

Weekly Summary January 20 - 26, 2023

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Dates:	Jan 20, 2023 - January 26, 2023
Zones:	Crested Butte, Northwest & Southeast Mountains

Friday 1/20

Friday slightly over-delivered with up to 2" of new snow in favored areas. Southeast winds remained light and daytime temps peaked in the mid teens. No avalanches were reported today but the previous day, Thursday 1/19, a fresh persistent slab on a small terrain feature was observed up the Walrod trail on a west facing slope.



Small avalanche up the Walrod trail

Saturday 1/21

Saturday was mostly sunny until high clouds moved in during the late afternoon. Moderate northwest winds were constant and temperatures remained in the teens. No precipitation was recorded on Thursday.

Sunday 1/22

The clear skies on Saturday allowed overnight lows to drop below zero in the valley. Sunday morning was cold and clear, and the skies remained sunny until clouds arrived in the mid afternoon. Daytime temps reached the upper 20's F and winds were light out of the northwest. The only avalanche activity reported on Sunday were small loose avalanches; a few grew to large sizes near Marble..



Small loose dry avalanches on SW aspect of Ruby Peak

Monday 1/23

Monday was mostly cloudy with temps in the upper 20's F and light easterly winds. No new snow on Monday as the nearby low pressure system stayed south of us. Avalanche conditions remained quiet.

Tuesday 1/24

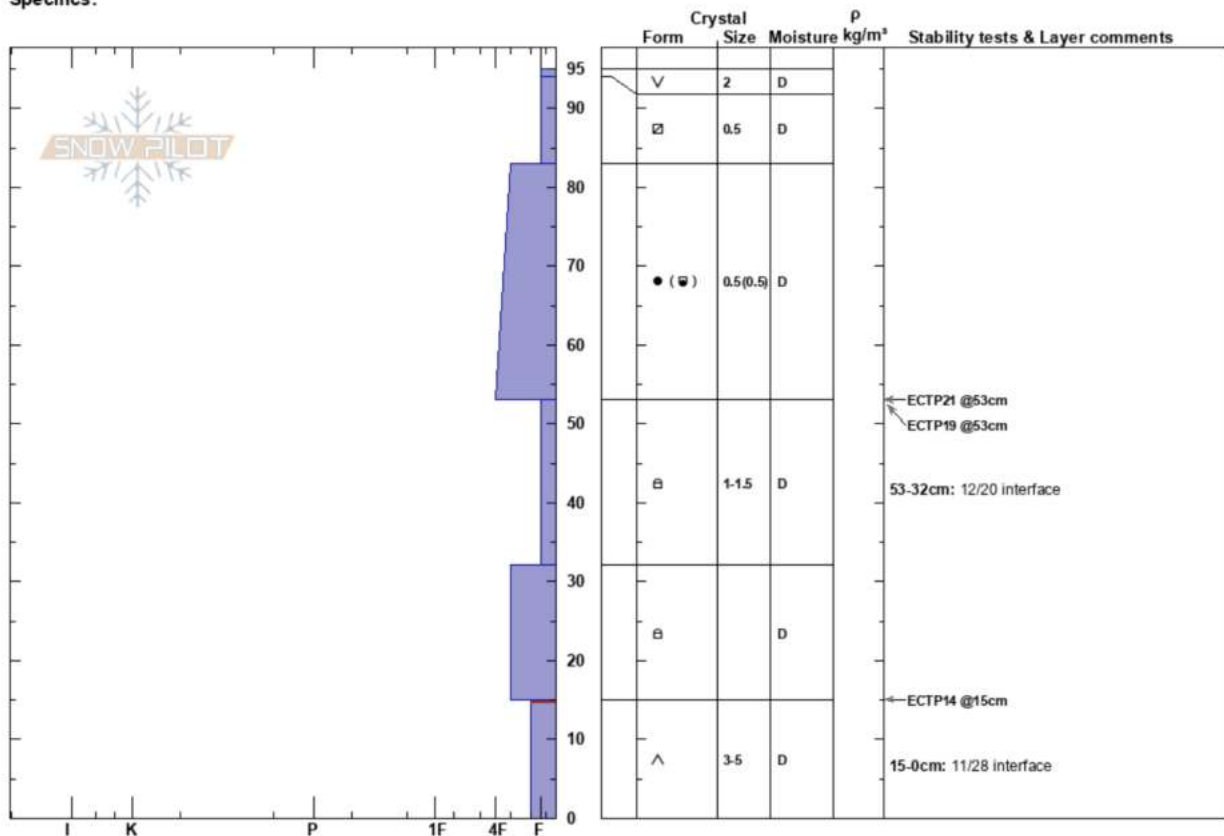
The low pressure system continued to remain south of us. This kept new snow amounts to a trace in the Northwest Mountains. Skies were mostly cloudy and the winds remained light but shifted direction from the northwest. Daytime highs remained in the mid teens F. Yet again, no avalanches were observed today however unstable test results werereported from below treeline on a northeast aspect of Red Mountain where the snowpack is shallower than average.

Red Mtn BTL
Elk Mountains
CO
Elevation: 9469 ft
Aspect: 45°
Specifics:

Zach Guy
01/24/2023 - 9:00pm
Co-ord: 38.79497N, -106.90238W
Slope Angle: 20°
Wind Loading: no

Stability:
Air Temperature:
Sky Cover: CLR
Precipitation: NO
Wind: Calm

HS:95
PF:60
Layer Notes:
53-32cm: 12/20 interface
15-0cm: 11/28 interface
15-0cm: Problematic layer



Profile from NE aspect BTL on Red Mountain

Wednesday 1/25

Winds increased from the Northwest over Tuesday night as Scarp Ridge and Carbonate Hill both recorded gusts in the 40's mph. A small shortwave system brought a couple more inches of snow to the Northwest Mountains over the course of the day on Wednesday. This small amount of new snow combined with the moderate winds formed fresh wind slabs on lee and crossloaded features. Skiers triggered D1 wind slabs in Irwin tenure, on Ruby Peak, and on a northeast slope of Schuylkill, and several natural winds from D1.5 to D2 on Hunter Hill likely ran during the same event



Skier triggered wind slab E aspect of Ruby Peak NTL

Thursday 1/26

Clear skies overnight into Thursday dropped valley temperatures to -19F in Crested Butte. Winds increased from light back to moderate over the course of the day and remained out of the northwest. A 3-pound hand charge triggered a large hard slab failing near the ground in the Irwin Cat Ski Tenure. This persistent slab was triggered on a windward (SW aspect), unsupported slope and reached D2.5 in size, taking out numerous small trees.



Explosive triggered persistent slab on SW aspect NTL above Lake Irwin

Looking ahead to the weekend, Friday would see 3-5" in favored areas of the Northwest Mountains, with another 4-7" overnight into Saturday. Moderate to Strong winds will accompany this snow and likely form fresh drifts over the course of the day on Friday and into Saturday. Sunday looks to have light snowfall with more significant accumulations between Monday and Tuesday.