Partial Burial on Sawtooth Mountain near Goose Lake

Goose Lake
Cooke City
2/2/2022
Code
SS-ASu-R2-D2-O
Elevation
10800
Aspect
SE
Latitude
45.14370
Longitude
-109.90400
Notes

This morning while ascending a line on Sawtooth Mountain (Lower Novocain) we triggered an avalanche (ASu-SS-R2-D2-O) that caught and carried my partner an estimated 180M and partially buried him. His leg and hand were unburied and excavation of the head was done in less than 2 minutes of the incident. The avalanche only involved new snow from the last 48hrs and was triggered on a MF crust/facet combo 30cm down(formed 1/30/22). The avalanche was 30cm at its deepest and 20-30M wide and ran 250M. We were lucky to find both skis and poles a little ways downslope. No injuries were sustained.

We both agree that we were trying to outsmart the instability that was present on steeper S facing terrain and should have turned around much sooner, we were very lucky. There was 30+cm HST in favored areas and the high winds from 1/31/22 formed some sensitive windslabs in specific areas.

Number of slides
1
Number caught
1
Number buried
1
Number killed
0
Avalanche Type
Soft slab avalanche
Trigger
Skier
Trigger Modifier
u-An unintentional release
R size
2
D size
2
Bed Surface

O - Old snow
Problem Type
New Snow
Slab Thickness
30.0 centimeters
Vertical Fall
300ft
Slab Width
90.00ft
Weak Layer Grain type
Faceted Crystals
Slab Layer Grain Type
Precipitation Particles
Images
Partial Burial on Sawtooth Mtn near Goose Lake
Slab Thickness units
centimeters
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Single Avalanche
Advisory Year
21-22