

2025-26 Annual Report



Shasta/Trinity National Forest MOUNT SHASTA AVALANCHE CENTER



Summit Sponsors



Reported by:

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Season Summary

The US Forest Service Mount Shasta Avalanche Center is proud to have safely completed its 27th season of operation. The center is unique amongst others, involving standard daily avalanche forecasts, in addition to climbing condition reports, developed recreation management, OSV motorized snow patrols and search and rescue operations.

Nick Meyers continued his role as the MSAC director and Mount Shasta Wilderness and Climbing Program Manager. Eric Falconer returned for his fourth forecast season, with two new forecasters, Hayden MacArthur and Christian Jordan, joining the team after the departure of Sam Clairmont and Cory Beattie. These new additions sent the team sailing onto new waters, collaborating and calibrating their forecast practices together throughout the season. Each of these fine humans brings something different to the table. We prioritize a foundation of caring for each other and striving for excellence.

Overall, a lighter winter kept most backcountry enthusiasts concentrated to the southside of Mount Shasta, while the Eddy Mountains experienced significantly less action due to the inconsistent snow coverage and depth. While several large storms brought powder conditions of our dreams, these were short-lived due to the quickly changing weather. Nevertheless, the good thing about a fourteen thousand foot volcano, is that it can offer endless terrain and snow to scratch around on somewhere if you're willing to work for it.



Snowpack & Avalanches

The 2025/2026 winter season is best summarized by one word: *warm*. Mount Shasta City reported near normal precipitation, but high snow levels left the snowpack shallow or nonexistent at lower elevations throughout the winter months.

The season began with a relatively active fall, which gave way to an extended warm and dry period in early December. The precipitation floodgates opened abruptly just in time for Christmas, when a strong atmospheric river impacted the region. The MSAC issued an Avalanche Warning ahead of exceptionally dangerous avalanche conditions during Christmas week. From December 16th through the 26th, the Christmas Storm delivered about 12 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE) and 70 inches of snow at the Old Ski Bowl on Mount Shasta (7,600 feet). Mount Shasta City recorded nearly 10 inches of precipitation over a seven-day period – about 23% of its average annual total! This storm cycle concluded with a notable avalanche cycle, including a historic avalanche in Diller Canyon and a very large slide in Avalanche Gulch (Green Butte Ridge).



This historic (D4) avalanche released in Diller Canyon during the Christmas storm cycle. Strong southerly winds and heavy snow loaded this 11,500-foot northwest facing slope to the point of natural failure. The slide ran an estimated 2 linear miles and 3,500 vertical feet.



***The crown of the Diller Canyon avalanche was estimated at 4 to 6 feet tall.
This very large (D3) wind slab in Avalanche Gulch failed near the end of the Christmas storm cycle.
The slide ran nearly 2,000 vertical feet off of Green Butte Ridge into Avalanche Gulch.***

After a short reprieve, the New Year's Storm arrived with a bang: 8 inches of SWE and 35 inches of snow at the Old Ski Bowl from December 31st through January 7th. The snowpack remained relatively quiet during this active period: observers reported only a couple of natural avalanches.

After the two impressive holiday storm cycles, the first month of the year ushered in an extended mid-winter dry spell. From January 8th to February 7th, the Old Ski Bowl recorded just 3" of snow (.22" SWE). Signs of instability were minimal during this period; low avalanche danger prevailed.

February brought a welcome pattern change and a steady parade of storms off the Pacific. Faceted snow that formed during the January dry spell on shady aspects did not prove to be problematic weak layers when storms returned in mid-February. However, forecasters had a new weak layer with which to grapple: graupel. On February 14th, graupel fell across the forecast area. In many cases, especially on southerly aspects, this graupel fell directly on top of a melt-freeze crust, accumulating up to an inch deep. Subsequent storms deposited multiple feet of snow atop the "Valentine's" graupel/crust layer, but despite the concerning snowpack structure, signs of instability were limited for days. Only one suspected avalanche failed on the layer, and stability tests did not result in propagation.

Then, on February 23rd and 24th, a warm, wet storm delivered copious amounts of moisture to the forecast area. The Old Ski Bowl weather station received 3.25" of water in a 29-hour period, translating to about 12 inches of heavy, wet snow along with strong westerly winds. On the morning of February 25th, forecasters discovered a large, natural and widely propagating avalanche on a wind-loaded, southeast aspect of Green Butte Ridge. The crown of the avalanche indicated that it most likely started as a shallower wind slab and stepped down to a much deeper layer – over three feet deep in places. Subsequent investigation revealed that the avalanche failed on the February 14th Valentine's graupel/crust layer ten days after burial, making this avalanche one of the longest documented cases of persistent instability associated with this grain type.



This large Persistent Slab avalanche on the southeast face of Green Butte (Old Ski Bowl) released on a graupel/crust combination after a significant loading event. The graupel layer failed ten days post-burial, making this avalanche one of the longest documented cases of persistent instability associated with this grain type. The crown propagated about one-third of a mile.



Forecasters grappled with graupel during the second half of the season. Two notable avalanches failed on graupel/crust combinations, including the February 24th Green Butte slide.



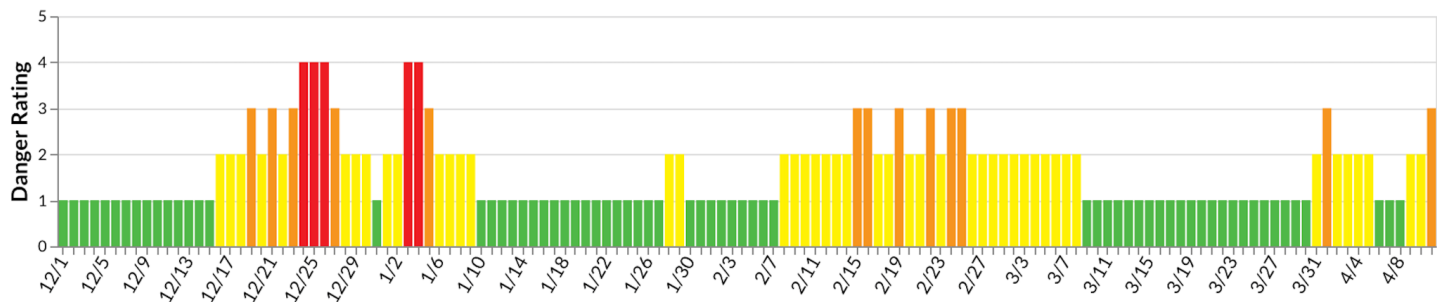
A close-up of the crown of the February 24th Green Butte avalanche – the slide most likely began as a shallower wind slab before stepping down to the buried graupel/crust layer. The crown was over three feet deep in places.

The storm door closed as we flipped the calendar to meteorological spring and the warmest and driest March in Mount Shasta City since at least 1948. Avalanche danger was low for most of the month, though wet loose concerns lingered with the ongoing heat wave.

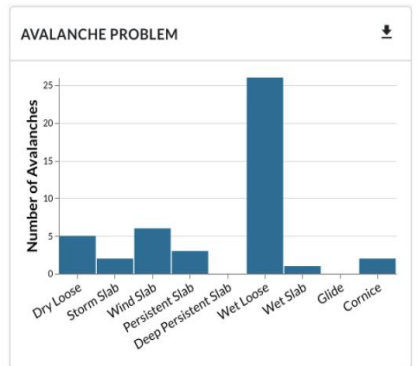
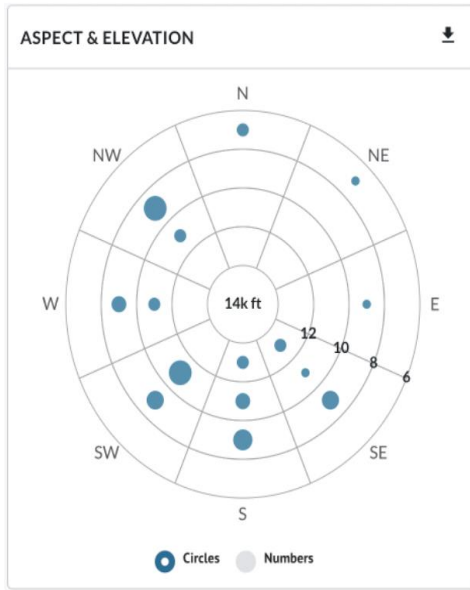
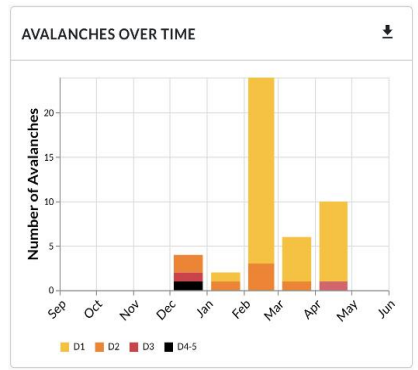
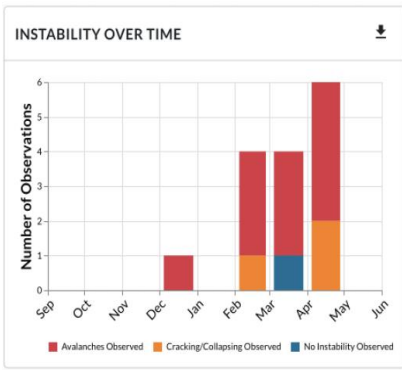
Heading into the final weeks of the forecasting season, the snowpack at lower elevations was bleak. Late-March snow survey results indicated a regional snowpack well-below historical averages - just 25% of normal in the Sacramento, Shasta, and Trinity watersheds and 3% of normal in the McCloud watershed. April showers brought above-normal precipitation to the Mount Shasta area and some late-season powder turns, but they weren't enough to salvage the snowpack below treeline. However, April turned out to be one of the most active months for avalanches. Fresh snow and the spring sun made wet avalanches a common occurrence. On April 11th, MSAC issued a Considerable danger rating as a potent spring storm impacted the region - the final forecast of the season. The next day, a very large, widely-propagating natural avalanche was discovered in Avalanche Gulch, its crown nearly identical to the location of the Christmas Storm slide. On a subsequent site visit, forecasters determined the avalanche failed on a layer of graupel atop a melt-freeze crust, the second such avalanche associated with this combination this winter. While *warm* is the best word to summarize the 2025/2026 season, *graupel* may be the second best.



