

Skier Triggered Avalanche - Football Field

Saddle Peak

Bridger Range

12/25/2020

Code

SS-ASu-R3-D2.5-O

Elevation

8700

Aspect

E

Latitude

45.79740

Longitude

-110.93500

Notes

A solo skier was doing an annual run from the M to Bridger Bowl but could not enter the resort as normal due to limited terrain openings etc. The skier read the avalanche advisory on the 24th but not on the 25th, the day of the traverse. The skier observed recent avalanches on Bridger Peak and in Argentina Bowl, immediately south of Saddle Peak. He did not observe other signs of instability or dig pits but mentioned that travel was generally on non-snow-covered ground. Arriving at the ski area boundary, he was concerned about the avalanche danger and decent route but decided that going down the Bitter End run at the Bridger Bowl Boundary and getting on to the lower angle prow on the ski area boundary would be the best option. He made jump turns down to the steep convexity 50' below the ridge. The slope cracked at his feet and the avalanche initiated 20' away.

The avalanche propagated at least 500' wide into the Football Field adjacent to Bridger Bowl's south boundary, and ran down below the cliff band mid-slope. The avalanche was 2' deep and was a hard [slab](#) that failed on [depth hoar](#) (SS-ASu-R3-D2.5-O). The skier descended the [track](#) and looked for any recent ski or skin tracks that would indicate other skiers in the area. Seeing no recent tracks, the skier went to Bridger Bowl Ski Patrol to report the incident.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Number killed

0

Avalanche Type

Soft 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

24.0 inches

Vertical Fall

1200ft

Slab Width

500.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Depth Hoar

Images

[Skier triggered avalanche Football Field, Crown 2](#)

[Skier triggered avalanche Football Field, from below](#)

[Skier triggered avalanche Football Field, track](#)

[Skier triggered avalanche Football Field, From top](#)

[Skier triggered avalanche Football Field, Crown](#)

[Skier triggered on Football Field, from hwy](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[20-21](#)