

Skier triggered and caught near The Apron at Bridger

Bridger Bowl

Bridger Range

12/16/2021

Code

SS-ASu-R2-D1.5-I

Elevation

7700

Aspect

NE

Latitude

45.81560

Longitude

-110.92300

Notes

On 12/16/21 A skier in a group of three triggered and was caught in an avalanche near The Apron at Bridger Bowl. The ski area is closed and backcountry conditions exist. Nobody was injured.

From e-mail: "We had a group of three skiing up at the Bridger Apron today. We skied a more main slope in the field north of the slope with hidden [couloir](#) , snow was very stable and has been getting a lot of tracks. For a second run we skinned up the main slope under hidden and started our run in the trees slightly south of this slope. Not many tracks over there and not a good enough evaluation of the snowpack. We were planning on skiing a northeast facing chute through the trees that had very nice looking snow similar to what we had skied earlier. I skied in and had about 3 amazing turns, definitely partially due to the [wind loading](#) at this [aspect](#) . After three turns my feet were taking out from under me and I got caught in a [slide](#) keeping skis perpendicular to slope for 15-20'. This avalanche carried me rapidly and cleared the snow to the rocks below in which I was able to come to a halt and watch the rest of the sluff sl [slide](#) ast me. After looking at the conditions after, this windy as [aspect](#) eemed to have a very faceted layer about 8" down that acted as the crown. No injuries, a lost ski pole in the runout which extended down the slope maybe another 40'. The wind scoop on top and seeing these facets should have been a clear sign prior to skiing. Must be more diligent even in areas of high traffic. When dropping in to ski on first turn or so I remember hearing a possible whumpf."

Number of slides

1

Number caught

1

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

2

D size

1.5

Bed Surface

I - Interface between new and old snow

Problem Type

Wind-Drifted Snow

Slab Thickness

8.0 inches

Images

[Skier triggered and caught in avalanche at Bridger 2](#)

[Skier triggered and caught in avalanche at Bridger](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[21-22](#)