

Happy New Year.

I want to take this time to highlight a new things happening at the GNFAC, both with personnel and on our website.

New Forecaster

Ian Hoyer recently joined our team as a part-time forecaster. He has years of forecasting experience in Colorado and a Master's degree from MSU. He also interned with us during the winter of 2013-14. Read his bio [here](#) or watch a 3-minute [interview](#) we filmed yesterday.

Avalanche Activity Page

When we get reports of avalanche activity we list it on our new [Avalanche Activity list](#). It is an efficient way to find details about recent avalanche activity and other signs of instability.



Avalanche Activity			
2019-01-07	Lionhead Range	Lionhead Ridge	Natural and remotely triggered avalanches near Lionhead
2019-01-07	Southern Gallatin	Specimen Creek	Multiple Collapses in Specimen Creek
2019-01-06	Cooke City	Mt Republic	Wind slab on Republic
2019-01-05	Northern Gallatin	Mt Ellis	Multiple Collapses on Mt. Ellis

Weather and Avalanche Log page

I find the [Weather and Avalanche Log](#) to be one of the more useful pages on our website. It lists all the important information in one table: snowfall amounts and location, and all avalanche activity with links to details. I look at it every morning when I am not forecasting to get a quick look at what's been

happening.

Forecast Weather Education Avalanches and Snowpits More

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Weather and Avalanche Log

Precip and wind are taken between 4-6 a.m. and are for the previous 24 hours. Precipitation is recorded in SWE from SNOTEL and Ski Areas
 SNOTEL Locations: [Brackett](#) - Bridgers; [Shower](#) - Hyalite; [Lone](#) - Big Sky; [Carrot](#) - S. Madison; [Madison](#) - W. Yellowstone; [Fisher](#) - Cooke
 Ski Area SWE: [Alpine](#) - Bridger; [Timber](#) - YC

Date	Northern Areas	Southern Areas	Wind Speed	Wind Direction	Avalanche Activity	Notes
Tuesday 1/8/19	0.1/2" Bridger 0.1/1" Shower 0.1/1" Timber	0.2/3" Beaver 0.4/3" Madison 0.2/2" Fisher	10-20 in south 15-30 G50 in north	W-SW		
Monday 1/7/19	0.1/1" Alpine 0.0/0" Shower 0.0/0" Timber	0.6/8" Carrot 0.8/8" Madison 0.6/9" Fisher	25-35 G45-60 G74 Big Sky	SW-S	Natural and remotely triggered avalanches near Lionhead; Multiple Collapses in Specimen Creek	
Sunday 1/6/19	0.0/0" Brackett 0.0/0" Shower 0.0/0" Lone	0.1/1" Carrot 0.2/2" Madison 0.0/0" Fisher	25-30 G45-55 G64 Hyalite	S-SW	Wind slab on Republic; Ross Peak Avalanches; Skier Triggered Avalanche in Reshiva; Multiple Collapses on Mt. Ellis	

Regional Conditions pages

Last season we introduced [Regional Conditions](#) pages to our forecast. The links are located at the top of the [daily forecast](#) as well within the forecast headers. These pages are a one-stop-shop for all things related to a particular mountain range. Weather, danger rating, danger trend, bottom line, avalanche activity, pictures, videos, snowpits, webcam links and a weather forecast are on each page. This season we added the [Centennial Range](#) on the Idaho and Montana border in response to the two avalanche fatalities last winter. These mountains have many similarities to the Lionhead area and this page allows us to share information with skiers and riders.

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[Bridgers](#) [Gallatin - N](#) [Madison - N](#) [Madison - S](#) [Gallatin - S](#) [Lionhead](#) [Cooke City](#) [Centennials](#)

Regional Conditions for Bridgers [View Weather and Avalanche Log](#)

24 Hour Snowfall and Wind as of 5:00 am		Bridger Lift 8100' 1/08 at 11:00	Bridger Ridge 8500' at 1100
Today	2" 25-48 W	26 °F	13 °F
Jan 7	1" 25-40 WSW	0.0" New	W - 18 mph
Jan 6	0" 20-35 WSW		Gusts 26mph

2 Moderate  Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern.

Bottom Line: While the couple inches of new snow and west winds yesterday formed some small, thin wind slabs, more deeply buried weak layers are our primary concern. Although it's been a week since the last significant snowfall, don't get lulled into complacency. Triggering an avalanche remains a distinct possibility today.

Primary Problem: Persistent Weak Layer [Full Forecast](#)

SnowPilot

Snowpilot is a graphing and database program for snowpits. We created this in 2003 and it now has a few thousand users from all over the world. Our [Snowpit Profiles](#) page has all our pits, plus a Google map that is populated with the last 30 days of pits. If you are interested in creating pits using this free program, check it out at www.snowpilot.org.

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Snowpit Profiles

These pits are generated using a FREE and easy to use program available at www.SnowPilot.org. Through Snowpilot, snowpit data can be uploaded to a international database for use by researchers to study avalanches.

Watch a [video](#) that shows how to download and use the software.

Go to either the [AAA page about Snow, Weather, and Avalanche Guidelines \(SWAG\)](#), or [NAC website](#) to get detailed guidelines on snowpits and stability tests.

Map Satellite

Map data ©2019 Google 30 km Terms of Use Report a map error

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YouTube

Almost every time we go into the field we post a video on YouTube and social media. By watching these 60-90 second videos a person will have a much deeper understanding of the snowpack. Check out this season's [Playlist](#) to see the sugary facets, avalanches, wind drifts and other problems we are concerned about.

It's snowing, we've had avalanches, and the season is still young. Given the weak snow structure I anticipate we'll have many more slides before the end of the month, hopefully without any serious accidents. Enjoy yourself, carry rescue gear, go with a partner and take an [avalanche class](#).

All the best,

Doug Chabot