



CBAC

CRESTED BUTTE AVALANCHE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 / 2026

What's Inside

2 Our Mission + Our Team | 3 Executive Director Message | 4 The Winter The Wasn't
7 Operations | 8 Outreach | 10 Financials | 11 By the Numbers
12 New This Season | 13 Partnerships + Sponsors | 14 Donors + Supporters

We are the longest-running professionally staffed non-profit avalanche center in the nation.

OUR MISSION

The Crested Butte Avalanche Center provides daily avalanche and weather forecasts and is committed to reduce the impacts of avalanches on human life and infrastructure through partnerships, education, and community outreach.

OUR TEAM

ZACH GUY

LEAD FORECASTER

Zach began avalanche forecasting for the CBAC and Irwin Guides in 2011 after completing a master's degree in snow science at Montana State University. After a short break from the Colorado snowpack to direct the Flathead Avalanche Center in Montana from 2017-2020, he returned to the Gunnison Valley and the CBAC for the vast mountains and loving community.

EVAN ROSS

FORECASTER

Evan Ross has been actively studying snow science since the early 2000s, joining the CBAC team in 2014. Evan grew up ski racing in Jackson Hole before attending college at Fort Lewis in Durango. It was here that Evan was exposed to the world of backcountry skiing for the first time, leading to a move to Crested Butte in 2011.

ERIC MURROW

FORECASTER

Eric Murrow joined the CBAC as an intern in 2017, working into full-time Forecaster the next season. He teaches AIARE avalanche courses, works snow safety for the Gothic Mountain Tour and the Elk Mountain Grand Traverse and is a board member and volunteer for Crested Butte Mountain Rescue.

ALAN BERNHOLTZ

OUTREACH

Alan moved to Crested Butte in the late 80s with a passion for backcountry skiing. He's spent a lifetime learning about snow science, ski guiding, and becoming knowledgeable about the Gunnison backcountry. Alan continues to both work and play in avalanche terrain and has the incredible opportunity to share his experience with his two sons.

BRIE YOST

FIELD PARTNER

Born and raised in Colorado, Brie has been skiing since she could walk. Brie made the move to Crested Butte in 2021, when she joined the Crested Butte Ski Patrol. She loves backcountry skiing for the sense of adventure, the solitude of a skin track and the nuance of understanding mother nature. Brie joined the CBAC this winter as a field partner and intern.

A MESSAGE FROM CBAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you!



Well, that was a season for the books, and not in a good way if you're looking at snow totals. But, while we at the CBAC do love deep powder, our main focus has been and always will be keeping folks safe. I'm proud to say it looks like we hit that goal.

The mountains got blanketed with close to two feet of snow thanks to an April storm, and we got another healthy dose on May 6 with cold temps remaining, so better late than never.

Low snow can wear on the soul and stoke of anyone. Despite the limited snow, our forecast team of Zach Guy, Evan Ross and Eric Murrow showed no signs of weariness and continued their efforts getting out every day. No matter the conditions, they got out there to make sure our users had the information for a day in the mountains to help them safely return to friends, families and co-workers. There's no question the

addition of intern Brie Yost to the team helped in that endeavor as she proved a willing and able participant on field days no matter what the conditions dictated.

Our Outreach efforts continued with Alan Bernholtz returning to the fold as our Outreach Director. Alan set up at trailheads, educated linemen at GCEA, brought in speakers for Fireside Chats and spent time with the Gunnison Senior Center, as well as with school kids in both Crested Butte and Gunnison, sharing his knowledge and love for the mountains.

We are really fortunate to retain our full Forecast Team and staff again next winter to help steer the ship and maybe if we're lucky, we can get Brie in the forecast chair.

The CBAC is the original professionally staffed, non-profit weather and avalanche forecast center in the nation, and we have continued our efforts for 26 years. Since our meager beginning in Alan's basement, seven similar avalanche centers have popped up nationwide and each time they come to us for guidance.

Our ability to do this comes from our staff, our board and, most certainly, the support we receive every year from the community inside and outside of the Gunnison Valley.

So, from me personally, I want to say thank you.

Did I hear a Super El Niño is coming for the 2026-2027 winter? Here's hoping, see you in October.

Than Acuff
Executive Director

STAFF

Than Acuff Executive Director
Karen Williams Development Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THE SEASON IN STATS

0	Number of years on record in Gothic (since 1974) that saw less snowfall than this season, which finished at 54% below average.
43	Days with record high temperatures in Gothic.
1,383	Avalanches documented by the CBAC this season, 400 of which were large enough to bury or kill someone.
505	Wet avalanches documented this season, more than any previous season.
Dec. 25th	Rain to nearly 11,000', the latest into winter it has ever rained in Gothic by 45 days.
143	Large to very large (D2 to D3) avalanches documented during our late February storm cycle, our biggest avalanche cycle of the season.
Mar. 10th	The peak snowpack for the Gunnison River Basin: one month early and 49% of the median peak.
14	Consecutive days in March where the temperature did not drop below freezing at 11,000 feet, during a historic warmup.
14%	The Gunnison Basin snowpack on March 31st, as a percentage of average after the March heatwave.
5	People reportedly caught in avalanches, all relatively small in size (<D1.5)
0	Local injuries or fatalities. There were 23 avalanche fatalities in the U.S. this winter.

THE WINTER THAT WASN'T.



**Hotter than a porta-john
at a country concert, drier
than stale toast in the
Sahara.**



The 2025/26 season will be one that we'd all like to forget, but will likely be burned into our memories forever. Unprecedented heatwaves, prolonged droughts, extreme wind events, mid-winter rain events, and a thin snowpack riddled with weak layers all conspired to make for a dismal season. Nevertheless, avalanche conditions were far from disappointing. The long interludes between storms formed exceptionally fragile layers, and nearly every loading event, small or large, produced significant natural activity. In late February, our biggest storm and most dangerous conditions of the season coincided with one of the worst weeks for avalanche fatalities in modern US history, yet Crested Butte was fortunate to avoid any accidents this season. The March heatwave nearly put a fork in the snowpack, but quality turns were salvaged through April and early May under a much-welcomed cooler and snowier pattern.

A Warm and Dry Start

The early season was dominated by dry, warm weather. Through Thanksgiving, our field excursions into the mountains featured mountain biking, schwacking, or skiing on very thin coverage. A series of modest storms beginning on November 30th through the first week of December (up to 2.6" SWE) produced extensive natural cycles (115 D1s, 22 D2s) on the fragile faceted snowpack that existed on shady aspects. The feeling of winter was short-lived as strong high pressure nudged the storm track northward, bringing record-breaking heat and three weeks of dry weather until Christmas, with a Dec 17th extreme wind event (105 mph gusts) as a cherry on top. Billy Barr summed it up well: "It is hard to even comprehend this weather... There is no explanation to all this unless I slept through the winter and it is late April now." Stagnant high pressure would become an all-too-familiar weather pattern throughout the season. Avalanche activity

quickly subsided during the December dry spell. Many areas still lacked a sufficient base for backcountry riding going into the holidays, with a mix of crusts and dirt on southerlies and well-developed facets and windboard on northerlies.

The Holiday Slab

Our cries for precipitation were answered with a lump of coal on Christmas Day: rain to nearly 11,000 feet. This was the latest rainfall ever observed in Gothic, breaking the previous record by 45 days. Thankfully, rain soon changed to dense snow, and we entered a period of increasing avalanche danger as a series of four winter storms (Dec 25, Dec 27-28, Jan 2, Jan 5) built slabs (up to 4.2" SWE) over a thin and fragile snowpack. The last three loading events produced a wave of natural and skier-triggered activity, typically failing as persistent slabs on December drought layers. The most extensive cycle occurred on January 2nd (1 D3, 39 D2s, 13 D1s), with impressive avalanches connecting across multiple start zones and aspects. The same day featured numerous close calls in the Elk Mountains: two skiers were carried in small avalanches near Kebler Pass, and on the Marble side, two skiers survived being swept up in large avalanches. Avalanche activity was focused on the north and east sides of the compass above 10,500'. Below treeline was remarkably quiet throughout the period, a result of Christmas's rain crusts capping the weak layers below. The extended holiday period featured 20 human-triggered avalanches, many of which were remotes, before avalanche activity on old weak layers waned as we entered our next prolonged dry period.

The Mid-Season Droughts

Our next dry spell lasted until late January, under another high-pressure ridge. The drought featured warm, windy weather, spurring a stream of small wind slabs and a few larger, persistent slabs (up to D3) through mid January. Snow surfaces grew weak once again ahead of the next loading event on January 23rd to 24th, which brought up to 2 feet of low-density snow



(up to 1.3" of SWE). This spurred a cycle of natural avalanches (1 D3, 31 D2s, 83 D1s), most of which failed as storm or wind slabs on the storm interface, along with a handful of larger persistent slabs that stepped down into old early-season layers. Lo and behold, high pressure returned through mid-February, featuring another round of above-normal temperatures and damaging winds. Slab activity waned and gave way to wet loose avalanches on sunny aspects and dry loose "facet sluffs" on shady aspects as the snowpack continued to flirt with historically low amounts. A skier was carried in a small facet sluff in Red Lady Bowl on February 2nd.

