

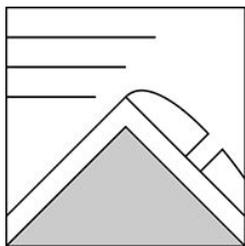
The Bottom Line

Temperatures have continued to fall since yesterday resulting in a sketchy mix of wind scoured, bulletproof ice crust and fresh wind slabs. Areas that contain these wind slabs have **MODERATE** avalanche danger due to the possibility of a human triggered avalanche. Steep terrain without well-bonded new snow will have a significant sliding fall hazard. Don't count on arresting a fall on the icy surface beneath this new snow. Even a small avalanche can cause a significant problem today. A brief window of sunshine and warm temperatures may bring some softening this afternoon but consider your options if it does not. And bear in mind that the new wind slabs will weaken if and when they warm today.

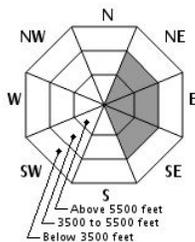
Mountain Weather

Snow showers continued yesterday and overnight, depositing another inch of snow at higher elevations for a 48 hour total of 3". During that time, WNW and NW winds continued to transport snow on 45-60 mph winds. Skies have cleared today after two days of fog. Wind will diminish as well, possibly all the way down to 15-20 mph by afternoon. The current temperature on the summit is 5F with 13F at Hermit Lake. The forecast high temperature for the summit is 23F. Warming will continue overnight and tomorrow as southwest flow brings rain by tomorrow night.

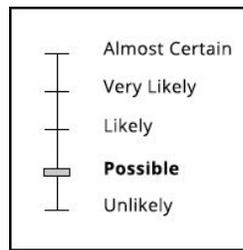
Primary Avalanche Problem



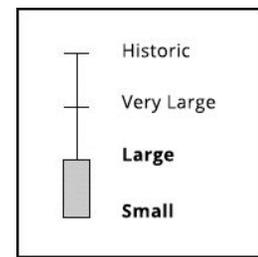
Wind Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Wind slabs up to size D1.5 or even size 2 (large enough to bury a person) may be possible in east facing bowls like Tuckerman, Huntington, Gulf of Slides and possibly the Great Gulf. They'll be thickest in upper start zones and will likely be in the stubborn to reactive range. Expect a poor bond to the icy bed surface until proven otherwise, especially in steeper terrain and on unsupported slopes.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

True to form, the expansive fetch of the Bigelow Lawn and Alpine Garden produced ample amounts of snow to build wind slabs out of a paltry amount of snow. Forty eight hours of W and NW winds efficiently moved this snow around the mountain and refreshed our still wintry snowpack. Limited visibility and active wind loading kept us out of steep start zones yesterday but the feedback we received while standing in boot-top drifts was sufficient to develop a wait-and-see opinion on skiing anything steep. The icy bed surface from Monday's sleet, snow and freezing rain mix was well on it's way to a deep solid freeze with -7C on the surface gradually warming to 0C down 15cm. At this point, it's locked up tight. As temperatures warm, the new wind slabs will weaken, ultimately passing through peak instability as a wet slab avalanche problem tomorrow before becoming a part of an isothermal snowpack.

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Please Remember: Safe travel in avalanche terrain requires training and experience. This forecast is just one of many decision making tools. You control your own risk by choosing where, when, and how you travel. Understand that the avalanche danger may change when actual weather differs from the weather forecast. For more information contact the Forest Service Snow Rangers, the AMC at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, or the caretakers at Hermit Lake Shelters or at the Harvard Cabin.