Wet snow and new snow

Date
Sun, 04/28/2024 - 15:35
Activity
Skiing

Skied north of Cooke City the last couple days (Sat. 4/27 and Sun. 4/28), near Lulu Pass and Henderson Mtn.. Yesterday there was 2-3" of moist new snow, and the snowpack below had not refrozen up to 9500-10k', it was very wet and unsupportable below the new snow. Moderate east wind yesterday drifted the new snow into small slabs up high.

Today there was 1-2" new snow on top of a thin, breakable crust around 9,000', with wet unsupportable snow below the crust. The crust softened quickly in any sunshine midday. Pulses of heavy snow mixed with periods of partial sunshine and calm-light wind.

Saw only small slabs crack beneath skis along the ridge yesterday, and minimal wet snow avalanche activity. Despite minimal observed avalanche activity, it seemed like a skier or rider could trigger a larger wet avalanche, especially on slopes that received sunshine.

Photos attached of what appear like wet slabs possibly from Friday when the precip. started after the first night or two of poor freeze (North side of Republic, and Henderson Bench).

Region
Cooke City
Location (from list)
Lulu Pass
Observer Name
Alex Marienthal