

AVALANCHE ADVISORY

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

FORECASTER: Morgan

IDAHO PANHANDLE AVALANCHE CENTER

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/01/2011

DATE ISSUED: 04/01/2011 0730

OUTLOOK: 04/02-03/2011

This report does not apply to local ski areas within the forecast region and the hazard rating will remain valid through midnight April 1st, 2011. Special thanks to Idaho Parks and recreation for sponsoring this Avalanche advisory.

Things are consolidating well and warm up in the high country. There is hope for some cooler temps right on the freezing mark with the precipitation expected as the weekend progresses.

WEATHER: UPPER ELEVATIONS

TODAY: Across the forecast area we will see a slight chance of snow showers. High near 36 North and 38 South and lows in the low 30's with less than a half inch of snow possible. West wind between 7 and 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

TONIGHT: 100% chance of rain with highs around 34 with snow level at 5400'. Little to no snow accumulation and Winds are expected to be W7mph in the North and 9-16G24 mph out of the Southwest in the Southern area.

SATURDAY: The outlook for Saturday and Sunday is for snowfall during the day on Saturday with 2-4 inches expected in the North and 1-2 in the South, mild temperatures in the high 20s to low 30s, and Easterly 5-11 winds in the North and Westerly winds 10-17G29 in the South. Saturday night you can expect 2-4" in the North and 3-7" in the South with Temperatures falling to the low 20's. Sunday may see a 60 percent chance of snow with 1 to 2 inches possible in the North and 1-3 inches in the South with high temperatures a degree or two above freezing. **The avalanche danger will remain on slopes greater than 35 degrees.**

Selkirks and Cabinet mountains: In the Cabinets yesterday we found conditions. We were up near Lunch Peak and found a fairly stable isothermal snowpack. The surface conditions were saturated on the top 2 inches and of high moisture down about 8 inches with good consolidated snow down to the MLK crust. We had one low quality shear about 2' down that we really had to hammer on to get to go on our compression tap test. Otherwise everything was pretty inconclusive. There was some pin wheeling observed from earlier this week when the rain came in on the fresh powder. On the South aspects we found a firm 2 inch sun crust at 1' and another at 18" below the surface with surface conditions of heavy moist snow (not slushy yet). Your main precaution today and this weekend will be on terrain steeper than 35 degrees under the cornices. The snow is settling from steadily warming temperatures. Avalanche danger is rated **MODERATE** on windloaded aspects steeper than 35 degrees above 5,000 feet. The avalanche danger is **LOW** on non wind-loaded slopes less than 35 degrees.

2 Moderate		Heightened avalanche conditions on specific terrain features. Evaluate snow and terrain carefully; identify features of concern	Natural avalanches unlikely; human-triggered avalanches possible.	Small avalanches in specific areas; or large avalanches in isolated areas.
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St. Regis Basin and Silver valley: Carol and Dan ventured out over Dominion and into Rainy creek where they assessed conditions on an East aspect and found numerous crusts from the sun and rain. It was rainy all day with a 25 percent density. Their concern is the increased load on the ice crusts where they got some moderate results 317cm down from increasing precipitation and density. With the increasing rain in the mountains, the avalanche danger is rated **MODERATE** on windloaded aspects steeper than 35 degrees above 5,000 feet. The avalanche danger is **LOW** on all slopes and aspects less than 35 degrees. As you are out assess how much stress is being put on the snowpack from the rain and warming. The conditions will be dynamic as we will be at or near the freezing mark in the upper elevations. This will likely be the last report of the year so I would like to emphasize the importance of the persistent MLK crust that exists deep in the snow pack and to urge you all to watch for if and when the spring temps rise at how much they rise and how much stress is being put on that deep persistent ice crust. Be careful and have a great Spring!

This will be the last advisory for the 2010-2011.

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Thanks for a great year and have a safe and pleasant weekend!!!!