



UTAH AVALANCHE CENTER
2023 | 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

23 | 24



23|24 REPORT CONTENTS

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23|24 POINTS OF INTEREST

Below is an overview of some highlights and interesting data from this past season. More details pertaining to this section will be highlighted throughout the report.

902 AVALANCHES REPORTED

There were over 900 avalanches reported from the backcountry over a 150 day forecast season.

TWO AVALANCHE FATALITIES

An unusually late-season accident on May 9th resulted in two fatalities. The first of the season in Utah.

1,890 PUBLIC OBSERVATIONS

The public submitted a generous amount of field observations that assisted forecasters and the rest of the backcountry community.

5TH STATEWIDE AVALANCHE AWARENESS WEEK

We held our 5th annual AAW promoting avalanche awareness, education and safety across the state.

LAUNCH OF TO THE HILLS AND BACK

We launched and premiered To the Hills & Back which received incredible feedback with 62K video views, and five awards within the first two months.

3 MILLION WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

Our website is a vital source of information, and was viewed over three million times.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCH

We launched our UAC Membership Program and had 320 backcountry supporters sign-up in the first season.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

We brought on a new Development Director, as well as added a part time Education & Awareness Coordinator.

**KEEPING YOU
ON TOP**
FOR 44 YEARS.



THE UAC MISSION

The Utah Avalanche Center's mission is to keep people on top of The Greatest Snow on Earth[®] by providing avalanche forecasting, awareness, and education throughout the State of Utah.

23|24 MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Utah experienced another exceptional snowpack this winter. Following the historic snowfall of the 2022-2023 season, we saw **131% of the average snowfall** this winter across the State, setting a record for the snowiest two-year period in Utah's history. **From October 2022 to May 2024, Alta Ski Area reported an astonishing 1,531 inches of snow—over 127 feet!**

Throughout the summer, our staff diligently updated our awareness and education programs and planned our fall and winter awareness and education events. We began the year with a record attendance of over **1,500 people at the 30th Annual Backcountry Benefit.**

Our team expanded our skills at the October International Snow Science Workshop in Bend, Oregon, and shared what we learned with the community at the 16th Annual PROSAW and USAW in November.

Our goal remains ensuring the backcountry community has quick and easy access to the information they need to stay safe. This season, we introduced new technological improvements enhancing access to snow and avalanche information, including launching our Observation Explorer and SMS notifications. We will continue to enhance and improve these tools during the coming season for our community. As has become typical, the year began with early-season snow

followed by long periods of cold, dry weather, resulting in weak, faceted snow on shaded aspects. The snow guns eventually activated, providing a winter filled with powder riding. Unfortunately, following an unprecedented May storm that delivered over 39 inches of snow in the Central Wasatch Mountains, our season ended tragically with the May 9th fatalities of two backcountry riders near Lone Peak in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

We have a year of change coming at the UAC. After nine years leading the Forest Service UAC, **Mark is returning to the Gallatin Avalanche Center** and turning the reins over to **Paige Pagnucco to lead the forecasting team.** After seven years leading the nonprofit UAC, **Chad will be turning over the leadership to Caroline Miller** and moving into a role leading special projects and teaching avalanche classes. We have a busy summer of training and knowledge transfer, but we are excited about where our replacements will lead the UAC.

Our staff worked tirelessly and demonstrated deep dedication to our mission and our users. The UAC is committed to serving our community, and we are grateful for your ongoing support. We wish everyone a great summer and look forward to seeing you next fall.



Mark Staples



Chad Brackelsberg



Mark Staples

DIRECTOR
Forest Service

Chad Brackelsberg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Nonprofit UAC



23|24 ABOUT THE UAC

UAC HISTORY

In the mid-1970s, avalanche information was recorded on a phone line in the Salt Lake District Office of the Wasatch National Forest. The UAC officially started 44 years ago in 1980 when the Forest Service and the National Weather Service (NWS) signed an agreement to formally establish the Utah Avalanche Forecast Center at the NWS office in Salt Lake City with three basic charters -- issue avalanche forecasts, provide avalanche education, and issue mountain weather forecasts.

Thirty-four years ago, in 1990, the nonprofit Friends of the Utah Avalanche Center was formed to bridge the gap between the available funding and the actual expenses of running the avalanche center and assure long-term sustainability. The collaborative partnership between the Forest Service and the nonprofit, collectively known as the Utah Avalanche Center, has grown to a staff of 19 working across Utah delivering avalanche forecasts, awareness, and education.

FORECASTING

Our forecasts inform the public about what types of avalanches to expect, where they might occur, how big they may be, how sensitive they are, and how to avoid them. The forecasts are the most widely used UAC product.

