

Natural Avalanches at Buck Ridge

Buck Ridge

Northern Madison

1/21/2024

Code

HS-N-R2-D2

Aspect Range

S-N

Latitude

45.17190

Longitude

-111.38000

Notes

We rode into Buck Ridge today, 01/22, towards the Bear Creek wilderness boundary. Dangerous avalanche conditions exist. Skiers and riders should give themselves wide safety margins when traveling around avalanche terrain. Cautious route-finding and conservative decision-making are essential.

We saw multiple natural avalanches in Beaver Creek, First Yellowmule, Second Yellowmule, Third Yellowmule, and McAtee Basin. The recent avalanches were large enough to bury or injure backcountry travelers (D2) and likely happened within the last 24-48 hours.

We stopped at the crown of an avalanche in Beaver Creek and found a stiff, cohesive [slab](#) of wind-drifted snow on top of [faceted snow](#) below (ECTP 13, HS=188). The avalanche failed on the interface between the wind-loaded snow and fist hard facets below. The avalanche broke 2-3 feet deep, 100 feet wide, and ran 100 vertical feet.

Some avalanches we saw were on wind-loaded slopes, and others were not. All steep slopes are suspect.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Natural trigger

R size

2

D size

2

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Images

[McAtee Basin Avalanche 2](#)

[Second Yellowmule Avalanche 2](#)

[Second Yellowmule Avalanche 1](#)

[Avalanche Beaver Creek](#)

[McAtee Basin Avalanche 1](#)

[Third Yellow Mule Avalanche](#)

Attached Videos

[We Triggered an Avalanche - Buck Ridge - 22 January 2024](#)

Snow Observation Source

[Avalanches at Buck Ridge](#)

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[23-24](#)