

Snow Stability Isn't Everything

Date

Mon, 03/03/2025 - 14:45

Activity

Skiing

Skies were still blue with increasing clouds when we rode up into Fairy Lake zone this morning. We popped up onto the Frazier Basin ridgeline and could see many tracks from skiers over the weekend. As we descended back to Fairy Lake and transitioned to skis, the cloud deck increased and the ceiling lowered. We ascended up Nuyu Nuki's east shoulder and at times visibility was limited to 25' in front of our ski tips. Temps were still quite warm and winds were minimal.

Snow surfaces were variable with a mix of sun crusts, wind board, and in shallower tree-sheltered zones, sugary [faceted snow](#). It will be interesting to see how well a few inches of new snow this week bonds with these different snow surfaces.

While our original trip plan involved stepping out into steeper avalanche terrain, we decided to pull the plug due to extremely limited visibility. This was an example of how even though avalanche conditions may be generally stable, there are other factors to consider when choosing to ski steeper lines (visibility of your partners, visibility of surrounding avalanche terrain, etc.)

Region

Bridger Range

Location (from list)

Fairy Lake

Observer Name

H. Darby