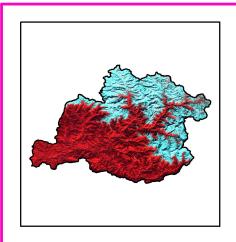
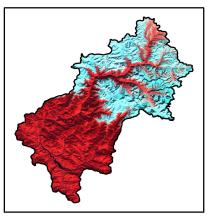
SNOW COVER ATLAS OF GANGA BASIN

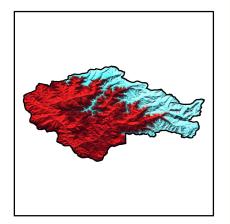
Sub basins: Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna

(A Joint Project of Indian Space Research Organisation and Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India)

Year: 2009-10









Space Applications Centre (ISRO)
Ahmedabad - 380015

December 2012

SNOW COVER ATLAS OF THE GANGA BASIN

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SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ISRO), AHMEDABAD - 380015 DOCUMENT CONTROL AND DATA SHEET

Report Number	SAC/EPSA/MPSG/GSD/SGP/SN/ 74 /2012
Month and year of publication	December 2012
Title	Snow cover Atlas of the Ganga basin
Type of Report	Scientific Report
No. of pages	76
No. of figures, Charts & Tables	56, 9 & 6
Authors	B. P. Rathore, S. K. Singh, I. Bahuguna, A. S.
	Rajawat and Ajai
No. of References	9
Originating Unit	Geo Sciences Division, Marine, Geo and Planetary Sciences Group, Earth, Ocean, Atmosphere, Planetary Sciences and Applications area, Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad-15
Abstract	This atlas gives subbasin-wise distribution of snow cover in the Ganga basin from October 2009 to June 2010. The subbasins included in this report are Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna. The areal extent of snow cover was estimated in fully automatic mode using Normalized Difference Snow Index (NDSI) based algorithm. For this purpose AWiFS sensor of Resourcesat satellite was used. This atlas gives snow cover products, statistics and seasonal snow depletion curve. It is expected that this data will be useful for hydrological and climatological applications.
Key words	Snow cover, NDSI, AWiFS, depletion curve, Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna basins.
Security Classification	Unrestricted
Distribution	Among concerned

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4.	NORMALISED DIFFERENCE SNOW INDEX	2
5.	SNOW COVER MONITORING ALGORITHM	3
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1. Introduction

Snow covers almost 40 per cent of the Earth's land surface during Northern Hemisphere winter. This makes albedo and areal extent of snow as important component of the Earth's radiation balance (Foster and Chang, 1993). In addition, large areas in the Himalayas are also covered by snow during winter. Area of snow can change significantly during winter and spring. This can affect stream flow for rivers originating in the higher Himalayas. All the rivers originating from higher Himalayas receive almost 30-50 % of annual flow from snow and glacier melt run off (Agarwal et al., 1983). In addition, snow pack ablation is highly sensitive to climatic variation. Increase in atmospheric temperature can influence snowmelt and stream runoff pattern (Kulkarni et al., 2002). Therefore, mapping of the areal extent and reflectance of snow are important parameter for various climatological and hydrological applications. In addition, extent of snow cover can also be used as input for numerous other applications.

Mapping and monitoring of seasonal snow cover using field methods are normally very difficult in a mountainous terrain, like the Himalayas. Therefore, remote sensing techniques have been extensively used for snow cover monitoring. Snow cover monitoring using satellite images were started by using the TIROS-1 satellite from April 1960 (Singer and Popham 1963). Since then, the potential for operational satellite-based mapping has been enhanced by the development of higher temporal frequency and satellite sensors with higher spatial resolution. In addition, satellites with better radiometric resolutions, such as NOAA have been used successfully for snow mapping (Hall et al., 1995). This is possibly due to the distinct spectral reflectance characteristics of snow in visible and near infrared regions. India has launched series of Indian Remote Sensing satellite (IRS) to study the different earth resources. Previously launched satellites have flown with many sensors having different spatial, temporal and spectral resolutions. Recently launched RESOURCESAT-1 satellite has three different sensors namely LISS III, LISS IV & AWiFS with different spatial, temporal and spectral resolutions as desired for different applications. AWiFS (Advanced Wide Field Sensor) is an advanced version of earlier Indian satellite sensor WiFS (Wide Field Sensor) with improved spectral and spatial resolutions maintaining the same repetivity. There are a series of other polar orbiting satellites, like Landsat, NOAA and MODIS etc., which have provided information on different aspects of snow. Geo-stationary satellites also proved their utility in mapping/monitoring the snow-covered regions. Information generated from satellite observations has been extensively used for snowmelt runoff modeling (Kulkarni et al., 1997).

2. Study Area:

This Atlas gives distribution of snow cover in three subbasins of the Ganga basin. These are Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna sub basins. Locations of these basins are shown in Figure 1.

3. Data used:

AWiFS data from October 2009 to June 2010 were used in this study.

4. Normalised Difference Snow Index (NDSI):

In general, the reflectance of snow is high at the red end of the visible spectrum. It tends to decline in the near-infrared region until 1090 nm, where slight gain in reflectance occurs and gives a minor peak at approximately 1090 to 1100 nm. One of the important difficulties in snow cover monitoring is the presence of cloud cover. Cloud has strong reflectivity in visible, NIR and SWIR regions while snow absorbs in SWIR, and this difference can be utilized for snow/cloud discrimination. Normalized Difference Snow Index (NDSI) utilize the normalized ratio of green and SWIR and is used as an automated approach for snow mapping addressing the shadow and cloud problems in snow bound areas.

Normalized Difference Snow Index was calculated using the ratio of green wavelength (band 2) and SWIR (band 5) of AWiFS sensor:

Normalized Difference Snow Index(NDSI) = (band 2 - band 5)/(band 2 + band 5) ...(1)

To estimate NDSI, DN numbers were converted into reflectance. This involves conversion of digital numbers into the radiance values, known as sensor calibration, and then estimation of

reflectance from these radiance values. Various parameters needed for estimating spectral reflectance are maximum and minimum radiances and mean solar exo-atmospheric spectral irradiances in the satellite sensor bands, satellite data acquisition time, solar declination, solar zenith and solar azimuth angles, mean Earth-Sun distance etc. (Markham and Barker, 1987; Srinivasulu and Kulkarni, 2004).

5. Snow cover monitoring algorithm

An algorithm is developed to provide changes in the areal extent of snow (Kulkarni et. al., 2006). Snow extent is estimated at an interval of 5-days and 10-days, depending upon availabilities of AWiFS data. In 5-daily product, snow extent is generated scene-wise. In this product, snow and cloud extents are given. Estimate of cloud is important because, at times, snow is covered by cloud and this may be classified as non-snow area, leading to erroneous conclusions. In 10-daily product, three scenes are analyzed, if available. For example, 10 March product data of 5, 10 and 15 March was used. If any pixel is identified as snow on any one date then this pixel will be classified as snow on final product. This provides snow cover at an interval of 10 days, an important requirement in hydrological applications. Therefore, this product is generated basinwise. Since this product is using three scenes, probability becomes high that at least in one scene, pixel may be cloud-free and this helps in overcoming problem associated with snow under cloud cover. If three consecutive scenes are not available, then all available scenes in 10 days window was used in the analysis. Differentiation between water and snow is difficult using NDSI image. In addition, separation of snow and water pixels is also difficult based on reflectance due to mountain shadow. Therefore, in the present algorithm, water bodies are marked in pre-winter season and are masked in the final products during winter. Flow diagram of the algorithm is given in Figure 2.

6. Results and discussions

In this atlas, basin-wise snow cover statistics, maps, and seasonal depletion curves have been provided from October 2009 to June 2010. Snow ablation pattern varies from basin to basin, depending on area altitude distribution in the basins. In the Yamuna river basin, this includes Tons, shows accumulation and ablation of snow throughout the winter season. For example on February 05, 2010, 81 percent area was covered by seasonal snow. This was reduced to 37 percent by March 05, 2010. Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda sub-basins also shows accumulation and ablation of snow throughout the winter season and snow depletion pattern are similar.

Acknowledgements

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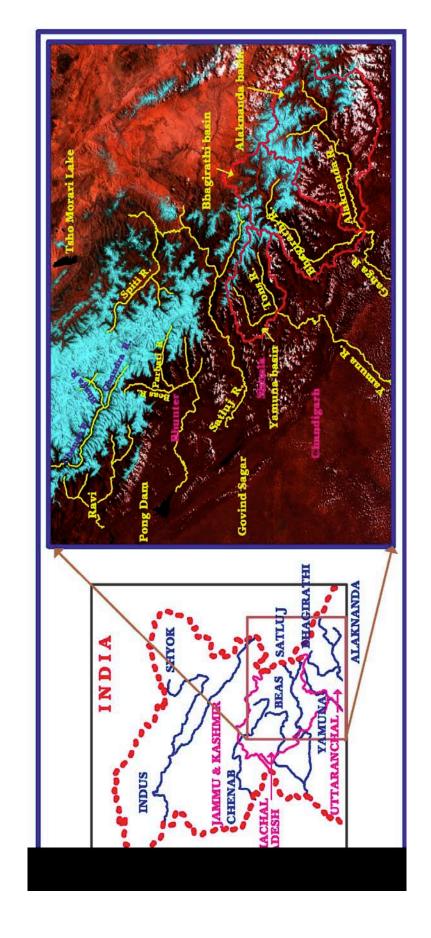


Figure 1: Location map of Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and Yamuna sub-basins (Part of Ganga basin)

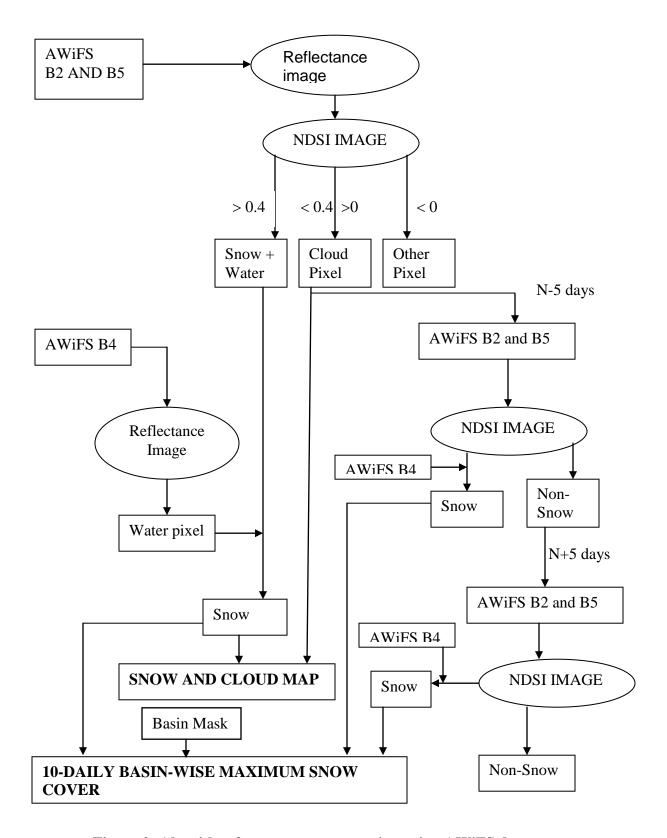


Figure 2: Algorithm for snow cover mapping using AWiFS data

ALAKNANDA BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: ALAKNANDA

BASIN AREA: 11090 sq km

S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover		
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)		
October 2009									
1	04-Oct-09	1362	12	3	14-Oct-09	2987	27		
2	09-Oct-09	3253	29	4	28-Oct-09	2625	27		
			Novemb	er 2009					
5	2-Nov-09	2603	23	8	16-Nov-09	4298	39		
6	07-Nov-09	2573	27	9	21-Nov-09	3846	35		
7	11-Nov-09	3782	34	10	26-Nov-09	3406	31		
			Decemb	er 2009					
11	1-Dec-09	3444	31	14	20-Dec-09	3281	30		
12	05-Dec-09	3073	28	15	25-Dec-09	3956	36		
13	10-Dec-09	6074	55	16	29-Dec-09	3273	30		
	,		Januai	ry 2010					
17	8-Jan-10	4085	37	19	27-Jan-10	3668	33		
18	13-Jan-10	4219	38						
			Februa	ry 2010					
20	06-Feb-10	3704	33	22	11-Feb-10	4458	40		
21	10-Feb-10	7167	66						
			Marcl	h 2010					
23	2-Mar-10	5100	46	24	6-Mar-10	4995	45		
				2010					
25	04-Apr-10	3231	33	26	19-Apr-10	5983	54		
		_	May	2010					
27	08-May-10	2894	26	28	22-May-10	2826	25		
				2010					
29	01-Jun-10	1625		31	11-Jun-10	2573	23		
30	06-Jun-10	2148	19						

