

Crested Butte Avalanche Center 2018-2019 Annual Report



Produced by Evan Ross and Eric Murrow...



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Crested Butte Avalanche Center's TAR Summary

Evan Ross

When you get a winter full of storm on storm action, then you are setting up for some historic and/or unusual avalanches. Put down those peanuts because this was one to remember.

The snowpack got a classic Continental start. Around October 10th the first storms rolled in and plastered the alpine with a couple feet of snow. Then, as you would guess, the rest of October was dry. Early November had another round of storms with some of the first skier triggered avalanches reported. Mid-November had another lengthy dry-spell. Than late-November is when it all changed. In a brief summary, consistent snowfall would take hold with generally short breaks between storms until the peak snowpack was reached on April 6th.

That constant snowfall led to a building snowpack that saw those deeply buried persistent weak layers gaining strength for once, which is not our typical scene, so the shred was on! A key thing to remember

here, is the building volume of snow on a snowpack that could actually hold the weight for once. February kept delivering on the snow bits and building our snowpack to well above average.

All hell broke out in March. If your name was “snowpack” at this point you were strong enough to play with a couple of Sumo Wrestlers, but an unrelenting stream of them jumping on your back? You’re going to give out. This was a major contributing factor of the historic avalanches that ran in March. A snowpack that could hold significant volume for once, before giving out during about a 10 day stormy period that ranked 3rd in the major storms recorded on the Schofield Snotel since 1986. The historic Colorado Avalanches will be covered in another article.

So what were the forecasting challenges this winter? I’d say a standout for that topic was two-fold: forecasting for avalanches in unusual places and getting that end message out to more than just the backcountry recreationalist. To start, the CBAC’s connection with the community is pretty special. We are a non-profit avalanche center that supports a team of forecasters (Eric Murrow, Evan Ross, Ian Havlick, Steve Banks), and operates almost entirely from money donated by this community, with no federal or state financial support. The community donates the money and with that support we deliver them a high-quality product. This last winter we delivered 150 weather and avalanche advisors; 161 professional snow and avalanche observations; a platform to display the further 310 public observations; weekly summaries of the weather, snow, and avalanche activity; youtube videos; social media posts; free beacon clinics and avalanche awareness talks; yada yada yada right!

Boom! With that connection it should be easy to warn the public about avalanches in unusual places right? People see the red and black danger flags warning of the very dangerous avalanche conditions, with the vast majority choosing to shred the ski area while avoiding the backcountry. But do they also realize when dangerous avalanche conditions develop in unusual places? I’m talking about examples such as the small slopes around town that kids like to go sledding on, or slopes that don’t typically hold a snowpack capable of avalanching, or what about roof avalanches? With this past big winter, I wonder if these areas exposed a greater percentage of people to dangerous avalanche conditions.

How did the CBAC do on those topics?

Small Slopes Around Town:

We worked with town officials to either close roads around town, and/or post signage on roads and sledding hills when we were issuing a HIGH avalanche danger rating. Insert “check” “fist-pump” or “horns” emoji here. It’s the last two topics, slopes that don’t typically hold a snowpack capable of avalanching and roof avalanches, that proved deadly this past winter.

Slopes That Don’t Typically Hold A Snowpack Capable Of Avalanching:

On February 16th, 2 backcountry skiers were killed in an avalanche on a commonly traveled route to the Friends Hut in the Brush Creek Drainage. A section of this route traverses a steep SE facing slope at an elevation of 9350ft. This slope doesn’t often hold a snowpack capable of avalanching due to both its low

elevation and aspect to the sun. With this past winter's well above average snowfall, and short breaks between storms, this was an example of one of those slopes that doesn't often hold a dangerous snowpack. The CBAC used wording many times in its daily avalanche summaries attempting to make backcountry travelers aware of the potential threat of avalanches where they don't typically see or expect them. On February 16th, a Special Avalanche Advisory was issued in coordination with the CAIC, and summed up the general dangerous conditions, while the CBAC forecast summary added some more specific wording about easier to trigger avalanches near and east of Crested Butte in the typically drier portions of our forecast area that included this Brush Creek site.

Roof Avalanches:

On March 6th and in the middle of the huge March Storm, when everything was already fat, we saw warm temps and some rain up to about 10,000ft as the next Atmospheric River event was rolling in. Many roof avalanches released around this time and over the next couple days as temperatures stayed relatively warm under southwest flow. On March 8th a man was buried for around 2.5 hours after a roof avalanched above him. He credited his survival to Tupac's Greatest Hits playing on his earphones, an air pocket, and his wife and rescuers that dug him out. On March 9th 2 people were clearing a roof when it avalanched and buried them both. They were dug out in 20-30min, one man survived and one passed away during that time.

The CBAC will continue striving to make connections with the local community and beyond. Helping our networks to be pre-established and allow us to inform more than your everyday backcountry user when avalanche conditions are dangerous in unusual places.

CBAC Operations

The Crested Butte Avalanche Center (CBAC) has been operating as a non-profit 501c3 avalanche center since 2002. This season the CBAC issued 150 weather and avalanche advisors, beginning November 22, 2018 and ending April 21, 2019. Additionally, before our daily forecast started, the CBAC posted a couple conditions updates the homepage on our website, posted new observations, and sent weather/avalanche information out via social media. An all inclusive spring travel advice summary was posted on the website on April 22, 2019. Following the spring travel advice posting, a couple conditions updates were sent out via social media and we continued to update the observations page on the website with anything that came in.