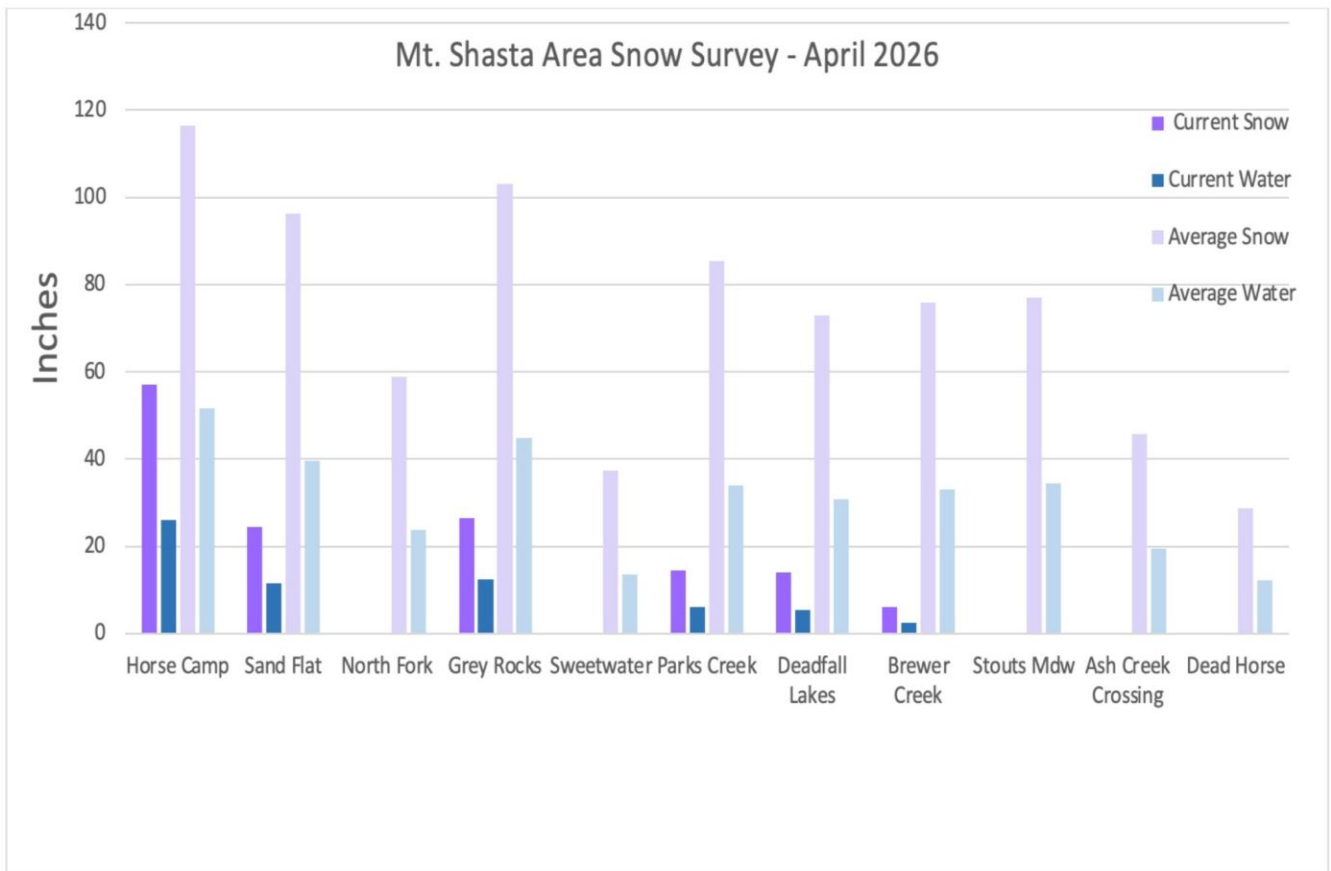
The crown of a large (D2), late-season avalanche on Green Butte Ridge into Avalanche Gulch. This slide propagated widely and failed on a graupel/crust combination.



The 2025/2026 winter season was marked by extended warm and dry spells - and low avalanche danger - interspersed with several stormy periods with elevated danger.



Summarized avalanche data from the 2025/2026 season



Sacramento, Shasta and Trinity Watersheds*

Course	Elevation(ft)	Last Month Snow(in)	2026 Snow(in)	2026 Water(in)	2025 Snow(in)	2025 Water(in)	Hist. Average Snow(in)	Hist. Average Water(in)
Horse Camp	7900	82	57	26	170	79	116.55	51.74
Sand Flat	6800	41.5	24.5	11.5	113	48	96.2	39.7
North Fork	6900	N/S	0	0	144	44	38.86	23.81
Grey Rocks	6200	N/S	26.5	12.5	63	21	103.07	44.81
Sweetwater	5850	5	0	0	111	34	37.48	13.62
Parks Creek	6700	23.5	14.5	6	79	29	85.5	33.88
Deadfall Lakes	7200	27.5	14	5.5	74	21	72.9	30.88
			2026 Snow(in)	2026 Water(in)	2025 Snow(in)	2025 Water(in)	Hist. Average Snow(in)	Hist. Average Water(in)
Averages of Courses Sampled			20	8.8	108	39.4	78.7	34.1
Percent (%) of Historic Average			25	26	137	116		

McCloud Watershed*

Course	Elevation(ft)	Last Month Snow(in)	2026 Snow(in)	2026 Water(in)	2025 Snow(in)	2025 Water(in)	Hist. Average Snow(in)	Hist. Average Water(in)
Brewer Creek	6250	40	6	2.5	98	39	76	32.98
Stouts Meadow	5400	14	0	0	76	36	77.1	34.4
Ash Creek Crossing	5000	N/S	0	0	65	21	45.7	19.4
Dead Horse Canyon	4500	N/S	0	0	38	15	28.84	12.21
			2026 Snow(in)	2026 Water(in)	2025 Snow(in)	2025 Water(in)	Hist. Average Snow(in)	Hist. Average Water(in)
Averages of Courses Sampled			2	0.6	69.3	27.8	56.9	24.7
Percent (%) of Historic Average			3	3	122	112		

N/S = Not Sampled





Mount Shasta and Black Butte as seen from a snow survey flight in late-March. High snow levels kept most elevations below 6,000 feet with a minimal, or nonexistent snowpack during the winter months.

Rescues

Winter rescues are not common on Mount Shasta with the majority occurring during the spring and summer months. This season was atypical with five incidents over the winter. Three of them occurred during the month of March, which was abnormally warm and dry resulting in increased mountaineering use. Below are narratives of the individual rescues.

12-11-25 - Search and Rescue - Green Butte Ridge/Avalanche Gulch – Lost/Stranded hikers

Two teenage hikers embarked upon a day hike from Bunny Flat into the Old Ski Bowl. They carried light day packs and wore tennis shoes and jeans. They did not intend to climb the mountain. The snow line on the mountain was about 8,500 feet. Along the trail, another hiker they encountered told them that, instead of returning the way they came, they could climb up through the Old Ski Bowl, over Green Butte Ridge and come down Avalanche Gulch, making a loop out of their hike. This suggestion is true, but Green Butte ridge was covered in firm snow and ice, especially the west facing Avalanche Gulch side of the ridge. This traverse over the ridge in such conditions requires an ice axe and solid boots with crampons. There is no trail. The two boys

gained the ridge and attempted the descent, but slipped and fell. Fortunately, they were able to arrest their fall (uninjured) on a mid-slope rock, but were stranded, unwilling to climb back up or descend due to the steep, icy slope and poor footwear. They called 911.

Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department SAR coordinator Jimmy Freitas called USFS Lead Climbing Ranger Nick Meyers to inform of the situation. Meyers placed a call to the hikers, attempting to give a "pep talk" to the boys. Meyers encouraged them to try to **safely** self-rescue since it was late in the afternoon and SAR response would not arrive on scene until dark. After a short time, the boys stated they were not able/willing to self-rescue, too scared to move from their position.

