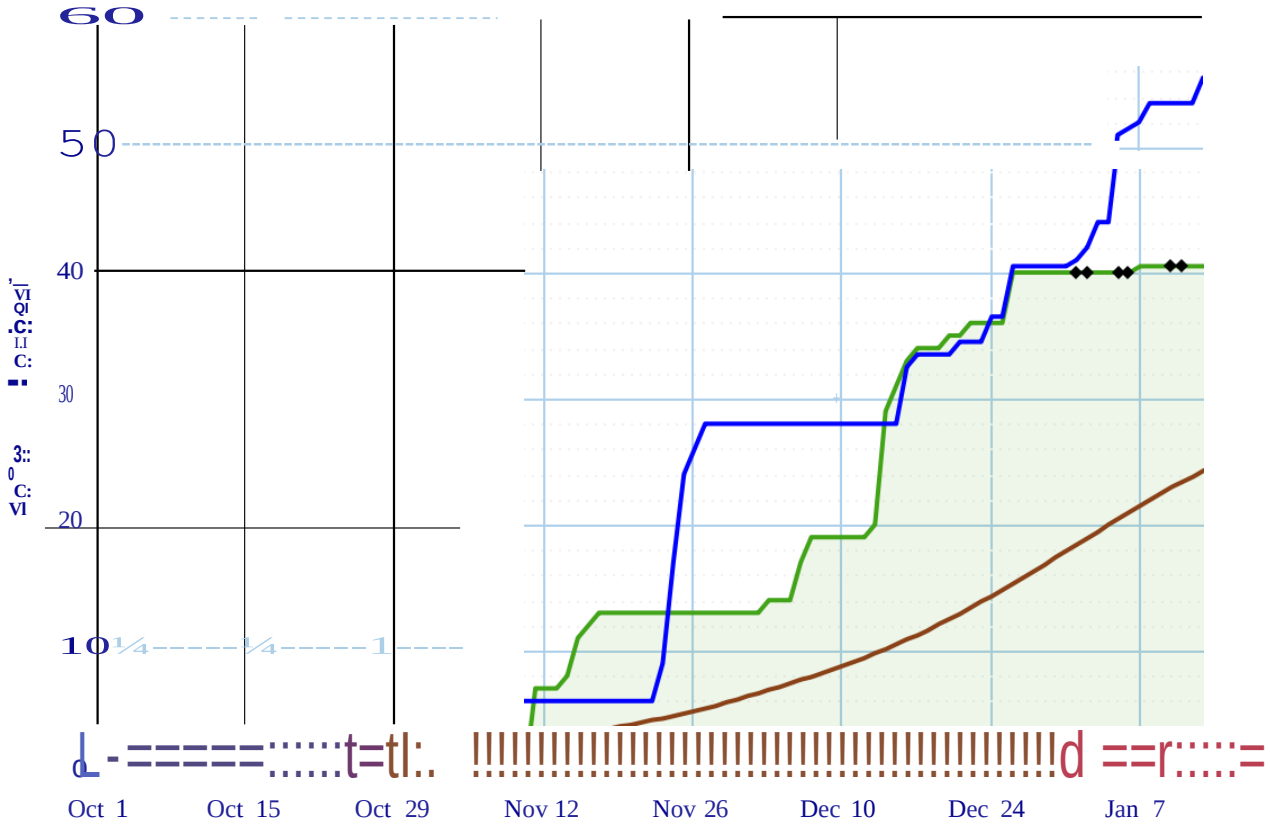


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Lowest (2004-05)
- Highest (1993-94)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - JAMESTOWN STATE HOSP, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

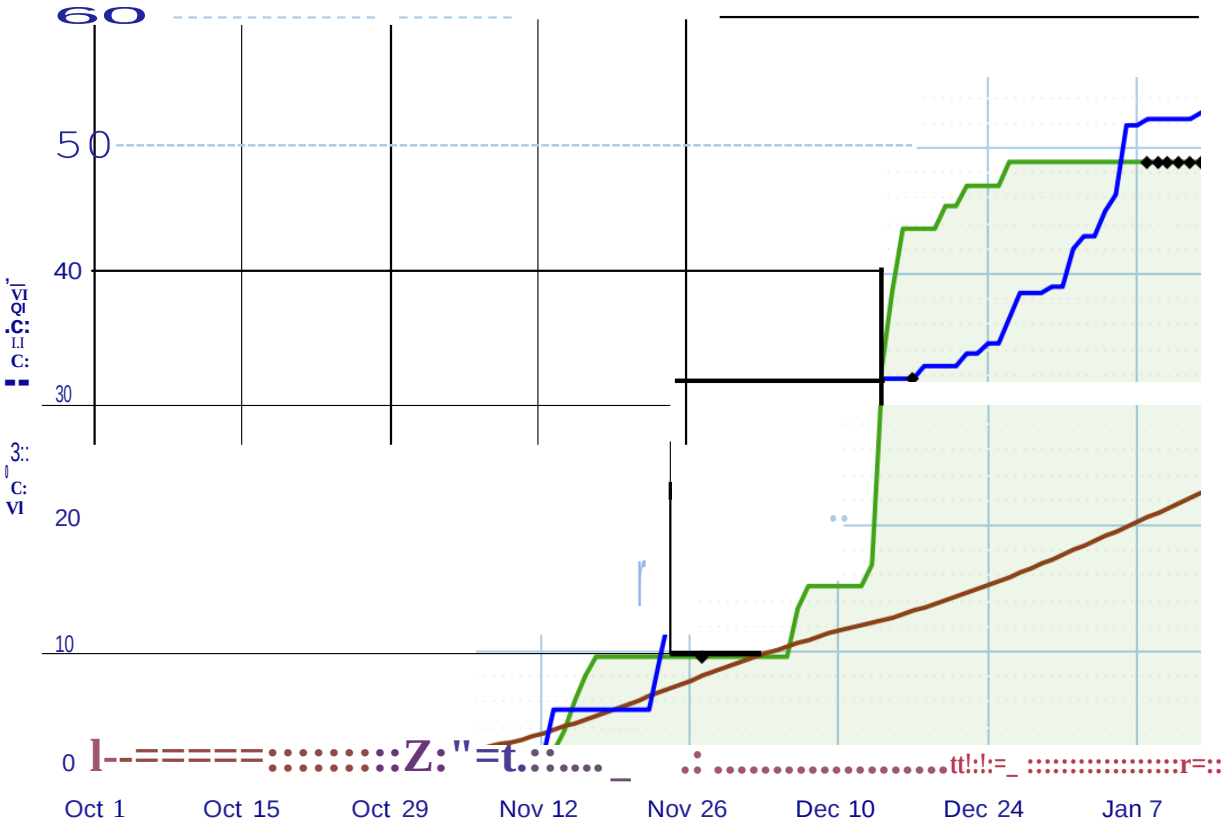


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Lowest (1962-63)
- Highest (1993-94)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - LISBON, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

