

Skier triggered and partially buried on Woody Ridge

Woody Ridge

Cooke City

2/5/2021

Code

SS-ASu-R2-D2-I

Elevation

9000

Aspect

NE

Latitude

44.97390

Longitude

-109.92400

Notes

A 100' wide by 12"-24" deep avalanche was triggered by a skier on a North East [aspect](#) of Woody Ridge at 9000'. From reporting group: "Skier was carried and partially buried after arresting on a tree. The area was short pitches with rollovers and pillow/shelf features. Once the skier was in avalanche terrain the wind loaded storm [slab](#) released exposing a faceted layer which the new snow had not bound with. The release occurred where the slope went from 20 degrees to 30 degree terrain. A pit dug the previous day (2/4/2020) on the same slope resulted in an ECT 50 + and a CT 38. Afterward that day we proceeded up the ridge to find wind slabs formed at the top of the ridge which would release when cut. Today, the snow felt stable on the ascent through trees and on tree covered ridges. When we turned around in what we considered "mellow"/"putt putt" terrain due to an intensifying storm and the day becoming late we skied through some exposed ridges and drops. First skier saw no avalanche activity through broken up terrain. Second skier triggered the [slide](#) on the first turn. After the event a third skier skied the tree covered ridge used for the ascent and was clear. Whompfing was observed in the trees below the pillows after the event..."

Number of slides

1

Number caught

1

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

2

D size

2

Bed Surface

I - Interface between new and old snow

Problem Type

New Snow

Slab Thickness

18.0 inches

Slab Width

100.00ft

Images

[Skier triggered and partially buried on Woody Ridge](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[20-21](#)