

Avalanche Fatality on Miller Mountain (snow bike)

Sheep Creek

Cooke City

2/19/2022

Code

SS-AMu-R3-D3-O

Elevation

9800

Aspect

S

Latitude

45.03900

Longitude

-109.98100

Notes

On February 19, 2022, three snowmobilers and two snow bikers were in Sheep Creek on the south face of Miller Mountain north of Cooke City. The two snow bikers were high on the slope when one stopped on a small ridge while the other climbed higher and triggered a large avalanche. The avalanche carried him down through a gully and over a cliff where he was partially buried near the toe of the debris. His arm and airbag were visible and his head was 1 foot under the surface. Resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful. The avalanche was 800 feet wide, averaged 2 feet deep (estimated) and ran 1200 vertical feet. The avalanche likely broke on facets and [depth hoar](#) at the bottom of the snowpack in an area that was thinly covered and recently wind-loaded. The debris was up to 15 feet deep. The avalanche is classified SS-AMu-R3-D3-O.

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Number of slides

1

Number caught

1

Number buried

1

Number killed

1

Avalanche Type

Soft slab avalanche

Trigger

Snowmobile

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

3

D size

3

Bed Surface

O - Old snow

Problem Type

Persistent Weak Layer

Slab Thickness

24.0 inches

Vertical Fall

1200ft

Slab Width

800.00ft

Images

[Sheep Creek avalanche, GE locations](#)

[Sheep Creek avalanche, GE far](#)

Attached Videos

[Snow biker avalanche fatality, Cooke City - 21 Feb](#)

Slab Thickness units

inches

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Single Avalanche

Advisory Year

[21-22](#)