

Snow Pit Profile  
**Palace Butte-Hyalite**  
**Gallatin, MT**  
 Elevation (ft) **9660**  
 Aspect: **140**  
 Specifics: **We skied slope.**

Observer: **Mark Staples**  
**Thu Dec 22 12:00:00 MST 2011**  
 Co-ord: **45.41837 N 110.97996 W**  
 Slope: **26**  
 Wind loading: **no**

Stability on similar slopes:  
 Air Temperature: **C**  
 Sky Cover: **Clear**  
 Precipitation:  
 Wind:

Stability Test Notes:  
 Layer notes:  
**60-84: Pro**  
**faceting u**



Notes: Storm on previous day delivered 0.8 inches SWE in valley below, easily 1 inch of SWE higher and the first major load of the season. I was surprised to get NO collapsing and could only see 1 nat. avalanche from atop Palace Butte. Stability tests were unreactive given the recent load. Nearby pit by Armitage got similar test results. NSF's just under the 86-84 crust. Wind needed to stiffen the new snow for ava's at 84cm.

Advisory Region  
 Northern Gallatin  
 Longitude  
 -110.98W  
 Latitude  
 45.42N

Forecast link: [GNFAC Avalanche Advisory for Fri Dec 23, 2011](#)  
 Northern Gallatin, 2011-12-23