

Many layers

Date

Sat, 02/25/2023 - 14:00

Activity

Skiing

Apologies for the day-late observations. We skied in the Maid of the Mist area. We saw signs of several cornice drops, some of which resulted in small or medium size slab avalanches on steep terrain (see photo), and others that resulted in minimal sluffing (no photo). None resulted in a widespread propagation like what happened on Blackmore a few days ago. This seemed encouraging. There were many parties skiing the bowl. We then tried to ski out on the south side of the Maid. We stopped to dig a pit at 8800 feet on a NE facing slope before entering the gully. We did a few CT tests and the results were not encouraging. We moved moved 100 yards to a more East facing aspect, and got similar results. I included an annotated photo of the first snowpit wall. Every layer sheared cleanly: CT6 @ 6" below the surface, CT2 @ 12" below the surface, CT3 @ 14" below the surface, CT15 @ 20" below the surface, CT21 @ 30" below the surface. It was like peeling an onion ;-). We skinned back up and over to ski out the more common exit in the trees.

This gully on the south side of Maid of the Mist is really nice but it feeds into a scary terrain trap. I don't see it skied very often and I feel like that's probably a good thing. That's part of my reason for asking to not share these obs publicly, or maybe I'm just being selfish...?

Region

Northern Gallatin

Location (from list)

Maid of the Mist

Observer Name

Alex Lussier