Snowmobiler got collapsing

Watkins Creek Lionhead Range 12/28/2018 Code Elevation 8000 Aspect Range E-SE Notes

From an email from Bret Rasmussen:

(Collapsing) "This occurred as I was driving through the snow. I had observed this evidence of collapsing in a few areas, but in the picture I actually witnessed the snow settle. Above and South of Watkins Creek. East Southeast aspect . 8000 feet."

His assessment (we concur): "The $\underline{\text{weak layer}}$ does not seem to be healing... It's going to take a deeper snow pack to promote $\underline{\text{stability}}$ but at the same time this will stress the existing $\underline{\text{weak layer}}$. I'm afraid we are headed for a very troubled avalanche season!"

The attached video and snowpit is from the same day, not very far to the north in Trapper Creek.

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Images

Collapsing and cracking_2

Collapsing and cracking_1

Trapper Creek Profile

Attached Videos

Weak and Unstable, Hebgen - 28 Dec

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

18-19