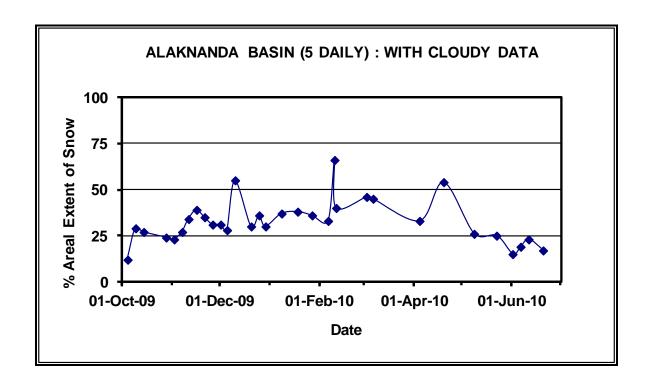
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

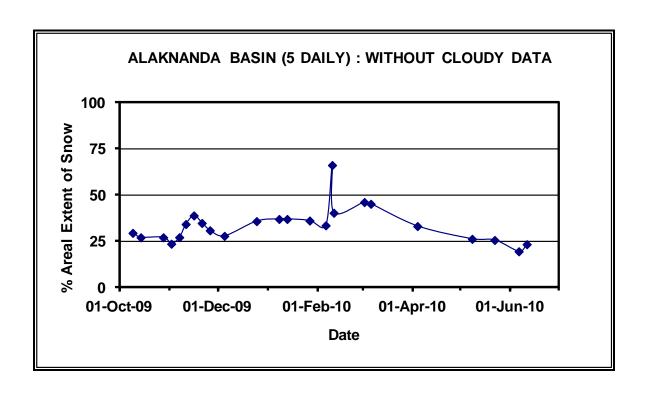
BASIN AREA: 11090 Sq km

BASIN NAME: ALALNANDA

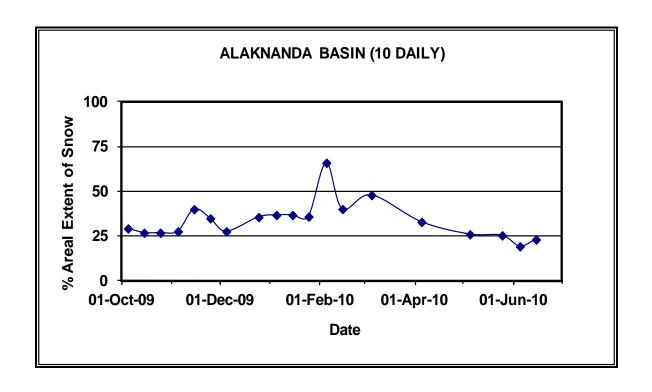
S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)
October 2009			November 2009				
1	9-Oct-09	3253	29	3	2-Nov-09	3073	28
2	14-Oct-09	2987	27	5	11-Nov-09	4448	40
				7	21-Nov-09	3886	35
	Dece	mber 2009		January 2010			
9	5-Dec-09	3073	28	11	8-Jan-10	4085	37
10	25-Dec-09	3956	36				
	February 2010			March 2010			
12	6-Feb-10	7319	66	14	2-Mar-10	5304	48
13	11-Feb-10	4458	40				
	April 2010 May 2010						
16	4-Apr-10	3660	33	17	8-May-10	2894	26
				18	22-May-10	2826	25
June 2010							
19	6-Jun-10	2148	19				
20	11-Jun-10	2573	23				

Snow cover depletion curve

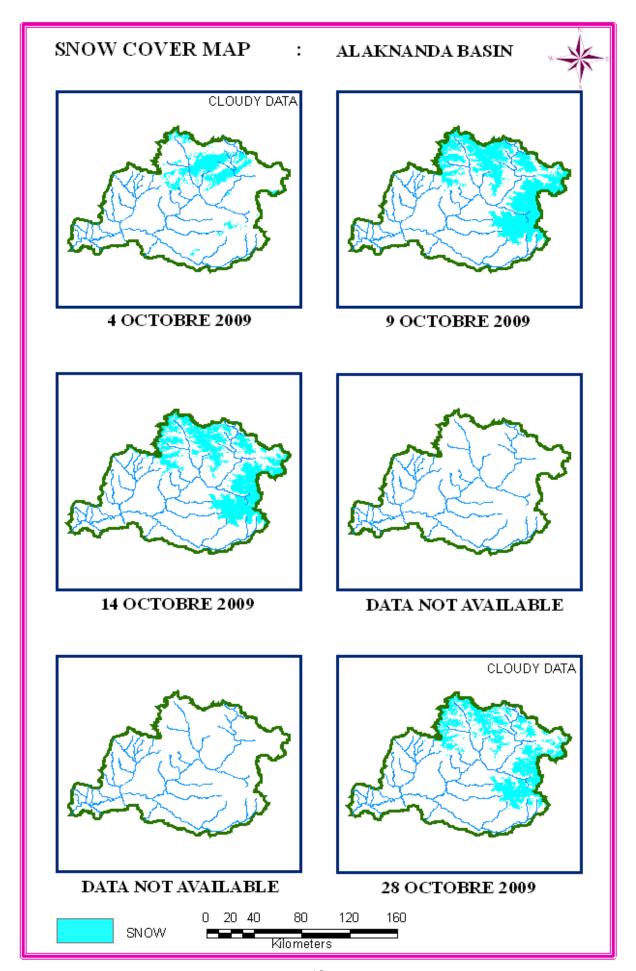


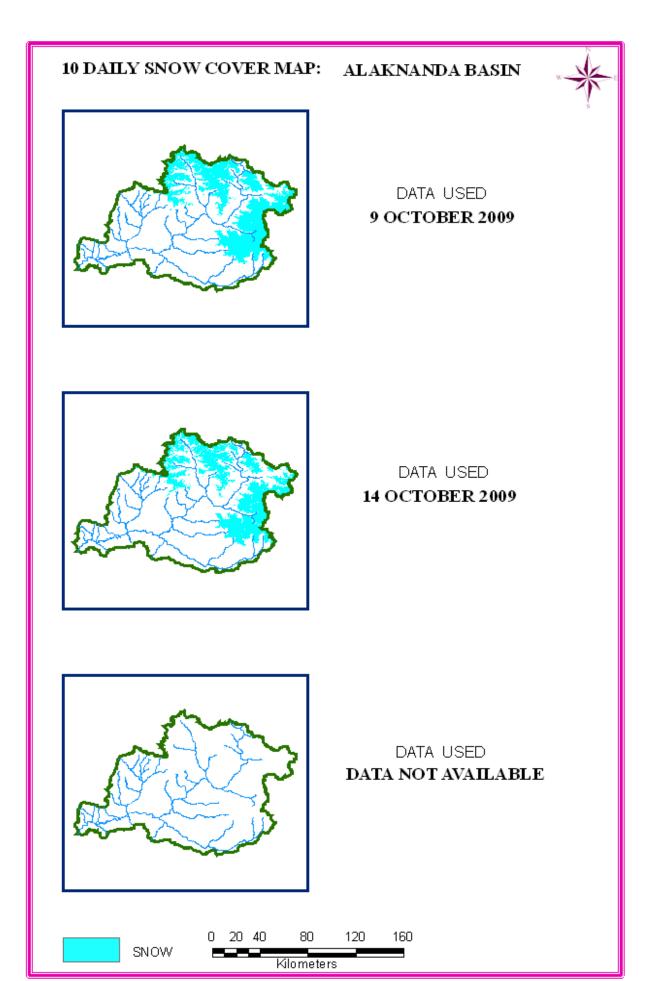


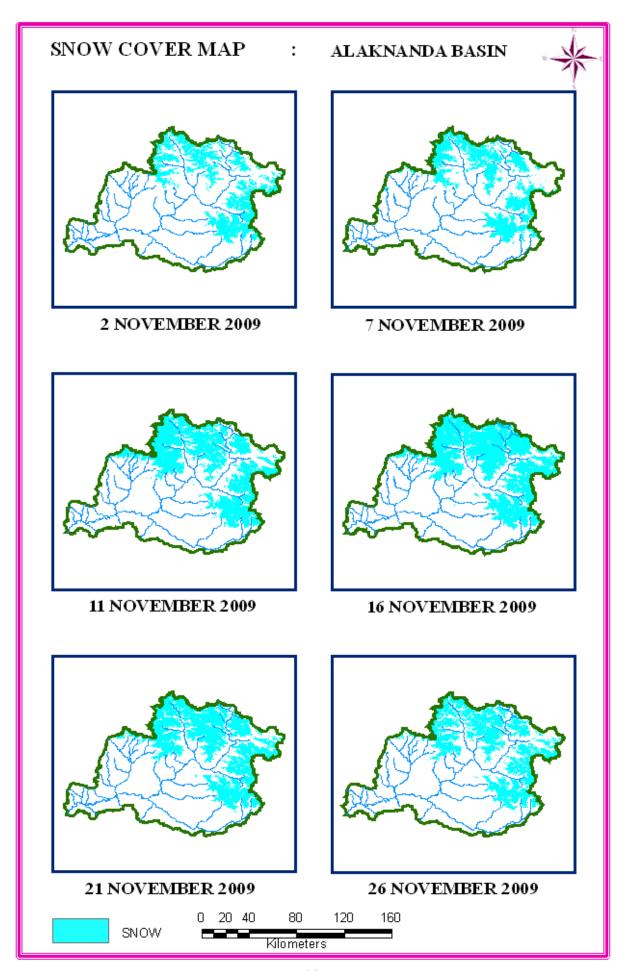
Snow cover depletion curve



SNOW COVER MAP

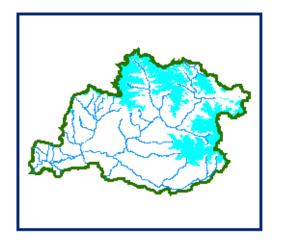




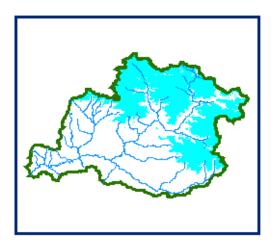








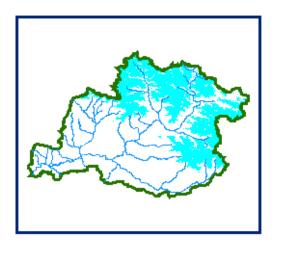
DATA USED
2 NOVEMBER 2009
7 NOVEMBER 2009



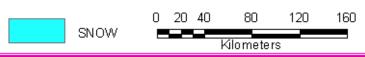
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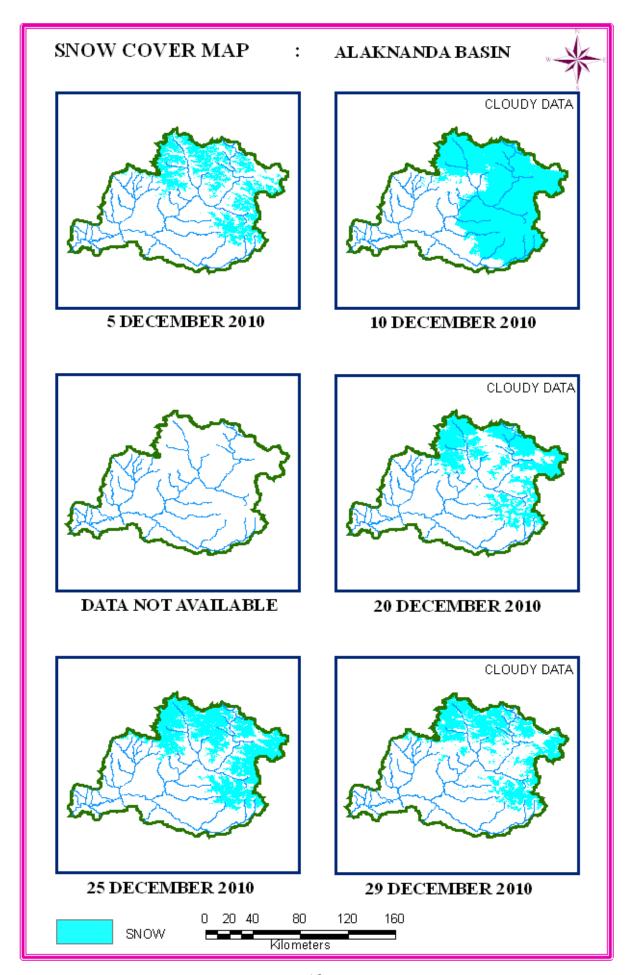
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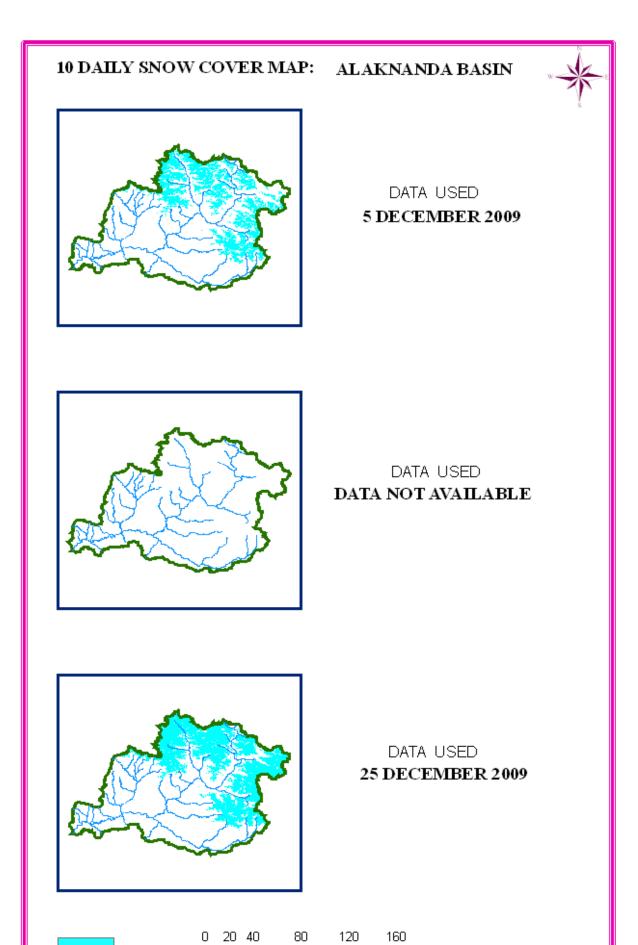
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DATA USED
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26 NOVEMBER 2009

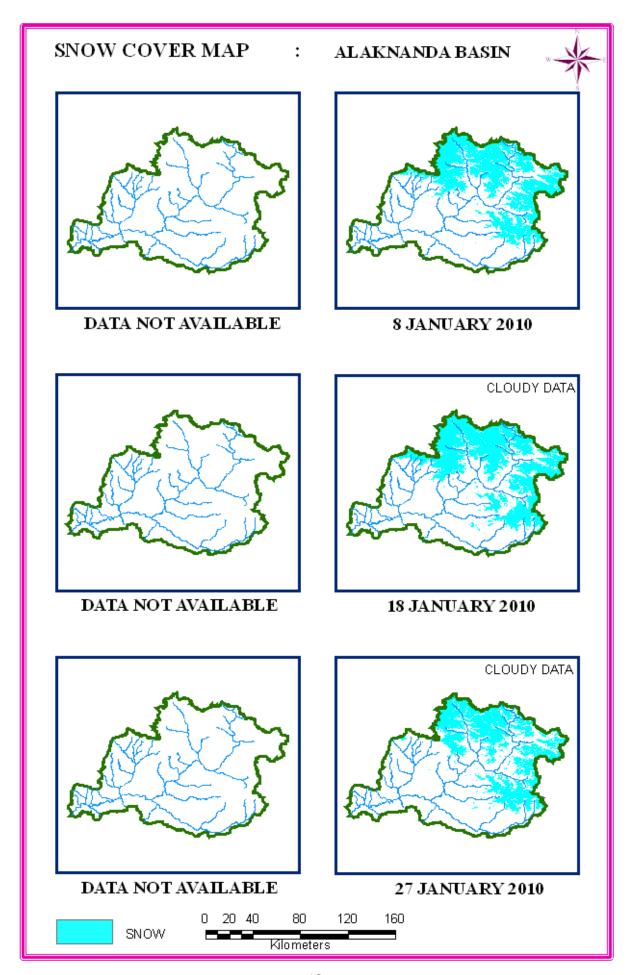






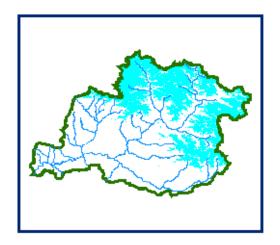
Kilometers

SNOW

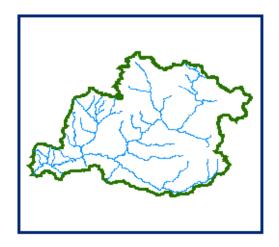








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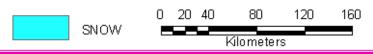


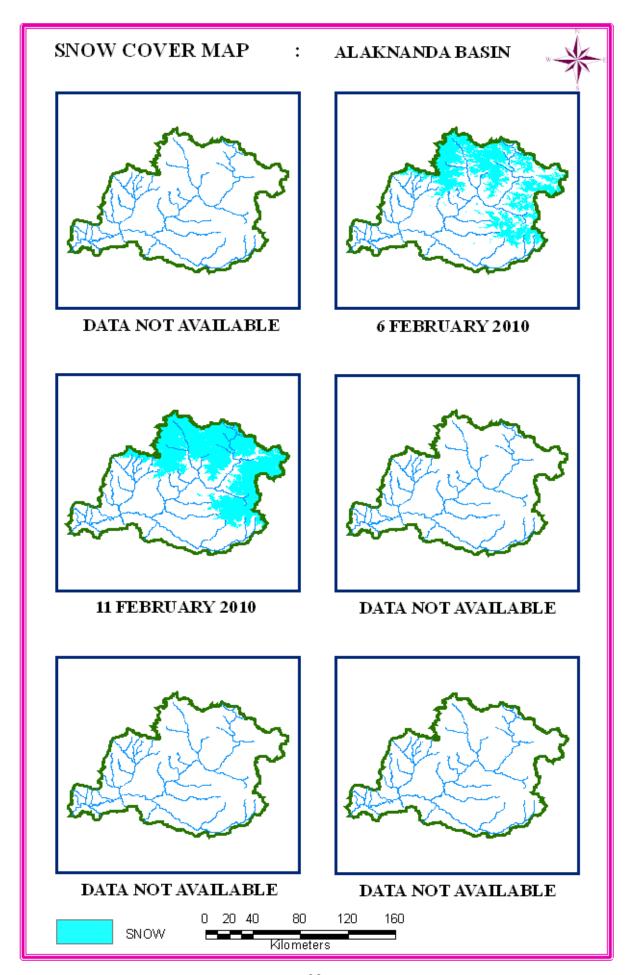
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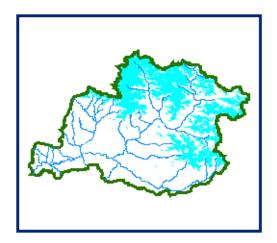
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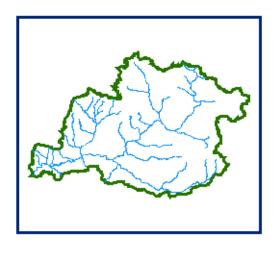




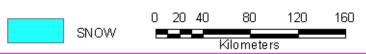
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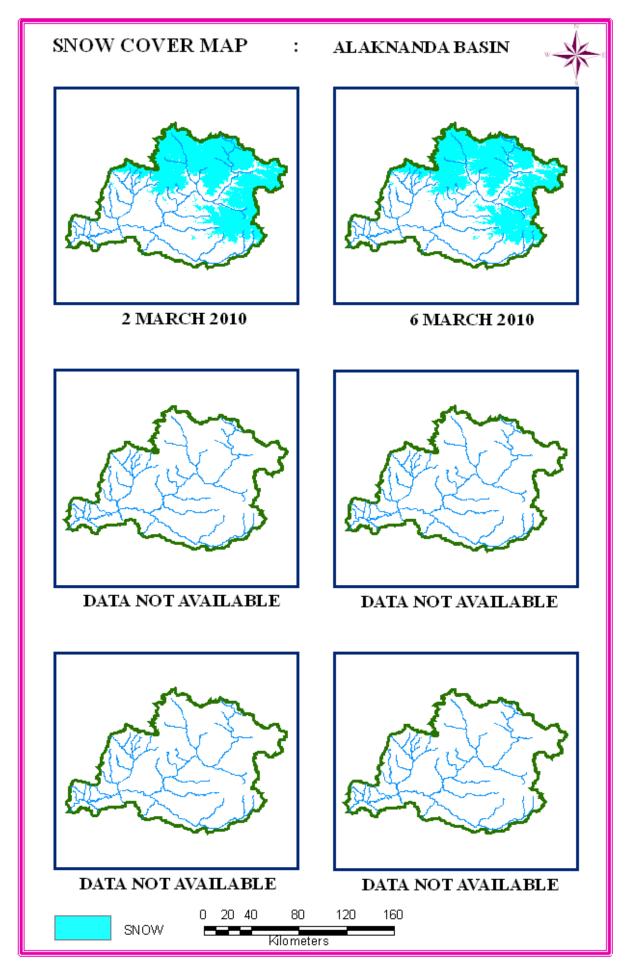


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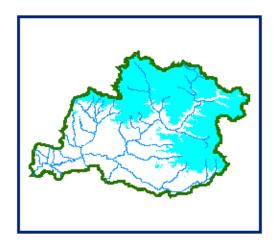
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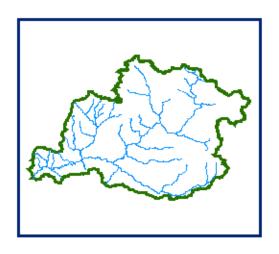
10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: ZASKER BASIN



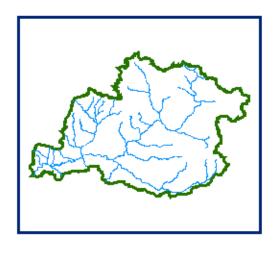


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2 MARCH 2010 6 MARCH 2010



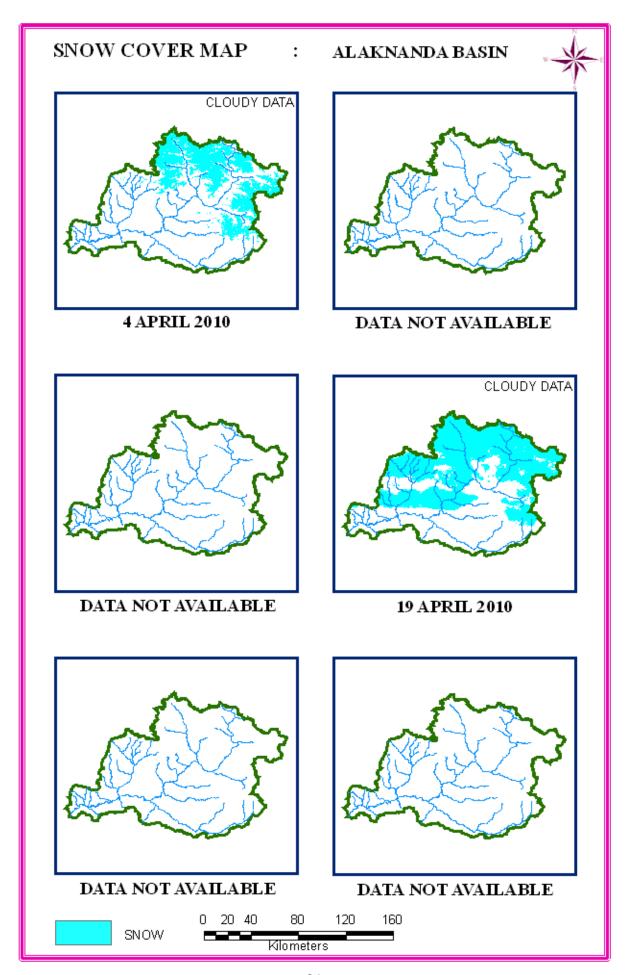
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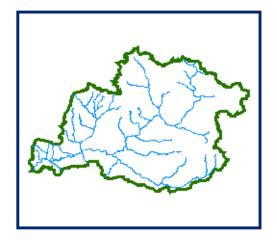
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0 20 40 80 120 160 SNOW Kilometers









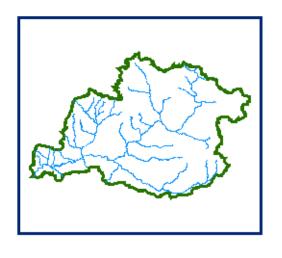
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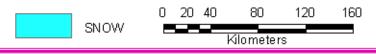


