

Snowmobiler triggered hard slab avalanche Sheep Mtn.

Sheep Mountain

Cooke City

12/31/2022

Code

HS-AMu-R3-D2-O

Elevation

10000

Aspect

W

Latitude

45.07220

Longitude

-109.92800

Notes

...we rode over the saddle between Sheep and Scotch Bonnet and saw an avalanche that appeared very recent, and likely triggered by a snowmobiler. It was on a west facing slope at 10,000', and was a hard [slab](#) 1-4 feet deep and 150' wide, ran about 200' vertical. AMu-HS-R3-D2-O. This was a clear sign that weak layers exist, especially where the snowpack is relatively shallower, and recent snow has been drifted into thick slabs that are unstable over this weak snow.

Number of slides

1

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Snowmobile

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

3

D size

2

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

42.0 inches

Vertical Fall

200ft

Slab Width

150.00ft

Images

[Snowmobile triggered large slide on Sheep 2](#)

[Snowmobile triggered large slide on Sheep](#)

Attached Videos

[Recent human-triggered large avalanche, Cooke City - 31 Dec 2022](#)

Snow Observation Source

[Snowmobiler triggered avalanche Sheep Mtn.](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[22-23](#)