What does your gut say and should you listen? The intuitive-analytical decision making continuum in mechanized ski guiding.

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Decision-making in avalanche terrain is a complex process. Professional guides have well developed strategies to help them navigate through the challenges. Years of training in analytical decision processes are supported by a wealth of available snowpack and weather information. Guiding teams are typical within the mechanized skiing industry and provide a valuable peer support network to further the sophistication of the decision process. However, within this mix the intuitive process begs further investigation. Despite the wealth of information provided by the InfoEx, most decisions are aided or influenced by an intuitive factor. This study addresses the issue of how and when intuition plays a role in ski guide decision-making.