GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Fri Apr 2, 2021

Good Morning. This is Ian Hoyer with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Forecast on Friday, April 2nd at 7:00 a.m. Today's forecast is sponsored by **Blitz Motorsports and Yamaha** and **Bridger Bowl**. This forecast does not apply to operating ski areas.

Mountain Weather

Under clear skies, mountain temperatures this morning are near or slightly above freezing. Winds are westerly at 10-25 mph with gusts of 45-55 mph. High temperatures will be in the 40s and 50s F, a few degrees warmer than yesterday. Moderate westerly winds will continue with peak gusts diminishing somewhat. Warm, sunny weather is on tap through the weekend.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

All Regions

Wet avalanches are the primary concern today. Except at the highest elevations, temperatures either didn't drop below freezing last night or only dipped below freezing for a few hours. This means that some slopes didn't refreeze at all while others will only have a slight surface crust this morning. Today is forecasted to be the warmest day so far this spring. As the surface snow gets wet today it will begin to avalanche as loose, wet slides. The combination of a poor refreeze last night and even warmer temperatures today means these conditions will develop earlier today than they did yesterday.

As Dave discusses in his **video** from Beehive yesterday, safe travel with wet snow is all a matter of timing. As the day goes on, it will become easier to trigger loose wet avalanches and slides will start to entrain more snow and become larger. Plan to avoid steep, sunny slopes later this afternoon. Fortunately, it is readily apparent when conditions are becoming more dangerous - once you're sinking more than ankle deep into wet snow, it's time to move to shadier slopes or head home.

Minimize your time travelling underneath cornices today, especially as the day heats up, as they've grown big and will start to break off with this warm weather.

On shady slopes where the snowpack remains dry, we're not completely in the clear. Strong winds have continued drifting snow and while drifts will generally be well bonded, you could find a pocket where they're not. It's worth digging down to make sure you haven't stumbled onto an unstable drift before committing to a steep shady slope. While you're digging, cover your bases by testing for a weak layer a couple feet under the surface.

The avalanche danger is rated MODERATE today.

If you get out, please send us your observations no matter how brief. You can submit them via our **website**, email (**mtavalanche@gmail.com**), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram (#gnfacobs).

Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

See our **education calendar** for an up-to-date list of all local classes. Here are a few select upcoming events and opportunities to check out:

April 5, 6:30 p.m., Forecaster Chat with Alex Marienthal, hosted by Uphill Pursuits, “Spring Snowpack and Forecasting Tools”. **Link to Join**.