Two USFS Climbing Rangers responded from Bunny Flat with extra clothing and equipment (ice axe, crampons) to assist the boys from their perilous position. The rescue was successful, with all parties safely returning to Bunny Flat by 2230.

1-13-26 - Rescue - Avalanche Gulch 50/50 - Ski Crash - Broken Tib/Fib

A woman accompanied by her friends and family, was on a day ski tour to Helen Lake via the Bunny Flat trailhead on the mountain's south side. Conditions included variable, crusty snow surfaces under warm, sunny weather.

Despite her expertise as a skier, she lost control in challenging snow and sustained a lower leg fracture. The party contacted Nick Meyers, U.S. Forest Service Lead Climbing Ranger, who initiated a helicopter response.

The rescue was completed within approximately two hours from the initial call to the patient's arrival at the hospital in Mount Shasta. Meyers staged at the Mount Shasta helipad but was not required on-site. A California Highway Patrol helicopter successfully landed near the injured skier, and with assistance from friends present, the evacuation was conducted without involvement from Siskiyou County Search and Rescue or additional USFS Rangers.

3-9-2026 – Rescue – Avalanche Gulch 11,500 feet - Climber Slip & Fall

Notes:

- Climber slip/fall near The Heart
- Crampons fell off, caused fall
- Experience - novice
- Age 19 and 20
- Poor position - On upper mountain late in day, didn't get 911 call until after 9pm
- Helicopter unable to rescue due to high wind
- Nick and Eric executed a snowmobile rescue, and were able to snowmobile up AG to 11,300 feet, icy conditions...transported the injured patient down the mountain to Bunny Flat on the snowmobile as a passenger
- Ground support (Christian/Hayden/SAR team) as backup

Report below from Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department:

At 8:22 pm on Sunday, March 8th, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office received a call for help from two climbers stranded in Avalanche Gulch on Mount Shasta. The two climbers, aged 19 and 20 years old from the Bay Area, had successfully summited the mountain Sunday afternoon, but on the descent, one of the climbers lost his footing below Red Banks, and slid approximately 700 feet. In the fall, the climber sustained significant injuries to his shoulder, hand, and ankle and was unable to descend the mountain further.

While an initial rescue effort was initiated Sunday night to retrieve the climbers, high winds and hazardous conditions delayed operations until daybreak. Climbing Rangers from the US Forest Service and the Siskiyou County Sheriff Search and Rescue team ascended the mountain and were able to successfully retrieve the duo. The injured climber was then transported to Mercy Medical Center in Mount Shasta to receive treatment.

This incident was the second major Search and Rescue incident on Mount Shasta of 2026, and contains several important lessons for those preparing to climb Mount Shasta this year. First, don't climb (or ski) late. The Mount Shasta Climbing Rangers advise everyone to begin their descent no later than noon, regardless of skill level. Those who stay on the mountain in the late afternoon give rescuers less daylight in which to conduct a rescue should anything go wrong. In this most recent incident, the two climbers failed to contact rescue personnel until well after dark when conditions had deteriorated, and had to instead spend the night out on the mountain.

Second, ask the local rangers or guides about current climbing conditions before your trip. Though it may appear that climbing season has arrived, cold weather and high winds mean that the snow does not soften throughout the day, and climbers will encounter slide-for-life conditions.

Third, if you are planning to climb Mount Shasta or similar high consequence terrain this season, bring crampons, helmets, and ice axes, and learn how to self-arrest. Without these tools and skills, the smallest misstep can turn fatal. Your first summit attempt should not be the first time you use this critical equipment.

Last, always be prepared to self-rescue. Even if you are only planning for a day trip, bring the basics, such as an insulated jacket, a bivy or emergency blanket, a first aid kit, extra food, and water. It is important to understand that rescue operations even under the best conditions take hours, so do all that you can to get yourself to a safe place that is easily accessible to rescuers. The easier you are to retrieve, the quicker we can get you to safety.

The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the USFS Climbing Rangers, CHP Air Operations and our Search and Rescue volunteers for their tremendous effort to get the climbers to safety. We encourage everyone who plans to recreate on or around Mount Shasta to visit the Mount Shasta Avalanche Center website for the latest climbing and avalanche advisories: <https://www.shastaavalanche.org/#/>. “





A USFS Climbing Ranger approaching the injured party above Helen Lake on March 9th.

3-20-2026 - Rescue - Avalanche Gulch - Respiratory distress (HAPE symptoms) and overnight bivvy at 13,000 feet.

On March 20th at roughly 4 pm, a solo climber called 911, complaining of respiratory distress and high-altitude pulmonary edema symptoms while trying to descend from the Heart in Avalanche Gulch. The climber had bivouacked the previous night (March 19th) below the Red Banks (13,000 feet) after losing one of his crampons and a snowboard from his person. He was unable to descend further that night due to the icy conditions. The climber had spent a total of three nights on the mountain at various camps before his summit attempt on March 19th. The extended time spent at altitude likely contributed to the patient's respiratory distress and HAPE symptoms.

On March 20th, the climber was able to descend from below the Red Banks to below the Heart (12,000 feet) but was still struggling to breathe and called 911. He was urged by the Sheriff and Climbing Rangers to continue to descend further in the hope that his breathing condition would improve, which it did. The climber continued to descend, reaching Lake Helen, where he contacted another party of climbers who volunteered to help him down until further rescue personnel arrived.

All four US Forest Service Climber Rangers, along with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team responded. Two Rangers (Nick and Eric) responded up Avalanche Gulch on snowmobiles under mechanized approval, with the two other Rangers and the Siskiyou SAR team responding on foot up Avalanche Gulch. Nick and Eric reached the patient at 6:50 pm at 9,800 feet, just above 50/50 Flat. Upon arrival, the patient was exhausted but moving under his own human power and his breathing had improved. Rangers rode him down on a snowmobile, arriving back at Bunny Flat at 7:40 pm.

3-28-26 - SAR - Avalanche Gulch - Rock/Icefall (unknown) - Head injury - 10,600 feet

At approximately 10:21 am on March 28th, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department received a 911 call from a climber on Mount Shasta reporting that his partner had been struck in the head by falling rock or ice just above Helen Lake. The pair managed to descend a short distance to the Helen Lake basecamp, where they called 911. The patient was vomiting, had noticeable swelling behind his left eye, and was in a stuporous condition, unable to self-rescue any farther down the mountain.

The Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Forest Service Climbing Rangers, and a California Highway Patrol helicopter all responded. An initial helicopter rescue attempt was made but was ultimately aborted due to high winds. Responders then transitioned to a snowmobile-based ground rescue. USFS Rangers Meyers and Falconer were able to reach Helen Lake by snowmobile and rapidly evacuate the injured climber to Bunny Flat, where an ambulance was waiting. Additional Climbing Rangers and SAR personnel provided backup ground support. The patient was transported to Mercy Mt. Shasta and subsequently transferred to Redding for a higher level of care.



The helmet of the injured party showed significant damage from the falling object (rock or ice).

Education

Event	Date	Location	Staff	# of Attendees
KBYG	12.06	Deadwood	Casey, Hayden, Christian	35
Comp Rescue	12.07	Bunny Flat	Casey, Hayden	8
KBYG	1.03	Deadwood	Casey, Hayden, Christian	35
Comp Rescue	1.04	Bunny Flat	Casey, Hayden	8
Kids Group	1.15	Bunny Flat	Casey, Christian, Stacia	35
KBYG	1.15	Sports LTD	Casey	42
Kids Group (Nordic)	2.06	Nordic Center	Casey	12
KBYG	2.07	Deadwood	Casey	10
Comp Rescue	2.08	Bunny Flat	Casey	8
Kids Group (Nordic)	2.19	Nordic Center	Casey	10
NDF Roundtable	2.19	Online (Zoom)	Nick, Casey	48
Youth Avy Seminar	2.21	Mountain Medics Building	Casey	5
Moto Class	2.22	Deer Mountain	Casey, Eric	5
Kids Group (Nordic)	2.25	Nordic Center	Casey	12
Kids Avy Day	3.05	Dunsmuir Elementary/Bunny Flat	Casey	15
Kids Comp Rescue (Goldenn Eagle Class)	3.06	Bunny Flat	Casey	10
KBYG	3.07	Deadwood	Casey	10
Comp Rescue	3.08	Bunny Flat	Casey	9
Kids Groups (Nordic Center)	3.11	Nordic Center	Hayden, Eric	20
SlabLab Info Event	3.19	Online	Nick, Casey	49
Kids Group (Christian)	March 20th	Bunny Flat	Casey	12

Season Total 398



By the Numbers:

Number of MSAC Avalanche Forecasts: 132

Website - www.shastaavalanche.org

Total Users: 37,465

New Users: 36,366

Views: 148,000

All Events: 267,143

Social Media / Email

Number of Facebook Followers: 9.6k

Number of Instagram Followers: 10.6k

Number of Advisory Email Subscribers: 666

Total of Advisory Emails Sent: 132

Avalanche Education Presentations

Number of People Reached: 398

Number of Avalanche Presentations Delivered: 21

Avalanches 2024-25 Season

Number of U.S. avalanche fatalities: 23

Number of fatalities in the MSAC Forecast Area: 0

Number of people caught in avalanches in the MSAC Forecast Area: 0



Friends of the Mount Shasta Avalanche Center

The Friends group is a nonprofit group that was created in 2002 and is an essential component of the avalanche center. The Friends fund and operate the MSAC website and all our remote weather stations. They also organize all fundraising events, as well as organizing and running the education and outreach components of the avalanche center.

