GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Mon Dec 3, 2018

Good Morning. This is Alex Marienthal with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Forecast issued on Monday, December 3rd at 7:00 a.m. This Forecast is sponsored by **Yellowstone Arctic Yamaha** and **The Friends of the Avalanche Center**. This forecast does not apply to operating ski areas.

Mountain Weather

This morning the mountains do not have any new snow and temperatures are single digits F. Wind was 0-5 mph out of the southeast-east yesterday and will be west-southwest at 0-10 mph today. Temperatures will be teens F today, and a trace to 1" of snow is possible near West Yellowstone and Cooke City. The rest of the week is forecast to be cold and dry.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

Lionhead Range

The Lionhead area near West Yellowstone has a weak snowpack with sugary facets in the bottom half (**photo**, **video**). Recent light snow and wind created an unstable snowpack where a thicker slab of snow rests over the weak base. Avalanches breaking on this sugary, weak snow could be large and wide. Be extra cautious of steep slopes (>30 degrees), and avoid riding on and below them if you see cracking and collapsing of the snowpack or recent natural avalanches. Today, large avalanches are possible to trigger and avalanche danger is **MODERATE**
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Bridger Range Gallatin Range Madison Range Cooke City

Yesterday we toured in the northern Bridger Range and saw small wind slabs and loose snow avalanches from the snow that fell Saturday morning (**photo**, **photo**). Below the recent snow, the snowpack is 3-4' deep and generally stable without widespread weak layers (**video**). The snowpack is similar throughout the mountains near Bozeman, Big Sky and Cooke City. Yesterday, skiers in Hyalite and Beehive saw widespread natural dry loose avalanches (**photo**, **photo**), and triggered a loose snow avalanche on a steep, sun exposed slope (**photo**, **photo**).

A mostly stable snowpack and light wind today will limit avalanche activity to slides in the recent snow, similar to those observed yesterday. Although small, these avalanches can be deadly in the wrong terrain. Carefully assess the snowpack and terrain before riding steep slopes. Be cautious of wind-drifted snow near ridgelines, gullies, and rock outcrops, and expect loose snow avalanches on steeper avalanche terrain. A generally stable snowpack, light wind, and no new snow makes avalanche danger today **LOW**.

If you get out and have any avalanche or snowpack observations to share, contact us via our website, email (mtavalanche@gmail.com), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram (#gnfacobs).

New this season, we added hyperlinks to the **Weather and Avalanche Log** and a new Menu item <**Avalanches and SnowPits**> with information on avalanche activity and incidents.

Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

Our education calendar is full of awareness lectures and field courses. Check it out: **Events and Education Calendar.**

BOZEMAN

December 5, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at REI, Bozeman

December 6, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness and Beacon Practice**, 6:30-8 p.m. at Story Mill Park

December 11 and 12, **Snowmobile Intro to Avalanches w/Field**, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone; **more info here**

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness for Snowmobilers**, 6-7 p.m. at Yellowstone Motorsports, Bozeman

December 13, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at Play It Again Sports, Bozeman

HELENA

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at The Basecamp, Helena

COOKE CITY

Every Friday and Saturday**, Rescue Training and Snowpack Update.** Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m at the Soda Butte Lodge. Saturday anytime between 10-2 @ Round Lake.