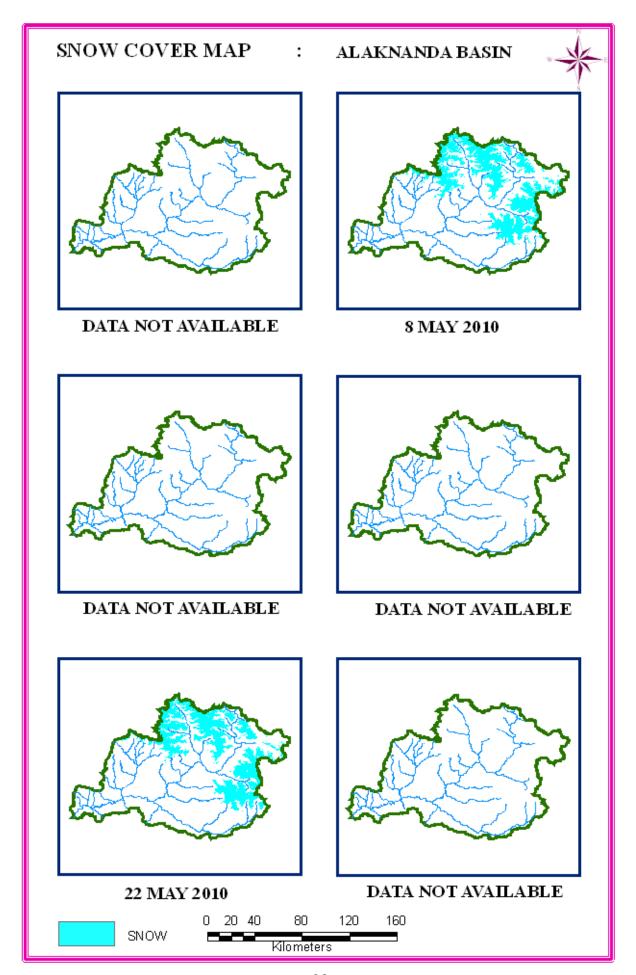
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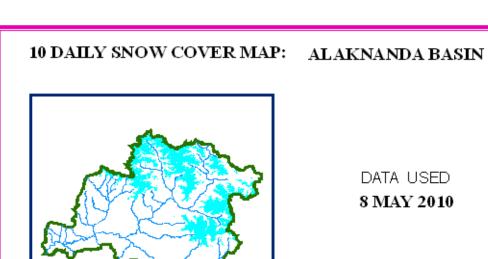
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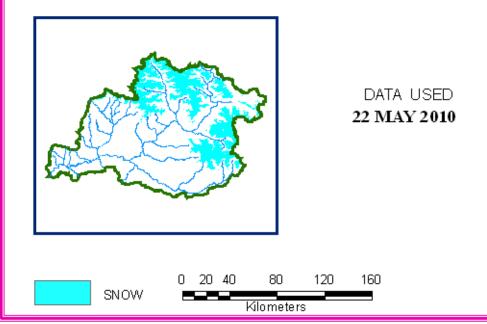


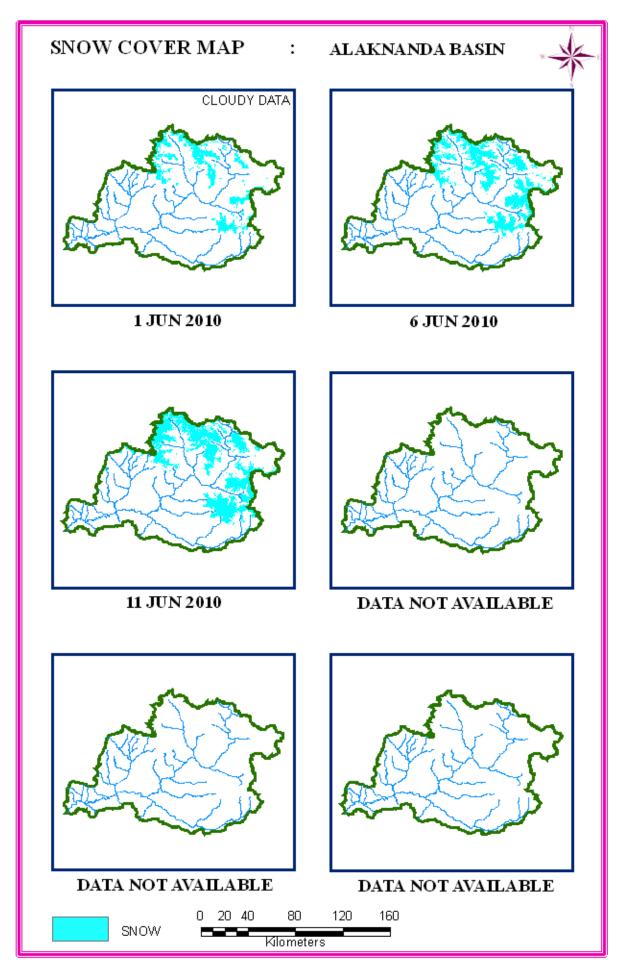


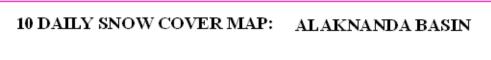




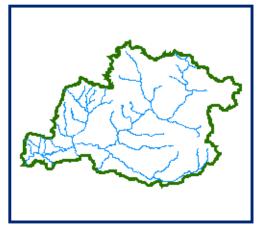
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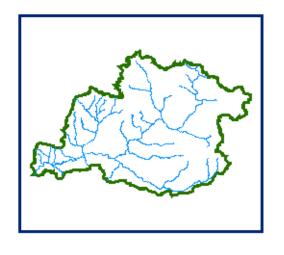
DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA USED **DATA NOT AVAILABLE**

0 20 40 80 120 160
SNOW Kilometers

BHAGIRATHI BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN NAME: BHAGIRATHI

BASIN AREA: 7438 sq km

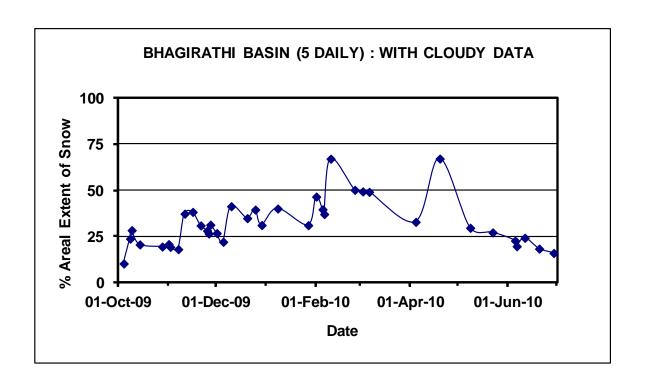
S. No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover		
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)		
October 2009									
1	04-Oct-09	763	10	4	14-Oct-09	1530	21		
2	8-Oct-09	1764	24	5	28-Oct-09	1444	19		
3	09-Oct-09	2105	28						
November 2009									
6	01-Nov-09	1543	21	11	21-Nov-09	2296	31		
7	02-Nov-09	1432	19	12	25-Nov-09	2086	28		
8	07-Nov-09	1340	18	13	26-Nov-09	1971	26		
9	11-Nov-09	2769	37	14	27-Non-10	2325	31		
10	16-Non-09	2841	38						
December 2009									
15	1-Dec-09	1988	27	18	20-Dec-09	2590	35		
16	05-Dec-09	1637	22	19	25-Dec-09	2934	39		
17	10-Dec-09	3069	41	20	29-Dec-09	2311	31		
			Januar	y 2010					
21	08-Jan-10	2976	40						
			Februa	ry 2010					
22	01-Feb-11	3457	46	25	10-Feb-10	4393	59		
23	5-Feb-10	2945	40	26	25-Feb11	3729	50		
24	6-Feb101	2755	37						
			Marcl	1 2010					
27	02-Mar-10	3667	49	28	06-Mar-10	3648	49		
	ı	1	April	2010	1	1			
29	04-Apr-10	2440	33	30	19-Apr-10	4989	67		
May 2010									
31	08-May-10	2201	30						
32	22-May-10	2015	27						
June 2010									
33	5-Jun-10	1685	23	37	20-Jun-10	1360	18		
34	06-Jun-10	1459	20	38	29-Jun-10	1185	16		
35	11-Jun-10	1797	24						

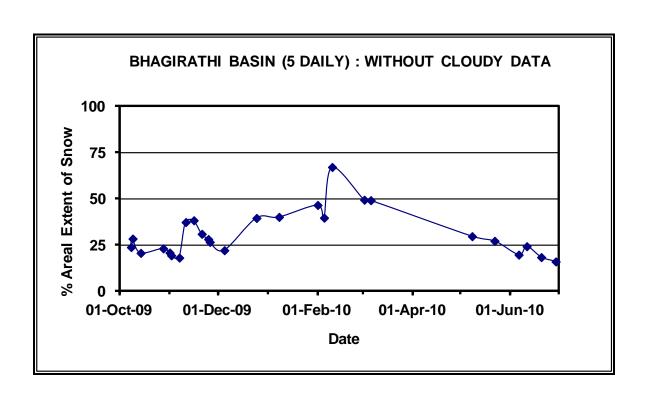
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

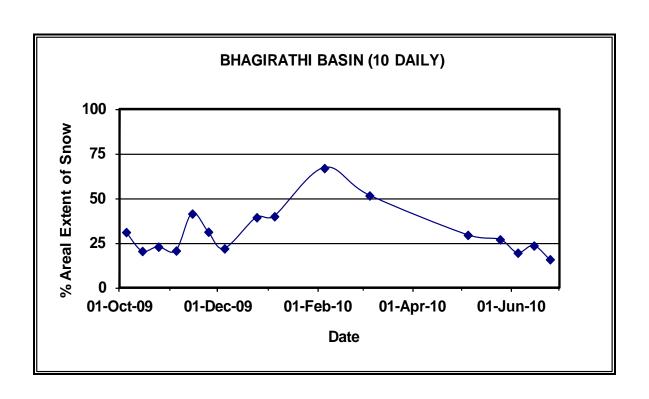
BASIN NAME: BHAGIRATHI

BASIN AREA: 7438 Sq km

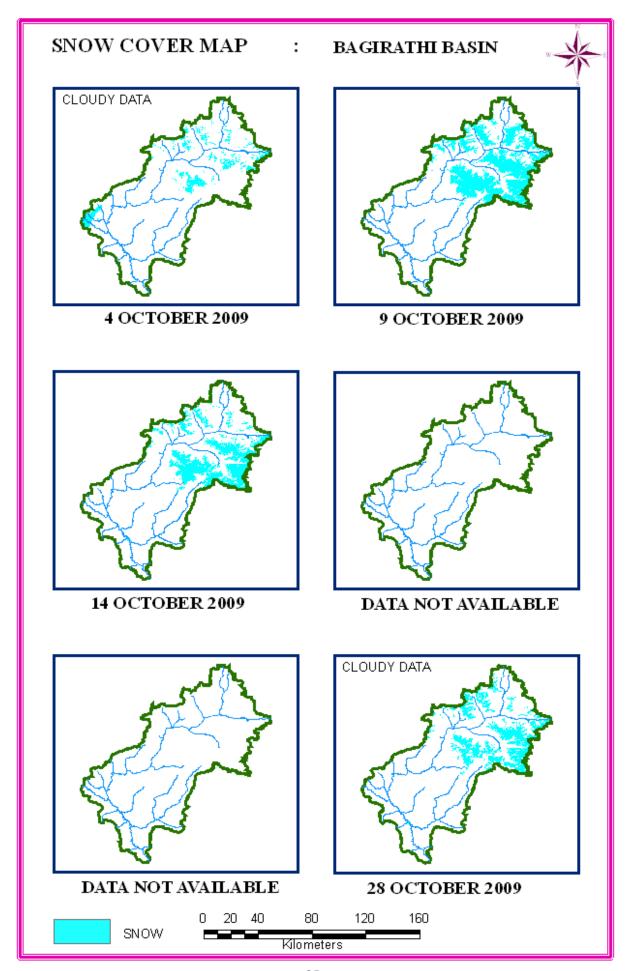
S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)	S No	Date	Snow cover (sq km)	Snow cover (%)		
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1	9-Oct-09	2319	31	3	7-Nov-09	1547.68	21		
2	14-Oct-09	1530	21	4	16-Nov-09	3087.92	42		
				5	25-Nov-09	2332.68	31		
	December 2009				January 2010				
6	5-Dec-09	1637	22	8	8-Jan-10	2976	40		
7	25-Dec-09	2934	39						
	Febr	 uary 2010		March 2010					
9	5-Feb-10	2944.87	40	10	2-Mar-10	3842	52		
April 2010				May 2010					
				11	8-May-10	2200.61	30		
				12	22-May-10	2014.50	27		
June 2010									
13	6-Jun-10	1458.62	20	14	11-Jun-10	1756.77	24		





