

Unstable snowpack near Cooke

Date

Mon, 02/05/2024 - 11:25

We skied south of Cooke City and dug a [snowpit](#) at 9,761' on a west facing slope. We had an ECTP21, 40 cm below the surface (16" down). There was 6-8" of new snow from the weekend above 4" of soft old snow, on top of 4" of a pencil- hard [slab](#), then the soft sugary facets to the ground. ECT broke below the hard [slab](#) at the top of the facets (photo). I had one [collapse](#), 10-12' wide near treeline where there was little more wind-[loading](#)/effect (photo).

The unstable test score, very poor snowpack structure, and [collapse](#) indicate a person could easily [trigger](#) a large avalanche on steep slopes.

Snowed lightly on and off all day with a couple cm accumulation. Wind was light-moderate out of the southwest with mostly overcast skies.

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

Republic Creek

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal