



PM FORM 2017-18

Date:	20180211	Time:	1505	Guides Present:	Alex, Pat, Matt
--------------	----------	--------------	------	------------------------	-----------------

Area/Zone/Drainage: Paradise, Snowslide

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
9,766	8,000	OVC	OVC	NO	NO	Light, NW -> S	-5	-8	0	0	105-160

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

Graybird day. Winds from NW in AM shifted to S in PM, no transport observed. No precip, cold temp.

AVALANCHE OBSERVATIONS:

NUM	TRIGGER	TYPE	SIZE	INC	ASP	ELEV	LOCATION	COMMENTS
1	A Vc	HS	D2.5	Steep	NE	9,700'	Elk Roper Chutes	Helicopter cornice trigger. Slide stepped down in steep confined feature w/slab rock bedsurface.

SNOWPACK OBSERVATIONS:

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

Intentional cornice drop w/helicopter above steep chute triggered D2 slide (2.5 w/cornice), HS, down to ground but confined to walls of the chute. Targeted info collection in slide paths that have run; HS ~100cm, 0116 interface dn 55cm, sudden results in sm columns, no propagation in lg columns. Quick pit 8,000 E, no propagation on Dec FC. Found wind press and some deposition but no wind slabs in terrain skied.

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

Old slide paths HS 105cm, 55cm of snow F->1f on top of bed surfaces (0116), FCxr P/K to ground below. Everywhere else HS 150-160cm, Slab on top of Dec FC is mostly 1f RG, Dec FC are 4f and moist.

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)
90cm / Dec FC	Persistent Slab	3	Un-Reactive	Specific	Steep, rocky, unsupported.
Big / Winter	Cornice	1.5	Stubborn	Isolated	Large cornices at ridgeline, lee to W half of compass

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?

Hazard is diminishing rapidly in W. Smokey's. Very large cornice's to trigger our Dec FC, seems still possible for skier trigger but quite unlikely; Slopes that slid during our 0111-12 cycle healed well and are good to go. Cornices are well built and will likely be a lingering concern.

TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:

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

Stepped out throughout day and ended up feeling good about skiing most avalanche terrain. Still avoiding slopes that have steep, rocky convexities. Mixed bag of surface conditions, MFcr on sunny slopes, wind press/scouring higher on slopes, good skiing faceting surfaces where cold and protected.