Storm Snow in the Bridgers

Date Tue, 04/01/2025 - 12:00 Activity Skiing

We headed out to the Bridgers this morning with 13" (1.4" SWE) and more on the way. It may have been April Fool's Day but this was no joke - it is deep out there! We rode out to the Throne and made our way up the East Ridge. On top of the foot of fresh, it snowed around 3-5" in the three hours we were out there.

Our main concerns today were dry loose, storm <u>slab</u>, and <u>wind slab</u> avalanches. We were able to <u>trigger</u> small, loose snow avalanches on steeper slopes in the upper 6" of snow. In one steeper roll over, I got shooting cracks and a small storm <u>slab</u> to break at my ski tips. We did not see other cracking in the recent snow. Visibility was very limited, but we saw one small, filled-in crown near steep, rocky terrain just above the top of the Throne. Winds were blowing all day but were not noticeably drifting snow at mid-elevations.

When we dug down and performed quick <u>stability</u> tests, we got a mix of ECTNs and <u>propagation</u> (ECTP 10, 11) on a hardness change within the storm snow about 12" deep. We noted this hardness change throughout the day. At lower elevations it was only 3-4" deep, while at upper elevations, closer to a foot.

Lower down on the E Face, we saw a <u>glide</u> crack that had opened likely after the warm temperatures from last week.

Region Bridger Range Location (from list) The Throne Observer Name H. Darby