We forecast for 8 regions across the state from Moab to Logan. The public accesses these free forecasts in the following:

- ◆ UAC Desktop and Mobile Website
- ◆ UAC IOS App
- ◆ Recorded telephone messages updated every day at 7:30 a.m.
- ◆ Early morning "Dawn Patrol" telephone messages updated daily at 5 a.m.
- ◆ Live interview on KPCW public radio each morning at 8:06 A.M.
- ◆ Daily Email

BACKCOUNTRY OBSERVATIONS

Forecasters, pro observers, and the public submitted 1,869 field reports that were viewed over 1.3M times. These observations include details about what people are seeing out in the backcountry and are our website's second most used source of avalanche information. Forecasters use these field reports to create the daily avalanche forecast and the backcountry community uses them to gain a deeper understanding of backcountry conditions.

AWARENESS

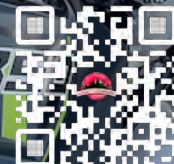
The goal of avalanche awareness is to inform people of the dangers of avalanches and what they can do to decrease their risk. We accomplish this through in-person and virtual presentations and by meeting with backcountry users where they access the mountains.

Our primary awareness program is the Know Before You Go (KBYG.org) program. We offer custom presentations on various topics ranging from the science of avalanches to terrain management to snowpack updates. We provide free transceiver training during the fall and winter at parks and trailheads and we have our trailhead avalanche awareness program, where we meet with backcountry users to discuss avalanche conditions at trailheads across the state.

EDUCATION

The UAC's on-snow avalanche education program focuses on providing backcountry users with introductory avalanche classes. Basic avalanche education is the foundation of providing people with the tools to make good decisions in the backcountry and come home safely each day. Our core classes include Introduction to Companion Rescue, Introduction to Avalanches (Backcountry 101, Motorized Backcountry 101), and Backcountry 201 classes. In addition, we provide Recreation Levels 1 and 2 and Avalanche Rescue classes as needed to fill community demand.

Learn more, scan the code or visit bit.ly/whoweareAR >



23|24 MEET THE TEAM

KEEPING YOU ON TOP
FOR 44 YEARS.



MARK STAPLES
DIRECTOR



DAVE KELLY
FORECASTER



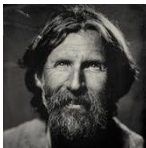
JOEY MANSHIP
EDUCATION SPECIALIST



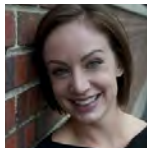
TRENT MEISENHEIMER
FORECASTER



CHAD BRACKELSBERG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DREW HARDESTY
FORECASTER



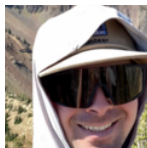
KATE WALLER
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



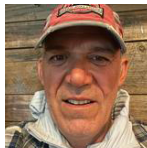
ANDREW NASSETTA
COMMUNICATION MANAGER



ERIC TRENBEATH
FORECASTER



MCKINLEY TALTY
SENIOR EDUCATION COORDINATOR



BRETT KOBERNIK
FORECASTER



FRANCINE MULLEN
SENIOR OPERATIONS COORDINATOR



NIKKI CHAMPION
FORECASTER



CRAIG GORDON
FORECASTER



GREG GAGNE
FORECASTER



PAIGE PAGNUCCO
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



DAVE GARCIA
MOAB COORDINATOR & ASSISTANT FORECASTER



JEREMY COLLET
KBYG COORDINATOR



TOBY WEED
FORECASTER

23|24 UAC INTERNS

- ◆ Claire Hurty
- ◆ Liam McDonald
- ◆ Robbie Allison

UAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicole Sumner President	Alan Richards
Ted Roxbury Vice-President	Caitlin Hansen
Eric Quilter Treasurer	Christian Schauf
Sara Moles Secretary	Kate Bowman
	Michael Brill
	Michael Shea
	Rich Mrazik
	TJ Kolanko

MEET OUR NEW DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Paige Pagnucco as Director of the Forest Service Utah Avalanche Center. She replaces Mark Staples, who successfully led the team for 9 seasons.

Paige has worked at the Utah Avalanche Center for the past 19 years in numerous roles, most recently as Program Director, overseeing the avalanche awareness and education programs.

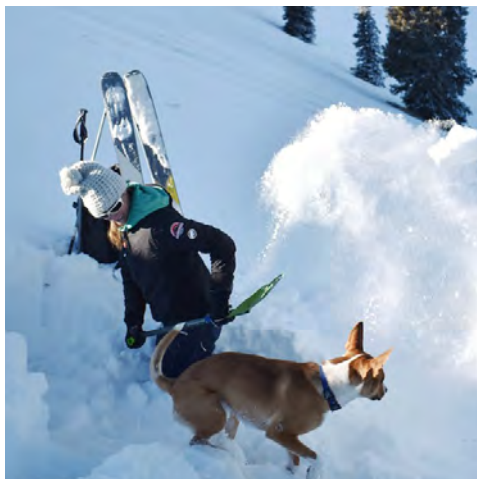
In addition to her Program Director role, she forecasted for the Logan region, worked as a **highway avalanche forecaster for the Utah Department of Transportation**, and has been instrumental in the delivery of both motorized and non-motorized avalanche classes, avalanche awareness events, fundraising events, writing grants, and the development of new education programs.

