Skier triggered and caught near The Apron at Bridger

Bridger Bowl
Bridger Range
12/16/2021
Code
SS-ASu-R2-D1.5-I
Elevation
7700
Aspect
NE
Latitude
45.81560
Longitude
-110.92300
Notes

On 12/16/21 A skier in a group of three triggered and was caught in an avalanche near The Apron at Bridger Bowl. The ski area is closed and backcountry conditions exist. Nobody was injured.

From e-mail: "We had a group of three skiing up at the Bridger Apron today. We skied a more main slope in the field north of the slope with hidden couloir, snow was very stable and has been getting a lot of tracks. For a second run we skinned up the main slope under hidden and started our run in the trees slightly south of this slope. Not many tracks over there and not a good enough evaluation of the snowpack. We were planning on skiing a northeast facing chute through the trees that had very nice looking snow similar to what we had skiied earlier. I skiied in and had about 3 amazing turns, definitely partially due to the wind loading at this aspect. After three turns my feet were taking out from under me and I got caught in a slide keeping skis perpendicular to slope for 15-20’. This avalanche carried me rapidly and cleared the snow to the rocks below in which I was able to come to a hault and watch the rest of the sluff slide past me. After looking at the conditions after, this windy aspect seemed to have a very faceted layer about 8” down that acted as the crown. No injuries, a lost ski pole in the runout which extended down the slope maybe another 40’. The wind scoop on top and seeing these facets should have been a clear sign prior to skiing. Must be more diligent even in areas of high traffic. When dropping in to ski on first turn or so I remember hearing a possible whumpf."

Number of slides
1
Number caught
1
Number buried
0
Avalanche Type
Soft slab avalanche
Trigger
Skier
Trigger Modifier
u-An unintentional release
R size
2
D size

1.5
Bed Surface
I - Interface between new and old snow
Problem Type
Wind-Drifted Snow
Slab Thickness
8.0 inches
Images
Skier triggered and caught in avalanche at Bridger 2
Skier triggered and caught in avalanche at Bridger
Slab Thickness units
inches
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Single Avalanche
Advisory Year
21-22