Tobacco Roots Storm Slab + Dry Loose

Date
Thu, 04/18/2024 - 13:00
Activity
Skiing

Out in the Western Tobacco Roots today. Recent snow was decently wind affected and storm depths were particularly variable. One thing was common with all new snow deposits: they were bonded very poorly to the widespread underlying crust. In most areas the new snow was not cohesive or deep, so this resulted only in tricky skinning and long running sluffs.

However, where wind or sun had strengthened the slab this surface layer was reactive, with sluffs entraining significant amounts of snow and one small slab that I managed to trigger. I popped this slab underneath a mild, somewhat cross-loaded convexity on a north face near treeline, and it broke around 30 feet wide, 4-6 inches deep, and ran ~ 300 feet (N, 9500', SS- ASu - R1/D1).

The underlying snowpack showed no signs of instability, though while boot packing I did break through the crust in some shallower areas and found some basal facets. The snow surface stayed pretty cool throughout the day above 8.5 kft, and winds were light out of the west.

Region
Out of Advisory Area
Location (from list)
Tobacco Root Mountains
Observer Name
Wyatt Hubbard