

Buried surface hoar in Beehive

Date

Sat, 02/04/2023 - 16:20

Activity

Skiing

We toured up the ridge between Going Home Chute and Tyler's (below prayer flags). We saw evidence of a large avalanche that broke during the avalanche warning last weekend in Going Home Chute, R3-D2.5 (see photos). It appeared to have run to the end of the [runout zone](#) and tipped over small trees. We dug a pit near the top of our ascent on a west [aspect](#) at 9,100'. HS was 160cm and we found [surface hoar](#) buried 55cm deep (105cm above ground). It did not propagate or easily break in our tests, but it was a clear stripe in the wall and may have contributed to the adjacent large avalanche last weekend.

We dug a second pit over the ridge in Middle Basin on an east [aspect](#) at 9,200'. HS was 175cm and buried [surface hoar](#) was 80 cm deep (95cm above ground). It did not break or propagate in standard ECT, but did propagate cleanly after 4-5 extra hard hits. Old faceted layers deeper in the snowpack were generally strong in both pits.

We also saw a crown of a large avalanche from earlier in the week on the west side of Beehive Basin, on an east facing slope around 8,800'. R3-D2, 2-3 feet deep, 150' wide.

Region

Northern Madison

Location (from list)

Beehive Basin

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal