

**The Bottom Line**

Heavy rain will continue to work on our snowpack and hanging, frozen waterfalls. Glide cracks, often referred to locally as crevasses, will open and many remaining warm and softening snow bridges will continue to collapse into flood stage streams. The main watercourse beneath the snowpack in the Lip and Headwall area stands a chance of a significant blowout and certainly the lower waterfall hole may open by the end of this rain. Other water courses exist beneath popular ski descents around the range. In the off chance you enjoy skiing in heavy rain, consider that the threat and consequences of falling into one of these rain swollen, under-the-snowpack rivers will be reduced after the rain stops and the snow refreezes again.

**Mountain Weather**

Heavy rain will begin Friday morning and continue overnight and well into the day Saturday, bringing close to 2 ½" of rain total by the time it is over. Temperatures on the summit will be on the mid to high 30's through Saturday. A shift to freezing rain and a frozen snowpack may occur late Saturday, though this seems limited to a brief period at higher elevations. Sunday morning will start off cold with a refrozen snowpack likely but should warm under clear skies. A refreeze may return on Sunday night with summit temperatures dipping down to 15F early Monday morning.

**Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion**

Significant melting has occurred, bringing springtime objective hazards to the forefront. If you are in the mountains today be watching for:

- Opening streams
- Holes near trees, rocks, cliffs
- Undermined snow that could easily collapse
- Glide cracks and moats on snow slopes
- Waterfall holes
- Falling ice and rock
- Long sliding falls

Steep snow and ice in gullies and trails, such as the Lion Head Winter Route, becomes very hard when the lower snowpack layers emerge with melting. Currently, the Winter Lion Head route is very icy and requires crampons and an ice axe to climb with any security. The young man who was last seen heading up the Winter Lion Head Route on March 8 remains missing. It is thought that he may have been intent on taking his own life. If that is the case, his remains may be somewhere with the Cutler River Drainage, around the summit or within a few hours hike on the steep part of Lion Head Winter Route. Please report any potential clues to the NH Fish and Game officers at 603-271-3361 or to USFS Snow Rangers at [mwactucks@gmail.com](mailto:mwactucks@gmail.com) or via AMC Front Desk staff at Pinkham Notch Visitor Center. If it is obvious that you have found him, please call 911.

Frank Carus, Snow Ranger; USDA Forest Service, White Mountain National Forest; (603)466-2713 TTY (603)466-2858

**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.



General Advisory, Friday, April 26, 2019

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