

GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Fri May 2, 2025

Good morning, this is Mark Staples with our FINAL spring weather and snowpack update on Friday, May 2nd.

We're wrapping up our 35th winter in operation after 141 forecasts and ZERO avalanche fatalities, the second winter in a row with no avalanche deaths. The last time this happened was 1988 and 1989. It's been an incredible season. **Thank you for all your support!**

*Consider making a donation **TODAY** until 6pm during [Give Big Gallatin Valley](#).*

Mountain Weather

This week started with a decent storm that dropped up to 5-7 inches of snow containing a lot of water. Another 2-5 inches of snow fell Tuesday night, and some places were dusted Wednesday night. At most upper elevation [SNOTEL sites](#), the snowpack has reached its peak water content which should start quickly going down in coming weeks.

In the springtime battle between winter and summer, it seems like summer is starting to win more lately...but last year the final snowfall in Bozeman was on June 17th.

Temperatures - Air temperatures in the mountains dipped below freezing Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Last night (Thursday night), low temps were on either side of freezing, but clear skies should have helped refreeze the snowpack a little but.

This weekend and early next week - An upper level ridge of high pressure will bring warm, sunny weather today, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Clouds and rain arrive Sunday afternoon, but cold air doesn't arrive until Monday morning with winds from the north that shift to northeast and east. Snow should fall Monday morning through Tuesday morning. Most places should only get an inch or two of snow, but there may be isolated spots (Tobacco Root Mtns maybe?) that could get 5-8 inches.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



All Regions

Today and this weekend, the main threat is wet snow avalanches. A minimal refreeze of the snow this week combined with very warm weather the next few days will increase the odds of **wet loose avalanches**.

Often the main threat is having one start naturally above you. The good news is that the snowpack will most often give clues that it's starting to warm up enough for wet avalanches to start happening. Areas with exposed rocks heat up the quickest and are often places where wet loose avalanches happen first. Check out this [great example of a slide](#) I spotted while skiing yesterday.

Make sure to get an early start in the coming days and exit the mountains early. The snow should be lightly refrozen in the mornings, but will quickly break down as soon as the sun climbs into the sky by mid-morning.

Give Big Gallatin Valley

Give Big Gallatin Valley is TODAY! until 6pm

Please support the Friends of the Avalanche Center during Give Big Gallatin Valley. It is a 24-hour celebration of giving to connect generous community members with causes they care about most in order to raise important funding for nonprofits serving Gallatin Valley.

Use this link to donate to The Friends of GNFAC during the Give Big event

Thank you to the Bozeman Ice Festival for matching \$2000 in donations this year!

We appreciate your help!