

General Bulletin for Wednesday, April 27, 2016

Expires at 12:00 midnight Friday, April 29, 2016

A General Bulletin is in effect for Tuckerman Ravine. A new General Bulletin will be issued within 72 hours or when conditions warrant. We are no longer monitoring conditions in Huntington Ravine. **Remember that avalanche activity may occur under a General Bulletin so always make your own snow stability assessments when traveling in avalanche terrain.**

Winter keeps hanging in there by delivering 5.7" of new snow to the Washington summit and 3.9" to Hermit Lake at 3800ft on Tuesday. This precipitation came in on W winds from 35-50 mph. This requires you to anticipate isolated instabilities in the Ravine until proven otherwise by your stability assessments. The irregular bare alpine terrain of Bigelow Lawn above Tuckerman, on the south side of the summit cone, will absorb an amount of snow being transported as winds increase. Also, the highly variable terrain of the Ravine consisting of ski bumps, recent melting, rocks, and breaks in the terrain's continuity with brush and cliffs will all help reduce the overall avalanche concern of this new snow. **But, some isolated instabilities may develop as winds pick up over the next 48 hours so assure you have the skill and avalanche experience to make good stability assessments before deciding to enter, or be under, areas of new snow. Cold air between 5-15F and stiff winds on the summit over the next couple of days will allow any isolated wind slab issues to linger.**

Aside from the general snow concerns discussed above requiring caution, the southern side of the Ravine, or lookers left, has dramatically lower objective hazards and risk than the north or right side. Therefore, we recommend the left side over traveling in the center and right side of the Ravine. Left Gully is the longest run and is still connected to the Bowl proper. **Areas immediately adjacent to and under the closed Lip area have all of the hazards in the list below so travel in this area is not recommended and should be avoided. This terrain is "no fall terrain." The consequences of a slip or fall here could lead to the worst possible outcome.**

Spring Hazards in Tuckerman Ravine:

- **FALLING ICE** – Over the years many people have been severely injured or killed by falling ice in Tuckerman. The most hazardous locations are in the center and right side of the ravine, including Lunch Rocks, the Sluice, Lip, and Center Bowl. Warm weather and rain increase the potential for icefall to occur. Avoid spending time in high risk areas such as under the Headwall or at Lunch Rocks, more aptly known as "Icefall Rocks".
- **CREVASSES, HOLES, AND UNDERMINED SNOW** – Collectively these are growing larger in many locations; the most dangerous in the Center Bowl over to the Lip on the lookers right side of the Ravine. Breaking through weak snow into one of these has been the cause of numerous past fatalities. Generally, climbing up what you plan to descend will allow you to see most of these hazards for your descent and realize there may be large open spaces under the surface near these holes. Expect new snow to hide some of these threats.
- **LONG SLIDING FALLS** – Temperatures often fall below freezing even late into spring. Additionally, age hardening can create very dense alpine ice that remains very slick even on warmer days. Very hard and icy surfaces make, a slip, trip, or fall a very serious situation so good terrain choices and judgement as well as proper equipment, like an ice axe and crampons, are your best defense. The bottom sections of popular runs are also melting uphill making it possible to fall into rocks and terrain features while still in steep terrain.

Tuckerman Ravine Trail Closure. A section of the Tuckerman Ravine Trail is closed to all use. This is due to the severe consequences of a fall in this area. The closed section extends from the top of Lunch Rocks to the junction of the Alpine Garden Trail above the ravine. Only this section is closed. Hiking or skiing in the vicinity of the closed trail is not permitted. **(ATTENTION AUX RANDONNEURS!** Une section du sentier du Tuckerman Ravine est présentement fermé à toutes les activités. Cette section est située entre Lunch Rocks et le sommet du Headwall jusqu'où ce dernier rejoint le sentier du Alpine Garden. Cette fermeture inclut également toute activité de descente dans le secteur du Lip. Seulement cette section du sentier est fermé. Cette fermeture annuelle est due à l'ampleur des crevasses et à la gravité qu'occasionnerait une chute dans ce secteur.)

Please Remember:

- Safe travel in avalanche terrain requires training and experience. This bulletin is just one tool to help you make your own decisions in avalanche terrain. You control your own risk by choosing where, when, and how you travel.
- Anticipate a changing avalanche danger when actual weather differs from the higher summits forecast. For more information contact the Forest Service Snow Rangers, or the AMC at Pinkham Notch or Hermit Lake.
- **Posted 7:50a.m. April 27, 2016. A new advisory will be issued when conditions warrant.**

