

# Persistent Slab Avalanches Tepee Basin

Date

Sun, 02/23/2025 - 15:40

Activity

Snowmobiling

We got to ride into Tepee Basin with a pair of snowmobilers who were involved in an avalanche two days ago (2/23). The pair generously offered to join us and run us through the incident. It was an incredible opportunity to learn from each other. Read [details](#) about the [slide](#).

The avalanche failed on the [weak layer](#) of facets that formed in late January. We also spotted another avalanche in similar, mid-elevation terrain likely triggered yesterday or earlier this morning. Both of these avalanches fit the pattern we've been seeing [in Lionhead](#) and the recent [slide](#) outside the forecast area [in the Black Canyon area](#) of Island Park. Other than the Black Canyon avalanche which is uncertain because we have not visited the site, the slides are taking place in mid-elevation terrain, smaller slopes with minimal wind-[loading](#), and a thinner snowpack.

The snowpack in both the Tepee slides was thin relative to the average snowpack depth (129 cm).

Take Homes:

1. You aren't good to go if you avoid the steep, upper-elevation, wind-loaded bowls. Steep slopes at mid-elevations harbor weak snow and have the potential for an avalanche.
2. The persistent [slab](#) avalanche problem is alive and well. The epicenter of this problem is in the Lionhead area and the Southern Madison and Southern Gallatin Ranges.
3. The issue with this avalanche problem is the distribution. It's nearly impossible to tell which slopes will [slide](#) and which ones won't. On many, the [weak layer](#) isn't so weak and the likelihood of triggering one is low. On other slopes, the [weak layer](#) is very weak and the likelihood of triggering one is up there.

Region

Southern Madison

Location (from list)

Tepee Basin

Observer Name

Zinn and Staples