Big Cat 6 Bill Nalli

Uinta Range

02/24/2019 - 12:30pm

UT Co-ord: 40.82230N, -111.08603W

Elevation: 9800 ft Slope Angle: 36° Wind Loading: yes Aspect: NE

Specifics: Recent avalanche activity on similar slopes; We skied slope

Stability: Fair HS:245

Air Temperature: -13°C

Sky Cover: FEW Precipitation: NO

Layer Notes: PF:30 45-40cm: Problematic layer

Wind: SW Strong

Crystal Size Moisture kg/m³ Form Stability tests & Layer comments 245 240 • 0.5 230 Ø 220 0.5 210 a 200 Θ 190 • 180 170 160 150 140 130 0.5 120 Θ 110 100 а 90 80 0.5 70 60 а 50 -- PST170/200 (End) @44cm \wedge 40 30 20 2 10

Notes: This pit highlights the general problem in the Uintas right now. Weak snow near the ground is strengthening but it has a very strong, deep (2meter) slab on top. It's very unlikely that a single skier alone can trigger one of these monsters. The problem is that a smaller avalanche, or a large cornice can bring this hazard to life, and continues to do so even over a week since the last significant load. Prior to this pit we found a new HS-NC-R2, D3-O, 8'deep, 200' wide, 1000' vert. that occurred on a similar aspect in a steeper rocky slope. The high PST would suggest stability but the structure is still capable of producing big ones in many places. The deep snow cover is also capable of connecting in unusual ways and the weakness may still propagate long distances.