

An avalanche and instability

Date

Fri, 01/19/2024 - 13:55

Activity

Snowmobiling

We dug pits and rode on Sawtelle Peak. At 9,100 feet we had unstable test results (ECTP13 x 5; ECTP10 x2; CT4, Q1). When the clouds lifted we could see a crown of a snowmobiler triggered [slide](#) that occurred yesterday. It broke on the buried [surface hoar](#) and facets about 1.5 feet under the surface. Recent snow and wind-[loading](#) has created dangerous avalanche conditions.

The avalanche:

44.55581, -111.45085

El 9,286'

HS - 143 cm

Surf hoar 96-95 cm

[Slab](#) was 18-24" deep

Not really wind loaded, but it looks like winds wrap around that face.

About 150' wide

about 300' vertical

Region

Island Park

Location (from list)

Sawtelle Peak

Observer Name

Doug Chabot