

## Collapsing and Poor Test Score in the Centennials

Date

Thu, 12/07/2023 - 12:50

Activity

Snowmobiling

The snowpack at low elevations is thin (<1 foot). Off-trail riding looked questionable, and we let the sleds stay in one piece for another day or two. We went a [cornice](#) line at 9000.' We walked over to our pit site on a NE facing slope, triggered a large [collapse](#), and got an ECTP13 in a snowpack that resembled what Dave saw at Lionhead and Ian and Alex saw in Cooke City. There was 8" of new snow with 1" of SWE with a total snow height of just over 105cm.

Across the way, we dug on a SW-facing slope and found a similar snowpack structure although there were a few more ice crusts mixed into the 90cm deep snowpack (ECTP14).

We rode up a bit farther to get a view of the Jefferson Bowl and saw one, small natural avalanche that occurred within the storm snow.

There was no real way to navigate avalanche terrain without rolling the dice with the [persistent weak layer](#) that makes up the foundation of the snowpack. Avoidance is key.

Region

Island Park

Location (from list)

Sawtelle Peak

Observer Name

David Zinn