Wind drifting snow and recent avalanches

Date
Sat, 02/24/2024 - 13:25
Activity
Snowmobiling

We rode to the south shoulder of Scotch Bonnet, then over Lulu Pass, towards Round Lake behind the north end of Sheep Mtn., and back to Lulu Pass. It was snowing very lightly and wind was blowing strong. Wind was blowing snow into drifts 6-8" thick on the leeward side of trees and convexities. We had intermittent ok visibility and could see old debris from last weekend on east Henderson, and we got a pretty good look at the slides on Fisher Mtn. that were triggered yesterday. They appeared 2-3 feet deep, and the debris was very hard. Crowns were already at least half drifted in.

We saw another slide on the north end of Sheep Mtn. on a slope above the steep chute where people climb out of Goose Creek (photos attached). This slide had not been reported previously and looked similar in age to the two triggered yesterday, so maybe broke naturally or human-triggered in last 24 hours. It broke near a scoured north facing ridgeline, 1-1.5' deep, 175' wide. HS-R3-D2-O.

We dug a pit on the south facing shoulder of Scotch Bonnet and had an ECTP24, down 1.5 feet, not on the previous layers of concern which were lower down (pit attached).

Regardless of stability test results or which layer slides are breaking on, recent avalanche activity and more wind-loading is enough evidence to avoid avalanche terrain.

Region
Cooke City
Location (from list)
Scotch Bonnet
Observer Name
Alex Marienthal