Unstable snowpack near Cooke

Date
Mon, 02/05/2024 - 11:25

We skied south of Cooke City and dug a snowpit at 9,761' on a west facing slope. We had an ECTP21, 40 cm below the surface (16" down). There was 6-8" of new snow from the weekend above 4" of soft old snow, on top of 4" of a pencil- hard slab, then the soft sugary facets to the ground. ECT broke below the hard slab at the top of the facets (photo). I had one collapse, 10-12' wide near treeline where there was little more wind-loading/effect (photo).

The unstable test score, very poor snowpack structure, and collapse indicate a person could easily trigger a large avalanche on steep slopes.

Snowed lightly on and off all day with a couple cm accumulation. Wind was light-moderate out of the southwest with mostly overcast skies.

Region
Cooke City
Location (from list)
Republic Creek
Observer Name
Alex Marienthal