

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES OF SLAB AVALANCHES IN HEATHER CANYON, MT. HOOD, OREGON

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ABSTRACT: The avalanche control program for Heather Canyon—a large avalanche-prone canyon in the Mt Hood Meadows permit area—is reviewed. To help illustrate the scope of this control program, selected photos and time-lapse photography of both natural and controlled slab avalanches in the canyon are shown. These pictures depict many aspects of slab avalanche mechanics and dynamics, including limits of initial slab rupture, fracture propagation, slab response to terrain features and subsequent motion. Several series of these time-lapse photographs are discussed in regard to the surrounding terrain, as well as the corresponding weather events that produced the snowpack instability.

KEYWORDS: avalanches, avalanche tracks, avalanche types, snow slides

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