

Buried surface hoar in northern Gallatin

Date

Fri, 02/03/2023 - 16:40

Activity

Skiing

We looked at the snowpack at lower elevations in the northern Gallatin Range (SE [aspect](#), 8,300' elev.) and found a layer of buried [surface hoar](#) below last week's snow that was reactive in [stability](#) tests (ECTP20, ECTP22). There was also weak, sugary snow through the bottom half of the snowpack that should be kept in mind, especially where the snowpack is relatively shallow. Triggered one small, isolated [collapse](#) on a west facing slope around 7,500' where the snowpack was mostly 1-2' deep weak facets, and we found one small pocket that had a drift over the weak snow. The buried [surface hoar](#) below last week's snow makes large avalanche possible to [trigger](#) for at least a few days.

Region

Northern Gallatin

Location (from list)

Wheeler Mountain

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal