

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Authors: | Dan Hohl                                       |
| Dates:   | March 24-30, 2023                              |
| Zones:   | Crested Butte, Northwest & Southeast Mountains |

## Friday 3/24

The weather on Friday was similar to that on Thursday. Partly sunny skies, light westerly winds, and a trace of snowfall during brief periods of afternoon convection. Two rider triggered avalanches were reported on Friday. The first was a snowmobiler remotely triggered D2 in the Upper Slate below tree line and the second was another remotely triggered D2, this one by a skier, in the Red Lady Glades below tree line.



## **Saturday 3.25**

A short lived but intense storm pushed through the valley on Friday night. Saturday morning snow totals were 4" at CBMR and 10" at Irwin Guides study plot. Strong westerly winds accompanied the snow but eased down to moderate speed by Saturday morning. The temperatures remained cold all day with Gothic maxing out at 11F, CBMR peaking at 20F, and Scarp Ridge never getting above 0F. Several remotely triggered avalanches were reported today, including three D3 avalanches all triggered at the same time on a SE aspect near treeline in the Anthracites.



## **Sunday 3/26**

Sunday was the lull between storms. Overnight lows dropped below zero and the daytime highs stayed cold with max temperatures reaching the mid teens. The winds were light out of the west and the sky was mostly cloudy. The only instabilities reported on Sunday were cracks in drifted terrain.

## **Monday 3/27**

Snow returned on Sunday night and by Monday morning most areas received 2 to 4 inches. Daytime highs remained cold, Scarp Ridge peaked at -1F. Wind speeds increased during the day out of the northwest and transported much of this new snow, increasing loading on leeward slopes and ridges. This wind loading resulted in natural D2 avalanches on both a SE aspect of Red Lady Bowl and a NE aspect of Whetstone.



### **Tuesday 3/28**

Spring made a brief appearance on Tuesday. It was a very pleasant day in the mountains with clear skies, light westerly winds, and warm daytime highs up to the mid 30's in town and the mid 20's at CBMR and Scarp Ridge. The warming temperatures drove an increase in instability by the afternoon and resulted in at least two large natural avalanches, a D2.5 that ran on a SE aspect of Schuylkill and a D3 on a SE aspect above tree line in Perry Creek. Additionally, overnight wind loading from Monday released three D2 avalanches in the Ruby Range that ran on E and SE aspects above tree line.



### **Wednesday 3/29**

The brief spring-like conditions continued into Wednesday. The day started off clear and warm and overnight lows remained above zero. The daytime highs crept above 40F in town and hit 45F in Mt. Crested Butte. These warming temps drove more natural avalanches including both cornice fall triggered slides and wet loose avalanches that triggered slabs. In total 9 avalanches were reported, all of them natural and occurring on NE through SE aspects with 5 of the 9 running on SE aspects.



### **Thursday 3/30**

The front of the weekend's storm arrived Thursday afternoon. Thursday morning's partly cloudy skies gave way to overcast skies with occasional snow showers as the storm moved closer. A trace to one inch fell during the day and winds remained at moderate speeds out of the southwest. Looking ahead to the weekend, the brunt of the storm will impact the valley on Friday and storm totals could reach 12 inches in certain areas. Saturday and Sunday should see a return to typical early spring conditions as temperatures rise and skies clear.