

The Bottom Line

Warming wind slabs are the primary concern today. Light wind, sunshine and increasing temperatures will warm wind slabs formed last week. Watch for moist snow at the surface as a sign that the likelihood of a human triggered avalanche is increasing. Avalanche danger is **LOW** overall, and will increase to **MODERATE** on sunny aspects receiving the most direct sun. Continue to use safe travel habits including traveling one at a time, and limit your time in avalanche paths. Crowds will be a factor today, so be aware that people above may create a problem that becomes your problem.

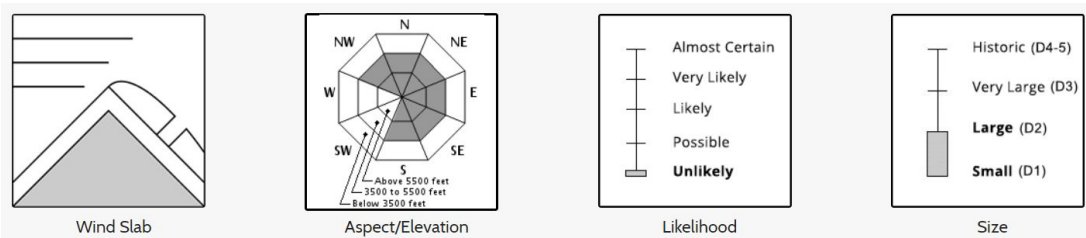
Mountain Weather

Yesterday was clear with no precipitation or observed wind transported snow. The summit high temperature reached 14F.

Today we start the day at 18F and clear skies. Summit temperatures are expected to rise to the upper 20's with W wind 20-35 mph. Sunny, lower elevation areas will rise above freezing. Clear skies will become partly sunny later in the afternoon. Tonight, temperatures will fall to upper teens.

Tomorrow, mostly cloudy skies with temperatures in the mid 20s F and west wind 40-55mph. Looking ahead, Tuesday night and Wednesday brings the next chance for new snow.

Primary Avalanche Problem



Wind slabs formed last week have so far been proven to be firm and unreactive. Triggering these slabs is unlikely, though may become possible due to rapid warming as unseasonably warm temperatures and bright sun affects the snowpack. Warming today is a clear red flag that instability is increasing.

Secondary Avalanche Problem

It will be possible to trigger a Wet Loose avalanche at lower elevations today, though lack of a developed snowpack limits concerns. Watch for rollerballs, or moist snow. An avalanche at lower elevations may be small, but have significant consequences if it pulls you over a cliff in Crawford Notch. Sunny aspects at mid-elevations may also warm to the point that wet sluffing occurs though will likely be more limited due to less intense warming.

Forecast Discussion

The topic of our forecaster's discussion this morning revolved around the amount of warming the snowpack will receive from ambient air temperature and solar gain. Both the MWObs and the NWS agree that the range will see unseasonably warm temperatures, light winds and clear skies for most of the day. If the summit reaches the upper 20's, the ravines will likely reach above freezing, and south facing slopes may warm to the point of moist snow on the surface. This rapid warming, combined with observed faceting and the fact that south facing slopes did not avalanche during the last natural avalanche cycle drives our concerns for these aspects.

Additional Information: The Sherburne and Gulf of Slides ski trails are snow covered to Pinkham.

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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.