Kept it Conservative

Date
Thu, 02/22/2024 - 14:15
Activity
Skiing

We toured to the east shoulder of Divide Peak today, 02/22/2024. We saw several natural avalanches on the north-facing terrain in Divide Cirque, below Hyalite Peak, and Overlook Mountain. These avalanches likely happened following a storm near the end of last week. Near the base of Divide, we dug on a SE-facing slope at 9300' and had a stability score of ECTP30. From here, we continued up the shoulder, trying our best to stay on slopes near 30 degrees in steepness. At the top of the shoulder on an east slope at 9600', we dug another pit and found 133 cm of snow and had a stability score of ECTP20. In both our snowpits, we had a well-defined layer of weak faceted snow buried 2-3 feet deep. This is the layer our stability tests failed on.

During our tour, we saw no cracking or collapsing, but recent natural avalanches near us and the large natural avalanche seen on Mt. Bole a few days ago encouraged us to keep our terrain choices conservative. We skied down near our skin track one at a time and avoided areas with terrain traps like gullies, cliffs, and thick trees below.

Region
Northern Gallatin
Location (from list)
Divide Peak
Observer Name
Zach Peterson