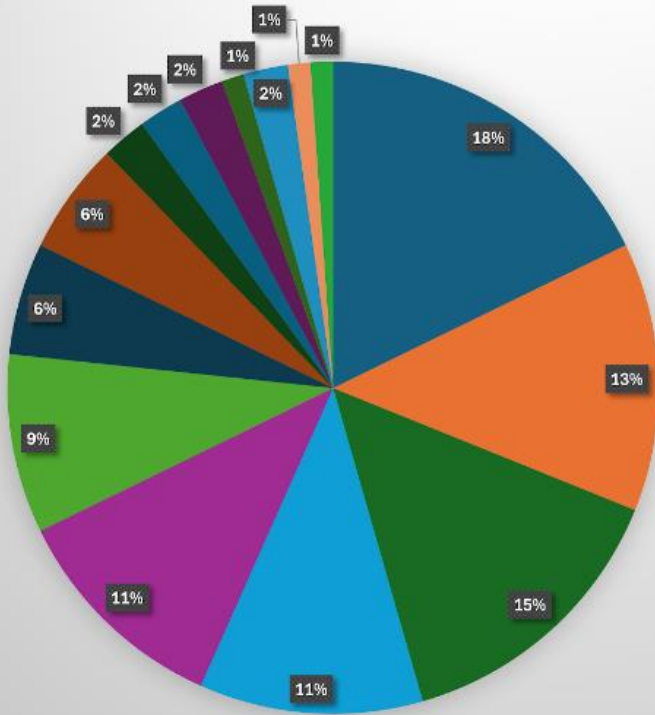
FMSAC is a volunteer group with one paid position, the Executive Director, Casey Glaubman. FMSAC board members include the president Hanne Meyers, Clayton Coles, Sean Malee, Dave Brown, Stacia Anderson, Cody Markelz and Justi Hansen.

The group represents the soul of adventure and passion for backcountry mountain recreation in the greater Mount Shasta area. We extend a huge thank you for all their effort and support this season.

This season, the FMSAC put on a Giving Tuesday party, movie nights, the ever popular Snow Ball bash, the Mount Shasta Ascension Backcountry Ski Race and a community appreciation party at the end of the season.



2026 Ascension Race Registrant Region 90 Registrants (3 no shows)



- Ashland / Klamath Falls
- North SF Bay Area
- Mount Shasta / Weed / Dunsmuir Area
- Lake Tahoe Area
- Redding/Chico Area
- Sacramento / Davis
- Bend / Sisters Area
- South SF Bay Area
- Washington
- Reno/CC
- Southern Sierras
- CA Northcoast
- Arizona
- Southern CA
- Colorado





The Chief of the Forest Service came to visit the District in February. It was an honor to meet and share our slice of National Forest system lands!



Snowpack and Weather History Log

NOTE: This is our internal, daily avalanche, snow, and weather log. We don't typically share it, but thought we would include it for anyone interested. You can count on misspellings, typos, poor punctuation and other non-standard notation!

Dec 1 - High pressure continues the predominantly dry and stable weather pattern. Partly cloudy yesterday and last night with an overnight inversion. Afternoon temps in the mid 40's near treeline. Light winds out of the NW.

Dec 2 - Overnight low in OSB of 23 degrees. Moderate to strong predominantly NW winds near and above treeline. Partly cloudy.

Dec 3 - Status quo, high and dry, 10 inches snow on ground at OSB, winter recreation barely possible from Bunny Flat. Giving Tuesday a complete success, made ~20k dollars!! Off and running, ski park party friday. No snow in the forecast for at least another week. Bah humbug! North wind kicking. - Meyers

Dec 4 - It felt like fall on the around-the-mountain "toilet bowl" tour. Mild temps at trailheads (OSB reached 51F by mid-afternoon). Northwest flow continued with ripping winds up high (Gray Butte recorded gusts in the mid-50s) and more spectacular lenticular action. - Jordan

Dec 5 - OSB topped 50F again after a poor overnight refreeze. Moist snowpack on Gray Butte. Northwest winds continue to rip with gusts into the 70s at Gray Butte. - Jordan

Dec 6 - High and dry. Snow is melting and very little concern for avalanches. Northwest flow aloft delivering strong/extreme winds, with lenticular clouds over Mt. Shasta. Inversions and seasonable warm temps are melting snow at upper elevations- Falcon

Dec 7 - An unexpected and forecast pulse of rain showers over the area (specifically Mt. Shasta) yesterday afternoon. No real damage done, just interesting. I assume the cell was strong enough to bust over the west Cascades and was enhanced by the mountain. Otherwise, mostly dry and stable weather will northerly flow aloft.

Dec 8 - Another warm day for Mount Shasta City. The Old Ski Bowl reached 45 F. Light to moderate WNW to NW winds. Minimal snow remains in the vicinity of Bunny Flat.

Dec 9 - Another balmy day for Mount Shasta with a max temperature of 59 F for Mount Shasta City and 50 F for the Old Ski Bowl. Predominantly moderate NW winds at Grey Butte with strong gusts and strong to extreme winds at upper elevations. A good day for lenticulars. Mostly clear to partly cloudy.

Dec 10 - Clear and sunny, northwest flow aloft, 7 inches snow at OSB. Unseasonably warm temps. Might set a temp record today/tomorrow. Still above normal for precip though, 109% for wet season, 122% for 2025. -NM

Dec 11 - Highs in the mid to upper 50s both in town and at OSB. Interestingly, OSB reached 55°F, nine degrees warmer than the high of 46°F recorded at the Redding Airport (must be inversion/tule fog-related). OSB has been above freezing since the morning of 12/8. Light (even calm at times) NW winds at GB. Strong high pressure continues. - Jordan

Dec 12 - Another day, another inversion. An anecdotal report says folks in the Shasta Valley haven't seen sunlight all week due to low-level fog. Even worse in the Central Valley where tule fog has dominated for weeks. OSB's high of 59F topped Mount Shasta City's high by 6 degrees (53F). Light winds at GB. OSB's above-freezing streak continues. - Jordan

Dec 13 - Another day of nice, unseasonably warm temperatures. Predominantly westerly flow. Clear skies and calm to light winds. Inversion temps remain similar with OSB overnight 20 degrees warmer than town.

Dec 14 - Last day of nice weather. Inverted temps persisted. OSB has not dropped below freezing levels in over a week! Pattern change starts today. Weather outlook looks good: SW flow, atmospheric river (pineapple express), low snow levels. Avalanche danger will begin to emerge.

Dec 15 - Last night, the Old Ski Bowl picked up 0.08 inches of water. OSB is still above freezing, so no snow accumulation. Light to moderate, predominantly WNW winds in the previous 24 hours. Light precipitation continues today (Dec. 16), increasing overnight.

Dec 16 - In the last 36 hours, the Old Ski Bowl recorded about an inch of water. With high snow levels yesterday and overnight, the precipitation has fallen predominantly as rain below about 8,500 to 9,000 feet and about 6 to 10 inches of snow above 9,500 to 10,000 feet (estimated). Snow levels are lowering this morning (Dec. 17), but the bulk of the precipitation in this first system has already fallen.

Dec 17 - Mostly clear, strong northwesterly wind, spindrift seen blowing off mtn all day, group of college kids attempted Casaval ridge, bailed at 12k due to wind, said "we could hardly stand!". They also mentioned heavy drifting on AG side of ridge. No naturals though. More weather incoming, still pretty warm and windy. Winter is trying to start up but having trouble. No avalanches to come by yet. Still an unusable snowpack near and below treeline. - meyers

Dec 18 - pea soup on the south side, strong winds aloft out of w/nw. North side of mtn clear. Snow line near 9k still. Icy, slide for life conditions likely on mtn. Have not been able to get up high to verify wind slab hazard, but lots of blowing snow observed from below. No avalanches to speak of yet. Movie night tonight. Ops normal! -meyers

Dec 19 - SNOW!!! 12 inches of wet, heavy, sticky, Shasta plasta at OSB. Obscure visibility. Light to moderate winds near and below treeline. Hiked to 8,200 feet on GB yesterday. Snow is bonded well. Strong winds could be heard aloft.

Dec 20 - A fair weather morning. The mountain looked wind swept and variable. A stout melt-freeze crust formed on the previous days snow surface. 1 inch thick!

Dec 21 - Warm, wet, and rainy weather. Rain on snow to near treeline. Sloppy and gloppy. Light to moderate winds. No signs of instabilities. More rain than snow at OSB.

