

## Slope Angle and Snow Stability - Two key factors in safe backcountry riding



Submitted by Eric Knoff on Thu, 12/22/2016 - 07:41

When venturing into the backcountry, answering these two questions is essential when assessing a slope to ride:

**Is the terrain capable of producing an avalanche?**

-and-

**Can the snow slide?**

Avalanches happen when four ingredients are present: a slab, a weak layer, a trigger and a **slope steep enough to slide**. A key problem when assessing slope angle is that most slopes have varying degrees of steepness. It is critical for riders to assess slope angle frequently.

File Upload

[Slope Angle and Snow Stability.docx](#)