

A few inches of new snow and good stability

Date

Thu, 04/24/2025 - 16:05

Activity

Snowmobiling

We rode into Tepee Basin along the headwall and up to the wilderness boundary. There had been a number of small releases of roller balls in steep rocky terrain but nothing got legs and ran. It would be hard to classify any of the activity, even as small wet loose avalanches. Crusts stayed robust and supportable throughout the day.

There was 2-3" new snow at the bottom of the basin and 4-5 inches up near the wilderness boundary. Winds were calm, and there was no active wind loading. The new snow throughout the basin got moist during the heat of the day. North-facing slopes at upper elevations stayed cool and mostly dry.

We had a nice late-season ride. Avalanches are unlikely under the current status quo. Today, the primary problem was isolated wind-slab instability in upper-wind-exposed terrain. Overall, there are safe avalanche conditions.

A significant warm-up or a significant pulse of snow would change the equation. At this point, it seems like most of the snow around has been transformed by warm temperatures over the last few weeks. I am more worried about new snow than a warm-up.

Region

Southern Madison

Location (from list)

Tepee Basin

Observer Name

David Zinn