The CBAC was directed by Than Acuff and staffed by full time and part-time forecasters with an intern. The full time lead forecaster position was rotated through at different times of the year by three people (Steve Banks, Evan Ross, Ian Havlick). These same three people also stepped in at times as a part time forecaster when they were not in the lead position. Eric Murrow worked as a full time forecaster throughout the season. Zach Kinler worked throughout the season as the CBAC intern. Karen Williams held the development director position. The CBAC board of directors are (President) Keitha Kostyk, (Treasurer) Chad Berardo, Steve Banks, Chris Read, Ben Breslauer, Jim Duffy, John Dugenske, Seth Tucker.

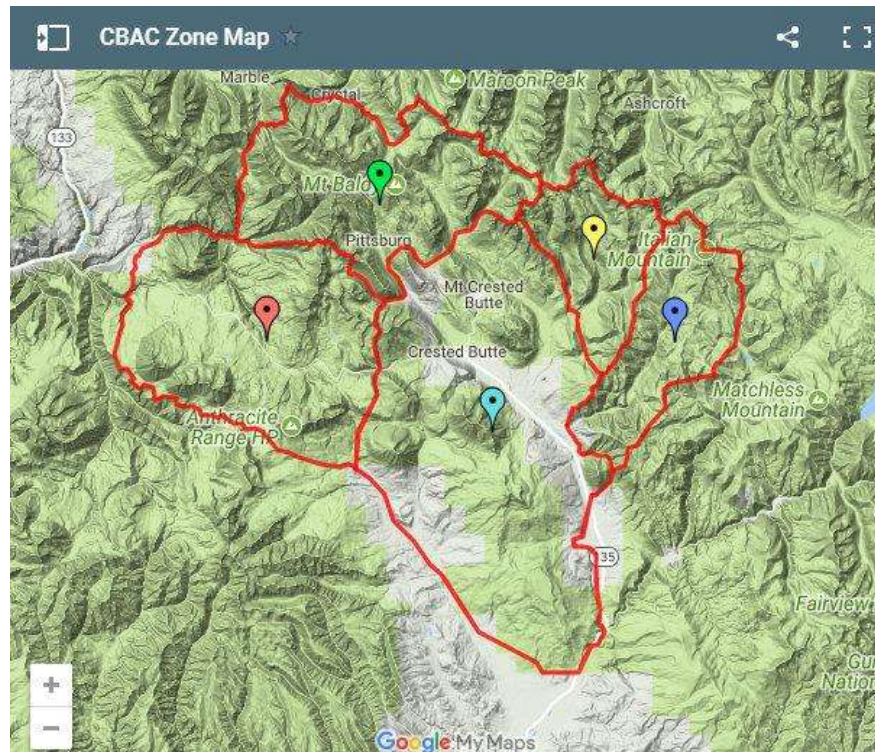
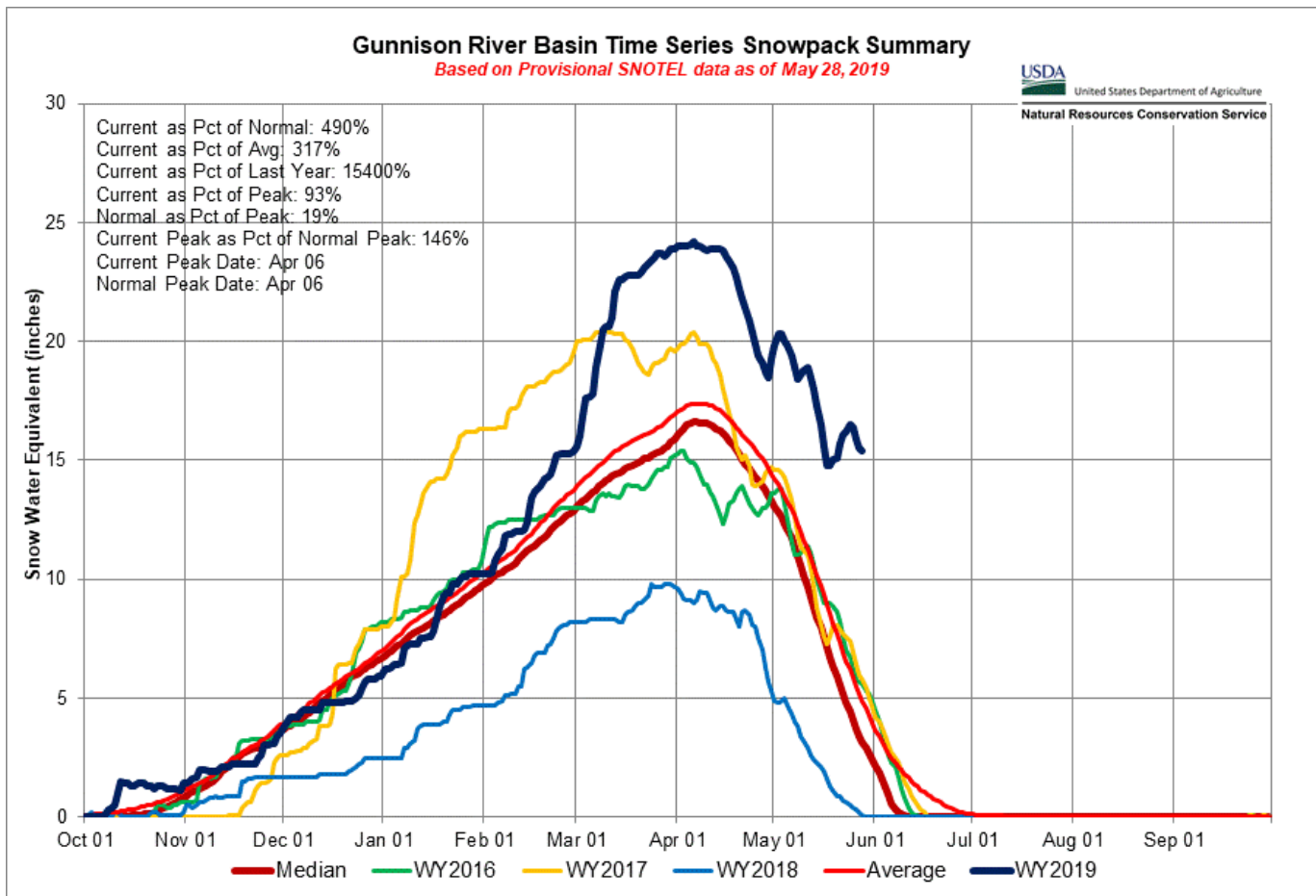


Figure 1: Overview of the CBAC advisory area; approximately 326,000 acres.

Weather, Snowpack, and Avalanche Summary

The 2018-2019 was loved by face shot powder enthusiasts such as skiers or snowmobilers, and potentially hated by the fat biking crew. All thanks to this winter's consistent snowfall! Consistent snowfall and a well above average snowpack is what really sums up this winter.

The 2018-2019 winter started off in the direction of a classic Continental Snowpack. Early season snow is not typically a good start for our area and that's just what we got. Around October 10th the first storms rolled in and plastered the alpine with a couple feet of snow. Then, as you would guess, the rest of October was dry. Much of that snow melted away on sunny slopes but started faceting away on shaded slopes.



Note the early start to our snowpack, followed by a long dry spell in late October and again in Mid-November. This is a classic start for a Continental Snowpack.

November-December:

November started off with smaller storms and a nice refresh of snow. Conditions in the alpine became great for skiing, as you could still drive to higher elevations and the couple feet of snow sitting on the ground was thick enough to keep your skis surfing above the rocks. Given this easy access, this was the start of ski season for many folks. One of the first skier triggered D1.5 persistent slab avalanches was reported around November third. This failed in an open NW facing bowl. Old weak snow from October was hanging out in the gullied portions of the terrain and this created a very isolated or a pocket nature to the avalanche problem in this terrain. Around this time a few more skier triggered and natural avalanches kicked off on similar terrain where November snow was adding up over the faceted snow from October. Mid-November stayed dry with nearly 2 weeks of high pressure under a pesky ridge. A couple cold and energetic storms started back up on Thanksgiving Day. The north and west portions of our forecast area picked up over 2" of SWE while areas East and South received ~1" SWE. Strong NW winds closed out this stormy period. During the time of the Thanksgiving Storm, or the Gobbler Storm, the avalanche danger was elevated to HIGH at upper elevations with many natural avalanches failing on NW-N-E

aspects. This storm lead to the first avalanche warning being issued for the season. On November 25th just after the avalanche warning had expired, a skier triggered a large avalanche on the SE facing Red Lady Bowl, above treeline. This slide broke in the old snow near the ground which contained an ugly, weak mixture of crusts and facets.



Example of a Persistent Slab Avalanche on November 23rd that a forecaster remotely triggered in the Purple Palace Area.

The transition from November to December remained stormy. This really just set the theme for the year with fairly consistent snowfall and shorter than typically average breaks between storms. With short periods of sun and little influence of the sun on the snowpack, the ski and riding conditions were really starting to get good!

*GAME ON! December 3rd*

Of course with the weak foundation at the bottom of the snowpack, the consistent snow also lead to the building Persistent Slab Avalanche problem. Many natural and triggered avalanches continued to be reported. Of particular note, was a very large natural avalanches on an Easterly face above treeline between Ruby Mt and Mt Owen. This avalanche plowed into Green Lake below and sent a wave of ice, snow, and water out of the lake that continued to cascade down a bench several hundred feet. Those poor fish! The following day forecasters visited the area. HS was in the 1 to 2 meter range around 11,000ft and they reported a couple other smaller D2 and D2.5 natural avalanches in the area. On December 6th, a boot packing program at the Irwin cat ski operation triggered a large avalanche that caught 2 packers on a westerly aspect near treeline. One had skis on at the time and one didn't. So by this point we have a Persistent Slab avalanche problem on just about all aspects and elevations. Steep mid to low elevation southerly or southwesterly facing slopes where the few exceptions at that time. The other slopes that didn't have a persistent slab avalanche problem in December where those that had already avalanched and had started to fill back in with the constant snowfall. These slopes were difficult to identify and the crowns were blending back into the rest of the slope. Large grained facets could still be found near the ground, but the slab/weak layer characteristics where not yet back to where they needed to be for these slopes to avalanche again. Our avalanche forecasts began describing this variability in the snowpack while our Persistent Slab Problem Rose still included most aspects and elevations. Towards the end of December, the 12/19 interface became the main layer of concern. This interface varied between surface hoar and near surface acets. The CBAC Elkton Study Plot at 10,400ft on 12/27 had an HS of 99cm and highlighted this new developing PSa issue in the upper snowpack. PSa issues were generally quiet at the end of December and new snow avalanche problems such as wind slabs posed as the main issue.



The Green Lake Fish Smasher ran during the first week of December. Note the water that was pushed out of the lake sent cascading down the cliffs below!

January:

The change to the new year with the start of January gave us a little time to breath before the rest of the avalanche season kicked up. January started off mellow. We were mostly dealing with wind and new snow avalanche issues while continuing to track loading on persistent weak layers in the upper snowpack. Those persistent weak layers didn't have enough slab formation yet to cause big concerns, while the large grained facets and depth hoar at the bottom of the snowpack was showing signs of rounding and gaining strength. While a propagating slab above these upper persistent weak layers was harder to find, it was still out there. An Irwin Guided group remote triggered a D1.5 PSa on a SE aspect NTL while up tracking slopes in the upper 30 degree range. On 1/5 a snowmobiler triggered a D2 on a cross loaded easterly aspect above treeline in the Ruby Range.

Avalanche season in January really kicked off on January 6th with storm totals on the 7th of 1-2" SWE. This storm came in with calm winds, that eventually increased from the SW, then finished at the end of this stormy period from the NW. This was the load needed on those persistent weak layers in the upper snowpack for Persistent Slab avalanches to become reactive again. Many natural D1-D2.5 avalanches failed during this stormy period. What really stood out though, was a significant avalanche cycle in the typically drier parts of our forecast area. Areas east of Crested Butte are always slower to develop the avalanche problems and slabs often facet away before they can build enough to propagate avalanches. Following these storms, a field trip up Brush Creek on January 9th, which is one of these dryer areas, showed some impressive results. The 1/6 natural cycle showed some impressively wide propagating Persistent Slab avalanches to D2.5. Given the below average snow height in these areas, basal weak layers were not gaining strength and avalanches were both failing at the ground and around the 12/16 interface. These avalanches were mostly failing on north to east facing slopes. This field trip reported lots of collapses in the snowpack while traveling through the terrain and several remote triggered avalanches. The furthest remote triggered avalanche on this tour was measured on google earth at 2,200ft away! Now that's some good remote triggering!



Persistent Slabs stacked on Persistent Slabs. January 9th Forcaster Field Day.

At this point the overall Gunnison Basin Snowpack was just below average. Steady storms continued through January and pushed that line to above average by mid-january, and where it would remain the rest of the season. The snowpack to the west and north of Crested Butte continued to show the most

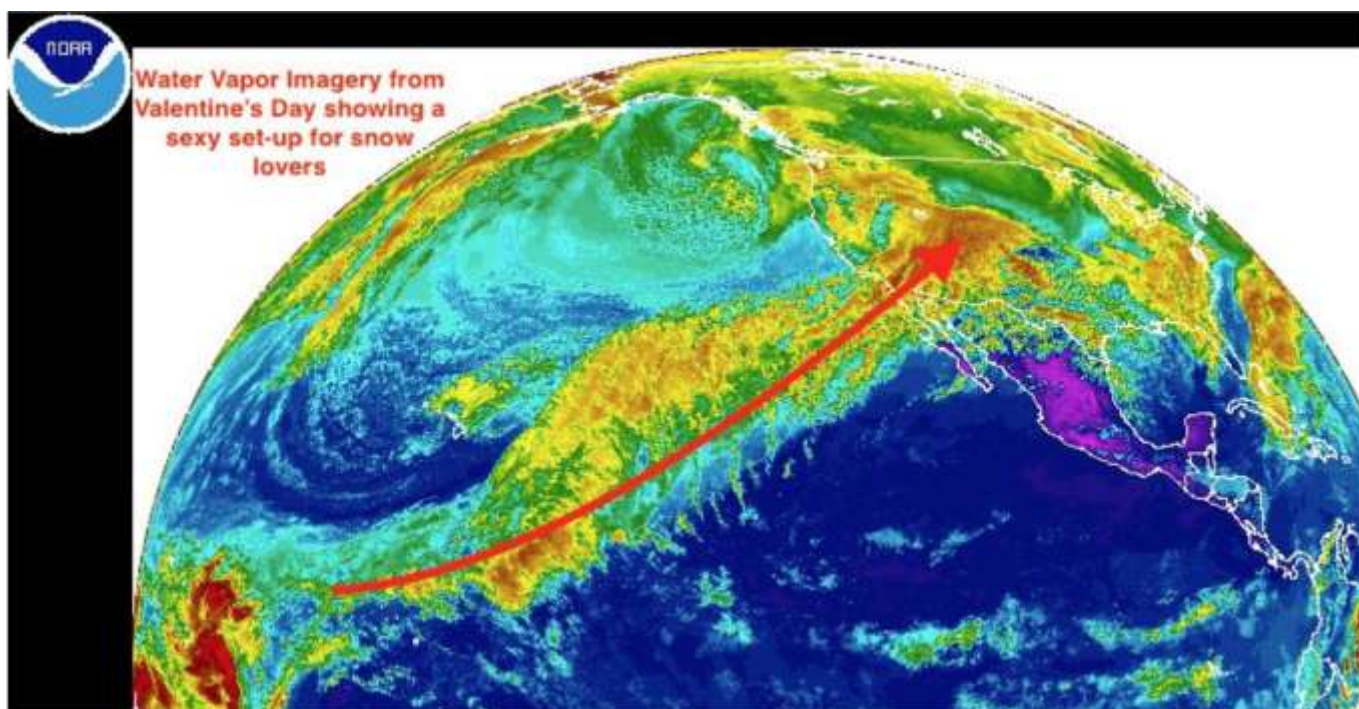
concerning weak layers in the middle and at the bottom of the snowpack continuing to gain strength. Many avalanches in these areas were in the D2 size and failed within storm snow during this time. While some still released on less defined persistent weak layers in the middle and upper snowpack. The biggest avalanches for this timeframe were releasing to the east of Crested Butte in those typically shallower snowpack areas. Here the persistent weak layers in the middle and at the bottom of the snowpack were still well developed and defined. The continued loading through the month brought down some impressive D3 avalanches, with one notable avalanche that released in the lower Cement Creek Drainage that took out a power line. That avalanche released on a slope that does not typically hold enough snowpack to avalanche is a great representation of the most concerning areas at this time for the Persistent Slab avalanche problem.

