

Cracking and collapsing in Taylor Fork

Taylor Fork
Southern Madison
1/9/2019
Code
Elevation
8800
Notes

From an email: "Lower elevation snowpack was a wallow through deep and unsupported facets. We were sinking 12" - 18" on skis... straight to the ground off skis. Off the road, our sled tracks were dropping down almost to the ground.

At 8200'+ the snow was a bit more supportable. No collapsing, cracking, woomphing until...

We got to 8800' and were running out of time so decided to ski out. I was going to dig a pit on a 15 degree adjacent to a steeper pitch and as soon as I stepped out on to a more cohesive [slab](#) from the shallow snowpack I was on, the whole slope collapsed and shifted downhill a few inches (See photo). Didn't dig the pit... turned around, traversed to the trees, and slid home. Based pole and hand pit, the [slab](#) seemed to be about 1F - 4F over 18" - 24" Fist hardness facets.

The difference between the slope that collapsed and the rest of the tour was the [slab](#). There had been recent windloading and the [slab](#) was more cohesive."

Number of slides

1

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Problem Type

Wind-Drifted Snow

Images

[Cracking and collapsing in Taylor Fork](#)

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[18-19](#)