



WESTERN WYOMING PM FORECAST

ISSUED ON SAT JANUARY 06, 2018 6:56 PM

SITUATION

Skies were partly to mostly cloudy over Western Wyoming on Saturday morning. As the day progressed, skies became overcast, the cloud deck dropped and light to moderate snowfall developed as the leading edge of an upper level disturbance moved into the region. Mountain temperatures rose a couple of degrees into the mid-20s as the valleys climbed into the mid-30s. Southwesterly ridgetop winds ranged from 15 to 25 miles per hour.

By 5:00 PM, the upper level disturbance had brought two to four inches of new snow to the Tetons. In the Togwotee Pass forecast zone, a trace to an inch of new snow had accumulated, and around two inches of new snow fell in the Southwest Trails area. According to SNOTEL data, the snow water equivalent in the mountains is still above average with the Grand Targhee site registering 129% of normal. The Togwotee Pass and Blind Bull stations are reading 141% and 147%, respectively. Most SNOTEL sites below 8,000 feet are far below normal, but the copious mountain snowfall from November is still keeping the Snake River basin above Palisades greater than average at 108%.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 07, 2018

The upper level disturbance will quickly move through overnight bringing an additional one to three inches of new snow to the mountains by Sunday morning. During the day, a few light scattered snow showers could linger before cloud cover begins to dissipate. Overnight lows in the mountains will be in the mid-teens before climbing into the low 20s in the afternoon. Ridgetop winds will veer to the northwest at 20 to 30 miles per hour.

Aside from a few inches of new snow, little has changed with the snowpack in the past 24 hours, and the general avalanche hazard is expected to remain CONSIDERABLE in the mountains on Sunday. Skiers and riders venturing into steep, avalanche-prone terrain could trigger dangerous persistent slabs ranging in depth from two to four feet. Isolated pockets of shallow wind slab will also continue to build in leeward terrain near upper elevation ridgelines. A conservative approach to terrain management is still warranted above 7,500 feet. Below 7,500 feet, backcountry travelers might be able to trigger an isolated pocket of soft slab in very steep gullies and ravines.

TREND FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 08, 2018 AND TUESDAY, JANUARY 09, 2018

Mostly dry conditions are in store for Monday before the chance for new snow increases Tuesday into Wednesday. The likelihood for triggering persistent slabs will continue to slowly decrease until the next significant loading event occurs.

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