

# **GNFAC Avalanche Advisory for Tue Jan 16, 2018**

Good Morning. This is Doug Chabot with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Advisory issued on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. Today's advisory is sponsored by [Cooke City Super 8/Bearclaw Bob's](#) and [Highline Partners](#). This advisory does not apply to operating ski areas.

## Mountain Weather

This morning has clear skies and temperatures in the teens to low 20s. Around Bozeman and Cooke City winds are westerly at 5-10 mph and 15-20 mph elsewhere. Today will be sunny, winds will remain light and mountain temperatures will reach the mid-30s in the northern ranges and high 20s in the south. The next snowfall is forecasted for Thursday night.

## Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



### Lionhead Range

The snowpack in the Lionhead area is weak, unstable and dangerous. On Sunday, riders triggered two avalanches, one in Airplane Bowl off Lionhead ridge ([photo](#)), and another lower down in the trees ([photo](#)) that was triggered from the bottom of the slope. Weak, sugary facets near the ground are doing a poor job of supporting the 2-3 feet of snow that fell in the last week. Eric had lots of collapsing and cracking during his visit on Saturday ([video](#)) and warned of triggering avalanches from below or adjacent to avalanche terrain (aka. remote trigger). For today, human triggered avalanches remain likely and the avalanche danger is rated [CONSIDERABLE](#) on all slopes.



### Cooke City

Cooke City has a mixed bag of stability concerns. This area received 3' of snow last week and over the last 2 days I rode and skied around assessing conditions. At the upper elevations I measured 9-12' of snow on the ground. A few wind slabs that formed Saturday and Sunday night avalanched naturally near ridgelines ([photo](#)). The heavy snowfall also triggered a few large avalanches at upper elevations: the Fin above town ([photo](#)), and in Hayden Creek ([photo](#)). Not to be forgotten, lower elevation slopes with snowpacks less than 5' thick have weak snow near the ground that could collapse and avalanche. All of these concerns warrant digging and testing because most slopes are stable, but a few are not. For today, the avalanche danger is a solid [MODERATE](#) since human triggered avalanches are possible.



### Bridger Range Gallatin Range Madison Range

The snowpack is still adjusting to last week's 2-4 feet of snow. In the last 3 days skiers and sledders reported many slopes with stable conditions, but recent avalanche activity warns us not be complacent. Take a look at the

[Weather and Avalanche Log](#) for a recap of the recent avalanche activity. Notable events include an avalanche remotely triggered in Dudley Creek in the northern Madison Range on Friday ([photo](#)) where the snowpack was shallow, a large avalanche on Saturday in Argentina Bowl south of Bridger Bowl ([photo](#)), and a snowmobiler triggered slide near Ross Peak in the Bridger Range ([photo](#)). Alex made a [video](#) on Saturday outlining the instabilities to look for in the Bridger Range, but it applies to other ranges too. Avalanches breaking 2-4' deep are possible, but without new snow it's becoming less likely. For today, the avalanche danger is rated **[MODERATE](#)**.

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

## King and Queen of the Ridge

[King and Queen of the Ridge](#), Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Hike and Ski/Ride-a-Thon fundraising event to support the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. Sign up and start collecting pledges [HERE](#).

## Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events

### [Events and Education Calendar](#)

#### BOZEMAN

Jan. 17, 18 and 20 or 21, **Introduction to Avalanches w/ Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Jan. 22, **MAP Brewing Pint Night**, 4-8 p.m. MAP donates 50 cents of every pint sold to the Friends of the Avalanche Center.

Jan. 24, 25 and 27, **Advanced Avalanche Workshop w. Field Day**, [Info and Register Here](#)

Feb. 9 and 10, **Companion Rescue Clinic**, [Info and Register](#)

#### WEST YELLOWSTONE

Jan. 20, **Avalanche Awareness**, 7-8 p.m. at West Yellowstone Holiday Inn Conference Center

#### Dillon

Jan. 16, **Avalanche Awareness**, 6:30-8 p.m. at U.M. Western Library

#### COOKE CITY

Every Friday and Saturday, **Current Conditions Update and Avalanche Rescue**, Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Antler's Lodge in January. Saturday anytime between 10-2 @ Round Lake.