

Whumpfung, Cracking and Avalanches at Bacon Rind

Date

Mon, 01/13/2025 - 00:30

Activity

Skiing

Travel conditions have improved significantly since the last time we were at Bacon Rind, unfortunately, avalanche conditions have not. Similar to what Dave and Alex saw yesterday in Lionhead, the snowpack on Bacon Rind is shallow and has well-developed persistent weak layers near the bottom of the snowpack.

While ascending the burn, we triggered so many thunderous collapses that we quickly lost count. These collapses shook snow off the trees around us and visibly dropped the snow surface beneath our feet. Near the top of the ridge, we saw a large avalanche (SS-N-R3-D2-O) that broke on a north facing [aspect](#), around 2' deep, on weak snow near the ground. It was not clear whether it was one large avalanche or two that released sympathetically with one another. If one [slide](#), this avalanche broke nearly 900' wide and slid around 1000' vertical. It broke during the most recent period of intense [loading](#) in this area, likely January 5th or 6th.

When we reached the top of the Skillet and dug a [snowpit](#), we noticed that the upper portion of the path had cracked and shifted in numerous places but had not avalanched. Our [snowpit](#) on an east [aspect](#) showed a 2' dense [slab](#) on top of sugary facets and [depth hoar](#). Our test result was ECTP 13. We also dug a pit on a south facing [aspect](#) and noted shallower snow that was slightly stronger than the other aspects we had seen thus far (north and east).

Given all these clear signs of instability, it was an easy decision to stick to terrain less than 30 degrees, including runout zones.

S-1 snowfall most of the day, with calm winds. Skies began overcast and cleared throughout the day.

Region

Southern Madison

Location (from list)

Bacon Rind

Observer Name

H. Darby