Natural/Goat triggered Avalanches Big Sky

Big Sky Resort
Northern Madison
12/15/2023
Code
AW-R3-D2.5-O
Aspect
S
Latitude
45.27600
Longitude
-111.43600
Notes

Big Sky Ski Patrol reported two natural avalanches seen today (12/15) in closed terrain.

From email on 12/16: "Further investigation of the avalanche yesterday showed goat tracks leading into the crown area of the avalanche. At the debris pile, it was obvious that a goat had taken the full ride in the slide that it triggered. There was a depression in the debris pile where the critter had come to rest at the surface, and obvious hoof prints trailing away from the debris pile, and then upslope for the long walk back up to rejoin the heard. There was no blood, and the tracks looked usual, with no obvious sign of broken leg(s). It is unknown if the goat was wearing an airbag or if it was deployed in the avalanche. It was a significant ride, 1K' vt., 1?4 mile linear, likely of high speed, through 2nd Dictator transition, which was taken down to mostly bare ground."

Number of slides
2
Number caught
0
Number buried
0
Trigger
Wildlife
R size
3
D size
2.5
Bed Surface
O - Old snow
Problem Type
Persistent Weak Layer
Slab Thickness
24.0 inches
Vertical Fall
1000ft
Slab Width
40.00ft
Images
Natural Avalanches in Closed Terrain

Snow Observation Source
Natural Avalanches BSSP
Slab Thickness units
inches
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Multiple Avalanches
Advisory Year
23-24