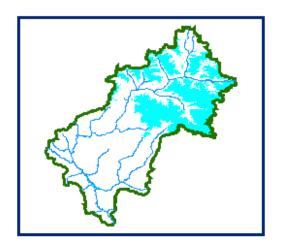


SNOW COVER MAP









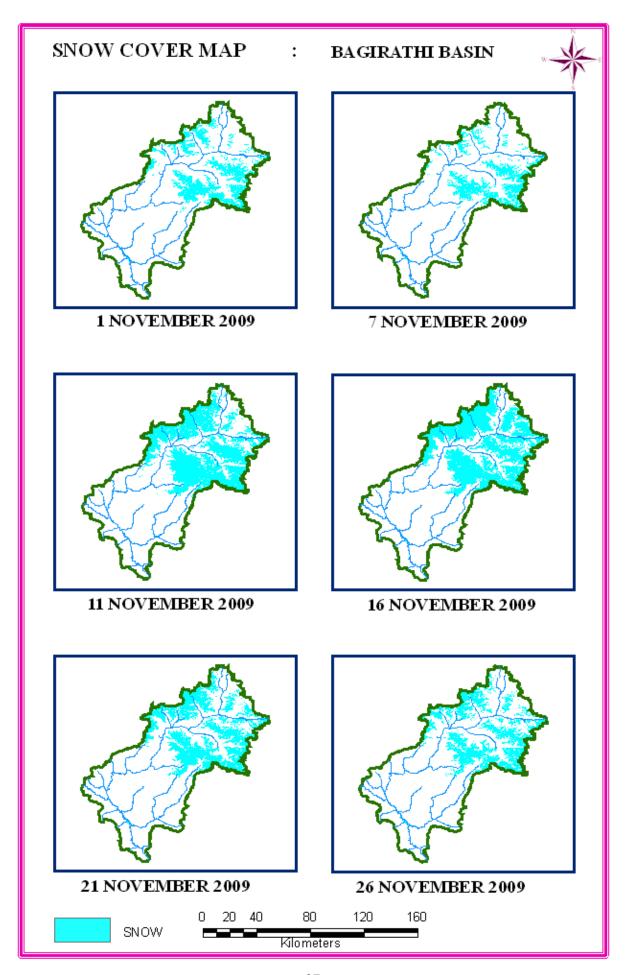
DATA USED
8 OCTOBER 2009
9 OCTOBER 2009



DATA USED
14 OCTOBER 2009







10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: ZASKER BASIN





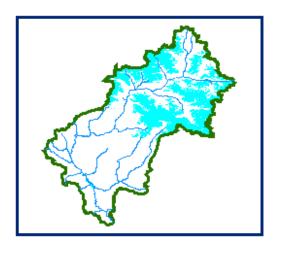
DATA USED

1 NOVEMBER 2009 2 NOVEMBER 2009 7 NOVEMBER 2009



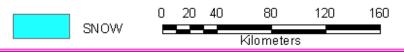
DATA USED

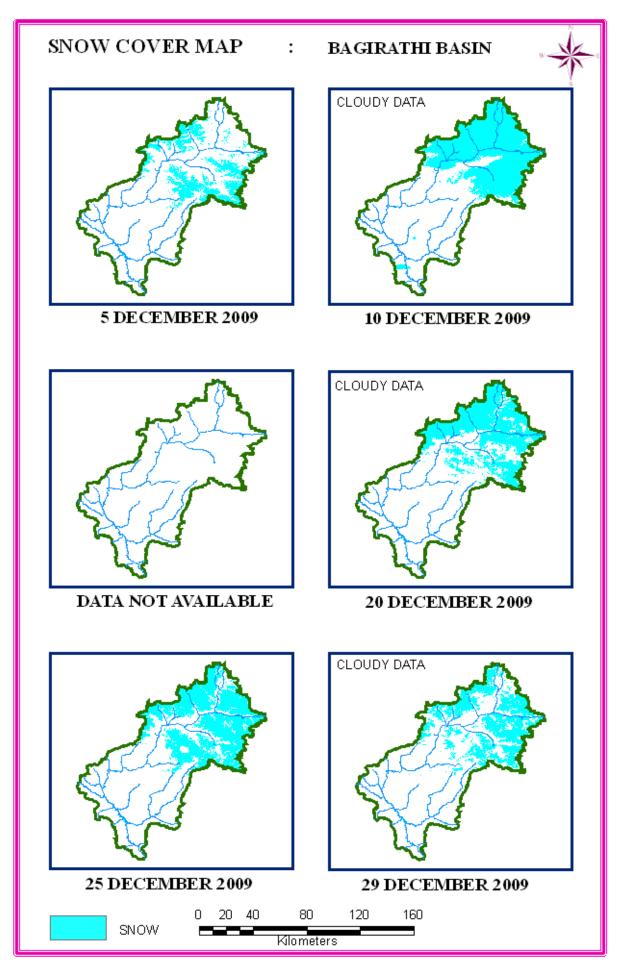
11 NOVEMBER 2009 16 NOVEMBER 2009



DATA USED

21 NOVEMBER 2009 25 NOVEMBER 2009 26 NOVEMBER 2009











DATA USED **5 DECEMBER 2009**



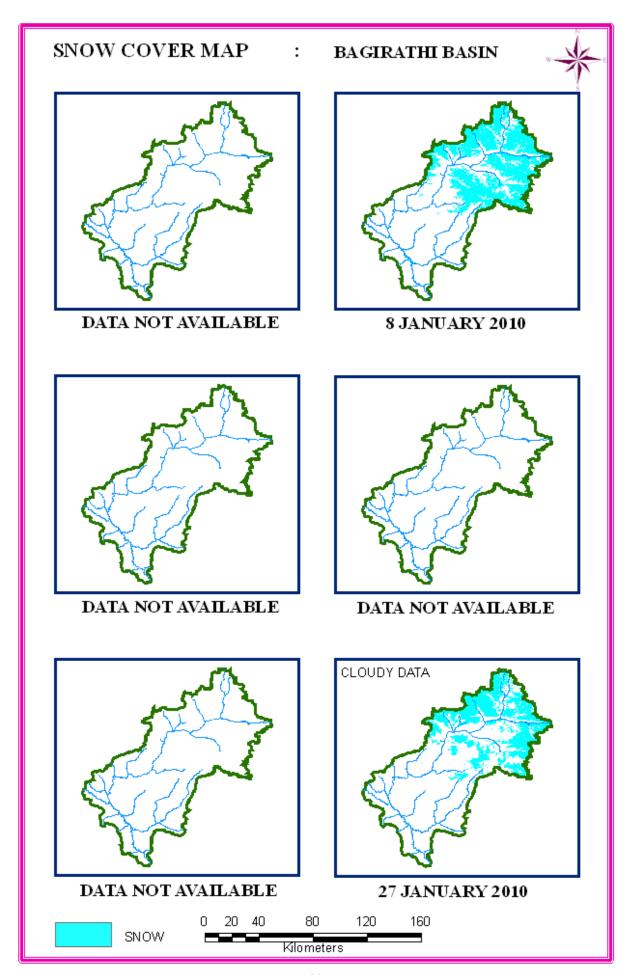
DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA USED
25 DECEMBER 2009



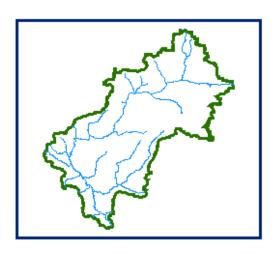






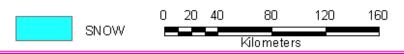


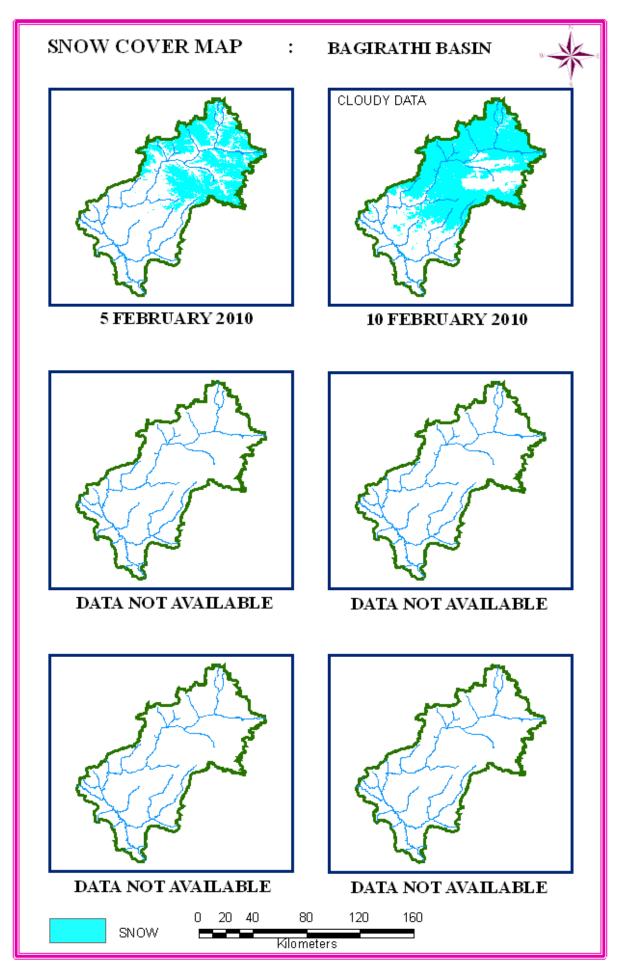
DATA USED 8 JANUARY 2010



DATA USED **DATA NOT AVAILABLE**







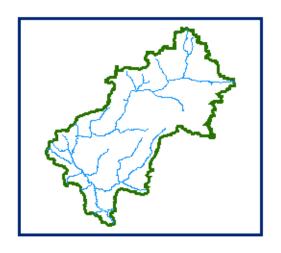






DATA USED

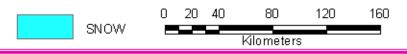
1 FEBRUARY 2010 5 FEBRUARY 2010

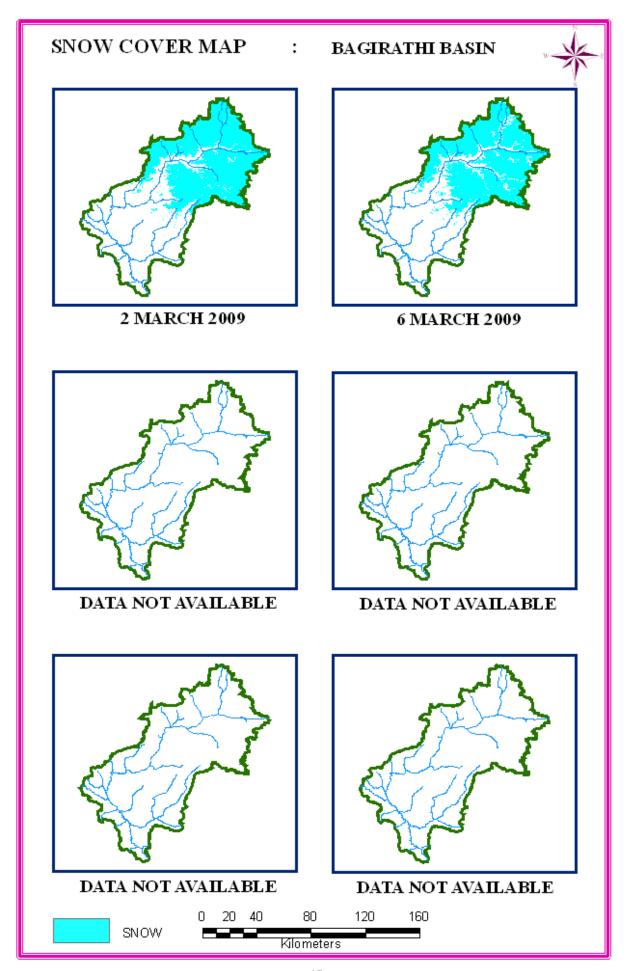


DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE











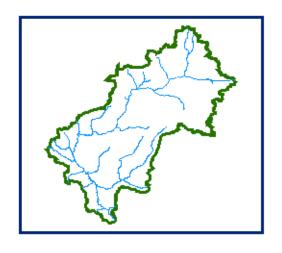


DATA USED
2 MARCH 2010
6 MARCH 2010

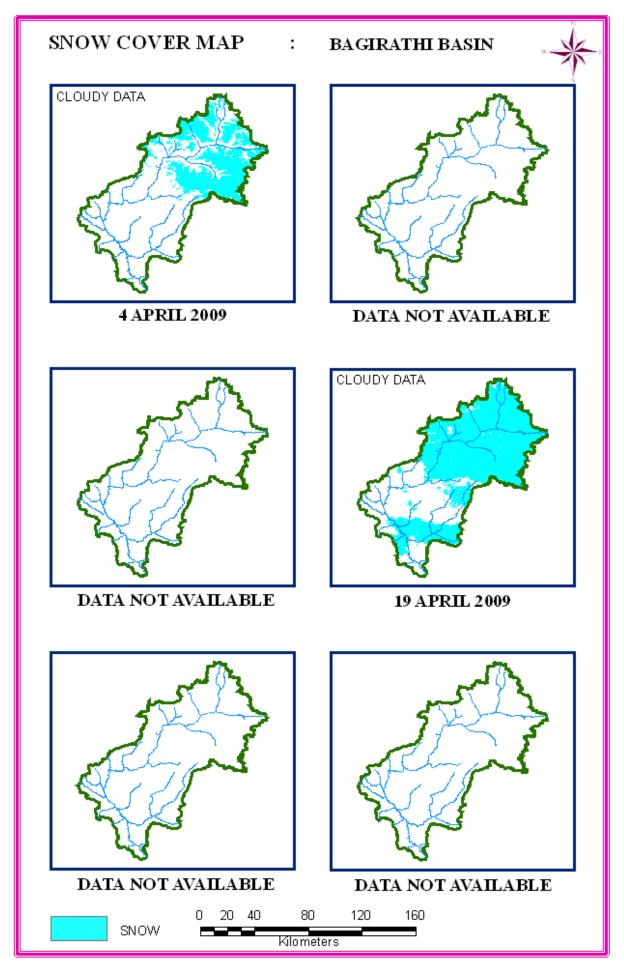


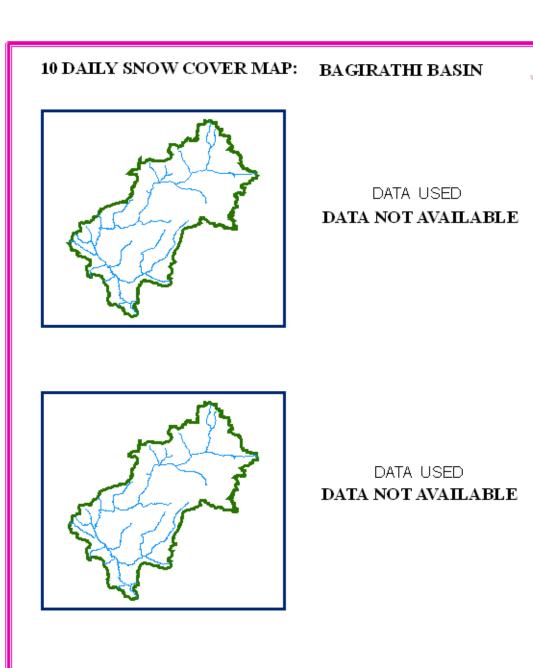
DATA USED

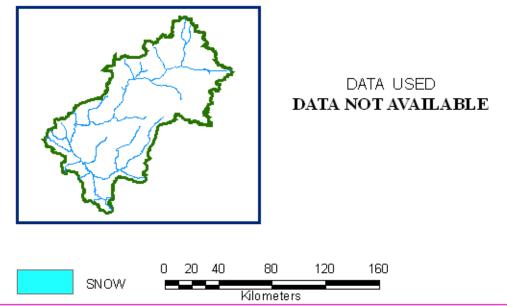
DATA NOT AVAILABLE

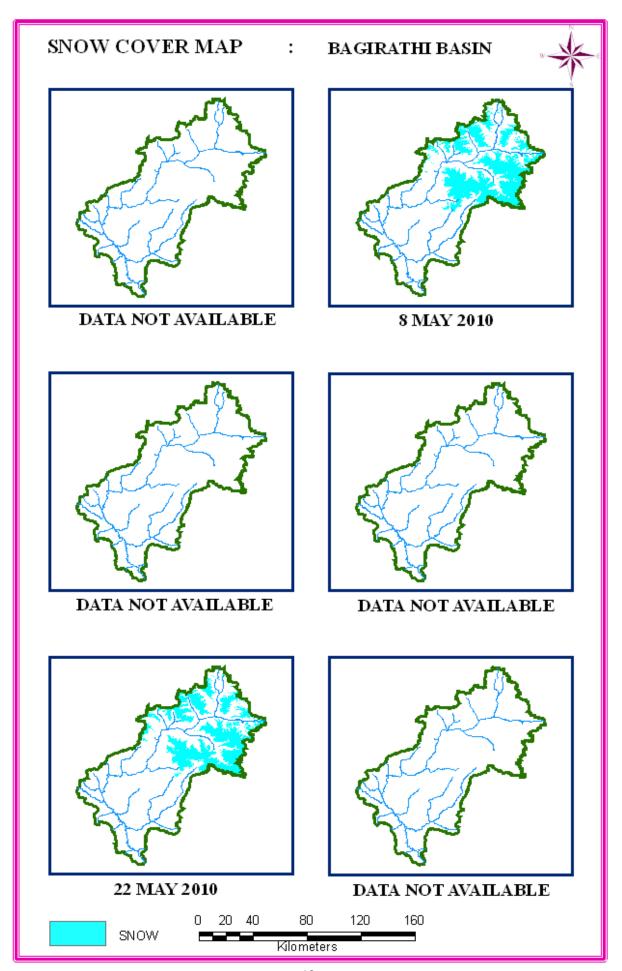






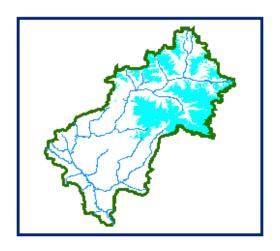






10 DAILY SNOW COVER MAP: BAGIRATHI BASIN



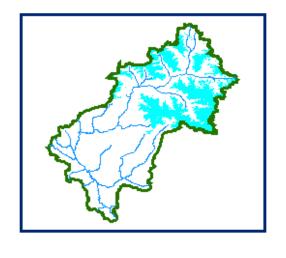


DATA USED 8 MAY 2010

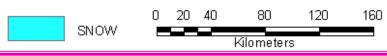


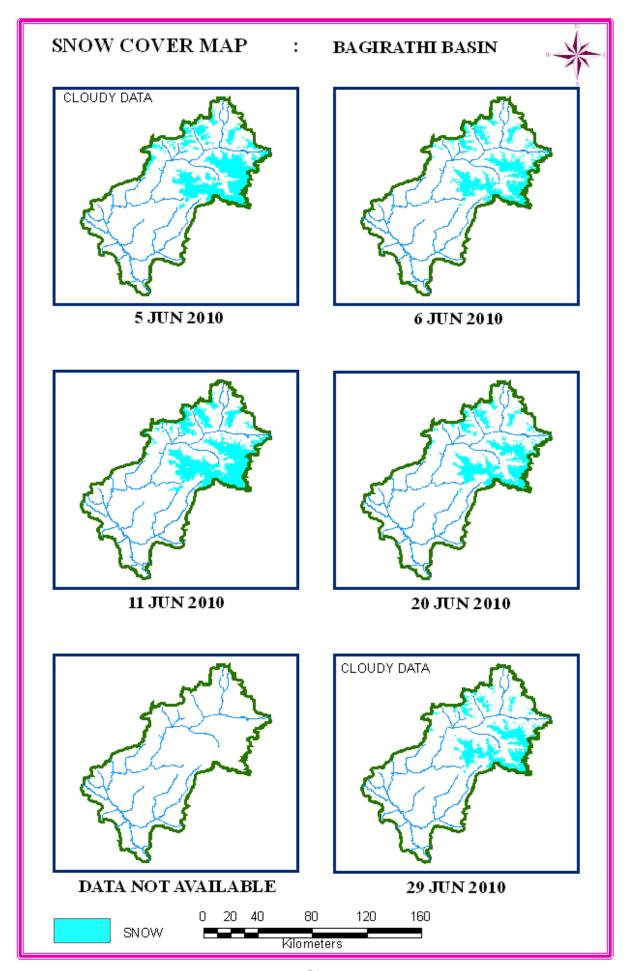
DATA USED

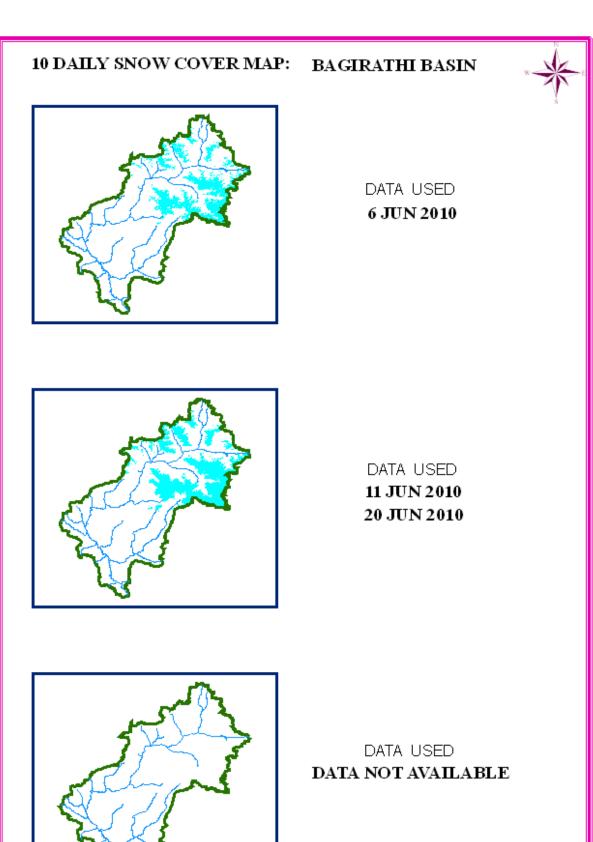
DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA USED 22 MAY 2010







YAMUNA BASIN

AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (5 DAILY)

BASIN AREA: 3527 Sq km

BASIN NAME: YAMUNA

S. No	Date		Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover			
		(sq km)	(%)			(sq km)	(%)			
October 2009										
1	03-Oct-09	144.53	4	4	13-Oct-09	392.28	11			
2	04-Oct-09	236.14	7	5	27-Oct-09	329.22	9			
3	09-Oct-09	681.14	19	6	28-Oct-09	324.09	9			
November 2009										
7	01-Nov-09	346.73	10	12	20-Nov-09	1061.46	30			
8	02-Nov-09	343.23	10	13	21-Nov-09	1011.57	29			
9	06-Nov-09	324.75	9	14	25-Nov-09	916.07	26			
10	11-Nov-09	1481.76	42	15	26-Nov-09	894.19	25			
11	16-Nov-09	1261.53	36	16	30-Nov-09	843.47	24			
December 2009										
17	05-Dec-09	770.00	22	21	20-Dec-09	1626.91	46			
18	10-Dec-09	154.65	4	22	24-Dec-09	1047.80	30			
19	14-Dec-09	143.51	4	23	29-Dec-09	312.15	9			
20	19-Dec-09	1051.39	30							
	January 2010									
24	08-Jan-10	1006.49	29	25	27-Jan-10	875.57	25			
			Februa	ry 2010						
26	05-Feb-10	959.90	27	28	10-Feb-10	2847.81	81			
27	06-Feb-10	651.14	18							
			Marcl	n 2010						
29	02-Mar-10	1236.90	35	30	06-Mar-10	1295.85	37			
April 2010										
31	04-Apr-10	787.41	22	32	09-Apr-10	213.90	6			
May 2010										
33	08-May-10	543.33	15	35	22-May-10	509.68	14			
34	12-May-10	514.32	15	36	31-May-10	463.45	13			
June 2010										
37	01-Jun-10	341.59	10	40	20-Jun-10	316.92	9			
38	05-Jun-10	428.51	12	41	24-Jun-10	202.24	6			
39	06-Jun-10	378.65	11	42	29-Jun-10	244.48	7			

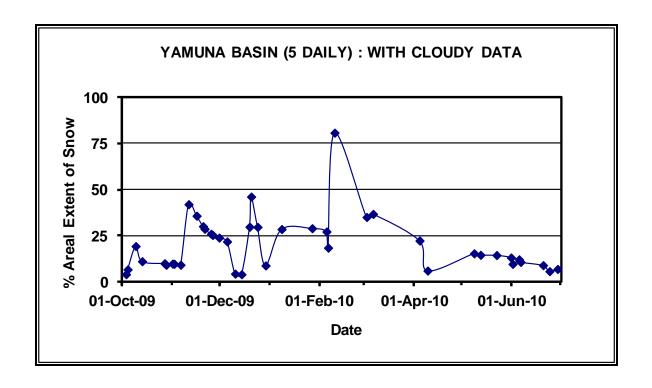
AREAL EXTENT OF SNOW (10 DAILY)

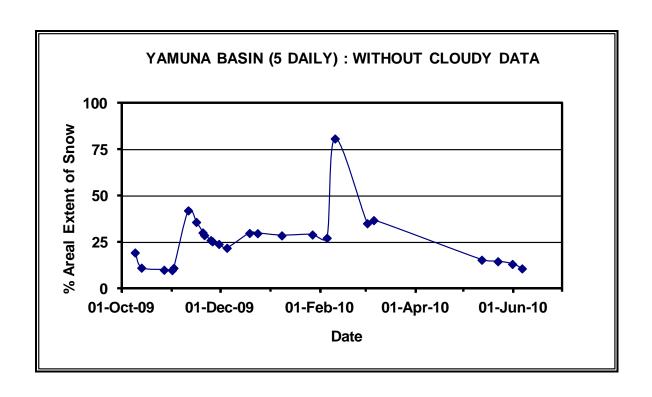
BASIN NAME: YAMUNA

BASIN AREA: 3527 Sq km

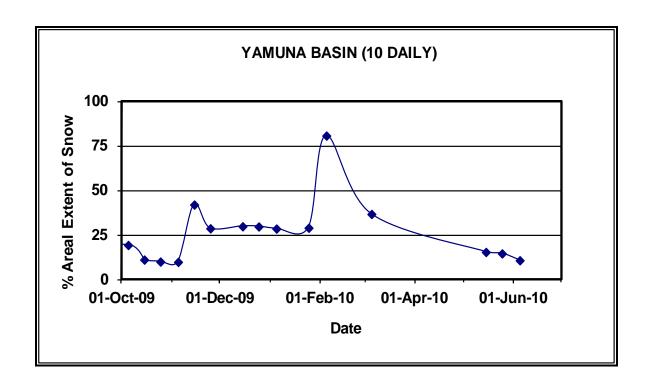
S No	Date	Snow cover	Snow cover	S No	Date		Snow cover (%)		
(sq km) (%) October 2009				(sq km) (%) November 2009					
1	5-Oct-09	681	19	4	2-Nov-09	392.26	10		
2	15-Oct-09	392	11	5	16-Nov-09	1216.90	42		
3	25-Oct-09	353	10	6	25-Nov-09	987.30	29		
	December 2009				January 2010				
7	5-Dec-09	770	22	10	5-Jan-10	1006.49	29		
8	15-Dec-09	1051	30		25-Jan-10		29		
9	25-Dec-09	1048	30						
	February 2010				March 2010				
11	5-Feb-10		81	12	5-Mar-10	1207.84	37		
	Ap	ril 2010		May 2010					
				13	15-May-10	543	15		
				14	25-May-10	529	15		
June 2010									
15	5-Jun-10	378.65	11						

Snow cover depletion curve

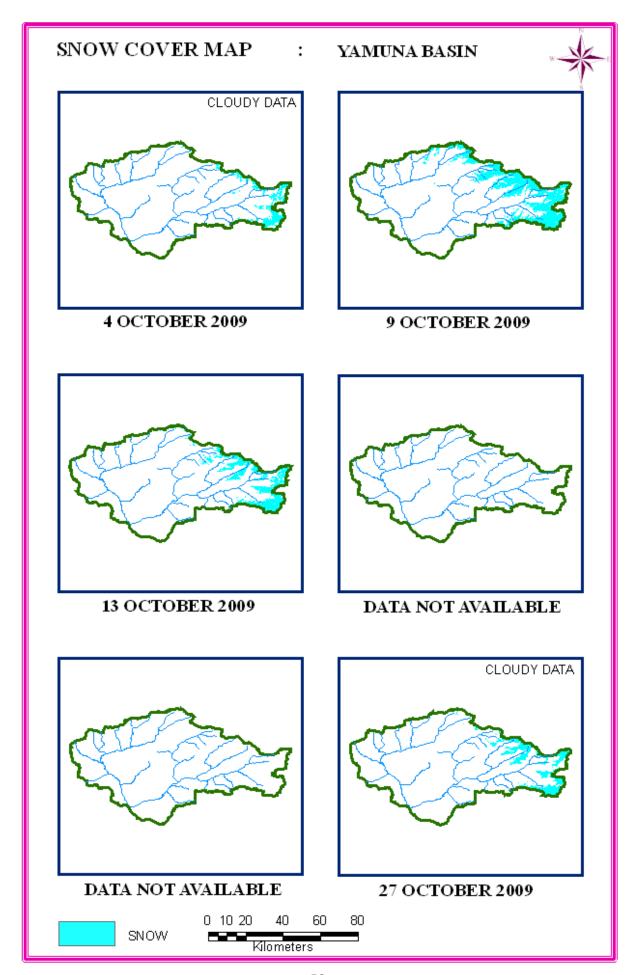




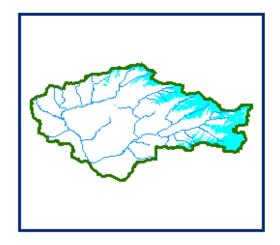
Snow cover depletion curve



SNOW COVER MAP







DATA USED
9 OCTOBER 2009



DATA USED

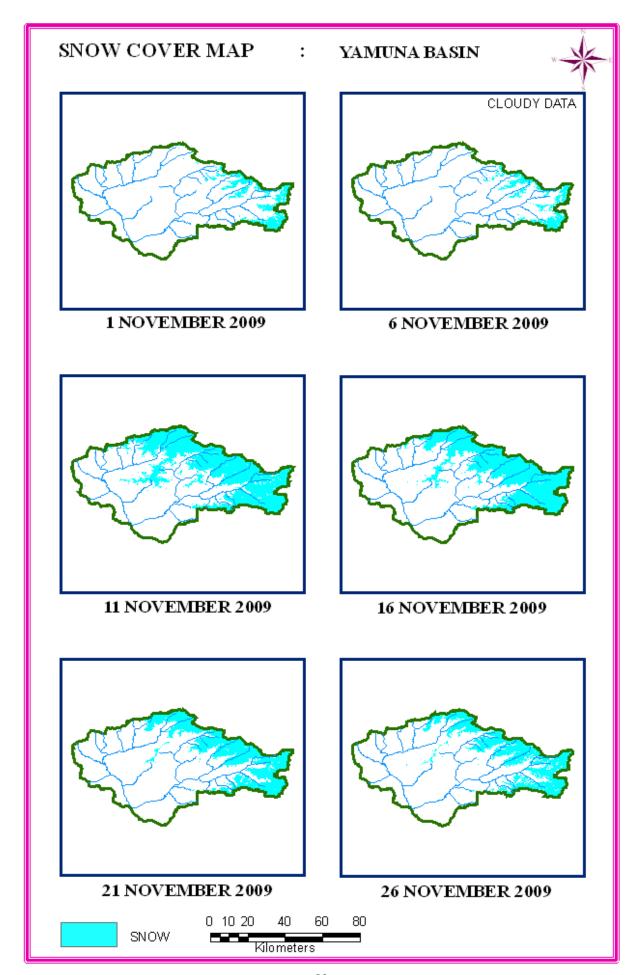
13 OCTOBER 2009



DATA USED **DATA NOT AVAILABLE**



0 10 20 40 60 80 Kilometers







DATA USED

1 NOVEMBER 2009
2 NOVEMBER 2009



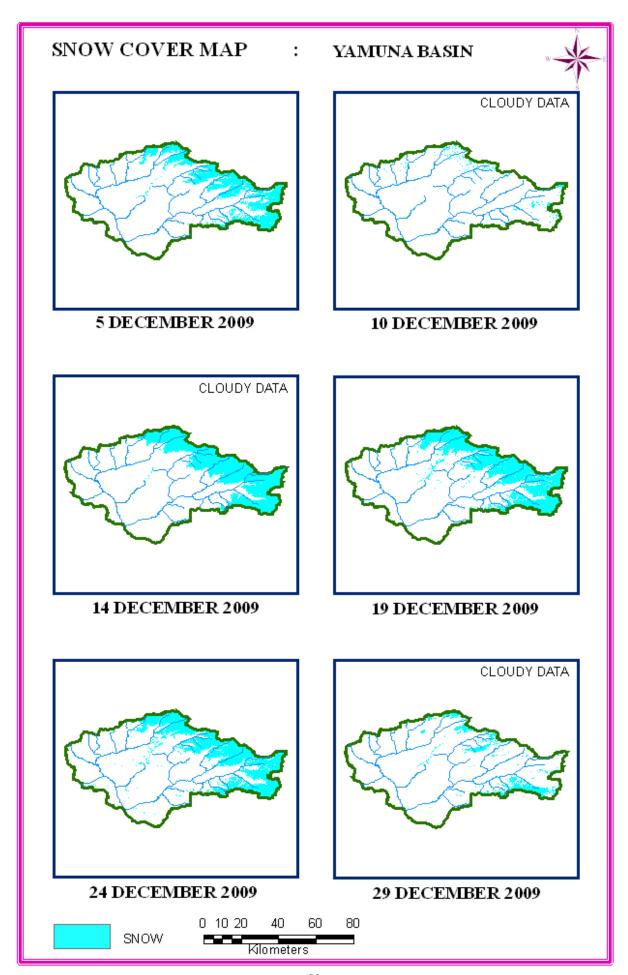
DATA USED
11 NOVEMBER 2009
16 NOVEMBER 2009
20 NOVEMBER 2009

