

Warm Creek, Yellowstone National Park

2 skiers caught, partially buried

29 December 2017

Firsthand account from the skiers involved:

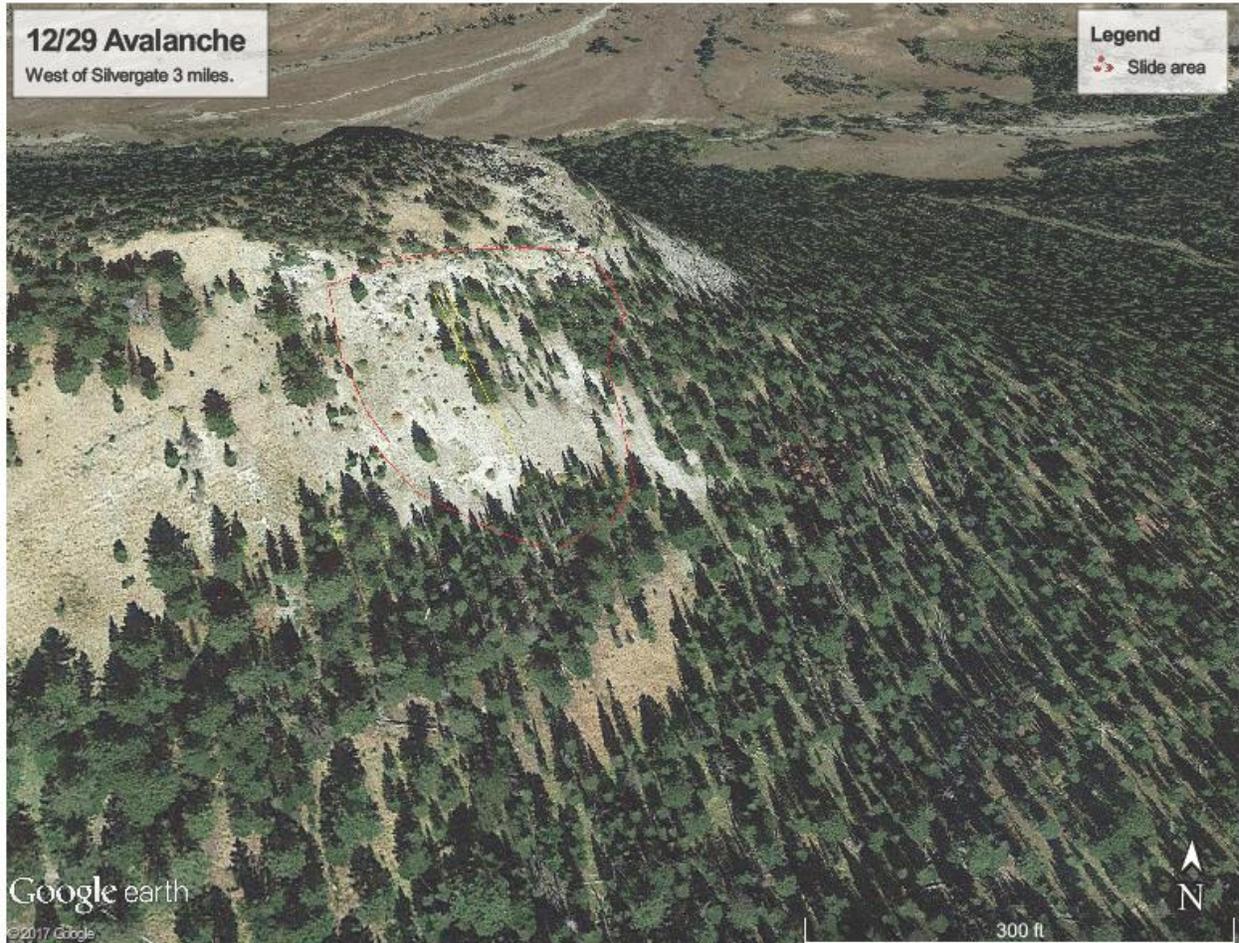
On 12/29 we parked about 2 miles west of Silvergate and skied a mile west on the road and turned north to the ridge just NE of Baronette pk. We were aware of high avalanche danger but somehow got complacent on our surroundings and ended up getting caught in this slide. The crown was 2-3 feet deep and propagated well into the timber on the "Thanksgiving crust"

The slope angle was 33-36 degrees. We were traversing just below a cliff band when it broke taking both of us over a small ledge. I hung on to a aspen tree for a while before getting pushed into a spruce tree and hung up. My partner hit several trees and was carried down 150-200 feet and partly buried but could get himself out. We both were scratched up a bit but skied out.

Below are pictures of the crown and some google earth pictures that shows where it occurred and where we slid. Thanks for all your tireless work on information about conditions in the back country.







Please contact Doug Chabot, Eric Knoff, or Alex Marienthal at the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center if you have questions:

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