

Weekly Summary December 30-January 5

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Dates:	Dec 30, 2022 - January 5, 2023
Zones:	Crested Butte, Northwest & Southeast Mountains

Friday 12/30

A trace to 2 inches of snow fell overnight. Friday began with light snowfall and the precipitation rate ramped up over the course of the day. Daytime snow totals were 1-4" depending on the area. One avalanche was reported, a skier triggered D1 in AMR.

Saturday 12/31

The storm kept cranking overnight, depositing another 3-6" by Saturday morning. The snowfall continued throughout the day, dropping 3-6". All of this snow was wetter than average, due to both high moisture content in the atmospheric river driving the snowfall and the warm temperatures these past two days. The incremental loading began triggering avalanches at this point. Both human and natural avalanches were reported, sizes D1.5 to D2.5, either Near or Below Tree Line, and all on Northeast through East through Southeast aspects.

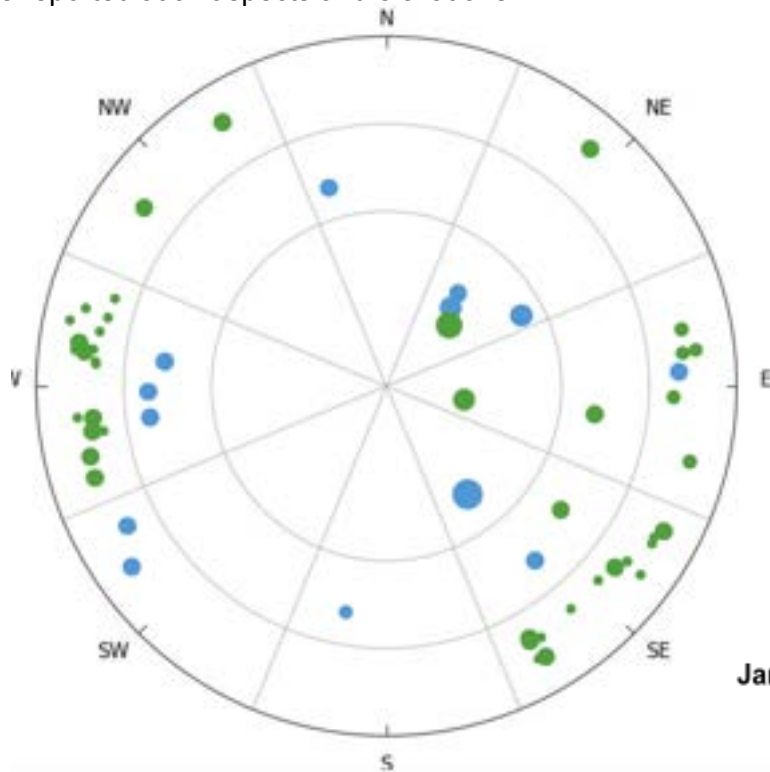


Remotely triggered D2 on Gothic Road



Sunday 1/1

Saturday night brought another 5-8" to the valley with Moderate winds from the Southwest. The snow continued on Sunday as 1-4 more inches stacked up. The daytime highs reached the mid 30's and the snowline crept up accordingly. An average of 6" of snow fell during the day and Irwin reported 11" of new snow. Widespread natural avalanching as well as human triggered avalanches were reported at all aspects and elevations.



