

Lionhead

Date

Mon, 01/02/2023 - 13:45

Activity

Snowmobiling

We rode back to the recommended wilderness boundary through Denny Creek, Watkins Creek, etc. We saw the avalanche triggered by a ground of riders around the corner from Airplane Bowl. It was 150' wide x 4-5' deep and 150-200' vertical. The debris was piled 5-6' deep, certainly deep enough to bury or injury a rider or skier. This was a close call.

We observed several recent storm and [wind slab](#) avalanches from Lionhead Ridge but not other deep [slab](#) avalanches. The snowpack structure is similar to what we have seen in the past rides to the area, a 3" thick layer of facets 1-2' deep and facets buried near the base of the snowpack. Avalanches are becoming less likely without new snow, but the structure will keep the danger heightened for a while.

Looking forward, there was [surface hoar](#) covering most slopes, and it is supposed to snow lightly through the week. We will be watching this for a possible new layer of concern.

Region

Lionhead Range

Location (from list)

LIONHEAD AREA

Observer Name

Dave Zinn