

## **GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Wed Nov 27, 2024**

This is Alex Marienthal with pre-season information from the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:30 am. This information is sponsored by [World Boards](#) and [Uphill Pursuits](#). You can donate to The Friends of the GNFAC's Fall Fundraiser [HERE](#).

We will issue our next update on Friday morning and begin daily forecasts with [danger ratings](#) on Saturday.

### Mountain Weather

**New snow** totals since our last update on Monday are:

0.2-0.3" SWE / 3-6" snow - Big Sky

0.3" SWE / 3" snow - Cooke City

0.1-0.2" SWE / 1-2" snow - Bridgers, Gallatins, Southern Madison, West Yellowstone, Island Park.

**Winds** have been out of the southwest and northwest at 5-25 mph with gusts of 25-45 mph. **Temperatures** this morning are single digits to teens F. The last couple days temperatures reached mid to high 20s F. **The next couple days** will be mostly sunny to partly cloudy with a small chance of up to an inch of snow tonight. Temperatures will reach low to mid-20s with overnight lows in the single digits to teens F. Wind will be westerly at 10-20 mph with gusts of 25-35 mph.

### Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



#### All Regions

Snow depths are 1.5-2.5 feet deep at weather stations with nearly 3 feet in higher locations. Snow that fell yesterday and last weekend was drifted into wind slabs which were human-triggered and broke naturally the last couple days. We saw examples of these wind slab avalanches breaking naturally on Saddle Peak on Monday ([photo](#)), and yesterday Big Sky ski patrol triggered multiple avalanches during mitigation work ([obs and photo](#)). Some of these avalanches broke on faceted snow just above the ground and some were confined to the recently drifted snow.

**Wind slab avalanches** can still be triggered, especially where new drifts grow from wind today and tomorrow. Be cautious of wind-loaded terrain and watch for blowing snow or cracking across the snow surface as a sign of fresh, unstable wind slabs.

**Persistent slab avalanches** breaking on weak faceted snow deeper in the snowpack are not a widespread hazard, but are a primary concern. Some slopes have a stronger snowpack without weak layers, but some slopes have slabs resting on facets and crusts near the bottom of the snowpack. So, **do your homework before going into avalanche terrain**. Recent avalanches at Big Sky are evidence of this problem as well as [a few collapses near Cooke City](#) and [unstable test results in Bear Basin](#). Watch out for areas with shallower snow like Mark found on [Lionhead on Saturday](#) ([video](#)), **OR** slopes that harbour old October snow (elevations above 9,000' and/or northerly facing).

## **Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events**

Our education calendar is full of awareness lectures and field courses. Check it out: [Events and Education Calendar](#)

Tuesday, November 26, 6-7 p.m. [Free Avalanche Awareness](#) at REI Bozeman.

Monday, December 2, 6:30 p.m. MAP community partnership night and 1-hr Avalanche Awareness, at MAP Brewing

Tuesday, December 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., [West Yellowstone Avalanche Fundamentals: Motorized Guide Cert Course](#), Pre-registration required.

For an intro class with a field day, Register for our [Avalanche Fundamentals](#) course.

## **Friends of the Avalanche Center: Fall Fundraiser!**

We're still counting on your support and the online Fall Powder Blast fundraiser is 77% of the way to our goal. Please consider making even a small donation [HERE](#) or via [Venmo](#)