

More wind, and poor snowpack structure

Date

Sun, 02/25/2024 - 10:55

Activity

Snowmobiling

We rode up the road to Henderson Bench and dug on a northeast facing slope at 9,670'. While digging it was clear how poor the snowpack structure was. It was difficult to dig through a 2 foot thick hard [slab](#), but once through the [slab](#) I sunk to the ground through 1.5 feet of weak sugary facets. We had an ECTX. After some extra hits, removing 2/3 of the [slab](#), and a few more hard hits, we got a dramatic [collapse](#) and [propagation](#). The facets were F+ in hardness below a P+ hard [slab](#). Although the [weak layer](#) was difficult to affect in this spot, finding the right spot on a slope to [collapse](#) the [weak layer](#) would produce a big avalanche, as shown by a rider triggered [slide](#) two days ago on Fisher Mtn.

We also rode up to Daisy Pass. Visibility was good enough to see most slopes, but in flat light. We didn't notice any new avalanches.

Snow was falling lightly (S -1). Overcast skies. Wind was moderate with frequent strong gusts out of the west-southwest, forming drifts along road cuts and convexities.

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

Henderson Bench

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal