



PM FORM 2017-18

Date: 20180129 **Time:** 1430 **Guides Present:** Tate, Matt, DeMoe, Pat, Alex

Area/Zone/Drainage: Trail Creek

FIELD WEATHER SUMMARY:

Elev. Observed		SKY		Precip		Est Wind @ Ridgetop		Temperature (C)		Snow Depth (cm)		
HI	Low	AM	PM	AM	PM	Speed & Direction		Hi	Low	HN	HST	HS
10,500	6200	OVC	OVC	NO	NO	moderate W		1	-3	0	0	90-155

Summary of today's weather trends and factors including pressure, visibility, radiation, snowfall distribution, wind drifted snow:

Gusty W/SW winds on ridgetops gusting onto the strong range. Light winds lower in the valleys. Overcast all day and looking like it wanted to snow.

AVALANCHE OBSERVATIONS:

NUM	TRIGGER	TYPE	SIZE	INC	ASP	ELEV	LOCATION	COMMENTS
1	N	HS	D2	40	NE	9800	upper trail creek	under a big rocky apron.
numerous	N	HS	D1.5		E	high alpine	upper trail creek	hard to say when these broke out, probably from the strong winds yesterday.

SNOWPACK OBSERVATIONS:

Summary of observations including penetration, snowpack tests/location, relevancy/results; layer extent, changes through day:

This was our first day in the Trail Creek zone this year. The snowpack was fater than any we have seen this season in our terrain. Stability seemed better than anything we have seen in the past 3 weeks. We dug pits in multiple aspects and elevations and had no propagating test scores and moderate and hard CT's. The shears we did find were in the upper 35cm of the snowpack. We are thinking that the better stability in due to 1)significantly deeper snowpack 2) Start zones and mid slope upper elevation runs were highly weathered.

Snowpack Structure: (Relevant layers of interest, how to identify them and distribution. Slab thickness and distribution. Average SN depths. Etc.) :

5cm of wind deposited snow on 20 cm of DF on 4F DF / RG going down to 1F RG (40 cm) Our 12/19 interface was FCxr with strong lumpy snow down to the ground where DH was still F density.

ASSESSMENT OF THE AVALANCHE PROBLEM

Avalanche Characteristics			Likelihood of Triggering		Terrain Feature
Layer of Interest: Depth/Date	Type:	Size: (D/R-Scale)	Sensitivity:	Distribution:	Terrain: (Location, Aspect, Start Zones, Shape, Incline, Run Name)
01/28	Wind Slab	2	Reactive	Specific	Easterly wind loaded start zones

AVALANCHE HAZARD SUMMARY

Summarize the character of the primary concern including the date/depth/distribution of the problem/weak layer. ID strategies for identifying the primary concern. What information is still lacking?

We spent the day doing recon today and tried to cover a wide range of terrain. Would call in Moderate danger rating in this zone. Very likely with warm temps and Chinook like winds that the wind slab problem is already healed.

TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:

Summarize terrain choices, features committed to and avoided, timing.

no comments