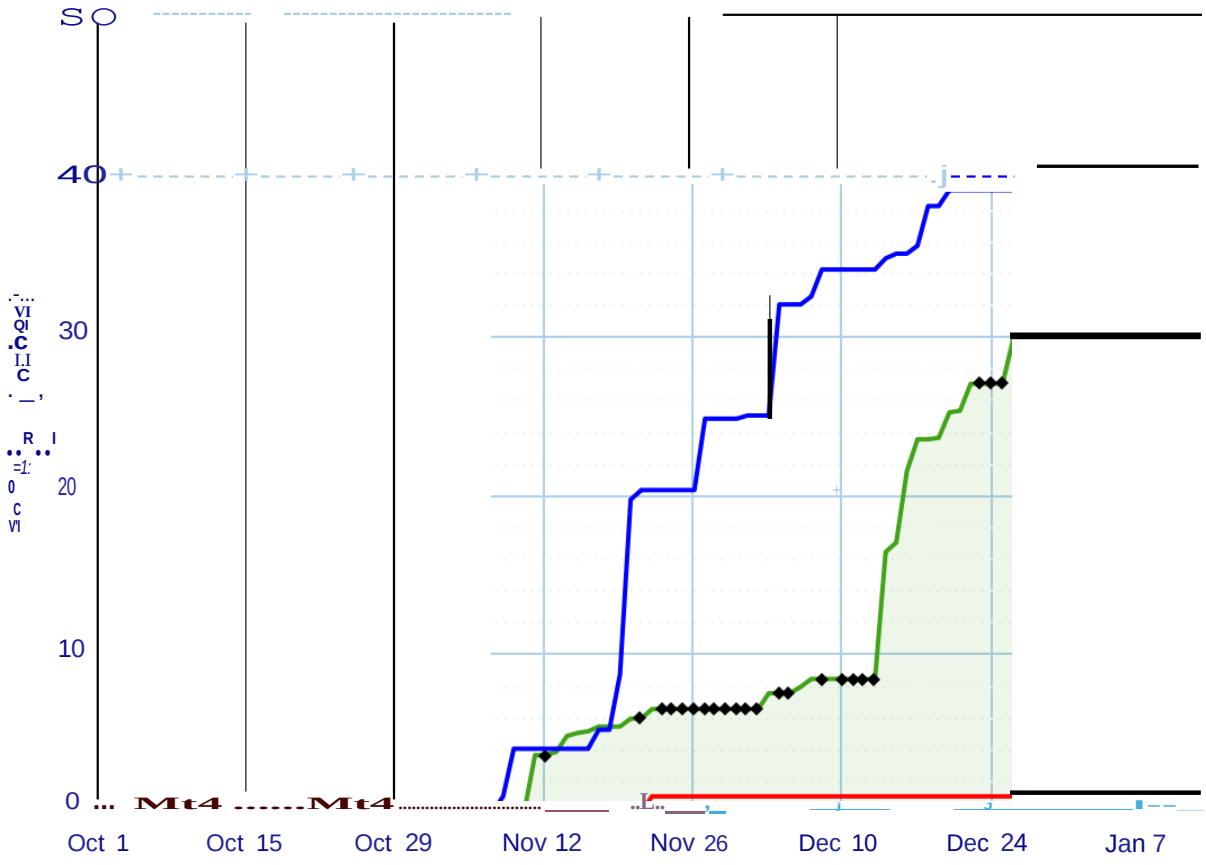


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (1993-94)
- Lowest (1962-63)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - MAYVILLE, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

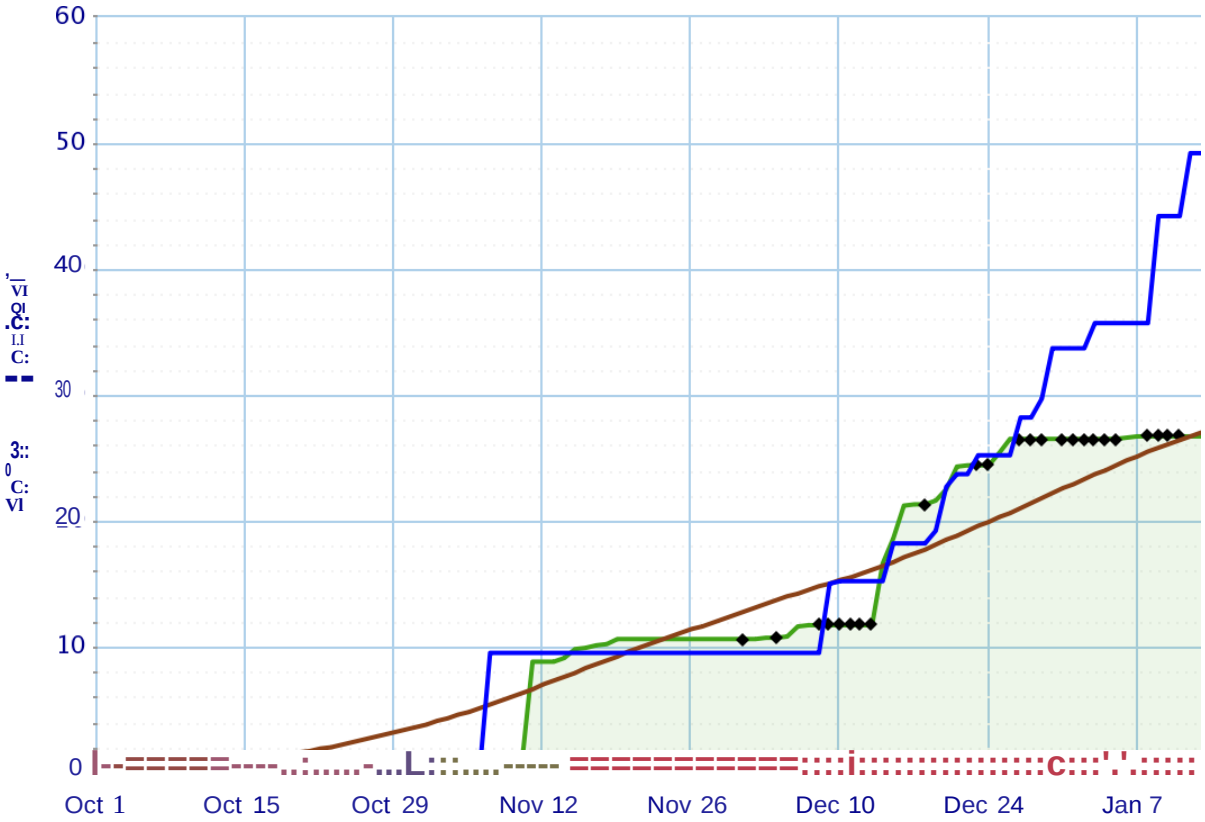


e 2022-23 accumulation - Highest (1977-78) - Lowest (1913-14)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - MINOT EXP STATION, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

