

Snowpack on Mt. Ellis

Date

Fri, 01/17/2025 - 15:05

Activity

Skiing

We skied to the top of Mt. Ellis via the ridge from the north. There was light wind on the ridge, otherwise calm. Snowing steadily this morning and tapered off by noon-1pm with skies clearing after noon. There were 2-4" of low density new snow. We dug a pit off the ridgeline on a northeast facing slope at 7,800' and one pit at the top of the burned slope, east facing at 8,100'. Profiles attached.

The first pit had an ECTX and the second had [propagation](#) with extra force. There were 2mm facets 30cm off the ground in both pits which were slightly softer in the higher pit. Snow depth was 3-4 feet up high and around 2 feet lower in the thicker trees and along the trails.

Beyond what we saw today, evidence of good [stability](#) in the northern Gallatin Range also includes not having heard of any avalanches (or only 1-2 small pockets) breaking on the weak layers near the bottom of the snowpack during the 2-3 weeks of steady snowfall from late Dec to early Jan. The snowpack has had a break from [loading](#) for the last few days which has allowed avalanche potential to continue to become less likely.

In general, [stability](#) was good and we felt good skiing slopes steeper than 30-35 degrees, while exposing only one person at a time.

Region

Northern Gallatin

Location (from list)

Mt Ellis

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal