

Avalanches S. of Cooke City Photos and Observations

Date

Mon, 01/15/2024 - 16:10

Activity

Skiing

Ski toured south of Cooke City today to try and take stock of the recent natural avalanche cycle.

Avalanches were observed on all aspects, except south. A few photos attached.

Of note, many crowns have quickly disappeared, with additional [wind loading](#). Particularly from recent N, NW winds.

Still getting widespread collapsing and cracking, particularly above about 9300'.

One [collapse](#), in relatively wind sheltered terrain, photo attached, was wild in that the cracks shot away from me about 100' relatively slowly, and then circled back in a big loop! About a 3 second symphony of movement in the snow.

Higher in more wind exposed terrain, the collapses became spooky, with Pencil hard [wind slab](#) in places. There the collapsing was much louder- and communicated the large mass of snow above that [weak layer](#). A couple of times they made me jump, and I am typically quite comfortable with whumpfing when I am in safe terrain. It's just humbling when you feel the energy of a very large mass of snow move.

Good to give those hard wind slabs an extra wide margin though, because I've once seen a section of flat ridgeline avalanche into a connected steep slope (deep [slab](#)/ hard [slab](#) in the Wasatch, 20yrs ago).

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

Republic Creek

Observer Name

Beau Fredlund