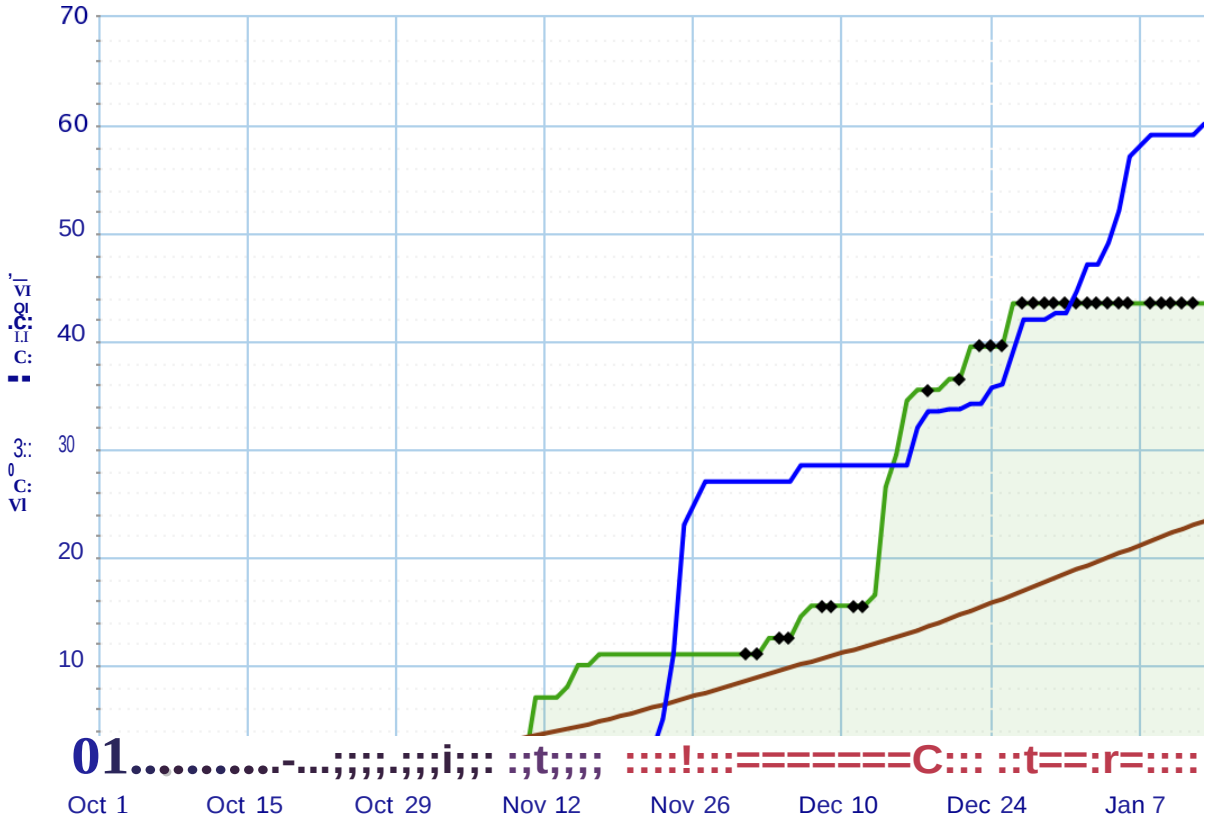


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (2008-09)
- Lowest (1930-31)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - MONTPELIER, ND

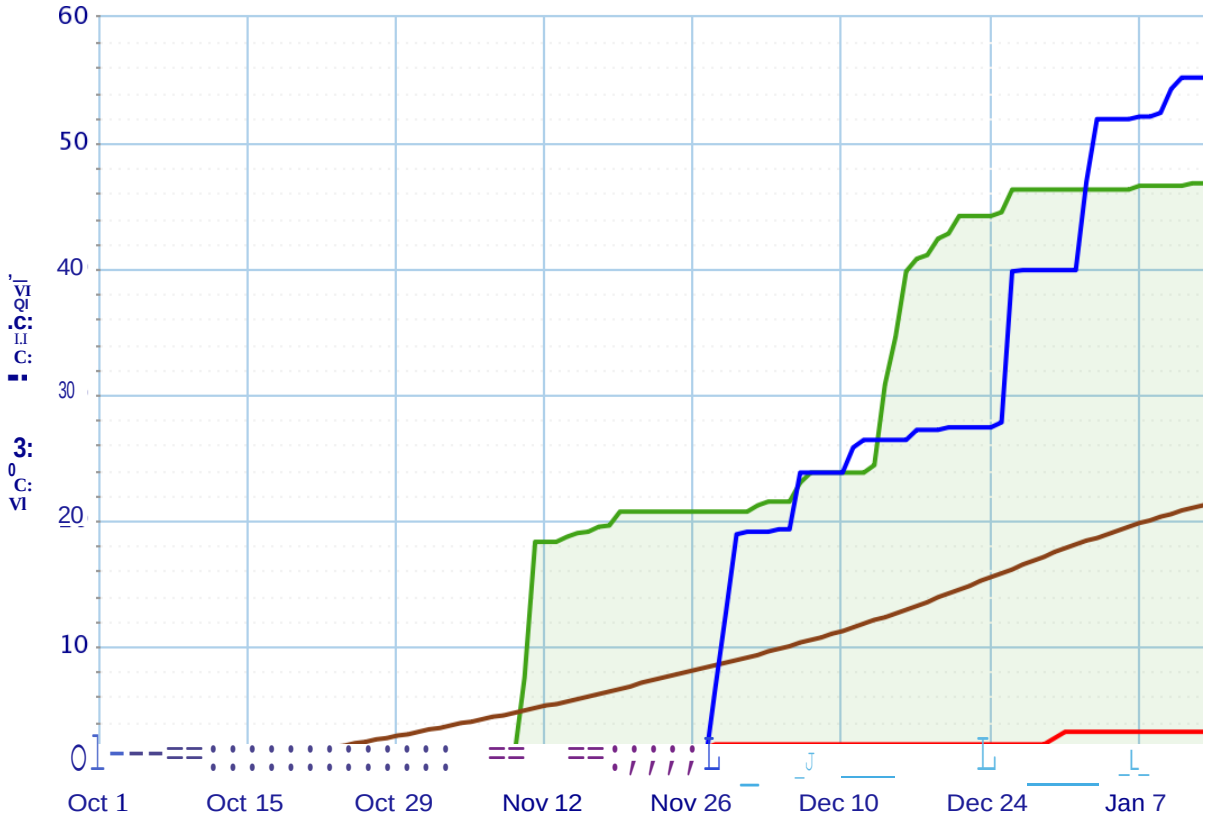
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - NEW SALEM SNW, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