Dec 22 - Mostly cloudy, clearing late in the afternoon/evening before the first wave of moisture arrived overnight. Cool, below freezing temperatures as at OSB.

Dec 23 - First wave of weather moisture continues. In the last 24 hours, the Old Ski Bowl weather station recorded about 2.5 inches of snow water equivalent and about 9 inches of heavy, moist snow. There was a break in the weather between about 1:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Moderate SSE winds at Grey Butte.

Dec 24 - Limited weather station data, power out on gray butte, back online early this morning. Round two of the storm commenced last night, been warm, high snow levels, getting colder, expecting nearly 3 inches of water over next 24 hours. Snowpack capped by widespread crust. All new snow will fall on a crust layer. The snowpack is still shallow below treeline. No avalanches observed yet. Got a good view of

Dec 25 - The Christmas Storm has delivered 25" of snow and 2.67" of SWE as of 4am on 12/26. Final snow and SWE tally tomorrow. As well as a weekly SWE. Should be an impressive number. Snowpack was quite underfoot yesterday on Green Butte Ridge. No visibility up high. Primarily moderate southerly winds with strong to extreme gusts at Gray Butte. -Jordan

Dec 26 - The Christmas Storm wrapped up last night, concluding a significant week of weather. Since 12/20 at 4am, Mount Shasta City received 9.85 inches of water, 8.16 inches coming since December 23rd at 4am. OSB 8.93 inches of water since 12/20 at 4am and 52 inches of snow, 51 inches since 12/23 at 4am. Generally light southerly winds with moderate to extreme gusts at GB. - Jordan

Dec 27 - Skies cleared and we saw AVALANCHES! A natural avalanche cycle was observed yesterday that likely occurred on December 24 during a period of High danger. Three avalanches were identified, though additional activity likely exists. All avalanches occurred above treeline and involved the new storm snow. Sizes range from D1 to D3 and slide primarily on west aspects. Northerly winds kicked in at higher elevations, blowing snow onto south aspects. Above treeline, wind slab comprises the majority of surfaces, with specific west and north aspects holding the deepest and most reactive.

Dec 28 - Beautiful day! Clear skies, and warming temperatures. But not warm enough to crust or majorly soften surfaces. The snowpack has settled and no signs of instability were observed. Snow transport crafting new drift on the upper mountain remains the primary concern. Wet snow instability is slow to build momentum but could certainly happen. Riding conditions are excellent!

Dec 29 - The pattern of high pressure continues with clear skies, dry weather, and a strong inversion. As of 4 AM, Mount Shasta City is 28 F, while the Gray Butte weather station at 8,000 feet is 50 F. No wet loose avalanches were observed yesterday, but fairly widespread rollerballs and pinwheels were observed in the Powder and Sun bowl vicinity. Winds were calm to light and no signs of blowing snow at upper elevations.

Dec 30 - Conditions were very similar yesterday to the day prior with warm temperatures and clear skies. Snow surfaces moistened even on shadier aspects (at least below treeline). I did not observe any wet loose avalanches. Clouds moved in last night as a front approaches. An inversion is still in place this morning, but it's weaker than yesterday - 42 at Grey Butte and 32 in Mount Shasta City as of 4 am.

Dec 31 - obscured skys, low cloud deck near 9-10k, light rain at end of day. Incoming storm series over the next 5-7 days bringing 6+ inches of water. Warm today, cooling into the weekend. No signs of avalanche danger today. Hayden checked Castle weather station, snow depth has been acting up. Bunny has been busy.

Jan 1 - The first day of the year was gloomy and on the warm side. Rain at OSB decreased snow depth from ~50 to 46 inches throughout the day. Light winds at Gray Butte primarily southeast and southwest with moderate to strong gusts. Temps are dropping, snow is coming... - Jordan

Jan 2 - Continued southerly flow, warm, and a bit wet. A moist-to-wet snowpack below 8,300 feet on the mountain, and a dimpled rime crust above which capped all exposed aspects we observed. About 3 inches of moist recent snow below the rime crust. Precipitation kicked into a higher gear by the evening hours. Expecting ~6 inches of water and multiple feet of snow by the afternoon of January 4th. - Jordan

Jan 3 - roughly 6-8 inches of new snow. Fragile rime crust found beneath. No signs of instabilities or unstable test results. Rimed precipitation particles on the surface of new snow may form a reactive interface. Snow and wind kicked up around 2pm. Some wind effects in sheltered locations.

Jan 4 - Tapering storm. Less than expected snow totals and less than anticipated avalanche danger. Roughly 8 inches of creamy, supportable, and well-bonded hero snow. Winds were calm to light. A brief look above treeline showed a snow-plastered and wind-sculpted upper mountain. ECTP21 down 15" on a storm interface near treeline SE aspect.

Jan 5 - The final bit of precipitation from yesterday tapered off in the early hours of the morning with weak ridging now in place. In total, the final pulse of the storm dropped about 1.35 inches of water or about a foot of low density snow at Old Ski Bowl. Riding conditions were excellent yesterday. Since December 31st, the Old Ski Bowl weather station has recorded about 7.5 inches of water, but only around 30 inches of snow.

Jan 6 - Temperatures were cool in the high twenties at the Old Ski Bowl. Low clouds and valley fog moistened new snow surfaces in areas that it was present, creating crusts in some areas below treeline. Winds shifted to WNW flow.

Jan 7 - A northwest wind event on the mtn above 8500 feet, most snow sublimating. No avalanches or red flags. Widespread crust of varied thickness. Decent riding NTL in protected areas. Looking high and dry for the next couple weeks. 80" OSB / 36" Eddy / 26" Castle. Ops normal! - NM

Jan 8 - A booby-trap breaker crust covers nearly all aspects near, below, and above treeline to 10k. The crust is either on the surface or lurking a few inches beneath the new snow from 1/7 evening to 1/8 morning. Winds tapered through the day and switched to SE at Gray Butte before another strong period of northerly winds (northeast this time) later in the evening with gusts into the 60s. - Jordan

Jan 9 - High pressure, bluebird day, quality snow. Rode out to Ash Creek Butte and found 4-6 inches of low density surface snow above Jan 6th crust. Multiple old avalanche crowns in the northeast bowl of ACB. One shooting crack and active roller balls observed. Rightside-up snowpack structure. No snow transport observed.

Jan 10 - High pressure building, light winds. Patchwork and highly variable snowpack, especially near and above treeline. Not much continuity at all. Any lingering wind slabs would be small. An old crown (possibly from Thursday) observed at the top of Sun Bowl. Snow surfaces are a highly variable and sometimes hazardous patchwork of crusts (oftentimes breakable), wind-affected snow, and possibly some dry snow. Snow sleuths have reported some good areas for skiing and riding. Heading towards possible record high temps and another ten or more days of dry weather. - Jordan

Jan 11 - High pressure and warming temps continue. Stubborn wet snow surfaces on solar aspects. Mixed bag of conditions.

Jan 12 - High pressure continues. Overnight inversion is strengthening. As of 5 am on 1/13, Grey Butte is 53 F while Mount Shasta City is 28 F.

Jan 13 - Was able to trigger some large rollerballs and pinwheels on east/southeast aspects on Right Peak at Castle Lake. Mount Shasta City will near and may break record high temperatures in the next few days.

Jan 14 - High and dry. Balmy. Crazy warm in the mountains, cool in the valleys. Air stagnation warnings. Easterly flow. Dominating high pressure. No weather in sight. 70 inches of snow at treeline. Still a usable snowpack. Interesting avalanche (persistent slab like) found in Mud Creek Glacier cirque by Owen Stroud. Logged on website. Search and rescue, anna repetto broke leg/ankle yesterday, 13th of Jan -meyers

Jan 15 - "Juneuary" is not just a term - it has a basis in fact. On January 15th, the Old Ski Bowl weather station reported a high temperature of 56°F, just five degrees shy of its high of 61°F on June 15th last year. But not to be outdone, the January 15th low temperature of 47°F *exceeded* the June 15th low temperature by three degrees. Nearly a wash! Much stronger-than-forecast northeast winds across upper elevation ridgelines yesterday. Gray Butte reported consistent speeds in the 20s with gusts in the 30s and 40s. The high pressure and morning inversions continue. - Jordan

Jan 16 - High temperatures in the mid to high 50s continue in Mount Shasta City (55F today), 10 to 15 degrees above normal max temps. Gray Butte not far behind, with a high of 53F. Easterly winds continue to register in the 20s at Gray Butte with stronger gusts, but the Gulch was noticeably quiet with calm to light winds at Helen around midday. It seems the easterly winds have been pounding exposed upper mountain ridgelines but not much else. Morning inversions continue. Highly variable and textured snow surfaces in the Gulch. Some good smooth corn can be sleuthed out. - Jordan

Jan 17 - Another beautiful day! Calm winds, clear skies, and temps in the low 50s persisted. Softening snow was extremely stubborn to release nothing more than a few rollerballs on a 40 degree east facing slope near treeline. Corn-like conditions are emerging in a few coveted spots. Otherwise, heavy surface texturing and variability exist. Climbing conditions remain optimal but come with elevated risk and experience. Slide-for-life surfaces are the real deal!