The Fat Tuesday Firehose

After a 20-day dry spell, a modest storm from February 11th to 12th (up to 14" snow/ 1.3" SWE) and subsequent winds spurred yet another avalanche cycle of mostly small avalanches breaking on the weak storm interface (7 D2s, 70 D1s). This was a sign of how sensitive our February drought layers were before the season's biggest storm. A 3-day storm starting on Fat Tuesday, February 17th, brought strong winds and

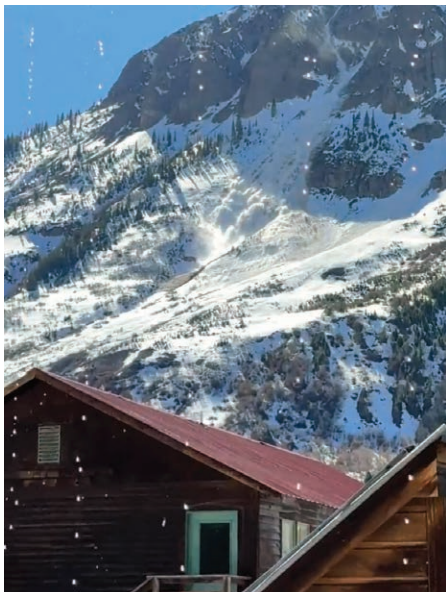
up to 4 feet of snowfall (up to 4.5" SWE). Rapid loading stressed our record-low snowpack, riddled with multiple weak layers. Avalanche carnage was impressive across our entire forecast area and at all elevations, with some very large avalanches impacting the valley floor (15 D3s, 128 D2s, 36 D1s). This drought-ending storm turned the entire Western U.S. snowpack upside down and brought heartbreak to our mountain communities. Nine people were killed in an avalanche near Tahoe as the



THE WINTER THAT WASN'T.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

storm first moved inland, followed by five more avalanche fatalities in Utah and Idaho in the days after - one of the worst weeks for avalanche accidents since the mining era. Unique remote triggering conditions developed during and after the storm: our field teams intentionally produced 20 remote triggers during the same week, including an avalanche triggered from 1000 feet away near East River, a wall-to-wall D2.5 slide in Snodgrass's California Bowl, and an 1800-foot-wide D3 on Carbon Peak. Conditions remained dangerous well after the storm. Increased winds on the 24th spurred more large natural avalanches (5 D2s), and a freezing rain event on the 25th kept natural activity going (10 D2s). The freezing rain event created a glaze crust extending to alpine summits, spoiling riding conditions. Perhaps the silver lining is that poor surface conditions may have deterred riders from risky terrain during the decreasing likelihood but high-consequence phase after the storm passed. The only human involvement resulting from the Fat Tuesday chaos was a snowmobiler who was caught in a small wetting slab on the 28th near Coal Creek. Unseasonably warm and dry weather closed out February, with persistent slab structures transitioning to wet slab structures at some low elevations, and avalanche activity diminishing significantly.



The Ridge of Doom

March brought an unprecedented warmup and was the driest March on record for Gothic. The only storm was a modest one on March 6th (up to 1.0" SWE). The first half of the month featured above-average, but tolerable, warmth, and the majority of avalanches were shallow wet loose. The threat from February's slabs over depth hoar and facets gradually diminished during the first weeks of March. Our last persistent slab of the season ran on Whetstone during yet another extreme wind event on March 11th (gusts to 109 mph). During the second half of March, the Devil himself paid a visit, as an anomalously high pressure ridge created an extreme heat dome over the Western US. The Ridge of Doom shattered local and regional records through the rest of March in unprecedented fashion. At the national level, March 2026 not only smashed its previous record but also featured the greatest departure from average of any month in documented history. Locally, Gothic experienced 14 record-high temperatures, and four of those days broke previous records by more than 10 degrees, reaching summer-like highs of 67F. Temperatures at 11,000 feet failed to drop below freezing between March 17th and March 31st. Meltwater flowed through the snowpack at all elevations and aspects, and we experienced a prolonged cycle of full-depth wet loose and wet slab avalanches (1 D3, 64 D2s, 112 D1s over 9 straight days). Large activity began after multiple nights without refreeze, likely due to the freezing rain crust delaying meltwater production. Satellite analysis of snow coverage patterns from RMBL's Ian Breckheimer suggested, in the absence of climate change, the March melt out was a 1-in-500 to 1-in-1000 year event in parts of the Elk Mountains, and the snowpack plummeted to historic lows by the end of the month: 14% of average and a mere 22% of the previous record low, set in 2018.

Fool-free April

The tide quickly turned for the better in April, and the Elk Mountains offered quality riding conditions amid intermittent storms and



cooler temperatures. We had more snow on the first day of April (over 2 feet of dense snow and up to 3" of SWE) than we did in the entire month of March - good riddance! Avalanche activity was confined to the storm snow, most commonly wind slabs and loose snow avalanches (15 D2s, 40 D1s). Because persistent weak layers didn't survive the March meltdown, stability quickly improved, and skiers and riders enjoyed some of the year's most favorable conditions for steep terrain. A series of small storms (April 14, April 26, May 6), separated by bouts of dry, mild weather, followed a similar pattern of short-lived storm instabilities and wet loose shedding. The largest of these storms on April 26 (up to 2" SWE) produced a sensitive low-density layer early in the storm, which led to a small cycle in the Ruby Range and human-triggered storm slabs for several days (10 D2s, 32 D1s). A final record warmup in mid-May spurred additional gouging wet loose activity and one wet slab (1 D2, 34 D1s).

