

Skier trigger Deep slab Bear Basin

Bear Basin

Northern Madison

3/9/2019

Code

HS-ASu-R3-D2.5-O

Elevation

9600

Aspect

NE

Latitude

45.34360

Longitude

-111.37900

Notes

A four person party triggered this avalanche on Saturday night at around 5:30...One of the members wrote: "It broke on the [persistent weak layer](#) underneath a hard windslab directly at my feet, a yard or so from the diagonal rock band near the top of the ridge. The crown was roughly 3 feet at skier's left and 12 feet at the rock outcrop on skier's right. The avalanche stepped down to the ground on [depth hoar](#) around 250 ft from the crown due to the energy of the first [slide](#). One skier was still on the skin [track](#) far below us before the [track](#) cut into the fall line. Everybody made it out. I'm sure it was triggered because of the shallower snowpack near the rock band. Snow pits were dug and that persistent layer the original avalanche went on was found but wouldn't propagate"

From different group on Sunday e-mail: "... we saw a debris pile that had come down from near the bat ears [couloir](#) in bear basin, it looked good size and some dirt and small trees so we decided to get a closer look. It appeared that a group skinned up North fork trail..., bootpacked up bat ears [couloir](#), skied it with no problems, and then decided to skin up a real rocky thinner face slightly east of the [couloir](#), the skin [track](#) appeared to make it to the top of the ridge however there was only 1 downhill ski [track](#) and that left from low on the skin [track](#).... N-ne slope guessing 9500-10k ft. Crown was between 1 and 10 ft deep, average looked about 2-3 deep, down pretty close to the ground in a lot of spots."

From separate e-mail: "D2.5 avalanche on an NE [aspect](#) in Bear Basin in the Northern Madisons, 9600ft, there were tracks in the run out (covered by the debris pile)... running on basal facets. Terrain was very rocky, steep, and visibly wind loaded."

Number of slides

1

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

3

D size

2.5

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

36.0 inches

Vertical Fall

700ft

Slab Width

200.00ft

Images

[Deep slab Bear Basin 3](#)

[Deep slab Bear Basin crown](#)

[Deep slab Bear Basin 2](#)

[Deep slab Bear Basin](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[18-19](#)