

Wind Slabs on Saddle Peak

Date

Sat, 12/14/2024 - 12:00

Activity

Skiing

We toured up Saddle Peak from Schlasman's today, for the first time this season, to get our bearings on how the snowpack in this area is shaping up. We skied down Skyline ridge from the summit and saw evidence of previous [wind loading](#). Small cornices exist at the ridge crest and the snow surface off the ridge was rippled by wind. Though it has been several days since the last storm, strong winds have been present all week, and many wind slabs sit on weak snow. Thus, skiing down, we steered clear of wind slabs on steep slopes, especially with the high consequence terrain with large cliffs and trees below us.

We dug a [snowpit](#) on an E [aspect](#) at 9070'. We found a 1' thick hard [slab](#) sitting on a foundation of [faceted snow](#). We got an ECTP13 on an interface between this [slab](#) and a melt-freeze crust. We dug another [snowpit](#) at 8800', again on an E [aspect](#); here we found a deeper and stronger snowpack.

Overall, we found quite variable snowpack depths and [weak layer](#) distribution. Currently, there is not widespread instability outside of recently developed wind slabs. Areas with a shallower snowpack (1-3 feet deep) had a consistent layer of [faceted snow](#). Generally, these weak layers are not advanced, but we will continue to watch this snowpack setup once it is loaded with the weight of new snow.

Region

Bridger Range

Location (from list)

Saddle Peak

Observer Name

H. Darby