

For Release  
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Melting snows and spring floods! The melting of snow alone does not cause serious floods. Snow itself does not readily absorb the sun's heat; snow melts more by virtue of the sun heating foreign substances on the snow. Neither do warm rains falling on cold snow produce rapid run-off. It has been calculated that to melt five inches of compact snow would require 14.4 inches of rain at 42 degrees temperature; while the sun's heat only melts the snow at the rate of .05 inch per day with the air temperature 32 degrees. Snow soaks up a large amount of water and in this manner tends to prevent floods; but if the temperature is above freezing day and night, warm rains with melting snow cause rapid run-off and floods may result.

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