

Bat Ears Couloir and Bear Basin avalanches

Bear Basin

Northern Madison

1/15/2020

Code

SS-ASc

Aspect

NW

Latitude

45.34530

Longitude

-111.37500

Notes

From an observation form:

An intentional [ski cut](#) at the top of Bat Ears [couloir](#) produced a windslab avalanche with a crown 4-8inches deep and ran about as wide as the [couloir](#). We then continued to ski down. Once in the bottom of Bear Basin, we could see a much larger avalanche that looked to be 1-2 days old. Its disjointed crown was some 150ft wide, but it was hard to tell how deep it was, as its crown was fairly far away and partly blown back in. Parts of the [slide](#) ran on the ground layer of facets but looked to be the result of wind load.

I do not have pictures of the Bat Ears crown that we triggered. We exited via Bear basin with our tails between our legs, and hope this bad idea on our part can help others make terrain choices this weekend.

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

c-A controlled or intentional release by the indicated trigger

Problem Type

Wind-Drifted Snow

Images

[Bear Basin natural avalanche_2](#)

[Bear Basin natural avalanche_1](#)

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Multiple Avalanches

Advisory Year

[19-20](#)