Jan 18 - More of the same weather and conditions. Hasn't dropped below freezing levels at OSB since Friday Jan 9th. Multiple climbing parties attempting. No reports from anyone past lake Helen.

Jan 19 - Dry and stable weather continues with strong valley inversions. More climbers and skiers attempting to summit today (Martin Luther King Day)

Jan 20 - Mostly cloudy with predominantly light WNW winds. Seems like clouds helped keep surfaces a bit firmer. Continued above freezing overnight temps at OSB. Surfaces are still highly variable.

Jan 21 - Status quo, high and dry, had the northern lights last two nights. It's rough out there. Snowball upcoming. Ascension race is still a go. Ski Park hanging on by a thread. Maybe a storm late next week. Ops normal. -meyers

Jan 22 - A really nice day. Blue skies and temps in the mid to high 50s in town, 50F at Gray Butte. Light winds. Felt like April at Bunny Flat. Snow surfaces are textured. Hard to find any smooth corn, though the report was skier's right of Powder Bowl softened around 12pm. - Jordan

Jan 23 - The persistent pattern of morning inversions finally came to an end. OSB dropped below freezing this morning for the first time since January 9th. Otherwise, a clear sunny day with light winds. Eric and I found dry, faceted snow on the north side of Gray Butte. Pretty interesting, given the last time I was there on January 8th it was a breakable crust and no precip has fallen since then. Apparently, the crust dissolved. - Jordan

Jan 24 - Clear and beautiful was the weather, crunchy and variable was the snow. Snow was reluctant to soften on many solar aspects yesterday, and blowing snow was observed high in the mountain, most likely just sublimating away. ASCENSION RACE AND SNOWBALL!

Jan 25 - Frozen and hard surfaces comprise much of the snowpack and terrain. Thawing surfaces were observed at lower elevations and in protected, isolated locations near treeline (sun & pow bowls). Overall, much colder temperatures have become present with increasing cloud cover aloft. An approaching front from the Pacific is kicking-out the high pressure but will not result in any significant precipitation.

Jan 26 - Temperatures remained relatively cool today, not exceeding 36 degrees at the Old Ski Bowl. Eric and I traversed the Scott Camp Creek drainage to complete the Grey Rocks snow survey. Surfaces were firm in the morning, a mix of breakable and supportable crusts with weak, dry (faceted) snow underneath. Surfaces did not soften much through the day, except on steep solar facing slopes and at lower elevations in the forest where they became damp.

Jan 27 - Lenticulars formed over the mountain as a small system moved in, producing 0.22 inches of SWE and several inches of snow overnight. Temperatures came close to but never exceeded freezing at OSB and dropped into the low 20's overnight. While out on Gray Butte, I identified widespread faceting capped by a crust in many places. The crust is thick and supportable on solar aspect and thin to completely absent on northerlies. Near surface facets without a crust were found in sheltered areas, especially on the NE aspects observed.

Jan 28 - 2 inches of fresh snow from a recent storm with westerly wind. No avalanches, but windy conditions definitely moved some snow around above treeline. Drifted areas moderately reactive to cracking and blocking, though nothing large enough to bury a person. Old surfaces still remain, scabby conditions. Only 3 cars at bunny despite fresh snow. Still recovering from the Snowball weekend, ha ha. High and dry for the foreseeable future, at least a week or two. **sigh** -meyers

Jan 29 - High clouds and greenhousing today in the Eddy Mountains for the Deadfall snow survey. Rollerballs initiated even on a NW aspect BTL at around 1pm due to the clouds. The snow survey had an average depth of 27.5 inches and 6.5 inches of SWE. Low tide and rough skiing. - Jordan

Jan 30 - Mount Shasta City tied its record high of 60F today. Blowing snow observed at the top of the Red Banks and near the Thumb. Right Peak at Castle skied surprisingly well, with smooth surface textures and supportable snow underneath the inch or two of recent snow on solar aspects. Thin,

transparent surface crust on shady aspects. Moist snow underneath the crust, with drier snow underneath on true north. Very few signs of wet surface instabilities. Plenty of shallowly buried and visible obstacles. - Jordan

Jan 31 - Gray bird day with high clouds aloft and moderate wind speeds over ridgelines. Visited Lake Helen. Conditions are a bit haggard. All the recent snow has been scoured off high points and exposed areas and deposited into low points like gullies and pockets. No blowing snow on the upper mountain was observed, and concern for any type of avalanche danger was low. Three climbers were spotted ascending to Red Banks. Weather, variable surfaces, and mountaineering-related factors are the biggest hazards.

Feb 1 - Beautiful day, high winds aloft, and cold temps + wind chills kept surfaces mostly locked up. Snow is gradually melting near and below treeline on solar aspects. Plenty of shallowly buried and visible obstacles.

Feb 2 - Clear, high and dry. Nothing major to report. Snow based recreation is still possible, but pretty rough out there. Ski Park is still open, barely. Mountaineering hazards are primary watch out. Climbers reported a steady trickle of rime ice fall yesterday beneath Redbanks. Ops normal - meyers

Feb 3 - Status normal. Near record high warm temps this week. Inversions. Moderate easterly wind. Despite warm temps, no wet loose activity. Snow surfaces are still pretty rough but some corn is starting to happen. Maybe a small storm this weekend. -meyers

Feb 4 - Another very warm day. The high temperature in Mount Shasta City was 63F, 17 degrees above normal. OSB reached 53F. Generally light easterly winds at Gray Butte, picking up in the evening hours. Snow surfaces are dwindling on steep solar aspects near and below treeline on the mountain. Very hard (K to I) crusts lay beneath softening surface snow on these aspects, limiting wet loose concerns. Some moments of Shasta corn brilliance can be found, but lots of work and rough surface conditions must be navigated. - Jordan

Feb 5 - Record high of 67F today in Mount Shasta City, the third record setting or tying max temp in the last seven days. SW winds remained light, lower speeds than forecast. Decent corn in Powder Bowl, higher quality on SE/S Cribblets. SWS PRO1 reported decent turns on northerly aspects at Castle and bare ground or patchy snow on S and E aspects. - Jordan

Feb 6 - Another dry and mild day with some passing high clouds. Light westerly winds at Gray Butte. Eric and I drove all the way to the Cliff Lake pullout. The lake was frozen, but the ice didn't look particularly thick. Very low snow conditions or bare ground on south aspects in the South Fork drainage, more on northerlies but still low tide. Need a big Feb and March. - Jordan

Feb 7 - Incoming weather. Southwest flow brought mostly cloudy skies and cooler temps. A mix of melt/freeze crusts and faceted snow surfaces were observed on all aspects of Gray Butte. Digging in the NW chute, I found 22 inches of weak snow with a thin and fragile crust a foot down. Not a concern now, but something to monitor moving forward.

Feb 8 - Pea soup day on the mountain. Misty and humid conditions. Snow started to fall around 5 pm. Damp and moist bed surfaces were observed up to 8,500 feet in the OSB. Howling westerly winds could be heard up high. Rain likely for all elevations on the Eddy Mountains.

Feb 9 - Eric and I found a patchwork of wind deposited snow from northwest winds and February 8th's storm, which produced about 1" of snow near treeline. We also found that the humid conditions on February 8 led to the development of a crust in over areas that had little to no crust previously, including areas of faceted snow.

Feb 10 - The storm was expected to come in earlier today, but did not come in until the evening, producing 0.2" SWE with little to no snow accumulation at the Old Ski Bowl. Snow coverage at Castle is becoming increasingly marginal with north aspects holding the most consistent coverage.

Feb 11 - Old Ski Bowl didn't register much snow, but actually observed was a surprising 4-6 inches. Previous wind loading observed on the westerly aspect. Predominant wind direction out of S/SE. The day was mostly cloudy with a greenhouse effect in the afternoon. No major signs of avalanche danger, though steep extreme terrain could harbor pockets of wind loaded snow. Overall, a nice refresh nonetheless. A stormy pattern arrives this weekend - meyers

Feb 12 - Light winds, sunny skies above a layer of valley fog and a surprise graupel shower early afternoon at Bunny Flat. A widespread melt-freeze crust (P) from the brief sun and greenhousing on Feb 11th covered nearly all aspects near and below treeline on a tour to Gray Butte from Bunny. East seems to have avoided the crust. Observers reported soft, crust-free snow above 9k in the Gulch and Ski Bowl. - Jordan

Feb 13 - Final mild day before the Presidents' Week storm cycle. Eric and I went to Helen. Observed a poor snowpack structure on WNW at 10,000 ft on Green Butte Ridge - a weak layer of facets beneath a thin crust, with a 6-inch slab of recent snow (for now) on top. Percolation columns and a thicker crust were observed at slightly lower elevations on the same aspect. Overall, these aspects NTL and ATL are worth tracking as the storm cycle ramps up. Generally light westerly winds in the Gulch, with some moderate gusts above 9k. Blowing snow on upper mountain ridgelines. Good skiing from ~9,500 to treeline, with breaker crust on shady aspects BTL and corn-like snow on sunny aspects. - Jordan

Feb 14 - Impending storm vibe. A widespread distribution of graupel was the most notable finding yesterday near and below treeline. Whether it's been buried is still to be determined. Lots of fresh snow available for transport. Graupel and other mixed precipitation particles were observed atop a recently formed melt/freeze crust that formed Friday.

