

Wet Snow in Beehive

Date

Sat, 04/27/2024 - 07:31

Activity

Skiing

We toured into beehive today starting at around 7:30 AM. We found about 2-4" of fresh wet and heavy snow. Lightly snowing all day until we left around 12 when the snow picked up a bit. Passing fog in and out all day. Around 9400' we dug a pit to the ground (east facing). ~95cm deep. We found about 5" of thick snow from the last two days, on top of a thin layer of graupel and ~4" of very wet snow that had not refrozen from the previous warm-up. The rest of the snowpack was also wet to the ground, but not to the same extent that the upper couple of inches were. Near the ground was definitely a weaker structure, but was also now saturated and closer to "corn snow" than anything. Also noted an ice layer about half way through the snow pack.

In our pit we got cracking in the new snow (ECTN9) and in the top (8-9" down) of the saturated snow pack (ECTN18), but no propagation. A shovel shear test revealed our two layers being about 8-9" down at the bottom of the very wet layer, and at the interface with the ice layer halfway down. No collapses were observed. No avalanches were observed. We got some sluff while we were skiing, but only when skiing/hop turning aggressively. We chose to ski some steep and short couloirs.

The skin track had decent coverage besides a few spots in the trees. It was rain mixed with snow in the parking lot around 12:45, which quickly turned to rain as we drove towards big sky.

Region

Northern Madison

Location (from list)

Beehive Basin

Observer Name

William Landrey