

Widespread weak layer Island Park

Date

Tue, 12/17/2024 - 11:40

Activity

Snowmobiling

The old snow surface from the first two weeks of dry weather in December is the main [weak layer](#) in the snowpack. It is easy to find on all slopes just under the new snow and two crusts. It's generally buried about a 12-14 inches deep.

We got a range of test scores (mostly bad) of ECTP2, ECTP3, ECTP13, and ECTN. We experienced a few collapses, but it was not widespread. No cracking.

Avalanches - we got above the clouds into the sun and could only spot one avalanche looking towards Mt Jefferson in Rock Creek

My gut says that avalanches aren't too easy to [trigger](#); HOWEVER, all the signs are there and can't be ignored. Some collapsing. A prominent [weak layer](#) of facets. Mostly poor test scores, recent [loading](#) (1.5-2" of water), and one fresh avalanche.

For those reasons we rode like the danger was **CONSIDERABLE**....which it was.

Riding and coverage is quickly improving. Above 9000 ft, there's a decent base under the [weak layer](#). Rocks and stumps are still easy to find and we were bumping them all day long.

Region

Island Park

Location (from list)

Yale Creek

Observer Name

Staples