

Spring Conditions

During the spring, professional avalanche and snowpack observations become scarce and publishing accurate avalanche forecasts with danger ratings becomes impossible. To assist with your backcountry travel planning we've identified four common spring conditions scenarios:

1. Cold and Snowy – When winter-like storms roll through
2. Daily Melt-Freeze Cycles – Warm during the day, cold overnight
3. All Melt, No Freeze – Intense warming with no overnight refreeze
4. All Freeze, No Melt – Cool weather with little or no melting

It's up to you to decide which of the scenarios applies to your situation. To figure out which scenario matches the conditions in the area you intend to travel, you'll have to look at the past weather, the weather forecast, and get as much local information as possible from knowledgeable people in your area.

Remember, warm temperatures in the spring and summer can destabilize the snow in a matter of minutes and danger can rise from Low to High very quickly, especially when the sun is strong and air temperatures rise above freezing.

Be alert to changing conditions and be prepared to adjust your travel plans accordingly.

Each scenario has specific weather, snowpack, and avalanche characteristics. And each requires a different approach in terms of risk management. Click on the links below for details about the scenario:

- [Cold and Snowy](#)
- [Daily Melt-Freeze](#)
- [All Melt, No Freeze](#)
- [All Freeze, No Melt](#)