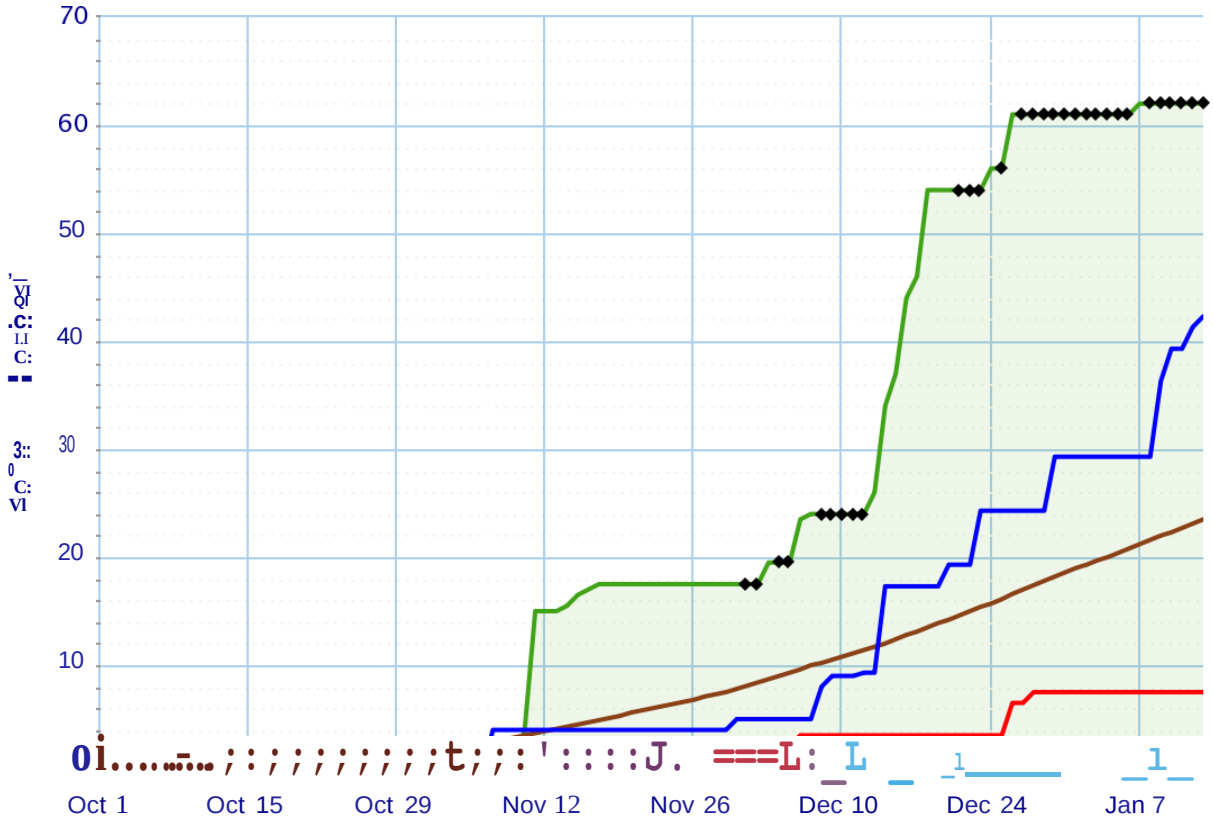


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Lowest (1954-55)
- Highest (2016-17)

Powered by ACIS

Accumulated Snowfall - STREETER 5 NW, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

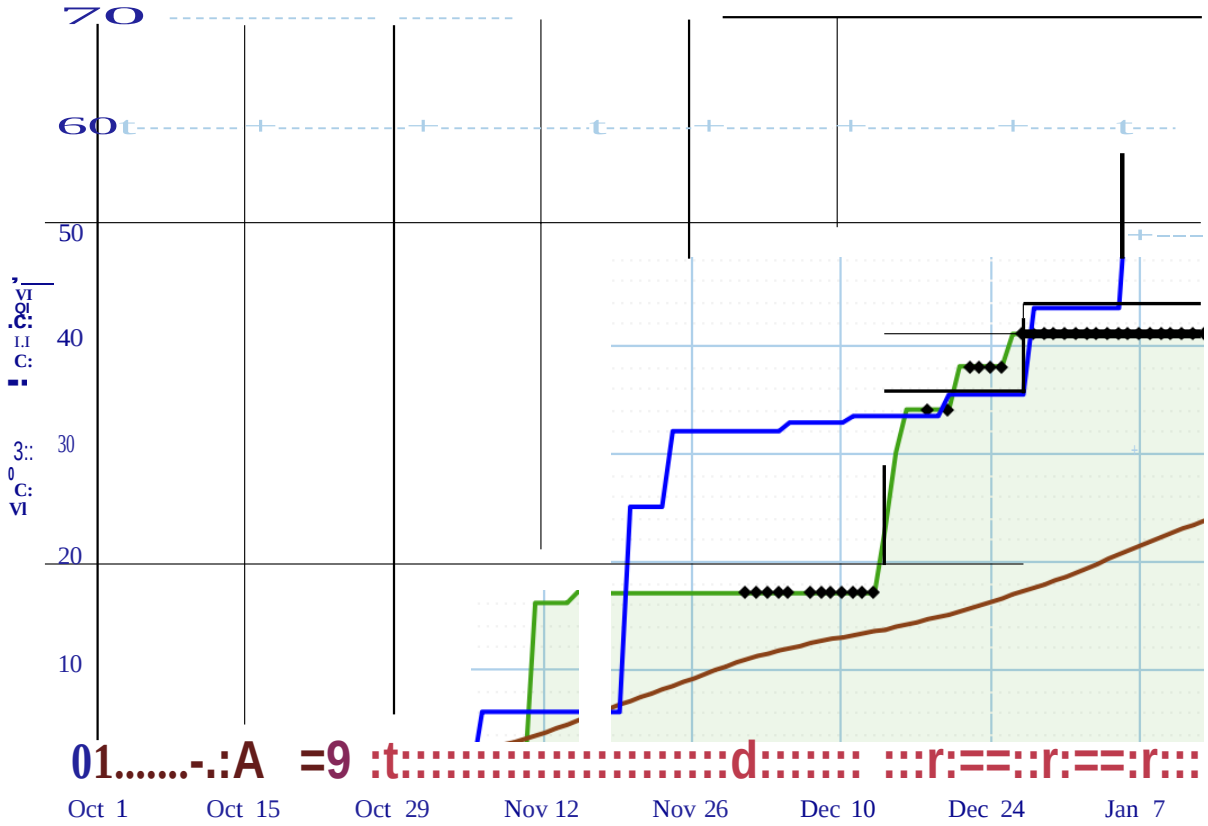


e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (2008-09)
- Lowest (2007-08)

