



PM FORM 2017-18

Date: 20180221 **Time:** 1800 **Guides Present:** Tate, Pat, Reggie, Alex

Area/Zone/Drainage: Paradise, Elk Creek, Butterfield, Pinyon

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
9,800	6200	OVC	OVC	NO	NO	light	SW	-9	-16	0	0	140-180

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

Cold but warmer than yesterday. Skies were broken with large cells of overcast in the AM going to completely overcast in the afternoon.

AVALANCHE OBSERVATIONS:

NUM	TRIGGER	TYPE	SIZE	INC	ASP	ELEV	LOCATION	COMMENTS

SNOWPACK OBSERVATIONS:

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

Solar Pit- CTN on SE aspect at 8800' with a HS of 150 cm, weakest layer was at the thanksgiving layer but highly bridged between T-day and new snow. Hands pits showed that our mid storm PWL (thin ice lens) was present at all aspects in lower elevations but not present above 8800'. WNW pit / 8800- ECTX, CTN, HS 150- this pit revealed the PWL (ice lens) but it was unreactive.

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

40cm HST of F- PP over 2cm IFrc over 10-15cm FCsf on old snow. Standout layer was rain crust from event early in the storm. This was reactive where wind loaded snow sat on top of it, but unreactive in areas without a slab. Didn't observe mid or lower snowpack.

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)
40cm/0218	Persistent Slab	2	Reactive	Widespread	Steep and convex rollovers

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?

No new natural avalanches witnessed today. Primary concern is the thin mid storm ice lens that seems to be taming down. Slab did consolidate since yesterdya but did not seem to affect stability as the PWL is probably gaining strength with the consolidation.

TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:

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

Stayed cold again today so solars skied well today. We did step out a little today but mostly on solar and supported non rocky terrain.