Feb 15 - Graupel layer buried. Graupel was observed as the primary weak layer at the old/new snow interface and responsible for reactive test results and small slides on test slopes. Buried a foot to over two feet in drifted areas. S-SE winds transported snow onto lee slopes throughout the day. Overall, less snow than expected with 3-4 on average uniformly.

Feb 16 - Skies were overcast to obscured. Humidity from low clouds left a thin rime crust in areas below treeline. The crust was thicker near treeline where it also experienced wind effects. Temperatures remained brisk in the mid twenties and winds were light, predominantly out of the west. Despite the ~ 10 inches of new snow, conditions felt less reactive than the day prior.

Feb 17 - The Old Ski Bowl recorded its lowest temperature of the season last night, a chilly 7.5 F. The weather station reported snow accumulation in yesterday's storm. I would estimate between 10 - 12 inches fell over the whole event. Storm and wind slabs were both reactive to skier input on test slopes near and below treeline. A large natural wind slab avalanche was sited on the south side of Green Butte ridge at around 10,000 feet. The sun came out for a little bit but did not contribute to any wet loose activity.

Feb 18 - Amazing snow quality, very low density. Poor viz on mtn. Touchy storm slabs 6-8 inches deep. Loose dry sluffs also. Hard to see any of the big avy paths, but the snowpack felt touchy for sure and the ingredients for avalanches are out there. A break in the action tomorrow followed by a big loading event this weekend. Have had two natural avys this week and a handful of red flags observed. Temps are below normal and in the single digits. Snow will be slower to stabilize.

Feb 19 - Cold day, high near 30F and low near 10F at OSB. 6 to 9 inches of recent snow on tour to ~10,000 feet up Anaconda/Giddy. Most of the new snow was extremely low density - fist minus. Light winds. Hardly any wind effect above treeline. Plenty of dry snow available for transport. Observed numerous dry loose slides in the Gulch, but no natural slab activity. -Jordan

Feb 20 - Record low temperature of 13F this morning in Mt. Shasta City. Other impressive lows include Sand Flat at 3F, OSB 7F, Mt. Eddy 7F, and Castle Lake 15F. Snow quality remained good at Castle Lake and apparently on the mountain as well. No results on the lower graupel layer at Castle Lake despite numerous tests including a PST. Still, we don't fully trust it yet. - Jordan

Feb 21 - Powerful southeast **wind event!** Large amounts of dry snow were transported by SE winds across nearly all aspects near and below treeline. Two new graupel layers were identified in the top portion of the snowpack. No propagation. However, it's clear these layers are suspect. The snowpack is dry and deep.

Feb 22 - Wet, heavy snow with reactive wind slabs observed near and below treeline on northerly aspects. Light to moderate wind speeds. Rain on snow up to 5,500 feet, with damp surface conditions above. Shallow snowpack conditions on the east side. 1.5-3 feet in many locations. Snow was dry and sheltered from the wet and stormy conditions on the southside of Mount Shasta. Southerly winds were blowing lightly below treeline. Visibility was limited.

Feb 23 - The Pineapple Express continues the warm, wet weather. About 0.75 inches of water fell in the 24 hours. Wet snow surfaces with moister snow underneath were observed at Castle Lake yesterday. Water was observed pooling at interfaces in the upper 20 cm or so. Pinwheels were easily triggered on small test slopes. It will be interesting to see what more water does to the snowpack on Feb. 24.

Feb 24 - Yesterday's storm dropped a staggering 3.28 inches of snow water equivalent and about a foot of dense snow at the Old Ski Bowl, 7,600 feet. Snow depth also crept over 100 inches at OSB for the first time this season! At Castle on a steep 35-40 degree slope, Christian and I were able to trigger some large pinwheels and get some small surface entrainment, but no proper wet loose avalanches. Water was observed pooling at various interfaces and at the base of February's snowpack.

Feb 25 - After the storm, Hayden and I ventured into the Old Ski Bowl looking for feedback on wind-loaded easterly aspects. We found a large (D2.5) natural avalanche on the east/southeast aspect of Green Butte, around 8,800 feet. The avalanche appears to have initiated as a shallow wind slab and stepped down to a deeper buried weak layer, most likely the 2/14 graupel layer which sits atop of a melt-freeze crust. About six small to large (D1.5) wet loose slides were also observed on the northwest face of Gray Butte. These most likely released during the end of the storm on Tuesday. Plenty of rollerballs and wet snow surfaces as the sun warmed the snowpack today. We will continue to track the sensitivity of the graupel layers. - Jordan

Feb 26 - Surprising mid-level clouds shrouded the upper mountain above ~9.5k yesterday afternoon. Wet snow surfaces up to 8,200 feet on Green Butte Ridge and possibly even higher. Boot pen almost to the knee. More recent wet loose slides observed in the Gulch and Sun Bowl. Could not find the graupel layers on a SE at 8,100 feet in lower Sun Bowl. Suspect meltwater moved through them. Slab is pencil hard in places. Hope to check on and test these layers more in the next couple days. - Jordan

Feb 27 - Very warm day in the Deadfall Basin for snow survey with Eric. It felt like spring. High of 66F in Mount Shasta City. Rain runnels to about 8,000 feet in the Deadfall Basin. Snow depths approximately in the low 40 inches along the snow course. Pretty dismal. Hopefully March delivers lots of cold precip but not looking too promising at this point. - Jordan

Feb 28 - Warm and wet conditions persist. Light rain on snow up to 8,500 feet. The top couple feet of the snowpack is soggy and mush with large amounts of free moving water. Westerly winds could be seen blowing snow in the alpine. Wet snow remains the primary hazard.

March 1 - Warm and wet yet again. Brief rain showers throughout the day with low clouds and above freezing temps. Natural cornice collapse and wet loose observed at Castle.

March 2 - Several inches of new snow in many locations near and above treeline on Mount Shasta. Rollerballs were observed on solar aspects near and above treeline the southside. Wind slabs on moraine tops were reactive in snowpack tests and up to about a foot deep. Clouds increased in the afternoon and greenhouse conditions developed in OSB.

March 3 - A mostly warm and sunny day with some increasing high clouds in the afternoon as a small system approached. Temperatures climbed into the mid to high 40's as OSB. Snow surfaces were wet and cornlike.

March 4 - Impressive northwest winds continued as a weak storm impacted the area. Sustained winds in the 20s, 30s, and even 40s were recorded at Gray Butte with gusts into the 70s. Unfortunately, snow totals were not as impressive - only one to two inches near treeline on the mountain. - Jordan

March 5 - Wind speeds at Gray Butte remained light and variable (gusts into the 20s and 30s), but strong to extreme northerly winds continued on the upper mountain. Copious amounts of blowing snow were observed, most of it likely sublimated. A small (5 inch deep) reactive wind slab was found near treeline above Horse Camp (southwest, 8,100 feet) but most were stubborn. Patchwork of drifted snow and firm crusts in Avalanche Gulch and Giddy Giddy. Corn cycle looks to establish at lower elevations in the coming days. - Jordan

March 6 - Corn snow has developed on southerly aspects where recent winds have scoured and polished surfaces down to a smooth and supportable crust. Northerly wind continue to blow at strong to extreme speeds above treeline. Moderate amounts of blowing snow were observed over the upper mountain throughout the day. Solar surfaces holding recent wind deposited snow are softening and becoming mushy. Below treeline, uncohesive snow exists and is melting fast with buried objects melting out.

March 7 - North wind event up high. Blowing and pluming snow. Melt/freeze snow near and below treeline. Minimal WL instabilities observed. Temps in the 50s! Is it spring?

March 8 - Another warm day with temperatures in the mid 50's at the Old Ski Bowl. Despite the temps and lack of overnight freeze, wet loose instability was again minimal. Climbers observed on the upper mountain.

March 9 - A slightly cooler day in the mid to high 40's. Only in the field until mid to late morning during the rescue. Firm surfaces were widespread.

March 10 - A continued cooling trend with temperatures in the mid to high 30's at the Old Ski Bowl. Lenticulars formed early in the day before dissipating. Strong NW winds were seen pluming snow on the northside as seen from Military Pass.

March 11 - clear, windy, warming into the weekend. Trailhead access update: NG - 3.6 mi / CC - 3.3 mi / BC - 10 mi Climbers starting to be interested in climbing. The season will be early! - meyers

March 12 - Dry, warm, and windy weather continues. OSB high of 51. Gray Butte sustained NW winds near 30mph with gusts into the 40s, tapering in the afternoon. Even stronger winds were observed on the upper mountain. Thick crusts in the upper snowpack on S and W aspects on Green Butte Ridge should help limit wet loose concerns for the time being. Steep, sunny slopes below rocky terrain features would be most concerning. - Jordan

March 13 - More dry, warm, and windy weather. Mount Shasta City's high of 70 was one degree short of tying the record. Castle Lake is melted out, the snowpack is patchy or nonexistent on everything but north aspects. Good corn in the Gulch and OSB. Light to moderate NW winds at Gray Butte with gusts into the 40s. - Jordan

March 14 - Spring-like weather continues. A trace of new snow could be seen high on Mount Shasta getting blown around by strong northwesterly winds over the first half of the day. Otherwise, surfaces remained on the harder side with areas of softening on steep, solar slopes below 9,500 feet. No signs of wet snow instability were observed.

