

## Weekly Summary February 10 - 16, 2023

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Dates:	February 10 - 16, 2023
Zones:	Crested Butte, Northwest & Southeast Mountains

### Friday 2/10

Clear skies on Thursday night dropped the overnight lows to -10F. Temperatures slowly but steadily crept up during the day to reach the upper 20's. More wind slabs were triggered by skiers and snowmobilers on leeward slopes near tree line in the Ruby Peak area. These were D1 avalanches but had the potential to break above the rider.



Snowmobile triggered wind slabs on an east aspect NTL

## **Saturday 2/11**

The overnight lows into Saturday were substantially warmer than the previous day. Valley bottoms dipped into a few degrees below zero but in general temps stayed above zero. Daytime highs soared, the Irwin study plot recorded 47 F, CBMR hit 35 F, and Gothic reached 40 F. There was a small soft slab observed in the Second Bowl of Snodgrass.



**Small soft slab in Snodgrass Second Bowl**

## Sunday 2/12

Sunday was similar to Saturday with partly cloudy skies, winds that trended SW to W and fell from moderate to light speeds, and warm daytime highs. The Irwin Guides study plot reached 35 F, CBMR peaked at 28 F, and Gothic topped out at 36 F. A thin melt-freeze crust was observed on slopes on the southern half of the compass near and below tree line. Stiff windboard was also reported on east facing slopes near Purple Ridge and a small cornice fall triggered additional sluffs on Schuylkill Ridge.



## Monday 2/13

Monday morning began warm and mostly cloudy with temps already in the mid teens. Light snowfall began by midday and the temperatures had climbed to the mid 30's F at both Irwin and Gothic while town and CBMR reached the upper 20's F. By the end of the day the Irwin Guides study plot showed slightly over 3" of new snow, Schofield Pass reported 1", and CBMR had received just under 2". A small skier triggered avalanche in East Beckwith gouged into older snow on a steep, rocky face. The weakest snow before the storm was observed on similar steep and rocky terrain.



Old avalanche that ran on NE NTL steep, rocky terrain, where the weakest snow is found

## Tuesday 2/14

Snowfall totals from Monday night were 5" at the Irwin Guides study plot and 2" at CBMR. Light westerly winds increased to moderate speeds during the day. Snowfall rates also increased and by the end of the day Irwin Guides reported 11", the CBMR pow cam showed 5", and Schofield reported 11" as well. Several avalanches were reported from the Anthracites and Axtell. Some of these avalanches were thin wind slabs that were triggered below ridgelines on east aspects near tree line. The remaining avalanches were dry loose slides on steep terrain below tree line.



### **Wednesday 2/15**

Snowfall continued overnight and by the morning CBMR, West Brush Creek, and Upper Taylor has received 3 to 5 inches. Strong easterly winds also impacted the valley, loading leeward slopes on the western half of the compass. The winds and precipitation eased off over the course of the day. By days end Irwin Guides reported a storm total of 25", CBMR finished at 9", and Schofield Pass rounded out the storm with 17". Numerous skier triggered and natural storm slabs were reported from AMR, Mount Emmons, and California Bowl on Snodgrass. All of these avalanches occurred on north and northeast aspects below tree line.



## Thursday 2/16

The storm cleared out on Wednesday night and Thursday morning was cold and clear with lows in the negative single digits except for the Irwin Guides study plot that hit -20F. Storm totals were 25" for Irwin, 9" for CBMR, and 17" at Schofield Pass. The winds also decreased overnight and stayed light during the day. Scarp Ridge averaged 9 mph out of the north and CBMR averaged 7 mph from the northwest. The multiple shifts in wind direction during this storm led to less predictable wind slabs as noted by observers on Axtell, Evan's Basin, Emmons, and Whetstone. Six wind slabs were reported on Whetstone specifically, all were above tree line on east through north through northwest aspects.



Clear skies, light winds, and cold temps will remain on Friday and Saturday. The next chance for snow begins on Sunday and continues into the workweek.