

## Weekly Summary January 27 - February 2, 2023

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Dates:	Jan 27, 2023 - February 2, 2023
Zones:	Crested Butte, Northwest & Southeast Mountains

### Friday 1/27

Friday and Friday night's storm over-delivered and left the Northwest Mountains with over a foot of new snow and 9" at CBMR. The icing on the cake of this under-forecasted storm was its low density. Moderate winds throughout the day out of the west-northwest spurred wind transport. Loose dry avalanches were the observed on steep slopes below treeline, with limited obs from higher elevations.



Loose dry avalanches in Wolverine Basin

## Saturday 1/28

Moderate winds from Friday afternoon continued through Saturday, primarily out of the West. Friday night into Saturday delivered 2-6" and another 2-3" fell during the day. Widespread, touchy storm slab avalanches were observed on Saturday. Twenty two D1 to D1.5 avalanches were reported with a wide distribution around the compass. All of these were reported from below treeline or near treeline, and poor visibility limited above treeline obs.



## Sunday 1/29

One to two inches fell on Saturday night and snowfall tapered off by morning. Sunday remained overcast and daytime highs reached the mid 20's F. Winds dropped to light out of the west. Small storm slabs were observed but the primarily reported instability was cracking as the storm slabs became temporarily more stubborn.



## Monday 1/30

The final pulse of the storm delivered less snow than expected Sunday night into Monday but precipitation rates ramped up over the day and by Tuesday morning, Schofield Pass accumulated 12", with Irwin reporting 16" and CBMR reporting 11". Strong winds and extreme gusts out of the southwest accompanied the snow on Sunday night and Monday morning. Scarp Ridge recorded 75 mph gusts in the early hours of Monday. The winds eased over the course of the day and shifted direction from the west. Numerous storm slabs ranging from D1 to D2 ran during this hard-hitting pulse. Most of the activity was near and above treeline. These were observed during the clear weather that followed through the remainder of the week.



**Natural D2 avalanche on Great Wide Open, Schuykill**

## Tuesday 1/31

The west-northwest winds overnight were in the 20's with gusts in the 40's. Daytime highs reached the low 20's F and the sky was clear all day on Tuesday. There were a few more storm slabs that ran on Tuesday from wind drifting or solar warming, and several skier triggered storm slabs were reported from the Aspen side of the range.

### A skier triggered avalanche near Marble on 1/31





### Wednesday 2/1

Tuesday's high pressure system dropped overnight lows to -21F in the valley under strong a strong inversion. Daytime temperatures rose to the low 20's at higher elevations while town peaked at 12F. Clear skies and light northwest winds held out for the entirety of the day. Backcountry riders reported a few skier triggered avalanches on Wednesday. Two avalanches were triggered on southeasterly aspects; one on the lower rolls of Red Lady Bowl and another on Snodgrass. Near Taylor Park on a NNW slope below treeline, a skier triggered a large slab that failed on depth hoar near the ground.



## **Thursday 2/2**

Thursday was more or less a repeat of Wednesday albeit with slightly warmer temperatures. Clear skies, light northwest winds, and daytime highs in the upper 20's F. Several avalanches were reported that likely ran in the previous storm cycle. These avalanches covered all elevation bands and were all observed on solar aspects including south and southeast Below Tree Line in Poverty Gulch and southwest through southeast Near and Above Tree Line up Cement Creek. Looking ahead to the weekend, the forecast calls for a weak disturbance bringing increased cloud cover but little to no precipitation. Sunday night could be the next chance for snowfall.