Powered by ACIS

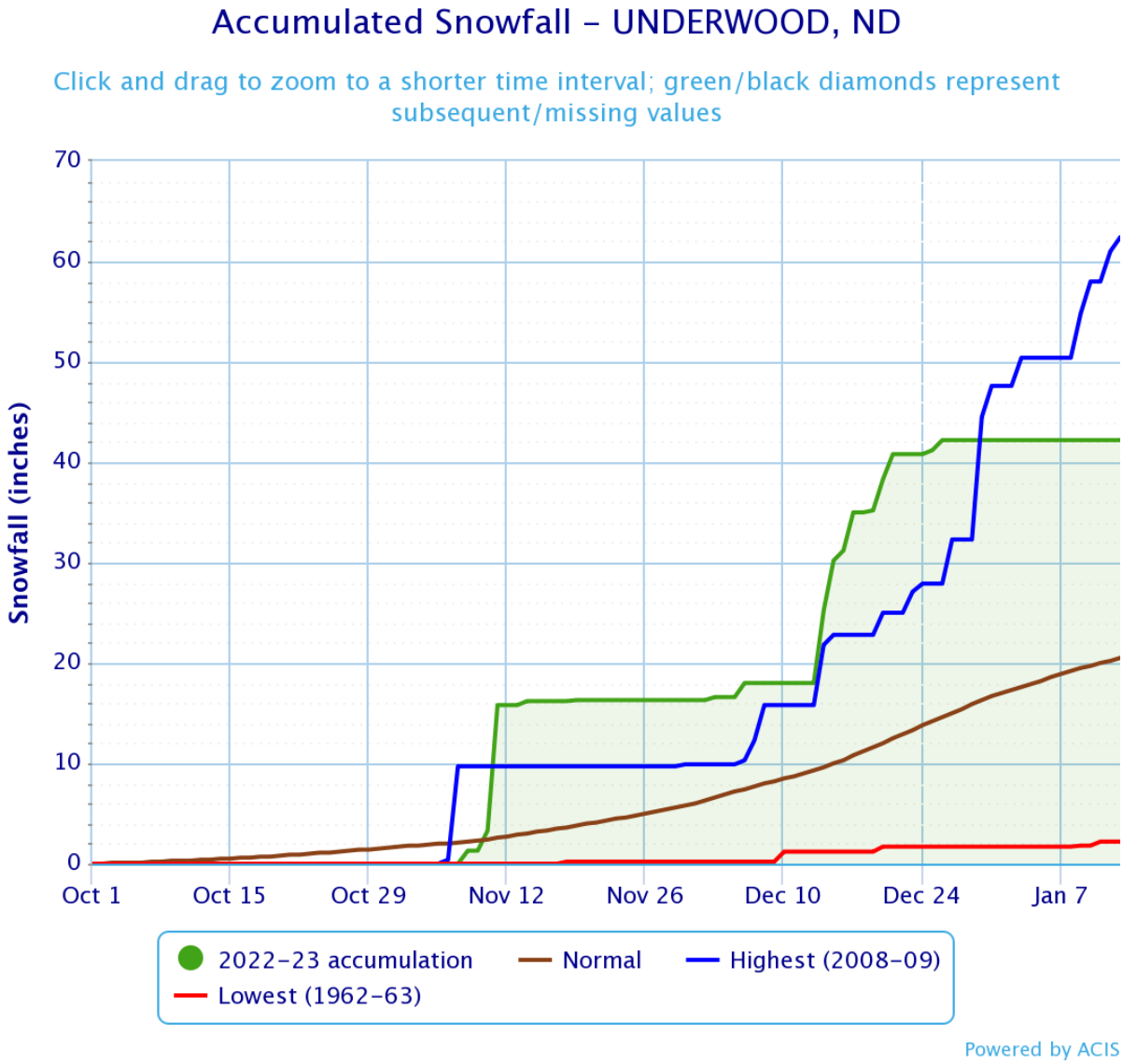
Accumulated Snowfall - TURTLE LAKE, ND

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



e 2022-23 accumulation - Normal - Highest (1996-97)
- Lowest (2001-02)

Powered by ACIS



Prepared For: North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
Prepared On: Friday, January 13, 2023
Prepared By: NOAA's National Weather Service, Bismarck and Grand Forks, ND
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TESTIMONY OF
DARIN T. HANSON
HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION DIRECTOR
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
BEFORE THE 68th LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 2023
IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2183

Chairman Vigesaa, members of the House Appropriations Committee, my name is Darin Hanson and I'm the Homeland Security Division Director at the Department of Emergency Services (DES) for the State of North Dakota. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 2183 with suggested amendments.

This past fall, North Dakota experienced extraordinary early winter storms. These events have been particularly widespread. If you take a look at Attachment 1, which was provided by the National Weather Service, many areas across the state had already exceeded snowfall amounts for an entire season.

Many of the November and December storms that brought the first rounds of snow were accompanied by gusty winds, and in most cases, it remained windy for several days after the snow had ended. This resulted in snow drifting back into areas that had already been cleared. The same snow was having to be moved or removed multiple times.

With our latest winter storm on March 1, the seasonal snowfall for 2022-2023 at the National Weather Service in Bismarck is now at 75.4 inches (as of March 2). This puts the region in the top 10 all-time (going back to 1886) for seasonal snow, and well within reach of the all-time record of 101.6 inches set back in the winter of 1996-1997.The normal amount for an entire snow season is 50.5 inches.

With the National Weather Service predicting more snow this week and through the next few months, we are far from out of the woods regarding potential winter storms. Local jurisdictions are still paying bills from overtime costs from the early winter storms. Senate Bill 2183 would give some reprieve to tribal governments, counties, cities and townships that have already been left with dwindling budgets sapped by snow removal costs incurred through some of these impactful snowstorm events.

While the Department of Emergency Services supports Senate Bill 2183, we do recommend amending the bill to focus solely on the early snow removal costs as presented during Governor Burgum's State of the State Address. This would limit the grants to costs that were incurred between October 1 and December 31, 2022. We also believe that a reduction in the total appropriation to $20,000,000 and reinstatement of the threshold at 200% of costs would provide significant relief to local jurisdictions without incentivizing them to not increase future budgets. The $20,000,000 appropriation was originally calculated based on the 2011 snow removal grants bill that carried a $9,000,000 appropriation, which we then adjusted for inflation (additional $3,000,000) and added an additional $3,000,000 as the 2011 appropriation was insufficient. The additional $5 million was added to partially cover costs incurred by the ND Department of Transportation (NDDOT) which at the time was projecting a $10 million snow removal shortfall. The NDDOT has been removed from the bill as presented, and we recommend reinstating the agency as an eligible entity.

Senate Bill 2183 would provide state funding to qualifying jurisdictions for early snow removal costs incurred from Oct. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2022, as well as additional funds for season wide snow removal operations. These funds would be distributed via grants that would be applied for by local and tribal jurisdictions. NDDES would be the administrative agency for these grants, a process that we are familiar with having done a similar reimbursement program in 2011.

To qualify for a snow removal grant, a jurisdiction must have spent more than 150% of its 5-year average for snow removal during the months of October through December 2022, and for season wide snow removal assistance, a jurisdiction must have spent more than 150% of its 5-year average for the months of October 2022 – April 2023. Those that qualify can be reimbursed up to 60% of their eligible snow removal expenses incurred over those time periods. If the total amount of eligible requests exceeds the funding appropriated, each eligible jurisdiction would receive a prorated amount of their eligible request.