OPERATIONS

The CBAC has operated as a nonprofit 501 c3 avalanche center since 2002.



Directed by Than Acuff, the center maintains a highly qualified and experienced forecasting team. Forecasters Zach Guy, Evan Ross, and Eric Murrow have collectively contributed 33 seasons with the CBAC. In addition to their tenure with the center, the team brings extensive experience in guiding, instruction, snow safety, and avalanche forecasting from organizations both locally and beyond the region. Alan Bernholtz, previous avalanche forecaster and guide, leads the Outreach Program. Brie Yost served as this season's intern while also working as a ski patroller at CBMR.

The CBAC produces daily weather and avalanche forecasts and conducts daily fieldwork throughout our operational season, which runs from mid-November through April. Forecasts cover two primary regions surrounding the valley—the Northwest and Southeast Mountains—allowing forecasters to highlight spatial variability in avalanche danger and better tailor information to local conditions.

A strong field presence remains central to CBAC operations, supporting forecast accuracy and providing valuable observations to the public. Targeted

fieldwork includes documenting avalanche activity, identifying signs of instability, and collecting snow profiles to help users better visualize and interpret conditions. The CBAC also maintains a comprehensive database of regional avalanche activity which plays a critical role in both validating forecasts and identifying patterns in future hazards. This season, the CBAC produced 57 field videos highlighting current and anticipated conditions, along with weekly summary videos released each Friday.

The CBAC website remains the primary platform for delivering forecasts, observations, and weather data, using a platform and framework established by the National Avalanche Center to ensure consistency across regions. The site also hosts a robust observation and avalanche database with tools for mapping, filtering, and searching, along with a range of educational resources.

In addition to the website, users can access CBAC's information through our mobile app, Avy, which provides offline access to forecasts, observations, and weather station data. The CBAC also distributes information through daily email updates, local radio broadcasts, social media posts, local television messaging, and a roadside avalanche danger sign at the town entrance.

OUTREACH

The CBAC has been expanding our outreach efforts to get avalanche information into the hands of all user groups. The Outreach Program was implemented in 2020 due to a spike in backcountry usage and accidents during the COVID pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEASON:

Website

www.cbavalanchecenter.org is our primary tool for disseminating avalanche information to the public. Our website usage has generally trended upward over the past decade, though it dips during below-average winters like this one. This winter, the website saw 12,411 unique visitors, with 198,224 page views. CBAC's website traffic most frequently comes from the Gunnison Valley, the Front Range, and Western Slope cities of Colorado.

Avy App

Through a partnership with the Northwest Avalanche Center, the "Avy" app hosts CBAC forecasts, observations, and weather data for the Crested Butte area. One of the benefits of the app is its offline functionality; users can view the forecast or submit observations while in the backcountry. Approximately 800 unique users accessed the forecast 10,400 times and viewed the observations screen 5,700 times.

Social Media

Our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube presence continues to reach more users and drive a larger audience to our website. We post creative content daily to draw attention to conditions, share timely updates or observations, and encourage users to read our forecasts. We have 25,300 social media followers (a 13% increase from last season).

News and Radio Media

The Gunnison Valley's community radio station, KBUT, aired CBAC's avalanche forecasts every morning. CBAC staff also participated in several radio programs highlighting unusually dangerous conditions or center updates. Forecasters authored "Backcountry Notes" for the Crested Butte News on several occasions throughout the season. The forecast bottom line is also published daily on CBTv.



Videos

CBAC forecasters produced 57 field-based videos highlighting current or anticipated hazards or describing terrain management strategies. We also published a weekly summary video every Friday. The videos are shared on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and our website.

Awareness Night

CBAC's iconic kick-off event returned to a full house at the Center for the Arts. The event featured talks by our forecasters and avalanche industry professionals, gear expos, the world-famous raffle, and entertaining times connecting our backcountry users.



Fireside Chats

We hosted five fireside chats featuring a mix of local snow science professionals, avalanche forecasters, and guest speakers from across the state. The speaker series drew approximately 250 attendees in an engaging, conversational, and inclusive forum at various locations around the valley. Themes included: CB Search and Rescue in the area and state, interpreting the daily avalanche forecast and field data, decision-making frameworks for small groups, and case studies of regional avalanche incidents and human factors. Feedback emphasized how valuable the community finds these gatherings—not only as educational events but as a space to strengthen social connections within the local backcountry community.

Beacon Brush-up

Our staff and local guides hosted a free rescue clinic open to all experience levels in early December. We offered beginner through advanced modules focused on transceiver searches, strategic probing and shoveling, evacuation techniques, first-aid, and more throughout the day.

Trailhead Days

The CBAC team conducted five Trailhead Days this season, which were strategically scheduled around weekends and holidays when backcountry traffic was highest. At popular trailheads, staff engaged directly with an estimated 300+ backcountry users this season, distributing educational materials and snacks, answering forecast questions, promoting safe travel practices, and offering spontaneous mini-clinics on travel techniques and companion rescue. Trailhead Days continue to be a cornerstone of CBAC's outreach program because of their immediacy and effectiveness—meeting people where they are, on the snow, when safety information can have the greatest impact.

