

Old persistent slab, cornice fall, snowpit

Date

Mon, 01/27/2025 - 12:20

Activity

Skiing

We skied up west Woody Ridge and skied down into Hayden Creek about 500 feet, then back up and over, and out Republic Creek.

Skies were clear with calm winds and a light breeze at the ridgetop. Temperatures were still mostly cold, single digits down low and teens up high in the morning. The sun felt hot mid-day, snow bombs were falling off trees and there were some small rollerballs around steep rocks on southerly facing slopes.

We saw one old, but very large persistent [slab](#) avalanche further up Republic Creek (pictured). It was on similar [aspect](#) and elevation as a somewhat more recent persistent [slab](#) in nearby Hayden Creek, North-northeast, 10,000'. It appeared to be 6'+ deep and 500'+ wide. The [bed surface](#) and crown had been partially drifted in, so it seemed it was probably at least a week old...?

There was also a recent [cornice](#) fall on a very big steep slope up Republic Creek (picture) which did not [trigger](#) anything large or deeper, but entrained some snow and ran over a thousand feet vertical.

We dug a pit at 9,900' on a west [aspect](#). Snow depth was 150cm (5 feet). We had an ECTN11 below 3 inches of snow on top of small sugary facets near the surface. There were soft (4f+) sugary facets at the bottom of the snowpack, but they did not break in an ECT or with extra force. Snow depth above 9,000' was ~4 feet average based on a few places we probed as we toured up.

There were signs of a lot of previous wind up high. It has been a few days without wind, but there are probably some isolated instabilities of small stiff wind slabs sitting on facets which could be triggered.

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

Woody Ridge

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal