

Additional Forecasting Terminology

Depth and Destructive Size

This should reflect the full range of possible avalanches for this avalanche concern.

Uncertainty Rating

How much data do you have? When was the last time you had eyes on the terrain? Was the weak layer spatially variable, or spatially uniform, prior to its burial?

Low: Well understood situation, abundant data, clear patterns and trends.

Medium: Sufficient data, but insufficient “field truthing” to confirm or deny hypothesis. Variable patterns, but identifiable trends.

High: Insufficient data, highly variable pattern, or new situation for the evaluator. Larger ranges of likelihood and avalanche sizes.

Predictability/Detectability

Easy: Easy to find and assess

Medium/Moderate: May take some digging to find and assess, but fairly well-known patterns and distribution.

Difficult: Hard to find the instability (too deep, too old, too variable)

Manageability

Easy: Easy to mitigate (slope cut/explosive) or avoid. Well known habitat

Medium/Moderate: Fairly well-known habitat, but harder to trigger.

Difficult: Hard to trigger intentionally. Typically triggered unintentionally from shallow areas. Often large and not survivable.