

# **Crown Butte Avalanche Fatality**

Accident Report

[Crown Butte Avalanche Fatality public.pdf](#)

Activity

Snowmobiling

Date

3/10/2014

1 caught, buried, killed

Synopsis

A group of seven snowmobilers was riding north of Cooke City when one was caught in an avalanche on a steep, northwest facing slope on Crown Butte. He was fully buried and located about 1.5 hours later 6 feet deep. The avalanche broke 700 feet wide and 2-5 feet deep on depth hoar crystals about 1 foot above the ground. The avalanche ran 800 feet vertical and 1600 feet slope distance. Debris ranged from 5 to 15 feet deep and covered an area 900 by 400 feet. Slope angles in the starting zone ranged from 36-38 degrees.