

Wind slab in bridgers

Date

Sat, 01/04/2025 - 12:00

Activity

Skiing

Toured up the ramp this morning, found between 3-6" of new snow on the skin track, winds were fairly strong from the north/northwest and moving snow. Snow was falling heavily for the duration of the tour. As we made our last switchback in the ridge line meadow (8500ft directly east facing) near the top of the ramp, we triggered a wind slab. It propagated about 200 ft wide and was 3 ft at the deepest point. Interestingly on the edges and near the bottom (downhill side) of the slab it was only a few inches deep. It broke on the interface between the wind loaded snow and the light and dry snow we received a few days ago. When we entered the upper meadow there was no evidence of tracks from the day before. Further down the ramp we found cross loaded rolls that produced shooting cracks and collapses, and active snow loading from new snow and wind. A half hour later on our ski down, the skin track was partially buried by new snow as we exited the area.

Region

Bridger Range

Observer Name

Alex Shafer