

Surface Hoar, Natural Avalanches Cooke City

Date

Sun, 01/29/2023 - 14:30

Activity

Snowmobiling

We rode up to Daisy Pass to Wolverine Pass then out Lulu Pass. There was 1.5-2' of fresh snow. There were several natural new snow avalanches on all aspects. We rode past Scotch Bonnet and saw more naturals. The [slide](#) on Scotch Bonnet was R2 D2, broke 2 feet deep, and ran 4-500 feet vertical, 100 feet wide. We dug a pit to the east of the wilderness boundary. On the N [aspect](#) at 9,100' there was ~6.5' feet of snow (210 cm). The 18" of new snow had 1" of SWE. We found a layer of buried [surface hoar](#) in the top half of the snowpack. We got an ECTP 13 on that layer of [surface hoar](#) (4.0 mm) 1.5' below the surface, and we got an ECTP 19 on a layer of 1.0 mm facets 2.5' below the surface. The [surface hoar](#) is the biggest concern moving forward, and it will take longer for the snowpack to adjust to this new snow since it's sitting atop persistent weak layers. We avoided avalanche terrain today.

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

COOKE CITY

Observer Name

Dave Zinn, Alex Haddad