

# Natural/Goat triggered Avalanches Big Sky

Big Sky Resort  
Northern Madison  
12/15/2023  
Code  
AW-R3-D2.5-O  
Aspect  
S  
Latitude  
45.27600  
Longitude  
-111.43600  
Notes

Big Sky Ski Patrol reported two natural avalanches seen today (12/15) in closed terrain.

From email on 12/16: "Further investigation of the avalanche yesterday showed goat tracks leading into the crown area of the avalanche. At the debris pile, it was obvious that a goat had taken the full ride in the [slide](#) that it triggered. There was a depression in the debris pile where the critter had come to rest at the surface, and obvious hoof prints trailing away from the debris pile, and then upslope for the long walk back up to rejoin the herd. There was no blood, and the tracks looked usual, with no obvious sign of broken leg(s). It is unknown if the goat was wearing an airbag or if it was deployed in the avalanche. It was a significant ride, 1K' vt., 1/4 mile linear, likely of high speed, through 2nd Dictator transition, which was taken down to mostly bare ground."

Number of slides  
2  
Number caught  
0  
Number buried  
0  
Trigger  
Wildlife  
R size  
3  
D size  
2.5  
Bed Surface  
O - Old snow  
Problem Type  
Persistent Weak Layer  
Slab Thickness  
24.0 inches  
Vertical Fall  
1000ft  
Slab Width  
40.00ft  
Images

[Natural Avalanches in Closed Terrain](#)

Snow Observation Source

[Natural Avalanches BSSP](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Multiple Avalanches

Advisory Year

[23-24](#)