

Getting Better in the Centennials

Date

Thu, 01/09/2025 - 14:35

Activity

Snowmobiling

We spent the last two days in the Centennials. On Wednesday, we rode up to the vehicle shop, into Yale drainage, over to Hellroaring, and across the backside to the East Hotel Creek overlook. On Thursday, we went to our weather stations for repairs and visualized much of the range from the top of Sawtelle.

Day one focused on snowpack analysis as it was lightly snowing for most of the day S- -1 with 2-3" of accumulation throughout the day, and we did not have much for long-distance visibility. We triggered two collapses in a creek bed when *someone* (I) was stuck while riding toward East Hotel. We were able to see the smaller avalanche paths along Yale and the only [slide](#) was a R1, D1 [cornice collapse](#). We dug on a north-facing slope at the pass over to Hellroaring Creek. The facet layer of concern is now buried a meter deep (4F+ hardness) with an ECTX on this layer. Total HS of 155 cm. We got ECTNs 14-29 on the three [rain crust](#) layers formed during the last storm cycle.

The south-facing pit overlooking East Hotel was a bit shallower, 125 cm HS. ECTP30 on a crust facet combo mid-snowpack and an extra-curricular ECTP31 on the facets that we have been primarily discussing this season.

On day two, we got up high, overlooked many avalanche paths, and saw only the [slide](#) that Randy Gravett ([Rescue Randy](#)) had previously reported in Mt. Jefferson Bowl.

The [collapse](#) and the snowpack structure indicate the potential of triggering an avalanche, but the likelihood has gone down. Given the depth of the weak layers, I am not confident that the snowpack assessment will provide full and accurate information. If folks are starting to push into avalanche terrain, my emphasis is to stick to paths that are less likely to avalanche (sheltered from the wind and less steep) and paths that have lower consequences (smaller slopes with clean runouts). As always, safe travel practices.

If people don't want to mess with the uncertainty of avalanche terrain right now, conditions are fantastic on many slopes less than 30 degrees.

Region

Island Park

Location (from list)

CENTENNIAL RANGE

Observer Name

Dave Zinn