

# **GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Mon Dec 10, 2018**

Good Morning. This is Alex Marienthal with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Forecast issued on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. Today's forecast is sponsored by [Yellowstone Arctic Yamaha](#) and **The Friends of The Avalanche Center**. This forecast does not apply to operating ski areas.

## Mountain Weather

This morning the mountains have no new snow. Temperatures are mid-20s to 30 F at ridgetops and low teens F at lower elevations. Wind overnight was west to southwest at 10-20 mph with gusts of 30-35 mph. Today, wind will be southwest at 10-15 mph with gusts of 20-30 mph and temperatures will be mid-20s to low 30s F. Increasing cloud cover through the day will be followed by snow showers overnight with 2-4" possible by morning. More snow is expected Tuesday night and Wednesday.

## Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



[Bridger Range](#) [Gallatin Range](#) [Madison Range](#) [Lionhead Range](#) [Cooke City](#)

Doug rode in the mountains near Cooke City yesterday and dug multiple snowpits. He found 2.5 to 4 feet of stable snow ([video](#), [photo](#)), and saw a couple small avalanches from last week ([photo](#), [photo](#)). The snowpack near Bozeman and Big Sky is similarly deep and generally stable ([videos](#) and [snowpits](#)). Near West Yellowstone the snowpack is 1-2 feet deep, sugary and weak ([video](#)). Avalanche activity last week was confined to small slides of new and wind-drifted snow ([Avalanche Activity](#)), and the mountains have not had new snow or wind-loading since last Tuesday.

Isolated areas of unstable snow are possible where small slabs of wind-drifted snow formed on top of weak, low density snow ([photo](#)). Ice climbers triggered a small wind slab in Hyalite on Friday ([photo](#)), and yesterday skiers out-of-bounds near Bridger found an 8" wind slab that collapsed and propagated with eleven taps in their stability tests (unstable test result) ([video](#)). Be cautious of wind loaded slopes and assess terrain for consequences of being caught in even a small slide. A lack of recent snow and wind, and a generally stable snowpack make avalanches unlikely to be triggered today, and avalanche danger is rated **[LOW](#)**.

Check out our [recent videos](#) and [snowpit profiles](#) on our website for a snapshot of the snowpack structure across our advisory area.

If you get out and have any avalanche or snowpack observations to share, contact us via our [website](#), email ([mtavalanche@gmail.com](mailto:mtavalanche@gmail.com)), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram ([#gnfacobs](#)).

## Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

Our education calendar is full of awareness lectures and field courses. Check it out: [Events and Education Calendar](#).

West Yellowstone

**Today!** December 10 and 11, **Snowmobile Intro to Avalanches w/Field**, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone; [more info here.](#)

#### BOZEMAN

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness for Snowmobilers**, 6-7 p.m. at Yellowstone Motorsports, Bozeman.

December 13, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at Play It Again Sports, Bozeman.

#### HELENA

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at The Basecamp, Helena.

#### COOKE CITY

Every Friday and Saturday, **Rescue Training and Snowpack Update**. Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Soda Butte Lodge. Saturday anytime between 10-2 @ Round Lake.