

Watch out for Wind-Loads and Warm-ups

Date

Wed, 03/27/2024 - 10:30

Activity

Skiing

We toured up the Ramp. There was 6" of heavy new snow. The wind was transporting significant amounts of the recent snow at high elevations. The wind-loads weren't occurring on the ramp and lower elevation ridge terrain in a significant way. On our drive home we saw, what I assume were, natural wind-[slab](#) avalanches on Quarter Saddle (looked like a [cornice collapse](#)) and in Argentina Bowl. Bridger Peak was obscured by heavy wind-[loading](#). There was a small wind-[slab](#) release out of Gibbs (I think), I suspect skier triggered, but I could make out a [track](#).

On the Ramp, we observed several isolated drifts that would crack under the weight of skis. The snow was staying fairly cool and dry, but on a rollover, I pushed a small wet loose pocket downhill. Watch out when the sun and temps blast the recent snow! It is sitting on a firm crust and I expect things to get active.

We dug a pit to the south of the Ramp proper. The basal weak layers were the least weak I have seen all year. The snowpack was most from 80 cm to the ground and the facets and [depth hoar](#) are rounding. We are not out the woods, but things are improving. ECTN 20 on near-surface facets 30 cm from the top.

Region

Bridger Range

Location (from list)

The Ramp

Observer Name

David Zinn