

GNFAC Avalanche Advisory for Wed Dec 6, 2017

Good Morning. This is Doug Chabot with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Advisory issued on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:45 a.m. Today's advisory is sponsored by [Alpine Orthopedics](#) and [Knoff Group Real Estate](#). This advisory does not apply to operating ski areas.

Mountain Weather

At 5 a.m. under clear skies, there's no new snow, just wind (15-25 W) and temperatures of 10-15F. Winds in the Bridger Range have lessened from yesterday's speeds of 35 mph that swirled from all directions. Today will be clear with temperatures reaching the mid-20s. High clouds will [slide](#) in from the NW tonight, and temperatures will drop into the teens. A high pressure ridge will dominate through the weekend and block any chance of snow.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



Bridger Range

The story in the Bridger Range is simple: yesterday's strong wind blew Sunday and Monday's 16" of new snow into wind slabs that avalanched on many slopes. The winds were unusual and did not come from any one direction. They swirled around and mostly hit mid to lower elevation terrain. The Bridger Bowl Ski Patrol was able to avalanche wind slabs with ski cuts all over the mountain, not just the ridgeline. The slabs were sliding on the Thanksgiving ice crust and did not break into deeper layers. In general, the old snow underneath this crust is strong and stable ([video](#)).

Avoid slopes where wind drifted snow has formed slabs. Shooting cracks and recent avalanches are warning signs of instability. For today the avalanche danger is rated [CONSIDERABLE](#) on all wind-loaded slopes and [MODERATE](#) on all others.



Northern Gallatin Northern Madison Cooke City

In the mountains around Hyalite, Big Sky and Cooke City, westerly wind blew at the ridgelines with many upper elevation slopes stripped bare as others grew cornices ([photo](#)). A skier up Hyalite noted that several cornices broke at ridgelines but did not trigger avalanches. Though slopes are generally stable ([snowpits](#), [video of Buck Ridge](#)) it is possible to trigger small wind slabs near ridges or in gullies. For today, the avalanche danger is rated [MODERATE](#) on all wind-loaded terrain and [LOW](#) on all other slopes.



Southern Madison Southern Gallatin Lionhead Range

The southern Madison Range, southern Gallatin Range, and mountains around West Yellowstone have a stable snowpack that could handle the new snow from Sunday (6"). Winds blew at the ridgelines after the storm but these slabs bonded to the old snow surface and are unlikely to move. For today the avalanche danger is rated [LOW](#) since they have generally safe avalanche conditions.

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

Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

[Events and Education Calendar](#)

BOZEMAN

Dec. 7, **Avalanche Awareness and Beacon Practice**, 6-8 p.m. at Beall Park, Bozeman

Dec. 13, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6:30-8 p.m. at Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association, 4-Corners

Jan. 12 and 13, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, [Info and Register](#)

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

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](#)

HELENA

7 December, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7:30 p.m. at Basecamp, Helena

WEST YELLOWSTONE

Dec. 14 and 15, **Snowmobiler Introduction to Avalanches with Field Course**, [Info and Register Here](#)

COOKE CITY

8 and 9 December, **Current Conditions and Avalanche Rescue**, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday @ the Super 8, and anytime between 10-2 on Saturday @ Lulu Pass road.