GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Mon Jan 8, 2018

Good Morning. This is Alex Marienthal with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Advisory issued on Monday, January 8th at 6:45 a.m. Today's advisory is sponsored by **Mystery Ranch** and **Montana Ale Works**. This advisory does not apply to operating ski areas.

Mountain Weather

Since yesterday the mountains near Cooke City got 2" of snow and elsewhere got none. Wind has been southwest at 10-20 mph and temperatures this morning are teens F in the southern ranges and high 20s F in the northern ranges. Today, temperatures will reach high 20s to mid-30s F with west-southwest wind at 15-25 mph. Tonight, snow showers will drop 1-2" in the southern ranges with more snow for the entire area tomorrow through Thursday.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

Bridger Range Gallatin Range Madison Range Lionhead Range Cooke City

Avalanches breaking 2-4' deep on weak facets are difficult to trigger compared to a week ago, but continued signs of instability show they are possible. Yesterday, skiers near Divide Peak in Hyalite had propagation in their stability tests and decided to not ski a steep slope. Over the weekend, skiers near Cooke City had many unstable stability test results and one large collapse in low angle terrain. I rode near Buck Ridge yesterday and skied in Hyalite Saturday. In both places I found stable slopes, and unstable slopes (**video**, **video**).

Today, travel in avalanche terrain requires thorough snowpack assessment. Review our **photos** and **videos** to learn the general character and distribution of unstable slopes. Recent signs of instability and many avalanches last week were observed on slopes where the snowpack is relatively shallow, less than 3-4 feet deep. These unstable slopes are common on southerly aspects and low elevations, but possible on any aspect or elevation. You have to dig to know exactly what is under your feet. Otherwise, avoid avalanche terrain altogether.

Dig a couple pits on terrain similar to what you plan to ride for the day. Avoid steep slopes if stability tests break clean, or if you find sugary, weak facets buried 2-4' deep (**video**). In addition, be cautious of wind slabs 6-12" thick near ridgelines. These slabs are difficult to trigger, but will hurt if they catch you above cliffs or trees. Carefully assess the terrain for consequences of even small slides, and expose only one person at a time to steep slopes.

Today, large avalanches are possible to trigger and the avalanche danger is **MODERATE**.

If you get out and have any avalanche or snowpack observations to share, drop a line via our website, email (mtavalanche@gmail.com), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram (#gnfacobs).

Cabin Creek Avalanche Accident Report

On Tuesday, January 2nd, a snowmobiler was caught and killed in an avalanche in Cabin Creek to the west of Sage Peak in the southern Madison Range. Alex and Doug investigated the slide on Wednesday. You can view a detailed report of the accident **HERE**.

Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

Events and Education Calendar

BOZEMAN

Jan. 9, **Women's Avalanche Awareness and Beacon Clinic**, 6-8 p.m. at Beall Park

Jan. 12 and 13, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, **Info and Register**

Jan. 17, 18 and 20 or 21, **Introduction to Avalanches w/ Field Day**, **Info and Register Here**

Jan. 24, 25 and 27, **Advanced Avalanche Workshop w. Field Day**, **Info and Register Here**

Feb. 9 and 10, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, **Info and Register**

WEST YELLOWSTONE

Jan. 20, **Avalanche Awareness,** 7-8 p.m. at West Yellowstone Holiday Inn Conference Center

BIG TIMBER

Jan. 11, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at Sweet Grass County High School

BUTTE

Jan. 13, **Rescue Clinic**, 10 a.m. at Homestake Lodge

Dillon

Jan. 16, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6:30-8 p.m. at U.M. Western Library

COOKE CITY

Every Friday and Saturday**, Current Conditions Update and Avalanche Rescue,** Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Antler's Lodge in January. Saturday anytime between 10-2 @ Round Lake.