

Weekly Summary January 13 - 19, 2023

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Dates:	Jan 13, 2023 - January 19, 2023
Zones:	Crested Butte, Northwest & Southeast Mountains

Friday 1/13

Friday was partly cloudy with warm daytime temperatures in the upper 30's to lower 40's F. Winds were light from the Northwest. Roller balls and small wet loose avalanches were observed today.



Saturday 1/14

Saturday experienced high clouds that increased throughout the day, slightly milder temps than yesterday with highs in the mid 30's F, and winds trending from Light to Moderate from South Southwest. Surface hoar was reported in the Upper Slate and Washington Gulch. Saturday evening a storm system arrived in the valley.

Sunday 1/15

Southwest winds on Saturday night began pumping moisture into the area with a few inches falling overnight. Snowfall picked up over the course of the day and Irwin Cat Ski reported 10" of new snow by the end of the day, an observer in Brush Creek reported 5" of new snow, and Gothic clocked in with 1-2" of new snow. Winds remained light from the Southwest. No avalanches were reported today, but the CBAC observed noticeable sensitivity to triggering avalanches in shallow terrain where trigger points are more easily affected.



Snowpit tests showing sensitive conditions in a thin snowpack on Teocalli

Monday 1/16

Snowfall continued overnight and storm totals were 6 to 12+ inches by Monday morning. Winds remained light out of the West and light snowfall persisted throughout the day, depositing 1-2 inches. The storm total in the Northwest Mountains was 17" by the end of Monday. Gothic reported a 24 hour accumulation of 14". Observations indicated increasingly sensitive Dry Loose avalanche conditions.



Tuesday 1/17

Heavy snowfall continued Monday night, bringing 8-10" to the valley by Tuesday morning. Gothic finished slightly ahead with 11" overnight. Precipitation intensity dropped off during the day but the storm still dropped 2-4" by the end of Tuesday. Irwin reported 3" of daytime accumulation. The winds were moderate out of the South and daytime highs reached the mid 20's F. Backcountry travelers reported numerous D.5 to 1.5 avalanches, primarily on steeper slopes.

Dry loose slides in steep terrain



Wednesday 1/18

Snowfall continued through Tuesday night. CBMR recorded 7" and Gothic fell a bit shorter with 3-4" by Wednesday morning. Wednesday was the tail end of the multi-day storm. Another 1-2" fell during the day, and a few more inches accumulated in favored areas like Irwin. The winds dropped to Light from Moderate over the day and shifted from West to Northwest. More small sluffs were reported today, as well as small wind slabs.

Wind slab on Kebler Pass Road



Thursday 1/19

Cold temperatures moved into the valley on Wednesday night and overnight lows plummeted into the negative teens. The daytime high reached the low 20'sF. Thursday morning was clear and clouds increased during the afternoon to the point of overcast skies by the early evening. Winds remained light from the West. More storm slabs and wind slabs were observed today, mostly in the D1-1.5 range.



Looking ahead to the weekend, Friday could bring a trace of new snow and light winds. The current incoming low pressure system will pass mostly to the South of us and bring increasing Northerly winds on Saturday morning.