January 1, 2023 avalanches

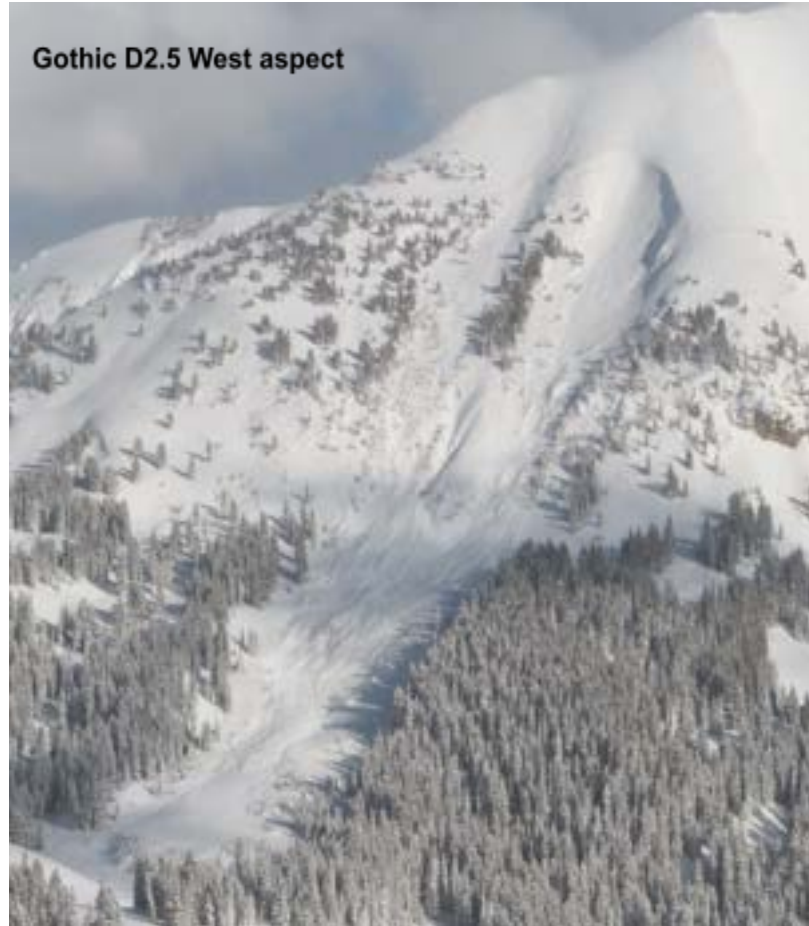


Slide over the groomed snomo track on Ohio Pass

Monday 1/2

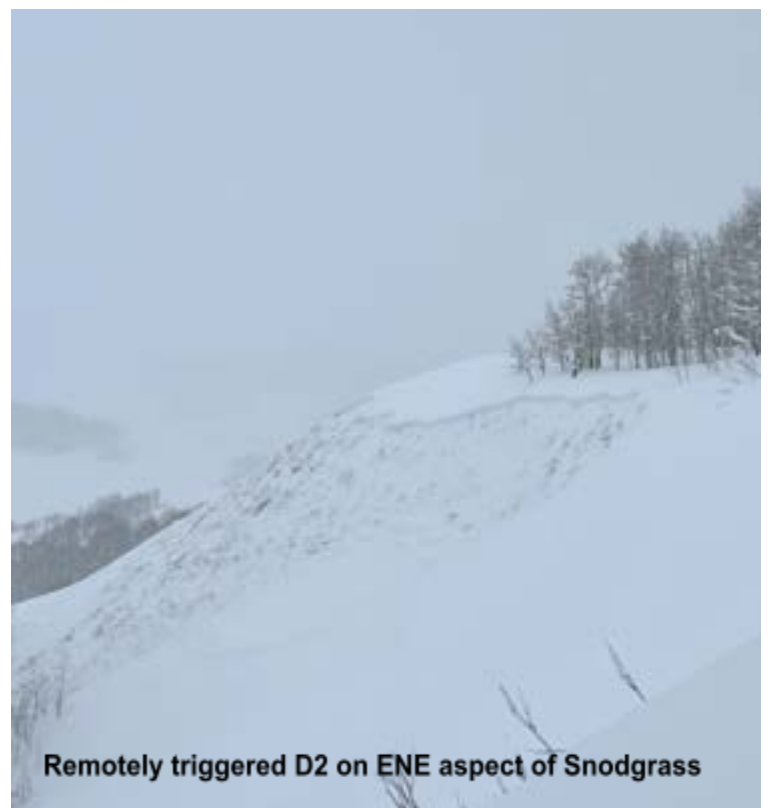
Monday was primarily overcast with light snowfall, 1-3", and temps in the 20's F. More reports of avalanches from the Sunday cycle were the highlight today. In the Elkton area, many of these avalanches ran on the West - Southwest - South portion of the compass Near and Below Tree Line. In Washington Gulch avalanches were observed on West - Southwest and East - Northeast aspects Near and Below Tree Line.





Tuesday 1/3

Another 2-8" of low density snow fell overnight. By the end of the day Elkton received 14" of snow and Irwin reported 17" total since last night. Moderate West winds began wind slab development on North through East through South aspects. Skiers remotely triggered a D2 avalanche from 300m away on East/Northeast Below Tree Line terrain on Snodgrass. In Washington Gulch skiers also remotely triggered a pair of D1 avalanches.



Wednesday 12/4

In the last 36 hours Irwin has reported 20" and CBMR 10" of low density snow. The winds ramped up today with Scarp Ridge showing a max gust of 57 mph from the West and CBMR registering 34 mph West-Northwest. The Wind Slab problem increased accordingly. Several avalanches were reported up the Slate, many of these reached the road and ran during the previous few days storm cycle. Red Lady Bowl avalanched today as well, it ran wall to wall as a D3 with a crown 8 feet deep in places.



Thursday 1/5

The sun finally emerged and temperatures reached 28F in town and 23F at CBMR. Westerly winds increased to 20mph, driving wind slab formation on leeward slopes. The good visibility made for plentiful avalanche observations. By the end of the day seventeen avalanches were reported that likely ran on Wednesday 1/4. Two were D2.5, Ten were D2, four were D2.5, one was D3, and one was D3.5 that ran in the Climax Chutes well into the valley floor. Looking ahead, light snowfall begins Thursday evening and will taper off by Saturday morning.



Climax Chutes D3.5 from January 4