

Compression Test and Obs Beehive/Middle Basin

Date

Sat, 03/23/2024 - 16:30

Activity

Snowboarding

Would like to preface this by saying my buddy and I have limited experience testing and poor technique, but we gave it hell anyway.

We dug a pit on the east side of the ridge between beehive and middle basin, and did a compression test. The column was somewhat poorly isolated, and we were not able to get it to fail with a normal tap test. By stomping on it from above, we got a fracture at about 75cm depth on what looked like an earlier season rain crust. Everything above that level was very dense, stable and hard to dig. The surface had about 10cm fresh snow with a hard crust below. Image of snow profile is attached. Pit coordinates were 45.32897, -111.38197. Overall we felt like this aligned with the forecast quite well. Snowpack appeared very stable and cohesive until it got down to a depth below the crust at 75cm.

While traveling, we saw significant snow accumulation midday and clearing in the afternoon, followed by light snow in the evening. Test slopes and cornices we tested were stable, and we didn't see shooting cracks or hear any whumpfung. No natural avalanches observed, but visibility was poor most of the day. Wind across the ridge was substantial with notable blowing snow, blowing from the west and southwest.

Thanks for all you do!

Region

Northern Madison

Location (from list)

Middle Basin

Observer Name

Sean