Widespread weak layer Island Park

Date
Tue, 12/17/2024 - 11:40
Activity
Snowmobiling

The old snow surface from the first two weeks of dry weather in December is the main weak layer in the snowpack. It is easy to find on all slopes just under the new snow and two crusts. It's generally buried about a 12-14 inches deep.

We got a range of test scores (mostly bad) of ECTP2, ECTP3, ECTP13, and ECTN. We experienced a few collapses, but it was not widespread. No cracking.

Avalanches - we got above the clouds into the sun and could only spot one avalanche looking towards Mt Jefferson in Rock Creek

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My gut says that avalanches aren't too easy to trigger; HOWEVER, all the signs are there and can't be ignored. Some collapsing. A prominent weak layer of facets. Mostly poor test scores, recent loading (1.5-2" of water), and one fresh avalanche.

For those reasons we rode like the danger was **CONSIDERABLE**....which it was.

Riding and coverage is quickly improving. Above 9000 ft, there's a decent base under the weak layer. Rocks and stumps are still easy to find and we were bumping them all day long.

Region
Island Park
Location (from list)
Yale Creek
Observer Name
Staples