Crested Butte Community School - Snow Science Classes

The CBAC partnered with CBCS to deliver a 4-class series of snow science lessons for middle school students. Class sessions combined classroom-based learning with interactive field experiences. Students participated in hands-on data collection, snow pit observations, and discussions about terrain choices. By integrating avalanche

science into the academic environment, students are exposed not only to safety knowledge but also to potential future careers in science, outdoor leadership, and environmental monitoring.

Gunnison High School - Avalanche Rescue At GVH

CBAC focused on practical skills with an Avalanche Rescue Course. Using the Jeff Schneider Beacon Park, we introduced transceiver techniques, systematic search strategies, and best practices for organized rescue. Participants practiced multiple burial scenarios, improved probe line coordination, and gained insights into how small groups can respond effectively in emergencies. The course was attended by outdoor education students and members of the school's mountain club, many of whom are active winter users of the backcountry.

Senior Center

CBAC Outreach Coordinator led a snowshoe tour up Washington Gulch with 9 participants. We covered travel in avalanche terrain, identifying layers in the snowpack, angles and aspects that contribute to avalanches.

Gunnison County Electric Association

CBAC presented an Avalanche Awareness program to the GCEA linemen, office staff, and management, with 50 participants. We tailored the program to accessing certain terrain features on the routes where electric lines could be interrupted, especially during times of high danger.

Avalanche Danger Sign

CBAC's large roadside sign at the town's entrance advertises the current avalanche danger and our website for more information. The sign helps inform and increase awareness for visitors and locals alike.



The CBAC continues to operate a well-staffed, Type 1 avalanche center while maintaining a modest budget relative to other Centers nationwide. 80% of our expenses go directly to staff salaries, followed by general operating expenses (9%) such as vehicles, website, and office costs. Under this model, the center has been able to employ a highly experienced and well-qualified staff. The board and staff continue to focus on raising funds to pay our forecast staff a livable wage in the face of increased cost of living in the valley.

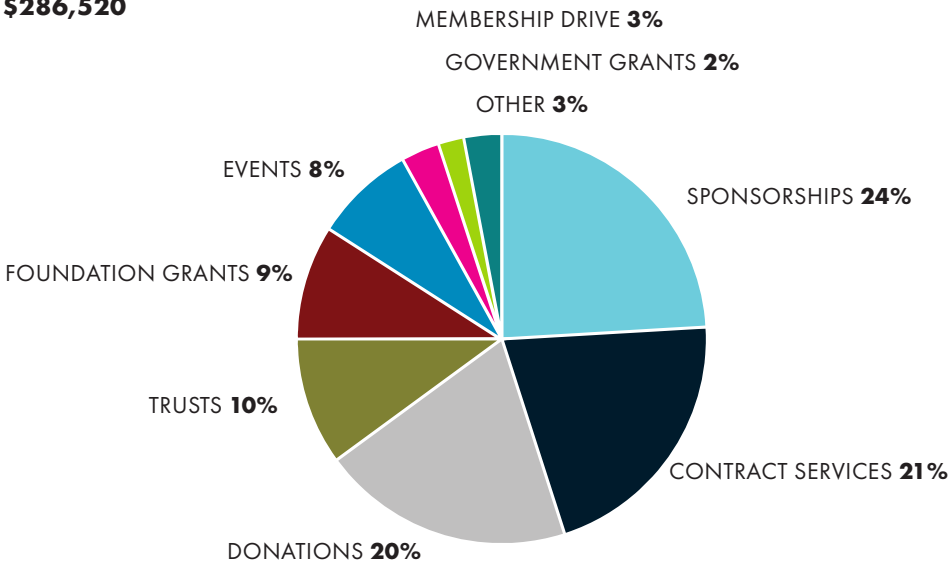
The CBAC strives to diversify our funding sources, which include business sponsorships, local municipalities, individual donations, trusts/grants, memberships, events, and contract services. Contract services include regular avalanche mitigation work on avalanche paths that impact the Town of Crested Butte and snow safety work at local events such as the Gothic Mountain Tour.

The CBAC has been able to provide high-quality daily avalanche forecasting and has retained the most highly qualified forecasters by ensuring that we stick to what we do best and not expand beyond our forecasting and outreach programs. The board is fiscally conservative to ensure we can cover our costs every season without dipping into our reserves. As the longest running non-profit avalanche center in the country, we are the model for similar operations starting up. We are proud of our product, and we are proud to help our community enjoy the backcountry in the winter as safely as possible. We are also humbled by the continued support of our community near and far.

