Small natural avalanche at Bighorn/Fawn Pass loop

Southern Gallatin
12/16/2020
Code
SS-N-R1-D1-I
Elevation
7800
Aspect
N
Latitude
44.94970
Longitude
-111.02000
Notes

I went on a ski around the Bighorn/Fawn Pass loop today, and had some unfortunate, but unsurprising observations. There was about 30-60 cm of snow on the ground, which consisted of a low-density slab sitting on top of unconsolidated, sugary facets. Each step forward on skis gave little resistance as I sank all the way to the ground. I observed one small, recent avalanche on a wind-loaded north aspect at 7800', which clearly failed at the new snow/facet interface (the base is so rotten here there was an obvious difference in tone between the layers). Only one Meadow gave an audible whumph for me, but I imagine that will become more common as we get a little more SWE in the coming days. Light snowfall and moderate winds were creating drifts surprisingly quickly.

Number of slides
1
Number caught
0
Number buried
0
Avalanche Type
Soft slab avalanche
Trigger
Natural trigger
R size
1
D size
1
Bed Surface
I - Interface between new and old snow
Problem Type
Persistent Weak Layer
Slab Thickness units
centimeters
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Single Avalanche
Advisory Year
20-21