

Weak facets buried, and new snow

Date

Sun, 02/05/2023 - 14:55

Activity

Skiing

This afternoon (2/5/23), we rode over Daisy Pass in hopes of seeing the recent skier triggered [slide](#) on Fisher Mountain, but it had started snowing and visibility was too limited to see the crown or get to the [slide](#). We rode around the back of Fisher to Lulu Pass and then up to the south shoulder of Scotch Bonnet to dig a pit. There was an old, large pile of debris at the bottom of one of the Rasta Chutes that I assume slid last weekend.

We dug a pit at 9,600' on a southwest facing slope. HS was 160cm. Below last weekend's snow (1 foot/30cm deep) was a 10 cm thick layer of soft facets (F+ hardness). We had an ECTN 21 and ECTP 21 on this layer. The recent skier triggered avalanche on Fisher probably broke on this layer, on a more wind-loaded slope. This layer will be a problem for a while, especially as it gets loaded by more new and wind-drifted snow.

Wind was moderate out of the southwest-west, and at 4pm there was 3" of low-density new snow.

Region

Cooke City

Location (from list)

Scotch Bonnet

Observer Name

Alex Marienthal