Variable snow depth and surface hoar in Little Bear

Date
Thu, 12/14/2023 - 10:35
Activity
Snowmobiling

We drove and then rode up Little Bear this morning on the 3138 road (also snowmobile route #900). Once 3138 splits off from 980 there was mostly enough snow for riding on the road without issues but little else. Snow depth varied from 4-6 inches, down to 2-3 inches in sun and wind exposed areas, to as much as 18 inches or so higher up (8400'). We also saw some spectacular surface hoar- probably 1-2" tall in places with extremely sugary snow underneath; often so sugary we weren't leaving well defined tracks behind our sleds. As with everywhere else, we heard some collapses while off of our machines.

Region
Northern Gallatin
Observer Name
USFS Bozeman Snow Rangers