March 15 - Increasing temperatures! Brisk north winds aloft and mostly sunny skies. No avalanche danger was observed. Roughly one inch of melt/freeze snow sits atop a uniform five inch, pencil hard crust. This crust is less pronounced on steep, solar slopes near rock outcroppings and is where I'd imagine any potential instabilities to be.

March 16 - Yesterday, temperatures at the Old Ski Bowl approached the upper 50s and fell into the high 40s overnight. Around 3:00 pm, Eric and I were able to trigger some very small wet loose off of Casaval Ridge on a SE aspect. The snowpack was least supportable and wet on steep slopes and around radiators. Where the surface crust was very thin or absent, we experienced boot deep or greater penetration into deeper wet snow layers.

March 17 - Mount Shasta City hit a record of 83 F yesterday, which was previously 74. The Old Ski Bowl reached 63 F. I only toured up to about 7,800 feet in Avalanche Gulch. Light downslope winds were helping keep surfaces firmer than they otherwise would have been. On a relatively flat solar aspect at 7,800 feet around 2:00 pm, I experienced boot top plus penetration through a wet, semi supportable surface crust into deeper layers of wet snow. The main takeaway is that the snowpack is not refreezing overnight and surface crusts are probably weaker than they otherwise would be with a solid refreeze.

March 18 - Crazy warm, snow beginning to recede from Bunny Flat. Still 71 inches at OSB. Despite a major warm spell, no big, wet, loose slides yet. Temp records being blown out of the water. Climbing season going to be early and short

March 19 - Another day of record-shattering warmth. Mount Shasta City recorded a high of 81F, beating the previous high of 74 by 7 degrees. High temperatures are in line with early July normals. Still, the snowpack seems to be holding on up to this point. Wet snow is everywhere but unstable wet

snow has been hard to find. Likely draining well and lower March sun-angle helping limit instabilities. Clear skies have led to overnight refreezes of the upper snowpack in open areas. Shastina tour today - smooth surfaces in Cascade Gulch and softening snow on solar aspects all the way up to 12,330. - Jordan

March 20 - Another record high in Mount Shasta City - 80F (previous 76F). That makes five straight days of record-tying, or setting, heat. A small wet loose was observed yesterday evening in Powder Bowl. It probably ran naturally in the afternoon. Other than that, the snowpack appears to have mostly hung in there during the heat wave, with plenty of wet snow but few wet snow instabilities. - Jordan

March 21 - was the last day of unseasonably warm temps and weather. The day was mostly clear, sunny, and warm. Temps climbed into the mid-50s. Strong SW winds helped keep surfaces cool. Snow was most supportable above 9,500 feet, and mushy down low.

March 22 - Another beautiful day, though not quite as warm. Lots of climbers and day trippers. Reports of hard and poor skiing conditions on the upper mountain. Winds blew from the southwest at light speeds, with high clouds aloft, becoming increasingly widespread and lower in elevation throughout the day. Temps rose into the mid 50s. Snow surfaces were way more supportable with premo corn!

March 23 - Another relatively mild day with a high around 50 F in OSB. I was able to trigger some very small wet loose in upper Sun Bowl after 3:00 pm on top of a supportable several inch thick crust (at least to skis). The crust is acting as a good bed surface and the snow wants to give on it. Lenticulars formed over the mountain around 2:00 - 2:30 PM and cloud coverage increased in the evening and into the night.

March 24 - Very strong predominantly WNW winds aloft. Some impressive lenticulars in the morning that continued on and off through the day. I didn't get out in the field but temperatures were similar to the day prior with a high of 53 at OSB. The skies were mostly clear.

March 25 - Clear, sunny. Cold front moving through later today. Temps will be coolest in a while. CHP hauled compost off the mtn from Horse Camp. Hayden, Christian and Nick facilitated. The guys also did HC snow survey. Mushy snow below treeline. No notable slides as of late. Snow receding from Bunny. One has to walk 20-30 yards to get continuous snow. -Meyers

March 26 - The first refreeze since March 11th at OSB added strength to the upper snowpack. A couple of small, recent cornice failures were noted in OSB off of Green Butte Ridge. About 1-2 feet of snow remain at Bunny, 5 feet at OSB. There is ample dirt on the snowmobile launch at Bunny but continuous snow coverage exists once on Everitt. Good sledding conditions in the Bowl as surfaces softened on southerly aspects early afternoon. - Jordan

March 27 - Eric, Hayden, and I went to the Redding airport to fly a snow survey. Courses completed were Deadfall, North Fork, Mumbo, and Gray Rocks. Mumbo and Gray Rocks held zero snow. Gray Rocks held the most, about three feet on average. Beautiful day for flying. - Jordan

March 28 - Rescue on Mount Shasta from climber struck in the head from rockfall. Surfaces were supportable in the morning, even after a poor overnight refreeze, and softened throughout the day. Westerly winds were ripping above 10,000 feet, aiding in surface cooling.

March 29 - Another poor overnight refreeze. Surfaces were supportable in the morning, growing damp by late afternoon. Westerly winds were stiff, with extreme speeds aloft. Variable surfaces exist with the potential for long sliding falls on shady aspects.

March 30 - Temperatures reached 43 degrees at the Old Ski Bowl yesterday and dropped to 34 degrees overnight. Cloud coverage overnight may have inhibited a solid refreeze.

March 31 - Temperatures climbed to a high of 34 at OSB yesterday and got down to 28 last night. About an inch of snow fell yesterday at 7,900 by 2:00 PM. A small amount of graupel was identified near the new/old crust interface. The surface melt freeze crust is gaining strength and thickening. It was about 3 inches thick on a gentle SW aspect at 7,900 feet.

April 1 - Underwhelming storm past 24 hours, got about 3-6 inches out of it and half inch of water. Pea soup on the mtn, so I couldn't see anything. Strong westerly wind. Chilly temps in the 20s. High pressure returns this weekend. Tomorrow will reveal more storm results with better viz. -meyers

April 2 - Cold temps as the April 1st storm departed. OSB got down to 15F this morning. Strong northwest winds were observed most of the day on the upper mountain. In the lower Gulch, wind speeds tapered and direction shifted to the south during the morning hours. Shallow wind slabs near and below treeline. Above treeline, most areas felt like a firm windboard. Variable snow surfaces but a good refresh on the corn. It will probably take a few days for the recent snow to transition to supportable melt-freeze crusts. No signs of wet snow instabilities. - Jordan

April 3 - Very nice day in OSB. Wind slabs were unreactive. Still variable snow surfaces as we await the transition of the new snow back to corn. Northeast winds blew snow across ridgelines on Green Butte, Sargents, and the upper mountain. No signs of wet snow instabilities. - Jordan

April 4 - Beautiful day. High pressure. Moderate to strong easterly winds over high exposed terrain. Snow surfaces softened in isolated locations with meltwater moving through the snowpack. Corn snow was developing on previously wind scoured terrain.

April 5 - A beautiful day! Ample sunshine and temperatures rising into the low 50s. Calm to light winds. No signs or reports of wet snow wanting to move. The upper mountain remains hard and unforgiving.

April 6 - Another warm day. The temperatures climbed into the mid 50's at OSB. Eric and I did not get out into the field, but Christian noted surfaces were softening and crusts were beginning to break down on steep solars. No other obvious signs of wet snow instability.

April 7 - Temperatures reached again into the mid 50's at the Old Ski Bowl. Wind deposits from April 1st's storm over the old melt freeze crust seem like the most likely place for any wet loose instabilities to develop. The deposits are becoming increasingly hard to recognize but appear smoother than surrounding surfaces.

April 8 - Incoming storm tomorrow and into the weekend. Snow levels are high 8-9k but lowering. Afternoon thunderstorms. Just a bit of rain (.11") Not a whole lot to mention. Winding down, for now, but Saturday could get a decent shot, up to 2 inches of water expected by next week.

April 9 - Impressive thunderstorm action last night about 8-9pm. About .25" of water in Mount Shasta City and .2" at OSB in a very short period. Maybe an inch or two of thundersnow up high. Wet upper snowpack below crusts of varying supportability on Green Butte Ridge. The storm looks to pick up tomorrow (Friday) night into Saturday. - Jordan

April 10 - Rain showers and high elevation snow showers throughout the day. I found a few centimeters of recent hail on top of the snow surfaces at Bunny Flat. Possible weak layer??? About a half an inch of water and two inches of snow at OSB, most of it coming 3pm-12am. Light SW-S-SE winds at Gray Butte with gusts into the 20s and 30s. Heavier snow arrives tomorrow. - Jordan

END OF REPORT