

GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Sun Apr 13, 2025

This is Mark Staples with the avalanche forecast on Sunday, April 13th, at 7:00 a.m. sponsored by [Bridger Bowl](#). This forecast does not apply to operating ski areas.

Mountain Weather

Classic spring weather yesterday afternoon delivered snow in the mountains and rain in the valleys accompanied by lightning and thunder.

- 10" snow (1.1" water) - Cooke City Area
- 6" snow (0.8" water) - northern Gallatin Range
- 2-3" snow (0.2-0.3" water) - Bridger Range and Big Sky area

Temperatures plummeted overnight and range from around 20° F in the Bridgers to low-mid teens F most other places to single digits F at the highest elevations. **Strong ridgetop winds** during snowfall yesterday blew 20 mph gusting 40-50 changing directions quickly from S to W to NW. Winds have eased this morning.

Today cold air and lingering clouds will remain over the area with a few snowflakes falling in the Bridgers. The sun should start peeking out this afternoon bringing high temps into the mid 30s F in the Bridgers and low to mid 20s F near Big Sky and Cooke City. There will be clear skies and plenty of sunshine near West Yellowstone and Island Park with high temps approaching 30° F. Winds from the WNW will blow in the low teens but could remain a bit gusty in the Bridgers.

Looking ahead - A ridge of high pressure brings warm, dry weather Monday & Tuesday. Another trough descends from Canada bringing more snow and cold air on Thursday. The fight between winter and summer continues.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



Cooke City

Wild weather yesterday likely threw down some [graupel](#) and other variations in the 10" of dense, new snow along with a [period of strong winds](#). There are two avalanche problems to consider:

Storm slab avalanches - I'm unsure how well the new snow is bonded to itself and the old snow surface, but it should be dense enough to be a cohesive slab. Assess the stability of the new snow before getting into steep terrain - get onto small steep test slopes, step and ride above your partners tracks, and perform [quick ECT's](#).

Wind slab avalanches - Strong winds during the storm yesterday drifted the new snow and formed wind slabs that could be two feet thick. Look for places with fresh wind loading and ski or ride around those locations where there's a good chance you'll trigger a slide.

Today near Cooke City the avalanche danger is [CONSIDERABLE](#) in any wind-loaded terrain with drifting from yesterday's winds. Slopes untouched by yesterday's winds have a [MODERATE](#) danger.



Bridger Range Gallatin Range Madison Range Lionhead Range Island Park

Cold temperatures have helped refreeze the snowpack ending wet snow problems. With minimal new snow there are minimal dry snow avalanche problems, but still watch out for shallow wind slabs that could sweep you off your feet.

Today the avalanche danger is [LOW](#). For the few hardy folks venturing into out of the way places, watch out for isolated locations that may have received much higher snowfall amounts. Those places will have the danger and avalanche problems more similar to the Cooke City area.