

Getting Weaker on Buck Ridge

Date

Wed, 12/04/2024 - 11:00

Activity

Snowmobiling

Today, Ian and I rode Buck Ridge. The trail in and out was in decent shape with a few wind-stripped bare spots but mostly continuous coverage. We got eyes on First, Second and Third Yellow Mules as well as into McAtee Basin. Small, glittering [surface hoar](#) covered most aspects. At the head of Second Yellow Mule, we dug a pit on a NE [aspect](#) at 9400 ft and found a snowpack with weak layers throughout: [surface hoar](#) and near-surface faceting at the top and [faceted snow](#) near the ground. We got an ECTPX as we just didn't have the load on top of these weak layers to cause [slab](#) formation or [propagation](#).

In general, we did not see any notable dry-snow avalanche activity or signs of instability. Despite sunny skies, the snow surfaces we rode on stayed dry. One small loose-wet avalanche on a S facing [aspect](#) on Eglise Rock was observed that likely broke in the last day or two. We also noted a few reported wind slabs that broke last week.

Our main hazards today were the early-season coverage and buried obstacles.

Region

Northern Madison

Location (from list)

Buck Ridge

Observer Name

H. Darby