Skier triggered large slide on Flanders Mountain

Flanders Creek
Northern Gallatin
1/9/2021
Code
HS-ASu-R4-D2.5-O
Elevation
9800
Aspect
E
Latitude
45.43590
Longitude
-110.94400
Notes

From obs: "We dug a pit and found a really weak snowpack! Regardless of the poor stability result, we proceeded to ski an East facing bowl south of Flanders Mountain knowing that the slope angle was low and only flirted with 30 degrees in some parts of the bowl. We could have chosen to ski the trees further to our left, but after evaluating the consequence associated with skiing the bowl, we decided that the center of the bowl did not pose too big a risk given we skied one at a time. My partner skied first, he skied practically all the way back to the skin track when the slope failed and the entire bowl released. He was pretty well out of the way of danger by the time the bowl began to move. From our perspective, the trigger happened at the bottom of the slope.... The bowl was not the only slope that slid, the avalanche propagated around the ridge and released a slide on the more south-easterly facing aspect just south of the bowl. We tail-tucked and went home glad no one was caught or hurt."

GNFAC forecasters visited the site on 1/11/21. We measured the maximum slope angle in the start zone at 35 degrees with an average slope angle of 33 degrees. The debris in each path was up to 2-3 meters deep. The avalanche broke on a layer of weak faceted snow 70 cm above the ground, and propagated almost 1000 feet wide. The crown was 2-3 feet deep.

Number of slides
1
Number caught
0
Number buried
0
Avalanche Type
Hard slab avalanche
Trigger
Skier
Trigger Modifier
u-An unintentional release
R size
4
D size
2.5

Bed Surface
O - Old snow
Problem Type
Persistent Weak Layer
Slab Thickness
30.0 inches
Vertical Fall
500ft
Slab Width
1000.00ft
Weak Layer Grain type
Faceted Crystals
Weak Layer grain size
2.50mm
Slab Layer Grain Type
Decomposing and Fragmented precipitation particles
Images
Skier triggered on Flanders, both crowns
Flanders skier triggered
Skier triggered on Flanders, crown pit
Skier triggered on Flanders, second path
Skier triggered large slide on Flanders, second path 2
Skier triggered on Flanders other end of crown
Skier triggered on Flanders 2
Large Flanders slide, crown 2
Skier triggered on Flanders
Attached Videos
Investigating skier triggered slide, Flanders - 11 Jan 21
Skier triggered large slide on Flanders - 9 Jan
Slab Thickness units
inches
Single / Multiple / Red Flag
Single Avalanche
Advisory Year
20-21