To distribute these funds in a timely and efficient manner, an Application for Disaster Assistance form would need to be filled out, signed and returned to NDDES no later than April 15, 2023. Some of the reimbursable items a local jurisdiction could claim would include:

- Contractor costs
- Equipment rental plus operator, fuel and small repairs
- Equipment hours
- Consumable materials (sand, salt, and cutting edges).
- Personnel and benefits
- Pushback and hauling

Generally, the State of North Dakota tries to use federal funding whenever possible to address impacts from natural hazards. However, when it comes to snow removal assistance, the funding that is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under their Public Assistance (PA) Program is simply too limiting and restrictive to be of use. Per federal regulation, FEMA will only provide 48 hours of snow removal assistance to a county or tribe that received enough snow from a single storm that either broke its historical record or was within 10% of the historical record. Additionally, that county or tribe would be required to exceed their disaster cost threshold based on their 48 hours of snow removal costs before they can be included in a federal disaster declaration. Exceeding that threshold from only 48 hours of costs is extremely difficult for most counties to do. Based on discussions between NDDES staff and local governments impacted by this season's snowfall amounts, it was discovered that 48 hours of assistance is so minimal that it barely helps cover their increased operating costs.

Mr. Chairman, this completes our testimony. I'd like to reemphasize that local jurisdictions have already stretched their budgets to pay for snow removal expenses. Since there are still weeks of winter left to contend with and storms are likely to impact the state, Senate Bill 2183 would provide tremendous relief to our local jurisdictions, freeing up funds for potential future events. Also, NDDES is familiar with the grant distribution process and is equipped to handle fund distribution from the state to our local communities.

County	TWP	Oct- Jan 2017	Oct- Jan 2018	Oct- Jan 2019	Oct- Jan 2020	Oct- Jan 2021	Oct- Jan 2022	Oct-Jan Total 17-21	Oct- Jan 5-Year Average	150% 5-year Oct-Jan	150% Elegible Oct-Jan	60% at 150% Oct-Jan	Change 200% to 150%
Ward	Afton	900	3,375	0	0	2,250	**11,100**	6,525	1,305	1,958	9,143	5,486	392
	Gardner	1,629	3,440	5,978	1,895	964	**10,430**	13,906	2,781	4,172	6,258	3,755	834
	Plain	1,350	0	83	0	0	**6,075**	1,433	287	430	5,645	3,387	86
	Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	**5,525**	0	0	0	5,525	3,315	0
	Summit	0	0	0	0	0	**5,166**	0	0	0	5,166	3,100	0
	Midway	904	730	4,138	0	978	**6,396**	6,750	1,350	2,025	4,371	2,623	405
Sargent	Vivian	0	0	480	0	0	**4,439**	480	96	144	4,295	2,577	29
Traill	Eldorado	900	630	2,100	3,015	630	**6,413**	7,275	1,455	2,183	4,230	2,538	437
Ward	Burlington	0	0	575	0	0	**4,275**	575	115	173	4,103	2,462	35
	Hall	3,888	1,313	5,813	5,025	5,322	**10,397**	21,359	4,272	6,408	3,989	2,393	1,282
Walsh	Farmington	1,386	0	910	0	1,040	**4,818**	3,336	667	1,001	3,817	2,290	200
Ransom	Big Bend	0	0	213	0	400	**4,000**	613	123	184	3,816	2,290	37
Ward	Cameron	0	0	0	0	0	**3,640**	0	0	0	3,640	2,184	0
Pembina	Thingvalla	1,240	992	715	0	1,170	**4,620**	4,117	823	1,235	3,385	2,031	247
Ward	Burt	0	345	345	0	0	**3,570**	690	138	207	3,363	2,018	41
	Kinyon	960	900	1,600	0	1,000	**4,690**	4,460	892	1,338	3,352	2,011	268
Steele	Carpenter	0	525	2,875	690	1,840	**5,125**	5,930	1,186	1,779	3,346	2,008	356
Ward	Berthold	0	0	0	0	0	**3,300**	0	0	0	3,300	1,980	0
Eddy	Rosefield	740	420	1,295	0	350	**4,030**	2,805	561	842	3,189	1,913	168
	Haram	5,914	1,725	4,444	2,542	1,025	**7,881**	15,650	3,130	4,695	3,186	1,912	939
	Peace	0	0	0	0	0	**3,000**	0	0	0	3,000	1,800	0
	Grafton	742	652	0	1,080	742	**3,704**	3,216	643	965	2,739	1,644	193
	Nash	263	750	0	1,235	285	**3,457**	2,533	507	760	2,697	1,618	152
Stutsman	Fried						**9,400**	0	4,500	6,750	2,650	1,590	1,350
Walsh	Rushford	810	290	508	0	0	**2,828**	1,608	322	482	2,345	1,407	96
Cass	Harmony	0	660	1,125	0	0	**2,790**	1,785	357	536	2,254	1,353	107
Cass	Harwood	220	3,080	1,595	0	8,243	**6,000**	13,138	2,628	3,941	2,059	1,235	788
	Fertile	0	0	0	0	0	**2,030**	0	0	0	2,030	1,218	0
	Amundsville	0	0	0	0	0	**1,999**	0	0	0	1,999	1,200	0
	Durbin	0	500	2,700	472	1,258	**3,440**	4,930	986	1,479	1,961	1,177	296
Barnes	Springvale	0	0	428	0	605	**2,255**	1,033	207	310	1,945	1,167	62

