

A GENERAL METHODOLOGY FOR USE OF PAINT BRUSHES IN SNOW PROFILE INVESTIGATION

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ABSTRACT: The use of a brush was suggested by Anderson (1960) as an aid to highlight the separation of layers in the snowpack. Interpretation was briefly described in early U.S. Forest Service avalanche manuals (1961). Presently it is listed as an optional tool for snow profile studies in U.S. and Canadian recording standards (Greene et al. 2004, CAA 2002).

During the winter of 2005/06 an analysis of key brush properties and performance characteristics was carried out using standardized tests. Field-testing was conducted on a selection of brushes of varying properties and characteristics for their effect in highlighting snow layering. A sufficiently general technique was developed and tried in the field that incorporated a relationship to the common hand hardness test.

This poster presents a description of method, the results of the investigation, and brush selection recommendation for use in snow profiles.

References

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