

**The Bottom Line**

Below freezing temperatures this week are resulting in hard, refrozen snow in much of our terrain. Continued wintry weather, with only limited warming, means that while we may see a few periods of softening corn snow it should be the exception rather than the norm. Long sliding falls on this hard, refrozen snow could be complicated by the number of spring hazards now exposed. Bring crampons and ice axe, using them to prevent a fall, and consider the consequences of a fall in any terrain you choose. Our generally refrozen snowpack presents minimal avalanche concerns with small wind slabs formed over the weekend seeming generally stable. At least some snow is in the forecast and could easily result in elevated avalanche danger. Continue to watch for quickly changing conditions as you play in the mountains this week. The Mount Washington Avalanche Center will no longer issue daily avalanche forecasts for the 2018/19 season. Instead, we will post an updated General Bulletin as needed, in case of significant snow or weather events that might vary from the typical daily changes that come with spring weather.

**Mountain Weather**

A trace of new snow last night is the only new snow since the approximately 4" of new snow that fell over the weekend. Our middle and upper elevation terrain has generally remained below freezing, a trend which continues today. Snow showers today should produce minimal accumulation. Slightly warmer temperatures are forecast for the rest of the week, with periods of mixed rain, snow, and other wintry precipitation forecast late Wednesday through Friday. Windows of sun may combine with above freezing temperatures to, at times, allow some snow in the Ravines to soften, but expect quickly changing conditions to be the norm all week.

**Snowpack and Avalanche Discussion**

The prolonged period of melt last week opened deep cracks and holes in our snowpack, as flowing water undermined snow and opened some stream channels. The subsequent freeze with minimal melting this week is now making long sliding falls on hard, icy snow a prominent concern. With snow in the long range forecast, remember that new snow and wind can rapidly build wind slabs and elevate avalanche danger. Keep the following hazards in mind as you make terrain decisions in our dynamic spring backcountry conditions:

- **Avalanches**
- **Long sliding falls**
- **Opening streams and undermined snow**
- **Glide cracks**
- **Moats and other deep melt holes**
- **Waterfall holes**
- **Falling ice and rock**

Steep snow and ice in gullies and trails, such as the Lion Head Winter Route, becomes very hard during any frozen periods in our spring melt/freeze cycles. This week seems to be presenting more freezing than melting. Currently, the Winter Lion Head route as well as areas of the snowpack that were scoured by the wind are icy and require crampons and an ice axe to climb with security.

The Sherburne and Gulf of Slides ski trails are no longer completely snow covered to Pinkham Notch. Expect ice, open stream crossings, rocks and bare patches. The lower 1/3 of the Sherburne is closed, with a rope directing skiers to the Tuckerman Ravine Trail. Cross over to the Tuckerman Ravine Trail at this point of your descent to prevent damage that results from walking on the muddy Sherburne trail. Please remove your skis and walk down the Tuckerman Ravine Trail to avoid collision with the many hikers on the trail.

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**Please Remember:** Safe travel in avalanche terrain requires training and experience. This forecast is just one of many decision making tools. You control your own risk by choosing where, when, and how you travel. Understand that the avalanche danger may change when actual weather differs from the weather forecast. For more information contact the Forest Service Snow Rangers, the AMC at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center, or the caretakers at Hermit Lake Shelters or at the Harvard Cabin.