PM FORM 2018-19

Date:	20190219	Time:	1721	Guides Present:	Daly, Deal, Kittrell
Area/Zone/Drainage:	Pinyon, Paradise, East Fork of Big Peak Creek, Butterfield				

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
9,700	7500	FEW	OVC	NO	S-1	moderate	NW	-8	-12	trace	trace	160-230

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

Very cold morning warmed up by midday. Clouds rolled in and winds picked up around 1300. Cold temps prevented any solar gain. Lots of drifting snow on ridgetops.

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:

We observed about a dozen recent avalanches that ran during this last cycle. Some of them were deep slabs in mid to upper elevation steep, rocky terrain that was wind affected and up to D3 in size. Also spotted a few storm slabs that ran on smaller confined features on mostly solar aspects and up to D2 in size. There was lots of wind affect and loading around the Baker divide. Likely to see sensitive wind slabs tommorow from mostly NW winds. No formal snowpack tests, but probed around quite a bit. Pinyon has HS 230cm. Placer HS 160cm.

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

50-70cm setted HN since last time we were out remote near the beginning of February. Based on recent avalanches assuming basal FC still an issue even in our deepest zone.

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)
150-200/1122	Deep Slab	3	Stubborn	Isolated	mid-upper elevation steep, rocky and wind loaded.
30-50cm/0219	Wind Slab	2	Reactive	Specific	mid-upper elevation ridgelines and exposed slopes. Mostly lee to NW winds.

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?

Primary concern started as deep slabs but became wind slabs by the end of the day with significant wind transport happening. We were hoping to start writing off the deep slabs in our remote terrain, but with observed avalanches it's obviously still a concern.

TERRAIN USE STRATEGIES:

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

Skied standard trade routes today. It was easy to find good skiing. We avoided steep, rocky and wind loaded slopes, but skied slope angles into the mid 30s in protected areas. We did an excellent job on moving ahead of the weather and moving as a group.