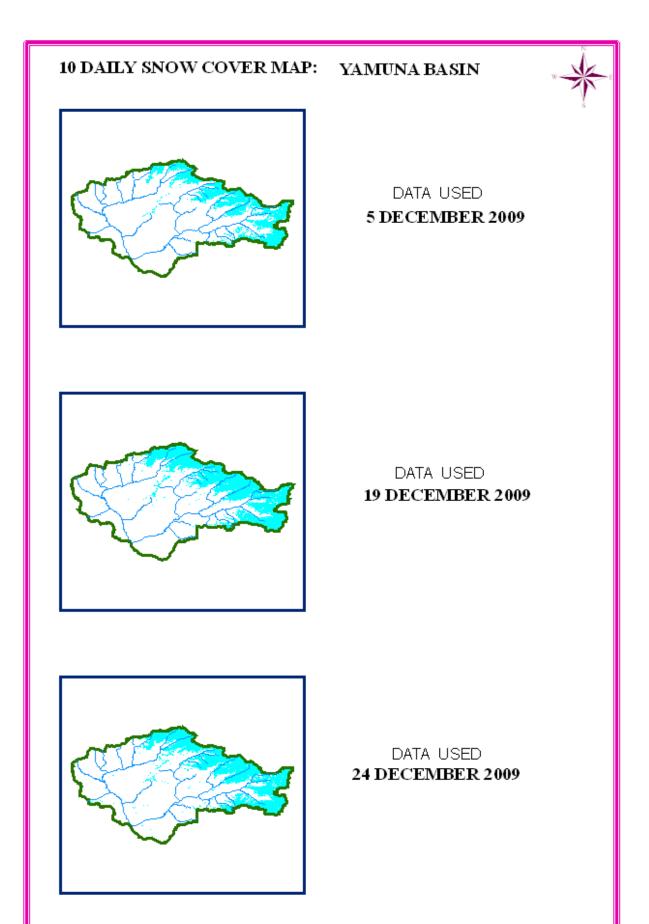


DATA USED
21 NOVEMBER 2009
25 NOVEMBER 2009
26 NOVEMBER 2009

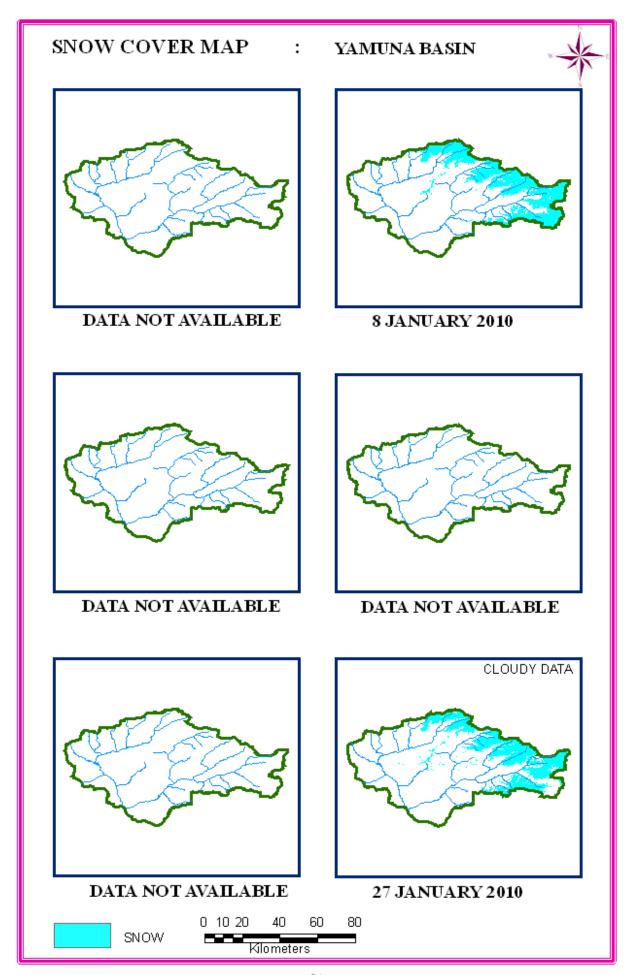


0 10 20 40 60 80 Kilometers





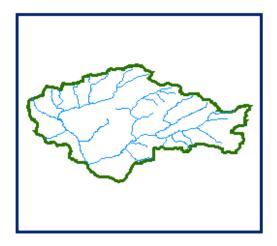






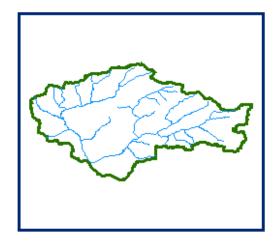


DATA USED 8 JANUARY 2010



DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

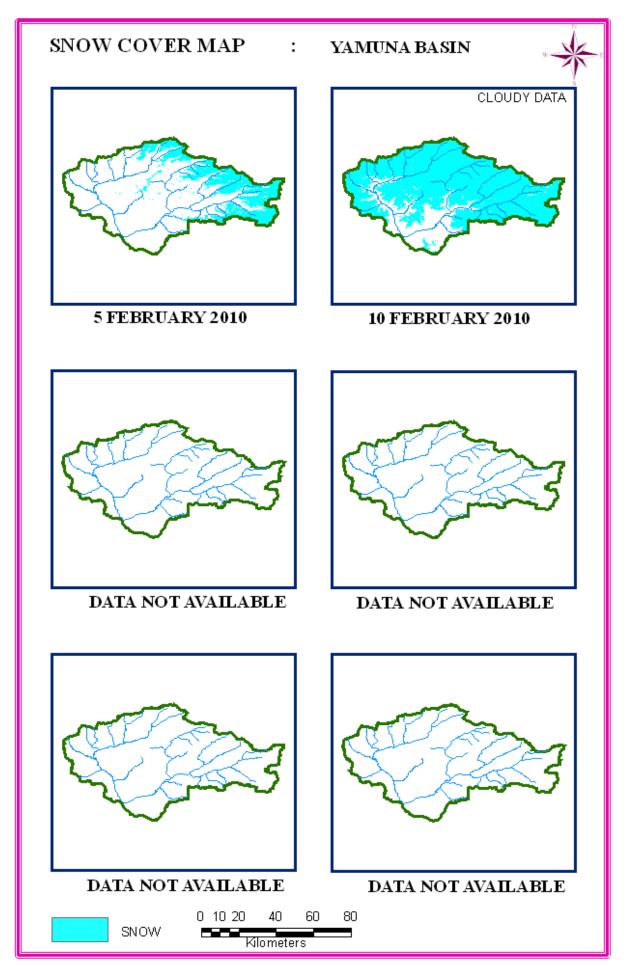


DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



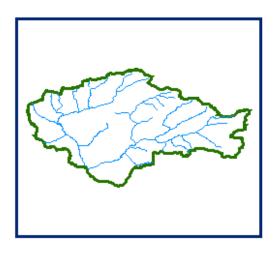
0 10 20 40 60 80 Kilometers



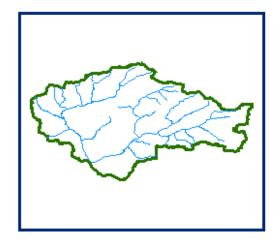




DATA USED **5 FEBRUARY 2010**



DATA USED **DATA NOT AVAILABLE**



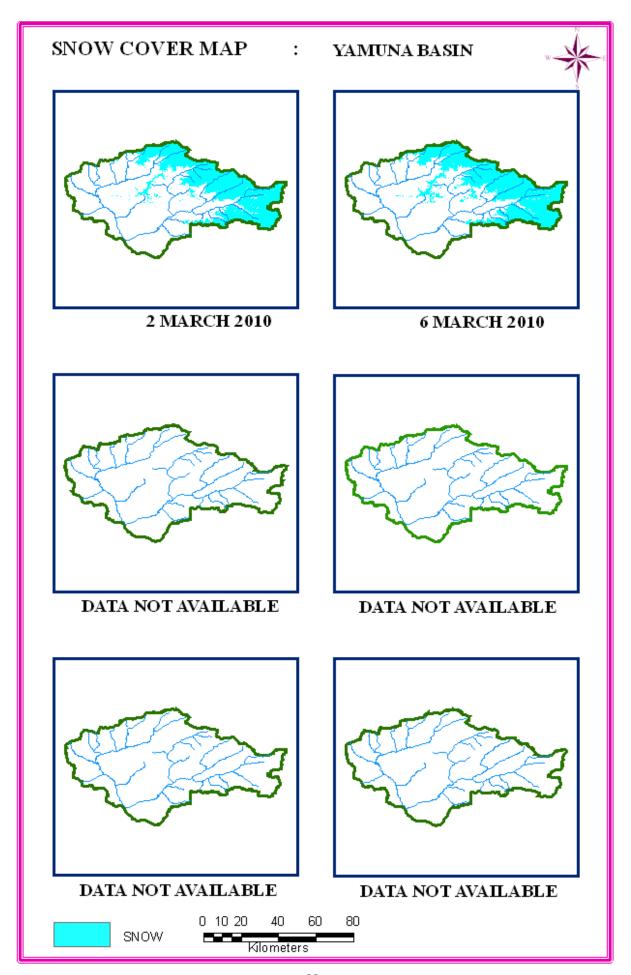
DATA USED

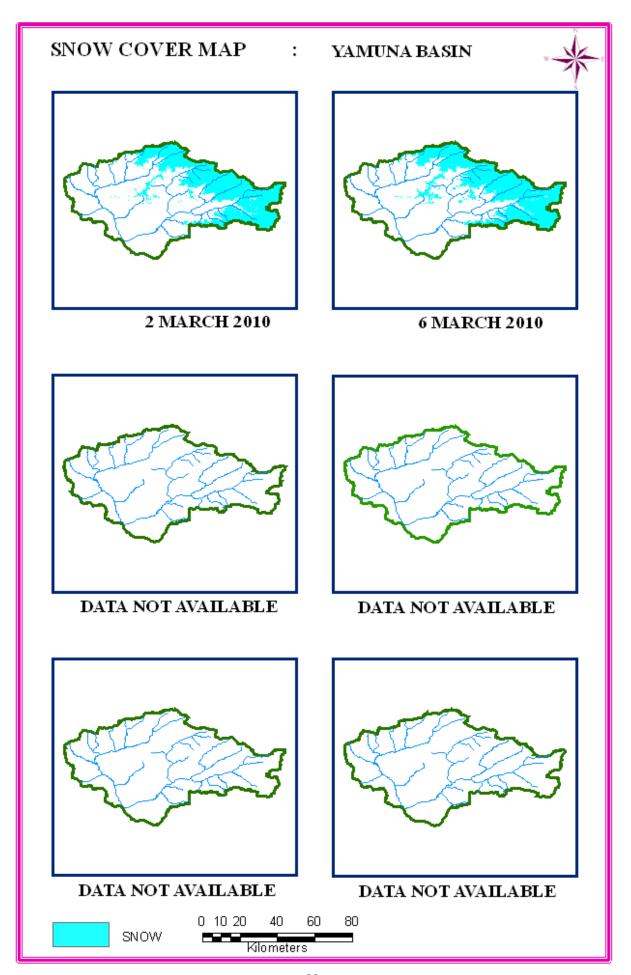
DATA NOT AVAILABLE

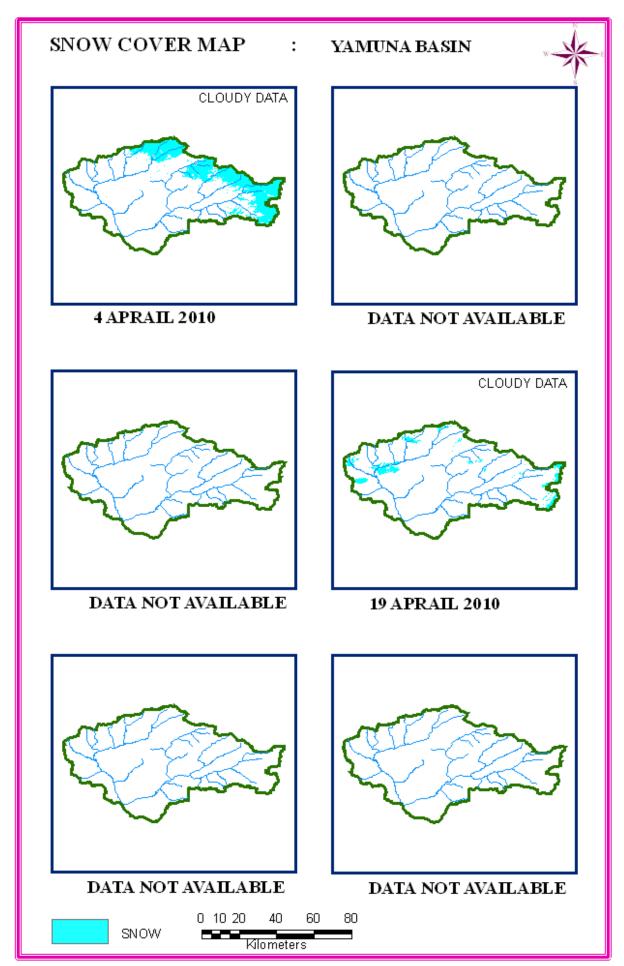


SNOW !







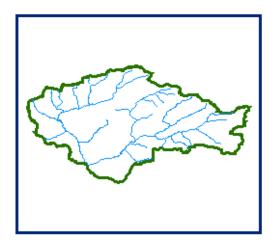






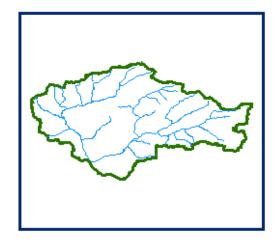
DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



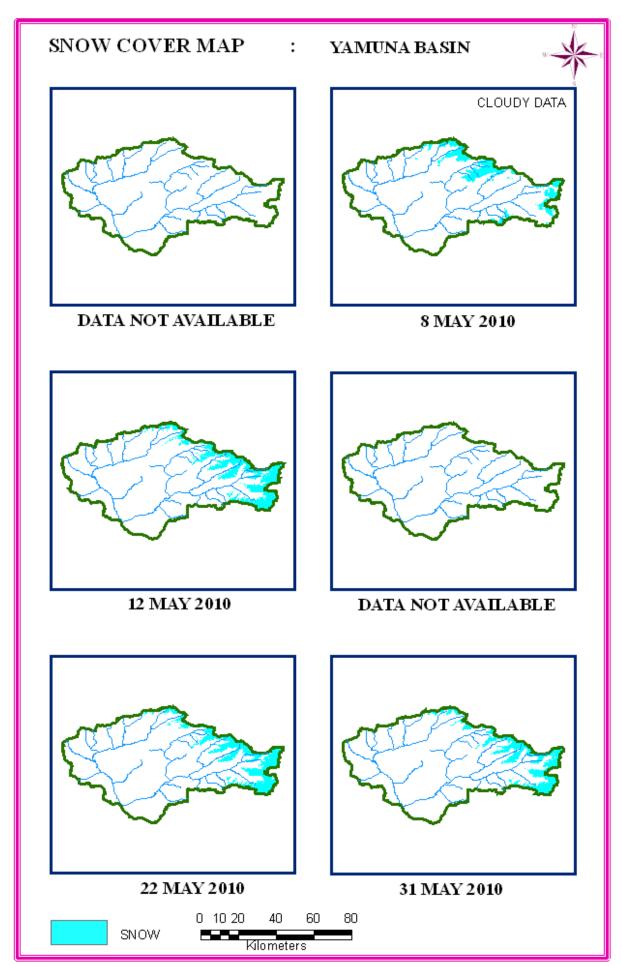
DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

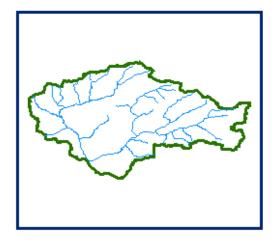


SNOW



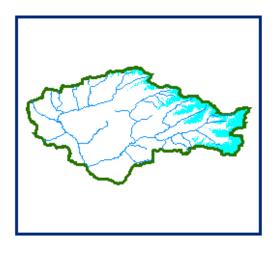




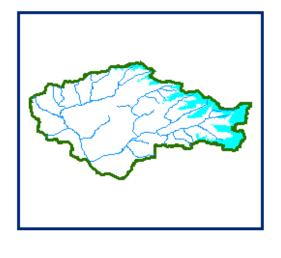


DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE

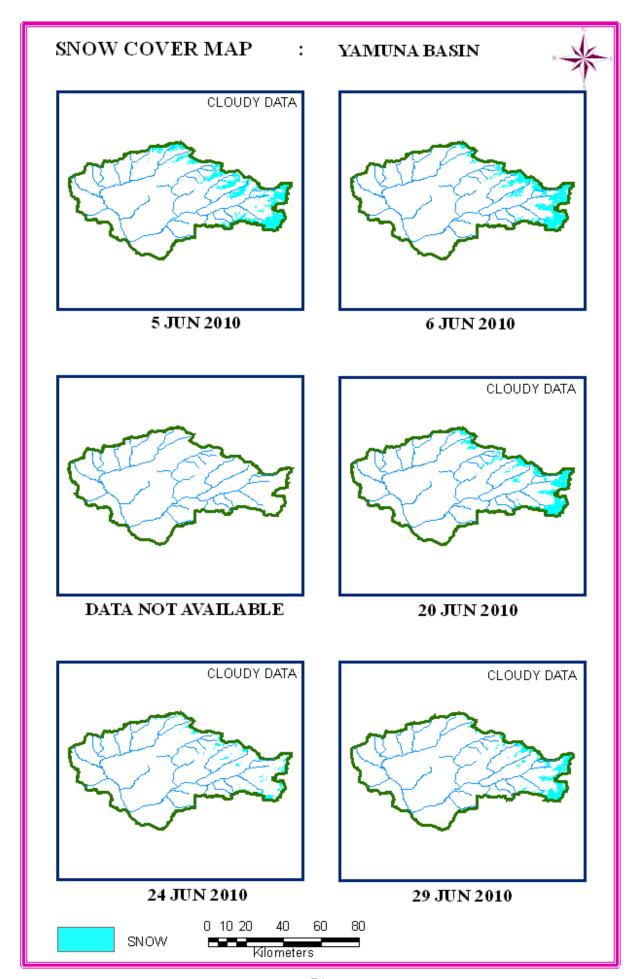


DATA USED 12 MAY 2010



DATA USED **22 MAY 2010 31 MAY 2010**

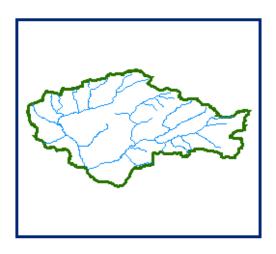






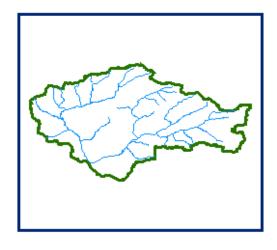


DATA USED 6 JUN 2010



DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



DATA USED

DATA NOT AVAILABLE



SNOW

