

# **GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Mon Jan 15, 2018**

Good Morning. This is Alex Marienthal with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Advisory issued on Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. Today's advisory is sponsored by [Grizzly Outfitters](#) in partnership with the **Friends of the Avalanche Center**. This advisory does not apply to operating ski areas.

## Mountain Weather

The mountains got a trace of snow this morning and temperatures are in the teens to low 20s F. Wind overnight was northwest at 10-20 mph, and 25-30 mph near Cooke City. Today, wind is north to east at 5-15 mph with temperatures reaching high 20s F. Skies will clear this afternoon and no snow is expected over the next 24 hours.

## Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



### Lionhead Range

The Lionhead area near West Yellowstone has dangerous avalanche conditions. Large avalanches are easy to trigger on steep slopes, and from adjacent less steep terrain. Avoid steep slopes and terrain below. Two to three feet of heavy snow is sitting over weak, sugary facets. The weight of a rider or skier can easily collapse the heavy slab of snow across entire slopes ([video](#)). Yesterday, two large snowmobile triggered avalanches were observed ([photo](#)), and on Saturday snowmobilers triggered a large slide from low on the slope ([photo](#)). No one was caught in these slides. Last Wednesday, an avalanche claimed the life of a rider in the nearby Centennial Range where there is a similarly unstable snowpack. Today, dangerous avalanche condition exist and the avalanche danger is **CONSIDERABLE**.



### Cooke City

The mountains near Cooke City got 2-3 feet of snow equal to 2.7" of [snow water equivalent](#) (SWE) Wednesday through Saturday. This load produced large natural avalanches ([photo](#)), mostly on wind loaded slopes ([photo](#), [photo](#), [photo](#)). Similar avalanches are possible to trigger today. Strong northwest wind last night created smaller, fresh wind slabs that are easy to trigger. On non-wind loaded slopes, larger avalanches are possible on weak layers buried 3-4' deep ([photo](#)). These are more likely where the snowpack is shallower, 3-5' deep. Today, avalanche danger is **CONSIDERABLE** on wind loaded slopes and **MODERATE** on non-wind loaded slopes.



### Bridger Range   Gallatin Range   Madison Range

Last week the mountains near Big Sky and Bozeman got 2- 3 feet of snow. In the Bridger Range this snow equaled 3.7" SWE, and in the Gallatin and Madison Ranges 1.5-2.5" of SWE. On Saturday, large slabs of new snow avalanched naturally south of Bridger Bowl ([photo](#)). Yesterday, we found these instabilities and anticipate they will quickly heal ([video](#)). Over the weekend, skiers and climbers in Hyalite observed natural avalanches,

and avoided wind loaded slopes ([photo](#), [video](#)). Today, similar wind slabs are possible to trigger.

Avalanches on weak facets 2-4' deep are possible, but less likely without new snow. This instability is found where the snowpack is relatively shallow, 3-5' deep. On Friday, skiers in the northern Madison Range remotely triggered a large avalanche on this layer ([photo](#)). Be cautious of lower elevation terrain and slopes with highly variable snow depth. Today, the avalanche danger is **MODERATE** on all slopes.

If you get out and have any avalanche or snowpack observations to share, drop a line via our [website](#), email ([mtavalanche@gmail.com](mailto:mtavalanche@gmail.com)), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram ([#gnfacobs](#)).

## King and Queen of the Ridge

**King and Queen of the Ridge**, Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Hike and Ski/Ride-a-Thon fundraising event to support the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. Sign up and start collecting pledges **HERE**.

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## Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

### Events and Education Calendar

#### BOZEMAN

**TONIGHT!!!**, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at Yellowstone Motorsports

Jan. 17, 18 and 20 or 21, **Introduction to Avalanches w/ Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Jan. 22, **MAP Brewing Pint Night**, 4-8 p.m. MAP donates 50 cents of every pint sold to the Friends of the Avalanche Center.

Jan. 24, 25 and 27, **Advanced Avalanche Workshop w. Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Feb. 9 and 10, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, [Info and Register](#)

#### WEST YELLOWSTONE

Jan. 20, **Avalanche Awareness**, 7-8 p.m. at West Yellowstone Holiday Inn Conference Center

#### Dillon

Jan. 16, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6:30-8 p.m. at U.M. Western Library

#### COOKE CITY

Every Friday and Saturday, **Current Conditions Update and Avalanche Rescue**, Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Antler's Lodge in January. Saturday anytime between 10-2 @ Round Lake.

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