Remotely triggered slide

Date
Tue, 12/17/2024 - 15:05
Activity
Snowmobiling

Rode along Buck Ridge, through 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Yellowmules, with good views across Buck Creek and into McAtee Basin. New snow depth increased as we rode from the parking lot to the top of Beaver Creek, from ~4" to 12". We measured 12" of new snow with 0.7" SWE in 1st Yellowmule. We saw two avalanches. One was a storm slab avalanche on the far (southwest) side of Buck Creek - broke 2-300 ft wide and ran ~500 vertical feet. The other was a smaller slide in 3rd Yellowmule (~100 ft wide and ran ~200 vertical ft). There was not much wind effect.

We crossed through the head of McAtee Basin into upper Bear Creek. While riding on a low angle ridgeline, we remotely triggered a slide that broke approximately 200 ft away in a gully. It failed ~18" deep on facets underneath the snow that has accumulated since Sunday. It broke in several pockets, totaling around 200 ft wide. There was 12" of new snow at the crown, with 0.7" SWE. The slab contained 1.4" SWE total (which accumulated since Sunday).

Before triggering the slide we experienced no cracking, collapsing, or other clear signs of instability.

Region
Northern Madison
Location (from list)
Buck Ridge
Observer Name
Ian Hoyer