

Intern:	Eric Murrow / Ian Havlick
Week and Year	December 8th - 14th, 2017
Backcountry zone:	Crested Butte Area

Notable Weather Events (snowfall, SWE, winds, temps, etc.)

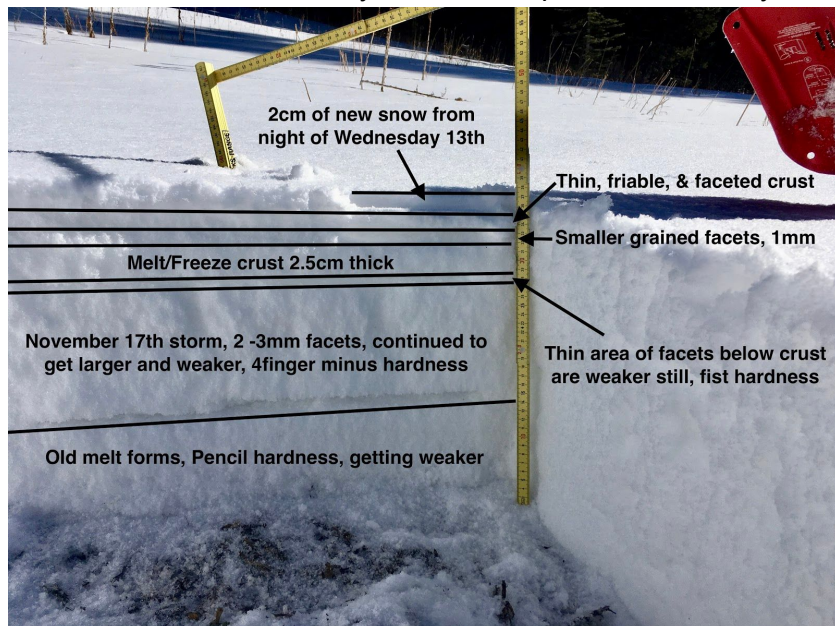
Another week without a significant storm system. This week's weather was unseasonably warm with overnight lows in the teens or 20s (a few sites saw occasional single digits) and daytime highs reaching the 30s to 40. Winds during this week were relatively calm aside from an uptick on Wednesday night and Thursday. Wind speeds at most stations averaged around 10 mph with gusts staying below 20 mph.

On Wednesday night, the 13th, a storm system passed through northern Colorado. Although this system had little impact on the Crested Butte area, the highest terrain north of Crested Butte saw 1-2" of new snow accompanied by moderate north winds.

Snowpack (weak layer date(s) and status, structure, stability trends)

November 17th interface: This interface is still stubborn to unreactive as slabs continue to lose strength. Another week of seasonal temperatures has allowed the faceting process to continue. Below and Near Treeline slopes are generally very weak, with no slab, and capped by crusts. Alpine terrain still harbors very isolated slabs. These slabs are found on upper elevation leeward features and loaded gullies where the wind deposited snow on NW - E aspects.

This week, the CBAC has decided to include a photo from our weekly snow profile that we preform up near Elkton. This site is a flat meadow at 10,400 ft. We utilize this data to track changes within the snowpack structure over time. This weeks profile showed a decrease in hand hardness of November 17th snow. Facets in this layer are now up to 2 -3mm in size and will likely be full on depth hoar if this dry weather persists.



Avalanches

No significant avalanches in our area, however several small D1 windslabs were reported on SE facing slopes above treeline following the skiff of snow and north winds Wednesday night-Thursday. Isolated D2 slides triggered by explosives from Summit County and Berthoud Pass were reported breaking into old snow near the ground.

Incident, accidents, close calls

None

Comments (anything unusual/noteworthy, thoughts on the near future)

Weather pattern appears to be changing with a break down of the ridge of high pressure sagging south and retrograding to the west. Best chance for significant snowfall looks to be next Wednesday and Thursday.