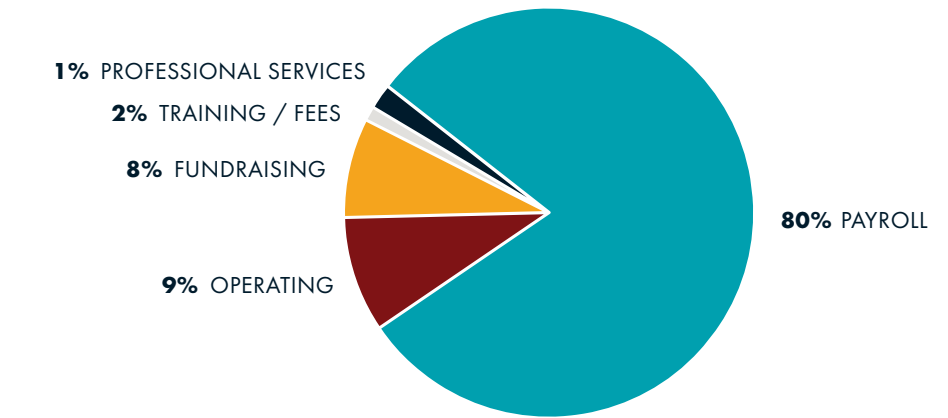
If you wish to support our forecaster team, you scan or visit cbavalanchecenter.org/membership/:



INCOME
\$286,520

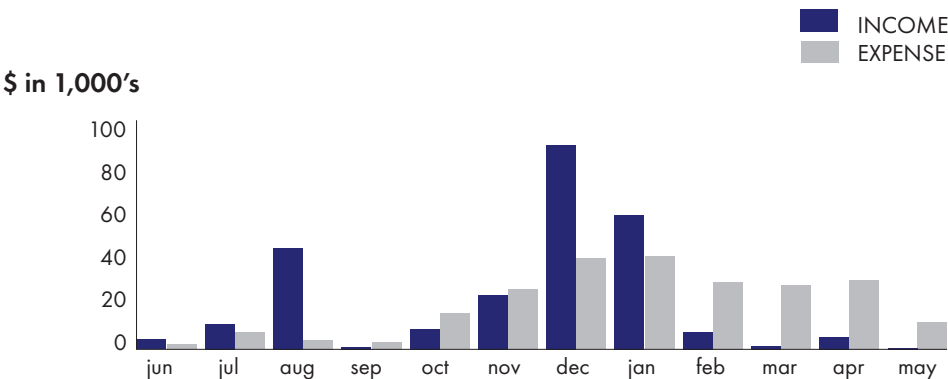


EXPENSES
\$272,580



INCOME + EXPENSE
BY MONTH

June 2025 - May 2026



FORECASTING

1,383

AVALANCHES DOCUMENTED BY THE CBAC THIS SEASON.

Of which **400** were large enough to bury or kill someone.

0

LOCAL INJURIES OR FATALITIES.

There were **23** avalanche fatalities in the U.S. this winter.

143

LARGE TO VERY LARGE (D2 to D3) AVALANCHES documented during our late February storm cycle, our biggest avalanche cycle of the season.

5

PEOPLE REPORTEDLY CAUGHT IN AVALANCHES, all relatively small in size (<D1.5)

193

CBAC FORECASTER FIELD OBSERVATIONS

57

INFORMATIVE VIDEOS

produced by CBAC this season.

505

WET AVALANCHES documented this season, more than any previous season.

621,000

VIDEO VIEWS of our most popular field video of the season, featuring an impressive remote trigger on Carbon Peak that was nearly 2000' wide.

19

OUTREACH OR EDUCATIONAL EVENTS HOSTED BY CBAC, including Avy Night, Beacon Brushup, Trailhead Days, Fireside Chats, and school events.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We continue to post daily content each winter to help educate more users and draw a larger audience to our website. Community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Our social media platforms are informative, creative, relevant, funny, and interesting.

25,300

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

Social media followers who receive our daily posts or videos.



12,900

up from 11,000 last season



1,000

up from 790 last season



11,400

up from 10,500 last season

57

VIDEOS PRODUCED

CBAC Forecasters published 57 YouTube videos and shorts - about the same amount as last year.

WEBSITE + APP

→ **216,000** TOTAL VIEWS

PAGE VIEWS

198,224
WEBSITE

17,458
APP

UNIQUE USERS

12,411
WEBSITE

812
APP

DATA FOR BOTH WEBSITE + APP

WHO'S OUT THERE?

Most of our traffic comes from Colorado, both locally and around the state, including:

THE FRONT RANGE (Denver, Boulder, etc.)
GUNNISON VALLEY
WESTERN SLOPE + ROARING FORK VALLEY
PHOENIX, DALLAS, SALT LAKE, ETC.



Download
APP for iOS



Download
APP for
Android

"Big thanks to all of you at CBAC! Our valley is very lucky to have you.... 26'/27' is going to be huuge!"

~ CBAC USER ON SOCIAL MEDIA POST

NEW THIS SEASON



Improved Weather Forecasting Resources

CBAC continues to benefit from improved weather forecasting tools developed by NOAA and OpenSnow. New visualization tools and AI modeling boost both accuracy and workflow efficiency for the team.

Snowpack Modeling

Through collaboration with the NAC, CAIC, and AvCan, the CBAC began experimenting with snowpack modeling as an additional forecasting tool. SNOWPACK is a Swiss model that predicts snowpack structure and hazard based on weather model inputs. As these tools evolve, and our ability to interpret and apply them operationally improves, the accuracy of avalanche forecasting should also improve.

D-size Tool

For the past several years, CBAC staff have been experimenting with mass-based calculations to improve consistency when rating the destructive potential (D-size) of avalanches. This spring and summer, CBAC is collaborating with several other avalanche centers to both analyze and develop this tool so it can be accessible to other practitioners.

Historical Avalanche Data

One of our biggest off-season projects this year was cleaning and formatting a decade's worth of historical avalanche data to integrate it into our current avalanche database. Users can now easily access and analyze avalanche patterns back to 2014. Historical data may become more relevant for future forecasting practices as machine learning advances, and the Crested Butte area is typically one of the most thoroughly documented regions in the country for avalanche activity.

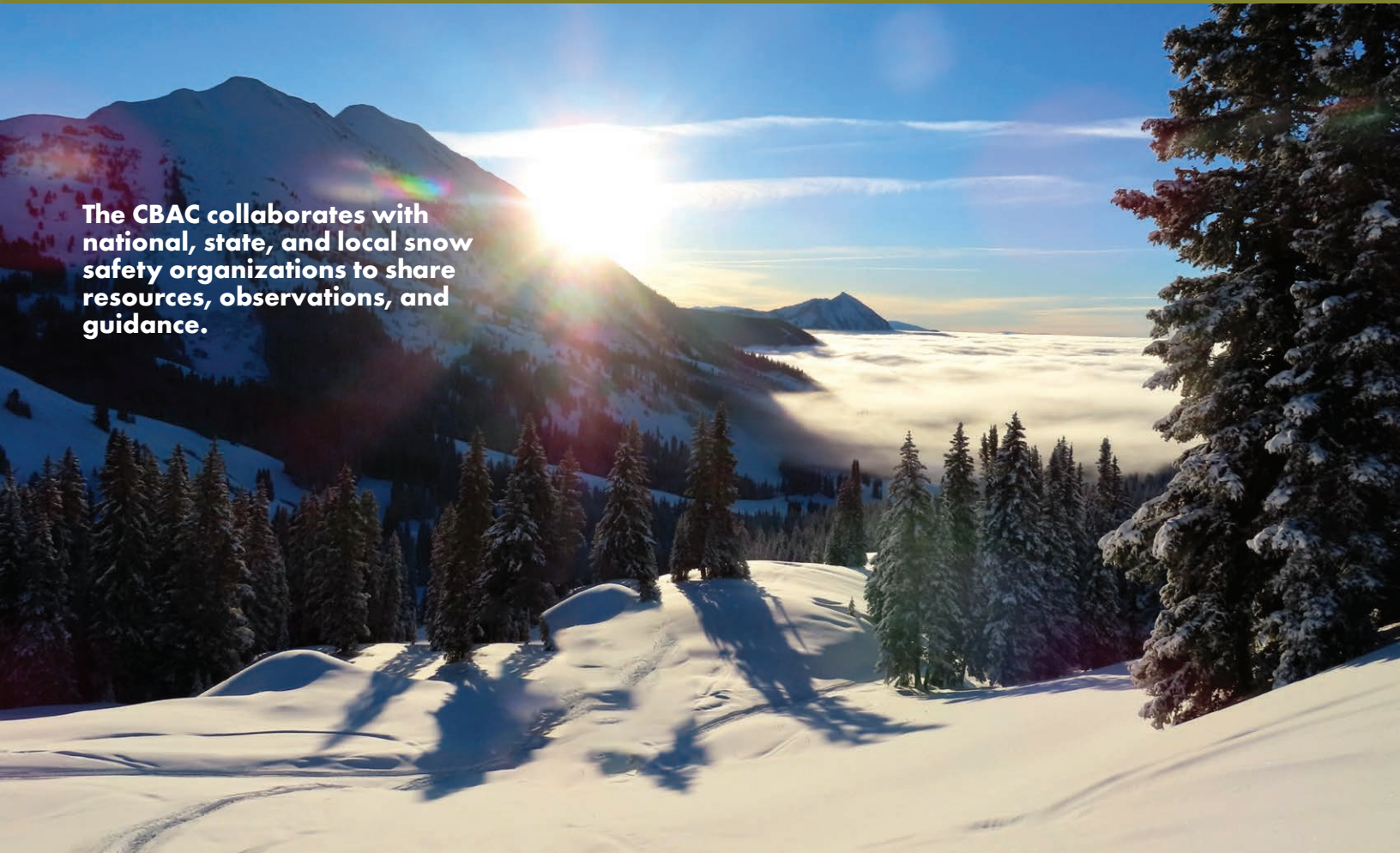
These are in addition to new and upgraded weather stations, extended forecast seasons, weekly summary videos, a new snowmobile fleet, the Avy App, a new observation platform, and an avalanche terrain map - all new improvements over the past few years.