On January 19th a snowmobile was buried in a D2 avalanche above Irwin on an easterly facing slope near treeline. The person riding the snowmobile was not buried, but this sounded like a very close call. Many other skier triggered D2 avalanches were also reported in the 2nd half of January.

On January 30th a skier was caught and carried in a Large avalanche above treeline on the south face of Mt Baldy.

February:

February started out at the tail end of a short break in the weather. The Gunnison River Basin Snowpack is sitting just above average. As storms came in early in the month, avalanche activity continued to primarily break in the upper snowpack. Such as a below treeline skier triggered avalanche that broke on Surface Hoar that was buried in late January. A couple notable exceptions where avalanches broke either wider or deeper, where a very large natural avalanche in the Climax Chutes where the snowpack was particularly weaker than average from continued avalanche activity over the season leading to a relatively shallow snowpack height and better developed persistent weak layers. Another very large avalanche was observed on 2/8 in the Redwell Basin area, above treeline on the Shield. A Cornice or just a Storm Slab stepped down into deeper persistent weak layers and pulled out another very large avalanche.



February 13th, Impressive “Micronesian Express” originating over 5,000 miles to our West and pumping moisture right at Colorado. ~Zach Kinler

On February 13th, the first in a series of Atmospheric River events began impacting the area. From this point and until mid-march the basin wide snowpack average would continue to grow at a very steep rate. Following these large mid-February storms of course there was a widespread avalanche cycle on all aspects and elevations. There were many new snow type avalanches that released during the storm. However the biggest avalanches that were reported were all persistent slab type avalanches. The trend of where these persistent slab avalanches were failing was on slopes that had a below average snowpack height (less than 150cm on average) and therefore more pronounced persistent week layers in the middle or at the bottom of the snowpack. Many big natural avalanches were reported on the Whetstone Massif for this reason and full depth shooting cracks were observed in Cement Creek for examples. Given the well above average snowpack that was developing, Persistent Slab avalanche problem was also growing on slopes that don't typically hold enough snowpack to even ski or ride on. Some examples there were a skier triggered avalanche down in Gunnison on W Mountain at about 8,000ft NE facing slope. Or the double fatality on 3/16, a steep SE facing slope at 9,400ft in Brush Creek that rarely holds much of a snowpack. At this time, the avalanche bulletin was using snowpack height travel advice (generally in the 115-165cm range) to help folks identify where the most concerning Persistent Slab avalanche problems were located.

The wind direction on 2/22 and 2/23 blew for about 48hrs from the south and southeast. We rarely see this wind direction for our area, especially mixed with transportable snow. Just before the 22nd we had some very light new snow with little wind, so snow was available for transport. These winds were responsible for some very large natural avalanches as slope again, with a below average snowpack height,

got loaded. In this case it was west and northwest facing slopes. These slopes hold a below average snowpack height because they typically are blown by the prevailing westerly wind direction. Examples where very large natural avalanches above treeline that were observed on 2/22 west facing terrain of Gothic Mt and N to NW facing terrain in Wolverine Basin.

On 2/28, the Elkton Study Plot at 10,400ft had a total height of snow of 182cm. The 27th and 28th were the warmest day of the season at that point with above freezing temps reaching just over 11,000ft. Following the 28th we moved into another long unsettled period with more snow and wind.

March:

All hell broke out in March. We had storm on storm action, plus the in between atmospheric river event halftime show! You may be able to fight off one sumo wrestler, but an unrelenting stream of them? You're going to give out. Our snowpack was really becoming strong in many places, but when you just keep loading it with major storm after major storm something eventually has to give.

SNOW TOTALS 3/1-3/8

Schofield Pass Snotel: 11.7" SWE/~75" snow

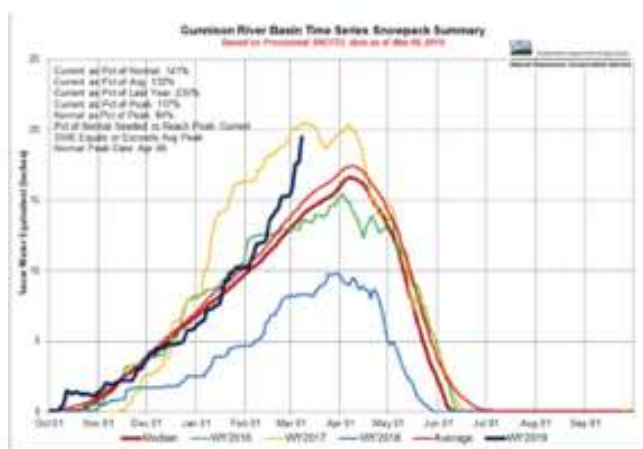
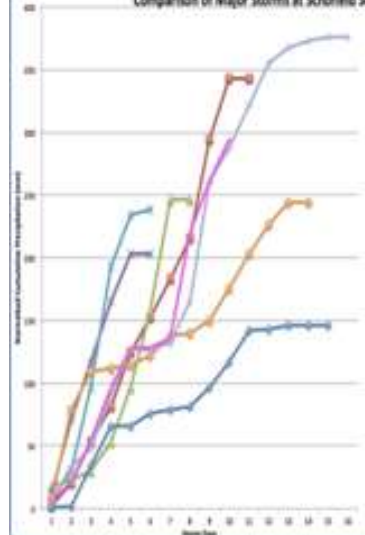
Irwin: 9.45" SWE/ 69" snow