Ramsey	Webster	805	900	1,740	260	1,958	**3,505**	5,663	1,133	1,699	1,806	1,084	340
Stutsman	Germania	0	0	495	0	0	**1,898**	495	99	149	1,749	1,049	30
Walsh	Silvesta	0	0	520	0	0	**1,800**	520	104	156	1,644	986	31
	Minnewaukan	1,438	1,500	1,793	585	2,367	**3,918**	7,682	1,536	2,305	1,613	968	461
	Petersburg						**1,783**	695	139	209	1,574	944	42
	Rolling Green	0	920	0	0	0	**1,820**	920	184	276	1,544	926	55
	Pingree	1,815	0	2,365	1,100	0	**3,105**	5,280	1,056	1,584	1,521	913	317
	Kingston	0	0	0	0	0	**1,495**	0	0	0	1,495	897	0
Barnes	Minnie Lake	0	440	1,440	0	0	**2,040**	1,880	376	564	1,476	886	113
Walsh	Vesta	635	130	1,170	540	0	**2,160**	2,475	495	743	1,418	851	149
	Harlem	0	0	357	0	300	**1,547**	657	131	197	1,350	810	39
Barnes	Ashtabula	3,515	3,108	2,613	2,280	0	**4,730**	11,516	2,303	3,455	1,275	765	691
Ward	Linton	0	95	0	0	0	**1,220**	95	19	29	1,192	715	6
Cass	Normanna	0	0	0	1,570	896	**1,875**	2,466	493	740	1,135	681	148
	Hudson	0	0	0	0	0	**1,131**	0	0	0	1,131	679	0
Burke	Ward						**2,473**	0	900	1,350	1,123	674	270
Stutsman	Chicago	0	0	385	0	0	**1,208**	385	77	116	1,092	655	23
Stutsman	Peterson	0	0	660	0	345	**1,380**	1,005	201	302	1,079	647	60
Walsh	Walshville	560	582	960	675	4,028	**3,111**	6,805	1,361	2,041	1,070	642	408
Dickey	Deivide	0	0	0	0	816	**1,300**	816	163	245	1,055	633	49
	Armourdale	2,100	2,500	1,528	0	750	**3,067**	6,878	1,376	2,063	1,004	602	413
		0	165	0	0	0	**1,000**	165	33	50	951	570	10
Cavalier	Hay	50	500	50	0	300	**1,125**	900	180	270	855	513	54
Ransom	Elliot	0	1,845	420	90	0	**1,553**	2,355	471	707	846	508	141
Kidder	Weiser	0	0	0	0	0	**845**	0	0	0	845	507	0
	Newman	0	265	325	0	325	**1,013**	915	183	275	738	443	55
Griggs	Tyrol	80	75	580	0	413	**1,030**	1,148	230	344	686	411	69
	Kern	0	0	0	0	0	**675**	0	0	0	675	405	0
	Sentinel	0	0	720	0	0	**870**	720	144	216	654	392	43
Richland	Devillo	0	0	0	0	0	**638**	0	0	0	638	383	0
Stutsman	St Paul	0	0	0	0	288	**633**	288	58	86	546	328	17
Cavalier	Bruce						**875**	0	240	360	515	309	72
	Hiddenwood	900	700	0	0	560	**1,120**	2,160	432	648	472	283	130
Ward	Nedrose						**18,235**	0	11,858	17,787	448	269	3,557

Griggs	Pilot Mound	315	0	525	24	563	**875**	1,426	285	428	447	268	86
	Leeds	0	0	240	880	240	**845**	1,360	272	408	437	262	82
Walsh	Oakwood	0	580	0	725	990	**975**	2,295	459	689	287	172	138
Adams	Scott	0	0	0	0	0	**200**	0	0	0	200	120	0
	Greenbush	0	900	3,500	0	975	**1,750**	5,375	1,075	1,613	138	83	323
Cass	Rochester	0	0	0	0	360	**220**	360	72	108	112	67	22
Walsh	Latona	58	0	780	0	0	**360**	838	168	251	109	65	50
	Hardscrabble							0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	0	0	0	0
LaMoure	Ryan							0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	0	0	0	0
								0	0	0	0	0	0
	Coburn		1,800	1,900	2,885	2,750	**2,688**	9,335	1,867	2,801	-113	-68	560
Ransom	Alleghany	0	700					700	140	210	-210	-126	42
	Brooklyn	6,525	900	5,287	0	0	**3,580**	12,712	2,542	3,814	-234	-140	763
	Lake Williams	0	0	0	0	870	**0**	870	174	261	-261	-157	52
	Dunbar	275	1,495	12,429	1,919	0	**4,550**	16,118	3,224	4,835	-285	-171	967
		0	1,275	0	0	1,125	**0**	2,400	480	720	-720	-432	144
Walsh	Martin	0	580	2,683	870	1,898	**975**	6,030	1,206	1,809	-834	-500	362
Ward	Mandan	3,104	3,086	2,875	1,027	1,495	**2,375**	11,587	2,317	3,476	-1,101	-661	695
	Roscoe	0	0	4,796	959	0		5,755	1,151	1,727	-1,727	-1,036	345
Kidder	Williams	4,260	325	2,570	845	0	**520**	8,000	1,600	2,400	-1,880	-1,128	480
Walsh	Cleveland							3,022	1,261	1,891	-1,891	-1,134	378
Bottineau	Roland	11,503	8,259	3,675	8,102	12,658	**11,092**	44,197	8,839	13,259	-2,167	-1,300	2,652
Ward	Hilton							5,128	2,009	3,014	-3,014	-1,808	603
	Rice Lake	3,795	2,875	3,450	5,060	2,875	**1,150**	18,055	3,611	5,417	-4,267	-2,560	1,083
	Kennison	3,080	6,777	720	3,245	5,361	**1,130**	19,183	3,837	5,755	-4,625	-2,775	1,151

Support SB 2183

House Appropriations Committee

March 6, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Vigesaa and Committee members.

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville, I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County, I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township, and I am also the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents nearly 6,000 Township Officers that serve in more than 1,100 dues paying member townships.

Townships across the state are desperately working to reopen roads and then keep them open so their citizens have access to emergency services, mail, school busses, and other basic needs. Many also need roads open to get to work or haul grain or tend to the needs of livestock.

Back in January we asked our members for snow removal expense figures for the 3-month period October through December for 2022 and the same months for each of the years 2017 though 2021. Many responded that was not the way their contractor or county billed them so they did not have these figures readily available. Those townships were advised that if they have significant snow expenses in the 3-month period they should ask their contractors or counties to gather the information in the proper form as it will be needed if they wish to be reimbursed.

There were about 90 that did respond with expense figures that ranged from $200 to $18,235; these expenses are a huge burden on the limited treasury of a township. Seventy-two of the 90 would qualify for reimbursements ranging from $65 to $5,486. Thirty-three were over $1,000 and seventeen were over $2,000.

Some counties charge their townships a flat service charge for the year, so the townships don’t have reportable cost increases. Hopefully SB 2183 will pass and the counties will get reimbursed for part of the added costs so the flat rates will not be increased for the townships.

I have included two photos on the next page. The first was sent to me by a resident in my township. Of course, it shows a snowy road, but the point is this road had been opened the last time we had a snow event, this road has been again reduced to 4-wheel drive pickups only, by drifting because of moderate winds for a couple of days. This cycle is likely to continue until spring and will get worse because of the snow being pushed up in ever higher ridges. The next time the snow moves it will fill the cut to the new height.

Some are investing substantial money to provide road opening help. It seems the snow trail resorts have pulled all their old snow tractors out of the woods and put them on the market for $30,000 or more. The second photo is a snow dozer or groomer tractor, the machine of choice if snow needs to be pushed away to reopen a road. In snow these will outperform the largest bulldozers, if you can find one, several of these have been put into service across the state but like many other townships mine does not have access to one. Our contractor will come out with bulldozers and run up huge bills to open a few of the worst sites.

We don't yet know what the cost is going to be, it will be a while till all the bills are in and it is possible that March will be even worse than what we saw earlier.

Chairman Vigesaa and Committee Members, that concludes my prepared testimony. On behalf of the membership of NDTOA, I ask that you give SB 2183 your favorable recommendation and I will try to answer any questions.