LOOKING AHEAD

The CBAC will always strive for more effective outreach and more accurate forecast products. Our goal is to provide accessible and useful information to help backcountry travelers manage risks and reduce accidents.

With that in mind, we've outlined a handful of objectives for the coming year:

- Continue a heavily field-based approach to avalanche forecasting to better understand and forecast local avalanche patterns.
- Continue to maintain our network of remote weather stations (Dan K and Jan Parker) and game cams.
- Seek new technology and AI innovations to improve productivity and accuracy of fieldwork and forecasting.
- Continue to seek out ways to meet the increasing salary needs of staff associated with the rising cost of living in the Gunnison Valley in order to retain highly qualified and experienced team members.
- Continue expanding avalanche outreach and awareness to new populations, increase educational opportunities and offer events that bring the community together.
- Expand Fireside Chats by introducing themed sessions targeting underrepresented groups such as women, youth, and new residents. Continue to bring in outside speakers.
- Broaden School Partnerships including opportunities with Western Colorado University's Outdoor Education Department for student mentorship and field internships.
- Increase Media Integration with local radio and newspapers to amplify safety messaging ahead of major storm cycles.
- Continuing education by providing educational elements to our members and at our trailhead days.



The CBAC collaborates with national, state, and local snow safety organizations to share resources, observations, and guidance.

The CBAC is a member of the National Avalanche Center (NAC), which provides guidance, support, and cost-sharing opportunities for forecasting, observation, and weather-station platforms. The CBAC works with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) through observation sharing and forecaster discussions. The CBAC also exchanges observations and benefits from weather stations operated by Irwin Guides, Crested Butte Mountain Resort, and Billy Barr/ Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory.

The CBAC is contracted by the Town of Crested Butte to perform avalanche

mitigation and forecasting for several high risk avalanche zones within town limits. There have been no public incidents in these zones since CBAC began managing avalanche hazards in 2018. CBAC is also contracted by the Nordic Center to manage avalanche hazards for the Gothic Mountain Tour, which completed another incident-free event this winter.

The CBAC has an email alert system for notifying other local agencies of exceptionally dangerous conditions. We deployed this system several times during periods of High danger.

The CBAC Outreach program partnered with the USFS Gunnison Ranger District, Town of Crested Butte, Town of Mount Crested Butte, Crested Butte Community School, Gunnison High School, Gunnison Senior Center Snowshoers, Gunnison County Electric Association, Gunnison Sno Trackers, and local gear shops and backcountry retailers.

The work of the CBAC would not be possible without the many local business sponsors and donor support. Thank you to everyone who donated to make our operation successful!



DONORS + SUPPORTERS

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SNOWPACALYPSE

\$5,000+

Andrico Wines
CFGV
El Pomar
GVH Ortho
Irwin Guides/Eleven
Experience Sales Dept
MetRec
Mountainside Concrete
Timberline Mechanical
Skyhigh Offroad

WHITEROOM

\$3,000+

Alpineer
Blister
CB Nordic
Chris Mikesell Foundation
Club at Crested Butte
Dan K Weather Station
Midnight Marketing Solutions
OnX Maps
Smithworks Natural Homes

WAIST DEEP

\$1,500+

Altitude Painting
Beacon Guidebooks
CB Builders
CBMR
Clark's Market
Glacier Earthworks
Hargrove & Kidd Construction
High Alpine Brewing Co.
Intergy Private Wealth
Intuition Consulting
KNS Reps
Limitless Guiding
Mammut
Michael Weil Custom Homes
Mountain Treescapes
Organic Housekeepers
Precise Painting
Ripple Chiropractic
RMD Motorsports
ROMP
SCJ Alliance
Steadfast Flooring
Top Tier Construction
Tributary

THIGH DEEP

\$750+

Alpenglow Rentals
Altitude Auto
Artisan Rug Gallery
Crested Butte Bank
CB Publishing & Creative
Crossroads Construction
David Gross
General Contractor
ES Nauman Houswright
High Nowhere Tattoo
KBUT
Matchstick Productions
Miller Custom Homes
Mountain Colors
Moto Mountain School
Mountain Nugget Body Work
Nunatak Energy
Old Town Inn
Ortovox
Pinnacle Orthopedics
REG
Rocky Mountain Trees
Western Mountain Rescue
WSCU Wilderness Pursuits

KNEE DEEP

\$500+

Big B's
Bobos Bars
Vermont Sticky

BOOT TOP

\$250+

Backcountry Cafe
B&B Printing
Creekside Spa
Lapis Contracting
Pats Screenprinting

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Chris Mikesell Foundation
Dea Family Foundation
Jean Thomas Lambert
Foundation
K & T Foundation
Truettner Family Foundation

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THE SEASON THROUGH OUR LENS





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