

Optimistic on Ellis

Date

Sat, 02/08/2025 - 15:35

Activity

Skiing

Toured up Mt Ellis from Bear Canyon. I was surprised at how non-wind affected the snow was after yesterday's strong winds from E-W. [Cornice](#) buildup on the ridge was minimal, soft snow was still on the surface, and the trees along the ridge to the summit still held snow. I dug a quick pit on a NE [aspect](#) at 8260', looking for buried [surface hoar](#) and/or near surface facets. Found about 8" of fresh snow on top of a right-side-up snowpack. ECTX. About 2.5' down, I found rounding facets. While I may not have found persistent weak layers in my snow pit, I suspect there are locations where SH/NSF are still preserved. Dig down and see what is going on underneath your feet, before committing to any steep slopes.

Region

Northern Gallatin

Location (from list)

Mt Ellis

Observer Name

H. Darby