Gothic: 6.28" SWE /65.5" snow

Butte Snotel: 4.9" SWE/~41" snow

Upper Taylor Snotel: 5.9" SWE/~60" snow

Comparison of Major Storms at Schofield Snotel Since 1986



Looking at the Gunnison River Basin Snowpack Summary you can see how our snowpack had really been building since mid-January. Then you cap that off with one of the top three storms measured at Schofield Snotel since 1986, and you are setting the stage for a historic avalanche cycle.

As mentioned, our snowpack had become fairly strong in many places by March. So some avalanche paths could build up substantial volume before failing during the early March slammer, or later during the continued snow though the rest of March. The continued snow, also made avalanche observations difficult, but here is what we saw at this point.

Some examples, on 3/6 the NE facing Climax Chutes ran very large and crossed the Slate River. Also on 3/4, SE facing Red Lady Bowl avalanche path ran in the 60-80% range of its current potential avalanche path. The crown was later measured on Google Earth at 4,700ft wide. In Taylor Canyon outside of our forecast area, a large avalanche hit a cabin. This avalanche came out of a thick forested below treeline area, in a spot that very rarely avalanches or holds a snowpack deep enough to produce a significant avalanche.

The biggest pulse of this early march storm came in warm and heavy after a break in the weather on the 5th. The 6th and into the 7th was the firehose of summo wrestlers jumping onto the party. Peak instability was probably turned out to be the evening of the 6th, and by the 7th the avalanche danger rating was raised to EXTREME. During this period the warm temperatures produced some rain up to about ~10,000ft. Outside of the destruction out in the backcountry at this time, these warm temps, some rain, and heavy snow produced numerous roof avalanches in Mt Crested Butte, Crested Butte and CB South. On 3/8, a roof avalanche in Mt. Crested Butte buried 1 man for around 2 hours. He was able to maintain an airspace and when his wife notified authorities of his absence, first responders went to his last known location to find a large roof avalanche. Probing was successful in locating him and after excavation he was transported to the Gunnison Hospital where he is recovering. On 3/9 a roof avalanche in CB South buried two men, one of which died in the accident. These accidents make 3 full burials in 2 days from roof avalanches and highlights the unpredictable things that happen during historic weather events.

While there were many other D3-D4 avalanches reported around this time, the backcountry was basically shut down so observations were limited. We would have to wait until later in the month to get out and see some of the after effects of the biggest destructive avalanches and could only estimate that many of them ran around this time. Many trees were were laid to rest as avalanche paths were altered. The landscape was even changed in some areas. By the time we got to travel through many of these areas the avalanche debris were covered up by more snow, but you would look around and notice a changed landscape. Some of the most interesting avalanches failed on southwest and west aspects. Some of these crown lines spanned for miles linking many avalanche paths. The south side of the Anthracite Range had crown lines running the majority of that range for example. On these avalanche we will never know exactly what went down since the avalanche destruction was observed so long after the avalanches failed and continued snow during the first half of March covered up many details.

Snow accumulations eased during the 2nd half of March as the continued to much more slowly climb towards the Gunnison Basin wide peak on April 6. The 2nd half of March came with several storms and average warm temps for that time of year between the storms. Persistent Slab avalanche concerns transitions into a Deep Persistent Slab avalanche problem. As expected avalanche size was in the very large to historic range, but sensitivity became stubborn to unreactive, especially under the weight of a human. Wet avalanche concerns and cornice fall became the main concerns during these warm periods.

Incidents:

There were numerous reported human triggered avalanches, several close calls, and sadly, a double fatality accident this winter in the CBAC forecast area. The CBAC forecast staff promptly visited incident sites throughout the season on at least 7 occasions and produced 1 formal incident report for an accident that occurred involving two staff members of the CBAC.



Skier triggered avalanche on Mount Emmons - Red Lady Bowl, 11/24/18

The first notable incident of the season involved a skier-triggered avalanche in Red Lady Bowl, on Mount Emmons, on November 24th. A major storm, “Gobbler Storm”, had just exited the area after dropping off close to 2” of Snow Water Equivalent the previous two day. An Avalanche Warning (Level 4/5) was in place the day prior to and expired the morning the avalanche was triggered. The avalanche was triggered from mid-slope by the first skier to descend. Thankfully, the skier was not caught and was able to descend the rest of bowl just adjacent to the running avalanche. CBAC staff investigated this avalanche on November 26th to

confirm the facet/crust combination that produced the dangerous avalanche and included the findings in an observation.

The second major close call of the season occurred on January 30th. This involved two staff members of the forecast staff. A D2, large enough to bury, injure, or kill a person, was triggered on a south-facing bowl on Mt. Baldy. A skier was caught and carried with the avalanche. The skier deployed an airbag and thankfully was only partially buried and uninjured. A solo skier already skied the bowl an hour earlier without incident. The skier that triggered the slide was just a few feet from the earlier track. This accident was reported immediately after it occurred, the avalanche

crown was investigated on January 31st, and a full report was released on February 2nd. The report can be viewed [here](#).

