

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Basic Weather

Precipitation – how rapidly is the snowpack being loaded?

- **Type** – snow vs. rain
- **Amount** – height of new snow, water weight of new snow
- **Rate** – extrapolated from amount over a given time period, or found with weather station data

Wind – where is the loading and how rapid has it been?

- **Speed** – wind can move snow at speeds of 10 mph or more. The stronger the wind speeds, the further down the slope the loading
- **Duration**
- **Direction**

Temperature – is the temperature affecting stability?

- **Trend**
 - Cold to warm = upside down
 - Warm to cold = right side up
- **Radiation** – tracked through sky cover
 - Faceting on cold, clear nights
 - Clouds limit longwave radiation
- **>0° C**

Tracking Season History

By tracking season history, one can track trends and have a better understanding of the avalanche problems. The current avalanche problems will play a large role in our terrain choices.

Data to track:

- **Snowfall amount**
- **Snow water equivalent (SWE)**
- **Wind direction and speed**
- **Temperatures** max/min/average
- **Avalanche Activity**
- **Avalanche Hazard rating**