

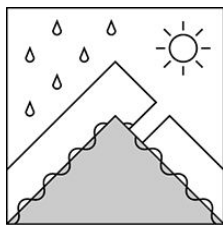
The Bottom Line

Wet slab avalanches today are becoming unlikely though could be large and destructive should they occur. These events are hard to predict and make lingering under avalanche terrain an unwise choice. In addition to wet avalanches, objective hazards that appear as the spring snowpack falls apart are now coming into play. Obvious holes in the snow, less obvious undermined snow that may collapse, cracks in the snow around rocks and cliffs, and icefall should all play into your decision-making process today. All forecast areas of the Presidential Range have **LOW** avalanche danger with the exception of the Headwall in Tuckerman Ravine, which has a **MODERATE** rating. This exception is made for the historic tendency of the Lip blow out from the flooding stream that runs under the snowpack in this location. Keep in mind that Low avalanche danger does not mean no avalanche danger, especially when the concern is hard-to-predict wet avalanches.

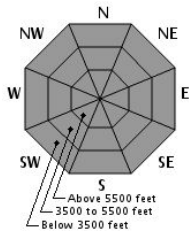
Mountain Weather

Just over 1" of rain fell on the snowpack yesterday. Above freezing temperatures continued with the Summit (6288') reaching 48F midday and Hermit Lake (3800') peaking at 52F. Temperatures cooled slightly overnight with most locations currently sitting in the 40sF. Wind from the SW in the 35-50 mph range should diminish to 10-25 mph later today. Temperatures today should climb slightly, ultimately mimicking yesterday's highs. Rain showers should cut off today, but fog and moisture in the air will likely still make the air feel wet.

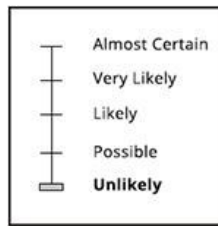
Primary Avalanche Problem



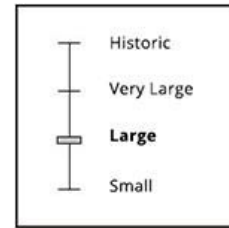
Wet Slab



Aspect/Elevation



Likelihood



Size

Wet, soupey, and goeey are unscientific terms that accurately describe the snowpack and are great indicators of the possibility of springtime wet avalanches. **Wet slabs** that are unlikely today tend not to follow any clear pattern, resulting in avalanches that are isolated, but also large and destructive. The driver of these avalanches is likely shifting from lubricating deeply buried crusts to flooding streams being directed into the snowpack. While the result is the same, this may help pin down likelier locations if you have intimate knowledge of the terrain and know where stream channels flow under the snowpack.

Secondary Avalanche Problem

It is possible that skiers and riders will initiate **wet loose** sluff avalanches today, particularly in the steepest terrain. These will be small in size and not destructive, but they always have the potential to capture skis and carry a person to an undesirable location. With cracks opening in many locations, wet loose avalanches can have severe consequences in terrain that just days ago was seemingly benign.

Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion

Falling apart or *shrinking rapidly* are accurate ways to describe our snowpack this weekend. Watch out for the following hazards that should play into today's decision making:

- * Opening streams
- * Holes near trees, rocks, and cliffs
- * Glide cracks on wide open snow slopes
- * Falling ice

The speed of change the snowpack has seen over past few days is moderating. We believe the time of rapid change has passed and the current malleability of the snowpack can be seen as cracks in the snow. These cracks indicate the crack initiating in the avalanche process, but the snowpack is becoming uniform and can handle these stresses. While the result may be no slab avalanche, it does leave a permanent scar on the snow surface that will develop into a hole that must be negotiated for the remainder of the season.

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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.