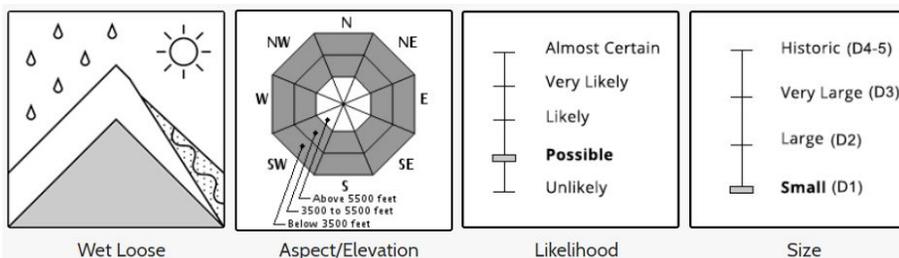


The Bottom Line

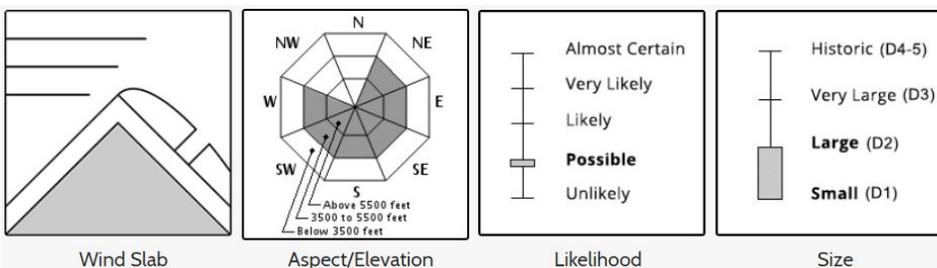
Warmth today will decrease snow stability. This will be greatest on steep slopes that see the most solar gain today. Avalanche danger will rise to MODERATE as cold, dry snow becomes wet and warm. We expect the overall size of possible avalanches to remain on the smaller side, but the widespread likelihood of triggering an avalanche today creates heightened avalanche conditions and demands users identify features of concern. Pay attention to slope aspect and how sloppy the snow gets underfoot today. With temperatures well above freezing today, be on the lookout for icefall at mid and lower elevations.

Avalanche Problem



Wet loose avalanches today are more likely to occur on very steep slopes that heat fast. This could be lower elevations that at 6am are already above freezing or mid-elevation slopes with a southerly aspect that will see significant solar gain. Watch for pinwheels and rollerballs as a sign that wet loose avalanches are becoming possible. While this sort of avalanche problem may not produce anything bigger than a D1 avalanche, these flows that act like wet cement have the potential to catch skiers or climbers and drag them over a cliff or ice bulge.

Secondary Avalanche Problem



Existing wind slabs will warm today. As today will be the first warming for many of the wind slabs in avalanche terrain, expect a decrease in stability. This warming process will be driven both by ambient air temp (forecast 35F at 6288' today) and by solar gain as skies will be clear. If you find snow getting wet and mushy, you're in the midst of today's warming wind slab. These wind slabs have proven to be unreactive and display good stability thanks to many observations from the public. Because of this good stability recently, it's unlikely today's decrease in stability or a even a wet loose avalanche could impact deeper layers; warming wind slabs today should remain shallow in depth, but could entrain enough snow to bury a person if a terrain trap comes into play. Consider the consequences even a small avalanche can have today.

Mountain Weather

Yesterday was clear and windy. Minor snow transport was observed in the morning. Temperatures stayed below freezing at all elevations. No new snow has fallen since Friday evening. **Today** will be clear during the morning and gain warmth. All elevations will go above freezing. At 6am the summit is 23F with a forecast high of 35 mid-afternoon. A slight chance of rain exists as clouds develop later today. West wind will be 50-70mph, perhaps decreasing slightly midday.

Helon Hoffer, 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.