Looking Pretty Good in Beehive Basin

Date
Wed, 11/20/2024 - 13:50
Activity
Skiing

We toured up to the prayer flags, digging a couple of hand pits to look at the snowpack structure on Tyler's before bumping over the ridge to dig a full pit in Spanky's. We did not ski down into Bear Basin, but others had done so. We returned out through Exit Chute and back to the car.

The snowpack remains thin (20-25 inches of mostly unconsolidated base) and there were plenty of rocks and stumps to hit, but coverage was better than I expected (and probably better than most of December 2023). The structure was looking pretty good for early season. There were a few crust/ facet layers on west aspects, but nothing out of the normal. In our pit at the top of Spanky's (NE Facing at 9200'), there was a 10 cm layer of 4F facets at the base of the snowpack and some evidence of faceting throughout the older snow. However, the overall outlook is good for now. ECTN 14 at 41 cm and ECTN 19 and 21 at 19 cm.

Primary concerns were the shallow snowpack (we traveled downhill very slowly) and wind slabs. On the drive toward Gallatin Canyon this morning, we saw large plumes of snow blowing off the high peaks. We didn't see evidence of recent wind transport on our tour, but I'd be watching out for it.

Region
Northern Madison
Location (from list)
Beehive Basin
Observer Name
Dave Zinn