

Large recent avalanches near Cooke City

Date

Sun, 03/12/2023 - 16:20

Activity

Snowmobiling

Today we rode north of Cooke City and looked at recent natural and Human-triggered avalanches. The [slide](#) on Fisher Mtn. was very large and appeared up to 10 feet deep. It had much more volume in the debris than the [slide](#) that was triggered on this same path in December.

We also looked at the [slide](#) on Crown Butte that was triggered by a snowmobiler yesterday. This was on a SW [aspect](#) at 9,600'. It was 1-3 feet deep and broke on a layer of [surface hoar](#) and large facets below a hard [slab](#) of wind-drifted snow.

We saw two slides that had not been reported previously. One natural on the east side of Sheep Mtn. that was a hard [slab](#) of wind-drifted snow on a heavily wind loaded slope near the high ridgeline at 10,500'. The second was snowmobile triggered on a path called "Marty's" above Daisy Pass road. This was similar [aspect](#) as the [slide](#) on Crown Butte yesterday, and likely had a similar snowpack structure. We checked the debris for a beacon signal to be sure no one was caught, and did not find one. This may have been triggered today (3/12).

This recent activity is a clear sign the snowpack remained unstable with the recent [loading](#) event. Due to these slides breaking on persistent weak layers, I think similar human-triggered avalanches remain likely.

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

COOKE CITY

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal