

## Seasonal change in snow cover distribution in Mt. Tateyama

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Studies on snow covers in Japanese mountainous regions have been spatially limited such as survey on particular snow patches, pit observations and snow depth surveys though spatial distribution of snow amount was important to evaluate water resources in watersheds. We attempt to evaluate seasonal changes in snow distributions in Mt. Tateyama by photographic survey.

We conducted repeat photographic surveys around Mt. Tateyama between April to October of 2007. Meteorological observations and snow depth survey were also carried out. Snow cover distributions taken in photographs were plotted on 1/25,000 map and seasonal change in total snow cover area was obtained.

Snow depth and meteorological data suggest that snow fall in Mt. Tateyama occurred up to the end of May. Snow cover area decreased linearly from June to the middle of July and thus changed to identical snow patches in August. Decreasing trend in snow cover area was suppressed from the early July. Positive degree day sum of air temperature at Murodo showed linear increase and thus it does not account for the change in decreasing trend of snow cover area. We found a significant topographical effect on suppressed decreasing trend of snow cover area due to local valley shape.