A tragic accident occurred on Saturday, February 16th,



Fatal accident in Brush Creek drainage that claimed two lives on 2/16/19



was caught, carried, and partially buried on Mt. Baldy on 1/30/19

out Brush Creek drainage. Two skiers planned to ski from Brush Creek Trail Head out to Friends Hut and return the same evening but regrettably both were caught in an avalanche near “Death Pass”, buried, and killed. This accident occurred near valley bottom on small, but steep, wind loaded slope with a dramatic terrain trap.

Unfortunately both skiers were caught while skinning across this small slope and buried. CBAC and CAIC staff, both members of Crested Butte Search and Rescue, visited the site during the recovery effort on February 17th. The accident report completed by the CAIC can be viewed [here](#)

In addition to backcountry related accidents, the heavy snowfall in early March created thick, dense slabs on the roofs of buildings in the Crested Butte area. Four separate roof avalanche incidents occurred in Irwin, Mt. Crested Butte, Crested Butte, and Crested Butte South. Three of these accidents resulted in full burials. Sadly, one of these accidents in Crested Butte South ended with a fatality. The incident from Mt. Crested Butte produced a miracle with the buried subject surviving for several hours before being excavated.

Media

The CBAC’s website (www.cbavalanchecenter.org) is our primary tool for communicating information to the public. This season, our numbers increased, largely due to the exceptional winter and historically significant stormy period in March. Our web traffic across our platforms is tied extremely closely to the

winter weather the Gunnison Valley experiences. Our website had 73,388 sessions, averaging 2.23 minutes per session. The CBAC also sends a daily advisory email to a list of 400 subscribers. Furthermore, avalanche advisories are broadcast daily on two local radio stations, KAYV and KBUT and an abbreviated advisory is published on the local TV station, CBTv.

The CBAC continues to expand and improve upon its social media presence. The center uses Instagram and Facebook on a daily basis to reach a broader audience while providing visual media and dialogue to highlight current conditions. The CBAC also regularly produces videos to demonstrate avalanche concerns in the field. Although the CBAC did hit historical highs for social media products, there was an increase in engagement and followers on Instagram and Facebook.

Observations

The CBAC relies heavily on field work to improve the quality, accuracy, and content of forecast products. This past winter the CBAC utilized the Ski-Doo 850, purchased through a generous donation by the Sethness family in memory of Brad Sethness, and Yamaha 4-stroke snowmobile to conduct field work across the forecast area on a daily basis. This past winter the CBAC produced 161 professional observations which included approximately 500 pieces of media. The CBAC regularly utilized multi-media to better communicate with the general public. Observations and social media post that include multi-media receive more views and engagement than those without.

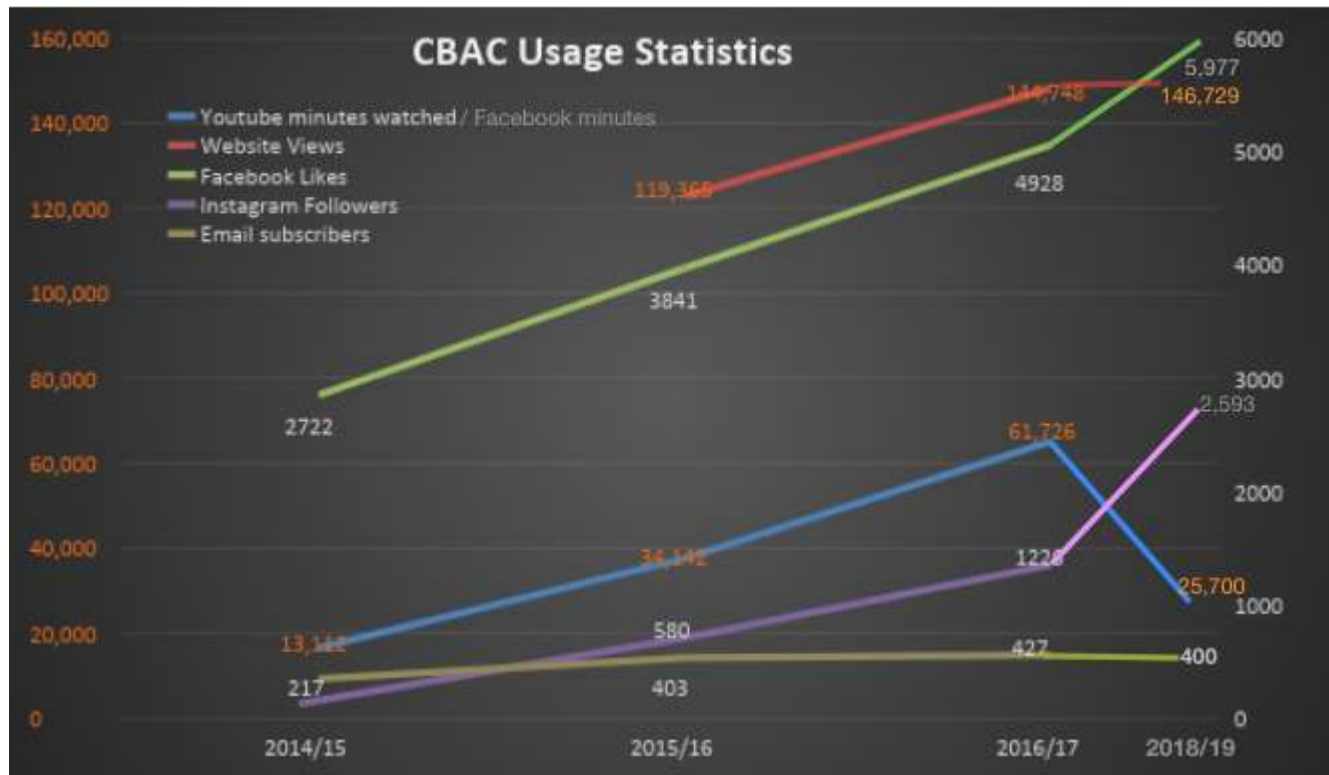
The CBAC forecast staff further shared their field work with the CAIC. The CBAC forecast staff posted about 108 professional observations to the CAIC and forwarded on about 91 public observations and media to them as well. The CAIC forecast staff didn't forward on any of their professional observations to the CBAC, or the public observation that they received.