January 15, 2023 Roseville Township, Trail County

23.0719.03001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Representative Brandenburg
March 7, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2183

Page 1, line 7, replace "$25,000,000" with "$20,000,000"

Page 1, line 11, replace "$25,000,000" with "$20,000,000"

Page 1, line 11, replace "$20,000,000" with "$15,000,000"

Page 1, line 19, after "December" insert "for the four lowest cost years"

Page 2, line 2, after "April" insert "for the four lowest cost years"

Renumber accordingly

23.0719.02002

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2183

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Klein, Weber

Representatives Brandenburg, Kempenich, Mitskog

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the adjutant general for snow removal grants ~~and reimbursements; to provide a transfer~~; to provide for a report; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - 2021-23 BIENNIUM - ADJUTANT GENERAL - ~~EARLY SEASON~~ SNOW REMOVAL GRANTS ~~AND REIMBURSEMENTS - TRANSFER~~ - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.

1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~$30,000,000~~$25,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the adjutant general for the purpose of providing ~~early season~~ emergency snow removal grants to tribal governments, counties, cities, and townships ~~and early season emergency snow removal reimbursements to the department of transportation~~, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2023. Of the $25,000,000, up to $20,000,000 is available for early season emergency snow removal grants under subsection 2, and any remaining amounts are available for full season emergency snow removal grants under subsection 3.
2. A tribal government, county, city, or township may apply to the department of emergency services for an early season emergency snow removal grant for reimbursement of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the tribal government, county, city, or township for the period of October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, which exceeded ~~two~~one hundred fifty percent of the average snow removal cost for the three-month period of October through December during the years 2017 through 2021. ~~The department of transportation may submit a request to the department of emergency services for emergency snow removal reimbursements of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the~~

~~department of transportation for the period of October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, which exceeded two hundred percent of the average snow removal cost for the three-month period of October through December during the years 2017 through 2021.~~

3. A tribal government, county, township, or city may apply to the department of emergency services for a full season emergency snow removal grant for reimbursement of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the tribal government, county, city, or township for the period of October 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023, which exceeded one hundred fifty percent of the average snow removal cost for the seven-month period of October to April for those years during the period beginning October 1, 2017, through April 30, 2022.

4. Each tribal government, county, city, or township requesting reimbursement under this section shall submit the request in accordance with guidelines developed by the department of emergency services. ~~If the department of transportation requests reimbursement under this section, the office of management and budget shall transfer appropriation authority from the adjutant general to the department of transportation in an amount equal to the department's eligible reimbursement requests.~~ An award under subsection 3 must be reduced by any amount awarded under subsection 2. A tribal government, county, city, or township may not be required to return any funds awarded under subsection 2 due to the calculation completed under subsection 3.

~~4.~~5. The department of emergency services shall distribute the grants ~~and provide reimbursements~~ under this section before June 30, 2023, and shall report to the legislative management regarding the grants awarded.

~~**SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION - 2021-23 BIENNIUM - ADJUTANT GENERAL - FULL SEASON SNOW REMOVAL GRANTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS - TRANSFER - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**~~

~~1. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of $5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the adjutant general for the purpose of providing full season emergency snow removal grants to tribal governments, counties, cities, and townships and full~~

~~season emergency snow removal reimbursements to the department of transportation, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act and ending June 30, 2023.~~

~~2. A tribal government, county, township, or city may apply to the department of emergency services for an emergency snow removal grant for reimbursement of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the tribal government, county, city, or township for the period of October 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023, which exceeded two hundred percent of the average snow removal cost for the seven-month period of October to April for those years during the period beginning October 1, 2017, through April 30, 2022. The department of transportation may submit a request to the department of emergency services for emergency snow removal reimbursements of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the department of transportation for the period of October 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023, which exceeded two hundred percent of the average snow removal cost for the seven-month period of October through April for those years during the period beginning October 1, 2017, through April 30, 2022.~~

~~3. An award or reimbursement under this section must be reduced by any amount awarded or reimbursed under section 1 of this Act. The department of transportation, a tribal government, a county, a city, or a township may not be required to return any funds awarded under section 1 of this Act due to the calculation completed under this section.~~

~~4. Each tribal government, county, city, or township requesting reimbursement under this section shall submit the request in accordance with guidelines developed by the department of emergency services. If the department of transportation requests reimbursement under this section, the office of management and budget shall transfer appropriation authority from the adjutant general to the department of transportation in an amount equal to the department's eligible reimbursement requests.~~

~~5. The department of emergency services shall distribute the grants and provide reimbursements under this section before June 30, 2023, and shall report to the legislative management regarding the grants awarded.~~

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

23.0719.02002
Title.03000

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for
Senator Sorvaag
January 30, 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2183

Page 1, line 2, remove "and reimbursements; to provide a transfer"

Page 1, line 4, remove "**EARLY**"

Page 1, line 5, remove "**SEASON**"

Page 1, line 5, remove "**AND REIMBURSEMENTS - TRANSFER**"

Page 1, line 8, replace "$30,000,000" with "$25,000,000"

Page 1, line 9, remove "early season"

Page 1, remove line 11

Page 1, line 12, remove "transportation"

Page 1, line 13, after the period insert "Of the $25,000,000, up to $20,000,000 is available for early season emergency snow removal grants under subsection 2, and any remaining amounts are available for full season emergency snow removal grants under subsection 3."

Page 1, line 15, after "an" insert "early season"

Page 1, line 18, replace "two" with "one"

Page 1, line 18, after "hundred" insert "fifty"

Page 1, line 19, remove "The"

Page 1, remove lines 20 and 23

Page 2, remove lines 1 and 2

Page 2, line 3, after "3." insert "A tribal government, county, township, or city may apply to the department of emergency services for a full season emergency snow removal grant for reimbursement of up to sixty percent of the snow removal costs incurred by the tribal government, county, city, or township for the period of October 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023, which exceeded one hundred fifty percent of the average snow removal cost for the seven-month period of October to April for those years during the period beginning October 1, 2017, through April 30, 2022.

4."

Page 2, line 5, remove "If the department of transportation requests"

Page 2, replace lines 6 through 8 with "An award under subsection 3 must be reduced by any amount awarded under subsection 2. A tribal government, county, city, or township may not be required to return any funds awarded under subsection 2 due to the calculation completed under subsection 3."

Page 2, line 9, replace "4." with "5."

Page 2, line 9, remove "and provide"

Page 2, line 10, remove "reimbursements"

Page 2, remove lines 12 through 31

Page 3, remove lines 1 through 16

Renumber accordingly

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF AMENDMENT:

This amendment:

- Decreases the funding available for snow removal grants from $35 million to $25 million;
- Combines the funding available for early season and full season emergency snow removal grants and reimbursements and designates up to $20 million for early season grants and reimbursements;
- Decreases the threshold for local political subdivisions to qualify for a snow removal grant or reimbursement from 200 to 150 percent; and
- Removes the Department of Transportation from being eligible for emergency snow removal reimbursements.