

Partial Burial on Sawtooth Mountain near Goose Lake

Goose Lake

Cooke City

2/2/2022

Code

SS-ASu-R2-D2-O

Elevation

10800

Aspect

SE

Latitude

45.14370

Longitude

-109.90400

Notes

This morning while ascending a line on Sawtooth Mountain (Lower Novocain) we triggered an avalanche (ASu-SS-R2-D2-O) that caught and carried my partner an estimated 180M and partially buried him. His leg and hand were unburied and excavation of the head was done in less than 2 minutes of the incident. The avalanche only involved new snow from the last 48hrs and was triggered on a MF crust/facet combo 30cm down (formed 1/30/22). The avalanche was 30cm at its deepest and 20-30M wide and ran 250M. We were lucky to find both skis and poles a little ways downslope. No injuries were sustained.

We both agree that we were trying to outsmart the instability that was present on steeper S facing terrain and should have turned around much sooner, we were very lucky. There was 30+cm HST in favored areas and the high winds from 1/31/22 formed some sensitive windslabs in specific areas.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

1

Number buried

1

Number killed

0

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

2

D size

2

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

New Snow

Slab Thickness

30.0 centimeters

Vertical Fall

300ft

Slab Width

90.00ft

Weak Layer Grain type

Faceted Crystals

Slab Layer Grain Type

Precipitation Particles

Images

[Partial Burial on Sawtooth Mtn near Goose Lake](#)

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[21-22](#)