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Dates:	February 3 - 9, 2023
Zones:	Crested Butte, Northwest & Southeast Mountains

Friday 2/3

A strong inversion was in effect on Friday morning. Valley temperatures hit -20F while the alpine was a balmy 20F. The daytime highs reached mid 30's at Schofield and Gothic and the mid 20's at CBMR and Scarp Ridge. The warm temps and sunny skies produced rollerballs and pinwheels on solar aspects, and forecasters received propagating results in snowpit tests on S and SE slopes near tree line, along with a few persistent slab avalanches that looked to have released in the past 24 hours on solar aspects..



Saturday 2/4

Saturday was yet another sunny, calm day albeit with slightly lower daytime highs. Gothic reached the low 30's F, CBMR hit the mid 20's, and Schofield and Scarp Ridge stayed below 20. The slightly cooler temperatures helped keep southerly crusts frozen at higher elevations, while some small wet loose avalanches were reported up Copper Creek.

Sunday 2/5

Sunday was another warm day, town reached the low 40's F and CBMR hit 30 F at 11,000'. Winds picked up to moderate out of the SW in front of the storm that arrived around midnight. Wind transport of snow was observed in the alpine during the afternoon. The last few days of sunny weather caused crusts of varying thickness to form on southerly aspects.



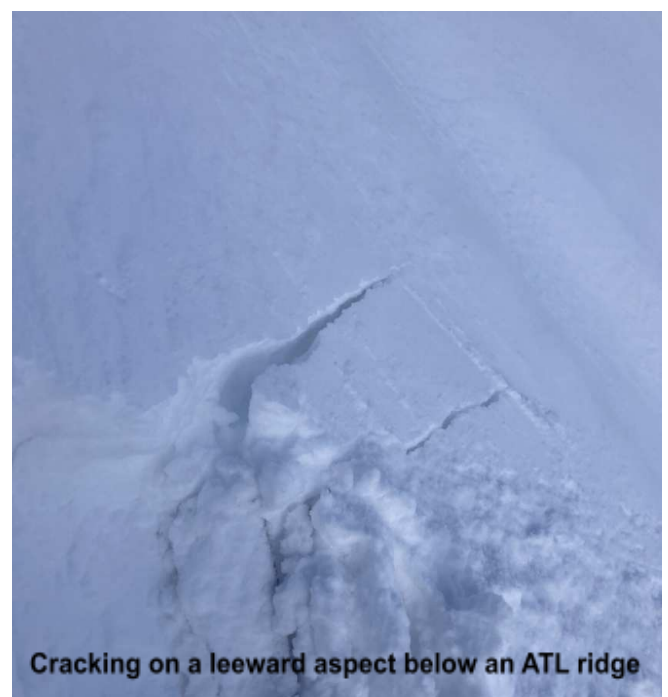
Monday 2/6

Snowfall started around midnight and was accompanied by strong SW winds. CBMR reported 3", Irwin received 8", and Schofield clocked in 8" of fresh. Wind speeds eased to moderate northwesterlies by the afternoon and dipped down to light overnight. A skier triggered a D1 wind slab on a NE aspect NTL in Raccoon Basin.



Tuesday 2/7

Tuesday was a bluebird day with light NW winds. Lingering wind slabs that formed from the strong winds that accompanied Sunday night's snow were only reported to produce minor cracking and had generally trended towards more stubborn. Small dry loose sluffs were reported on steep rolls on NE aspects of Schuykill as well as wet loose on steep solar aspects.



Wednesday 2/8

Overnight lows into Wednesday dropped to the negative single digits at valley bottom. Wednesday morning was partly cloudy and by the afternoon the sky was mostly clear. The wind speed increased over the course of the day and remained northwesterly. Wind slab growth accompanied the increase in speed. A D2 persistent slab avalanche was observed on a south facing slope above tree line near Star Pass.



Thursday 2/9

Strong west to northwest winds arrived with a cold front Wednesday night. The valley bottom temperatures were in the negative single digits. A surface refresh was delivered as well, Irwin reported 3-5", CBMR received 2", and Schofield Pass clocked in with 3". The winds decreased during the day and the skies cleared to a mostly sunny afternoon. Snowmobilers triggered two avalanches on leeward slopes of Hunter Creek. The first was a small wind slab, the second was a wind slab that stepped down into old snow and triggered a large persistent slab avalanche. These test slopes were south facing near tree line.



Looking ahead, high pressure and southwest flow moves in on Friday. The weekend will be sunny and warmer with temps creeping into the 20's F. Early in the upcoming workweek looks to be the next chance for snow.