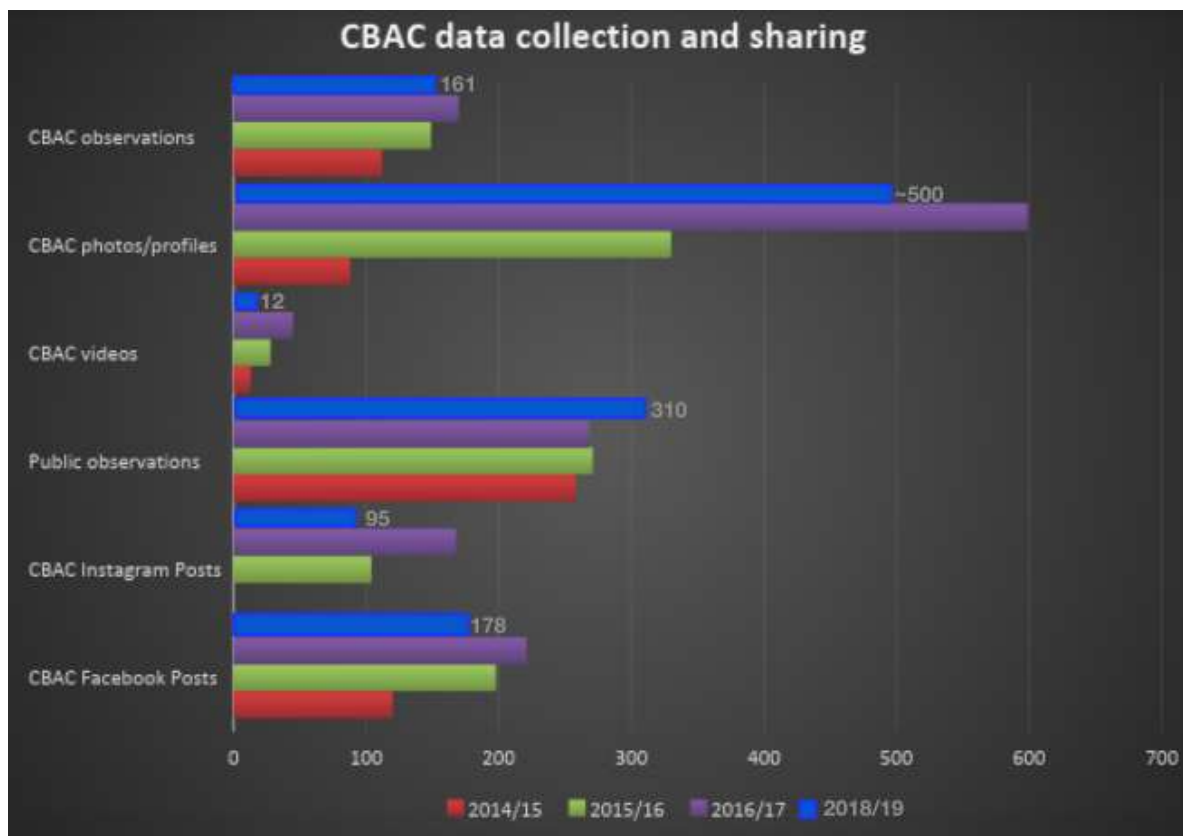
The CBAC maintains our own weather station at the top of Washington Gulch called "DanK". This weather station was visited in early October for seasonal maintenance and upkeep. The "DanK" station provided critical weather data this past season and continues to be in working order. In very close proximity to "DanK" is the CBAC study plot. The study plot was visited by Zach Kinler, CBAC intern, on a weekly basis for the entire forecast season. A full profile was conducted each week along with a weekly summary of weather conditions, recent avalanche activity, and fully annotated profile. Weekly summaries were posted to the Observations and Weekly Summary pages on the website. Weekly summaries provide the forecasters and the public with critical pieces of information and easy way to keep track of conditions as they change throughout the season.

Along with the CBAC professional observations and weekly summaries, the general public contributed an additional 310 observations throughout the season. The CBAC forecast area is large and contains a greatly varying snowpack and public observations provide even more data which allows the CBAC to maintain accurate forecast product. This was the most public observations the CBAC had received in a single season for the past 5 years (likely ever, but no data available prior to 2014). The public contribution this past season was tremendous and the CBAC is thankful for the communities commitment.

Lastly, the CBAC also receives contributions from several local professional sources. Irwin Guides, Crested Butte Ski Patrol, and Billy Bar all contributed with weather and avalanche observations. Irwin

Guides and Crested Butte Ski Patrol both provide important explosive control results from unmitigated areas throughout the winter which helps forecasters to dial in the sensitivity of current avalanche conditions. Billy Bar's contributions are outstanding; he often provides storm totals and water content for each day during a storm and often provides this early in the morning prior to forecast products being released.





Outreach and Events

Finances

Partners and Sponsors:

Volunteers

The Future of the CBAC