

# **GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Sun Dec 9, 2018**

Good Morning. This is Alex Marienthal with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Forecast issued on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 a.m. Today's forecast is sponsored by [\*\*Knoff Group Real Estate\*\*](#) and [\*\*Lawson Dental\*\*](#). This forecast does not apply to operating ski areas.

## Mountain Weather

This morning temperatures are in the teens F, the mountains have no new snow, and wind is westerly at 10-20 mph. Today will be mostly sunny with temperatures in the high 20s to low 30s F and wind out of the west to southwest at 10-20 mph. The next chance for snow is Tuesday morning.

## Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



**Bridger Range** **Gallatin Range** **Madison Range** **Lionhead Range** **Cooke City**

The snowpack in the Bridger, Gallatin and Madison Ranges, and mountains near Cooke City is 2-3 feet deep and generally stable without widespread buried weak layers. Near West Yellowstone, the snowpack is 1-2 feet deep, sugary and weak ([\*\*video\*\*](#)). Check out our [\*\*recent videos\*\*](#) and [\*\*snowpit profiles\*\*](#) on our website for a snapshot of the snowpack structure across our advisory area.

Reports of avalanches last week were confined to small slides of new and wind-drifted snow ([\*\*Avalanche Activity\*\*](#)). Today will be the fifth day in a row without new snow or heavy wind-loading, and avalanches are unlikely to be triggered. On Friday, ice climbers in Hyalite triggered a small pocket of wind-drifted snow ([\*\*photo\*\*](#)). Similar small wind slabs might be found today. Blowing and drifting snow or cracking of the snow surface are signs that you might find unstable fresh drifts. Assess wind-loaded slopes for the consequences of being caught in even a small slide. Today, the avalanche danger is rated [\*\*LOW\*\*](#).

If you get out and have any avalanche or snowpack observations to share, contact us via our [\*\*website\*\*](#), email ([\*\*mtavalanche@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:mtavalanche@gmail.com)), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram ([\*\*#gnfacobs\*\*](#)).

## **Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events**

Our education calendar is full of awareness lectures and field courses. Check it out: [\*\*Events and Education Calendar\*\*](#).

### **BOZEMAN**

**Today!**, December 9, **Beacon Park for the Bozeman Ice Fest**, Grotto Falls parking lot, Hyalite Canyon, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Tomorrow**, December 10 and 11, **Snowmobile Intro to Avalanches w/Field**, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone; [\*\*more info here\*\*](#).

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness for Snowmobilers**, 6-7 p.m. at Yellowstone Motorsports, Bozeman.

December 13, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at Play It Again Sports, Bozeman.

HELENA

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at The Basecamp, Helena.

COOKE CITY

Every Friday and Saturday, **Rescue Training and Snowpack Update**. Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Soda Butte Lodge. Saturday anytime between 10-2 @ Round Lake.