

Thin at Hebgen

Date

Wed, 01/01/2025 - 16:05

Activity

Skiing

Skinned across Hebgen Lake from the Kirkwood trailhead and ascended to the ridgeline above Trapper Creek. Snowpack was consistently 2-2.5ft deep throughout our tour. Got two small collapses on the ascent when we deviated from the established skin [track](#). Dug on a SE facing slope at 9000 ft (just off the ridgeline) and got no results in an Extended Column Test (ECTX). The column smooshed under the shovel as I tapped, seemingly indicating that there wasn't enough of a cohesive [slab](#) above the weak layers. Got a larger [collapse](#) as we descended to a second [snowpit](#) site. Stopped and dug in the place where we got the whumpf. This pit was at 8500 ft on a south [aspect](#). There was a thin melt-freeze crust over the basal facets here. This appears to be what gave the [slab](#) enough stiffness to propagate a [fracture](#). ECTP12. Stepping out of skis you stepped all the way to the ground at both pit sites.

With the recent load of new snow on weak snow near the ground, we developed a plan at the car to avoid all slopes steeper than 30 degrees and stuck to that plan.

Region

Lionhead Range

Location (from list)

Hebgen Lake

Observer Name

Ian Hoyer