

Small natural avalanche at Bighorn/Fawn Pass loop

Southern Gallatin

12/16/2020

Code

SS-N-R1-D1-I

Elevation

7800

Aspect

N

Latitude

44.94970

Longitude

-111.02000

Notes

I went on a ski around the Bighorn/Fawn Pass loop today, and had some unfortunate, but unsurprising observations. There was about 30-60 cm of snow on the ground, which consisted of a low-density [slab](#) sitting on top of unconsolidated, sugary facets. Each step forward on skis gave little resistance as I sank all the way to the ground. I observed one small, recent avalanche on a wind-loaded north [aspect](#) at 7800', which clearly failed at the new snow/facet interface (the base is so rotten here there was an obvious difference in tone between the layers). Only one Meadow gave an audible whumph for me, but I imagine that will become more common as we get a little more SWE in the coming days. Light snowfall and moderate winds were creating drifts surprisingly quickly.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Natural trigger

R size

1

D size

1

Bed Surface

I - Interface between new and old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[20-21](#)