

# **GNFAC Avalanche Forecast for Sat Dec 8, 2018**

Good Morning. This is Alex Marienthal with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Forecast issued on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 a.m. This forecast is sponsored by [Community Food Co-op](#) and [Montana State Parks](#). This forecast does not apply to operating ski areas.

## Mountain Weather

This morning the mountains have no new snow, temperatures are teens to low 20s F, and wind is 10-20 mph with gusts of 25 mph out of the west-southwest. Today, temperatures will be in the mid-20s F with westerly wind at 15-25 mph. The high pressure weather pattern will continue through the weekend with the next chance for snow Tuesday morning.

## Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion



[Bridger Range](#) [Gallatin Range](#) [Madison Range](#) [Lionhead Range](#) [Cooke City](#)

With the exception of the Lionhead area near West Yellowstone, the snowpack throughout our advisory area is 2-3 feet deep, supportive, and lacks widespread buried weak layers. We observed these generally stable conditions over the past week in Hyalite ([video](#)), Taylor Fork ([video](#)), near Big Sky ([video](#)), and the Bridger Range ([video](#)). The snowpack near West Yellowstone is shallower and weaker ([video](#)), but generally stable for now without recent snow and wind.

Reported avalanche activity last week was confined to small avalanches of new and wind-drifted snow ([Avalanche Activity](#)). Four days without snow or heavy wind-loading makes avalanches unlikely to be triggered today. Ice climbers in Hyalite triggered a small wind-drifted pocket of snow yesterday ([photo](#)), which shows avalanches are not impossible. Remain cautious of wind-loaded slopes and assess the consequences of being caught in even a small slide. Today, generally safe avalanche conditions exist and the avalanche danger is rated [LOW](#).

Check out the [snowpit profile page](#) on our website for a snapshot of the snowpack structure across our advisory area.

If you get out and have any avalanche or snowpack observations to share, contact us via our [website](#), email ([mtavalanche@gmail.com](mailto:mtavalanche@gmail.com)), phone (406-587-6984), or Instagram ([#gnfacobs](#)).

## **Upcoming Avalanche Education and Events**

Our education calendar is full of awareness lectures and field courses. Check it out: [Events and Education Calendar](#).

### BOZEMAN

**Tomorrow, December 9, Beacon Park for the Bozeman Ice Fest**, Grotto Falls parking lot, Hyalite Canyon, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

December 11 and 12, **Snowmobile Intro to Avalanches w/Field**, Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone; [more info here](#).

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness for Snowmobilers**, 6-7 p.m. at Yellowstone Motorsports, Bozeman.

December 13, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at Play It Again Sports, Bozeman.

#### HELENA

December 12, **1-hr Avalanche Awareness**, 6-7 p.m. at The Basecamp, Helena.

#### COOKE CITY

Every Friday and Saturday, **Rescue Training and Snowpack Update**. Friday 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Soda Butte Lodge. Saturday anytime between 10-2 @ Round Lake.