Coyote Trees Eric Trenbeath La Sal Mountains 01/29/2021 - 12:00pm

UT

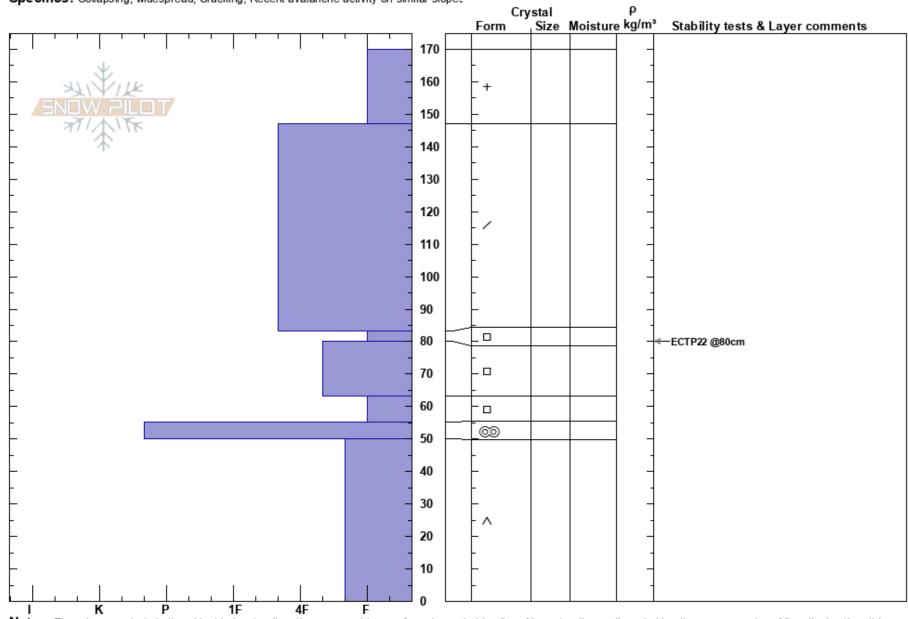
Elevation: 11284 ft

Aspect: 28°

Co-ord: 38.46091N, -109.24971W

Sky Cover: BKN Slope Angle: 28° Precipitation: NO Wind Loading: previous Wind: SW Moderate

Specifics: Collapsing, widespread; Cracking; Recent avalanche activity on similar slopes



Stability: Poor

Air Temperature:

HS:170

Layer Notes:

83-80cm: Problematic layer

Notes: Though somewhat sheltered just below treeline, there was evidence of previous wind loading. Above treeline, active wind loading was occurring. After digging the pit I walked to the edge of the Coyote Chute starting zone to see if it would collapse. It did and I could see it propagate approximately 300' across the entire zone but it did not release. At this point the slope changes aspect slightly and goes out of sight. Further inspection revealed cracks continuing around the corner another 200' to where an avalanche 2'-3' deep had occurred. Further reports from observers the following day reported that Coyote Chute had indeed avalanched beneath the steepest breakover in the chute, and that the avalanche continued over and connected to the slide I had observed for a total width of 500'.