"I am thrilled to continue promoting avalanche safety and am looking forward to focusing my efforts on the avalanche forecasting program. Most importantly, I feel deeply privileged to collaborate with the exceptional staff of the Utah Avalanche Center, supported by an incredibly dedicated Board of Directors."

Paige grew up skiing and ski racing in New England and began her snow and avalanche career as a **professional ski patroller at Park City Mountain Resort**. She was a route leader and avalanche educator and participated in the resort's avalanche rescue dog program as a handler.

She credits her patrolling background with her passion for all things avalanche. To hone her business acumen, **she received her MBA from Utah State University in 2005**.

When she is not busy with snow and avalanches, you'll find Paige in the mountains hiking, pedaling her mountain bike, or on the dull end of a rope at the local crag. She relishes time with her family and regularly recruits them as backcountry field partners and belayers.



23|24 COMMUNITY & THE UAC

The UAC is nothing without the backcountry community. From backcountry users, to sponsors, donors, and snow professionals, it is a team effort to help keep everyone on top of the snow.

The UAC is vital to Utah's growing backcountry community. The backcountry community is integral to our success because we rely on users to be our eyes and ears, ensuring a two-way flow of life-saving information and ongoing dialogue.

As a public safety organization, maintaining the trust of the backcountry community is crucial. People depend on us to provide accurate, current avalanche and mountain weather information for safe decision-making. In turn, we rely on users to share their backcountry observations to help us create the best possible avalanche forecasts.

We could only do this with the generous contributions from skiers, boarders, snowmobilers, snowshoers, and others.

Our work is made possible by the generous financial support of the backcountry community. As a nonprofit, over half of our funding comes from individuals and businesses who believe in our mission.

We deeply appreciate every donor and their faith in our efforts, supporting our goal of a collective effort to keep people safe in snow-covered mountains.



"You guys have the best mountain program anywhere!"
Colorado Visitors | Gold Basin Yurt, La Sal Mountains

23|24 SEASON IN REVIEW

This past winter was another reminder why so many of us choose to live and play in this great state – not record-breaking snowfall, but close! **The statewide snowpack snow water equivalent (SWE) peaked on April 2 at 18.8 inches and 131% of the median.** Enough snow to keep backcountry enthusiasts happy, but not so much that we couldn't get out of our driveways.

The mountains remained mostly dry until October 11, when most places in the state received the first real blanket of snow for the season. A few more small storms rolled through, leaving a shallow base of around 1-2 feet of snow.

People poked around to find rideable conditions, but visible large rocks and downed trees kept travel fairly limited. **November brought a few more storms,** and things were shaping up for a potentially stable snowpack to remain in place.

December started with a bang. A strong winter storm dropped a few feet of snow across the state and we were all fooled into thinking we had it made. Riding conditions improved and A-arm-destroying objects were almost smoothed over with a deep and stable snowpack.

Then **a strong high pressure parked itself over the Intermountain West** for about three weeks and we watched our snowpack morph into a thick layer of weak, faceted, sugary snow. **Snowfall returned around the second week of January** and the proverbial wheels fell off the bus. **Avalanches occurred everywhere** as the poor snowpack structure provided little foundation for the new snow. This remained the trend for most of January as subsequent large storms reactivated the faceted layer. **By the end of the month, over 300 avalanches were recorded around the state with numerous catch and carry's,** including a few full burials who were all luckily successfully rescued.

February brought more snow, which thankfully began to bury the nagging persistent weak layer too deep to be a major issue. Riders found some of the best and safest conditions of the season as the month progressed. The

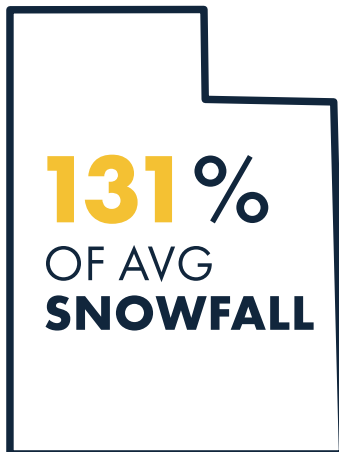
facets were not to be left behind, though, as warm temperatures and solidifying slabs brought them to life again for another round of activity later in the month. **Warmer-than-normal temperatures after storms were an interesting and consistent component of the entire winter.**

March started with a powerful storm that brought thunder, lightning, and an uninvited layer of dust before dropping a few feet of cold snow, which freshened conditions up. But, as was the trend, when the weather instability cleared, temperatures got toasty. We saw 40°-50° degrees F temperatures in the mountains. Powder ruining heat.

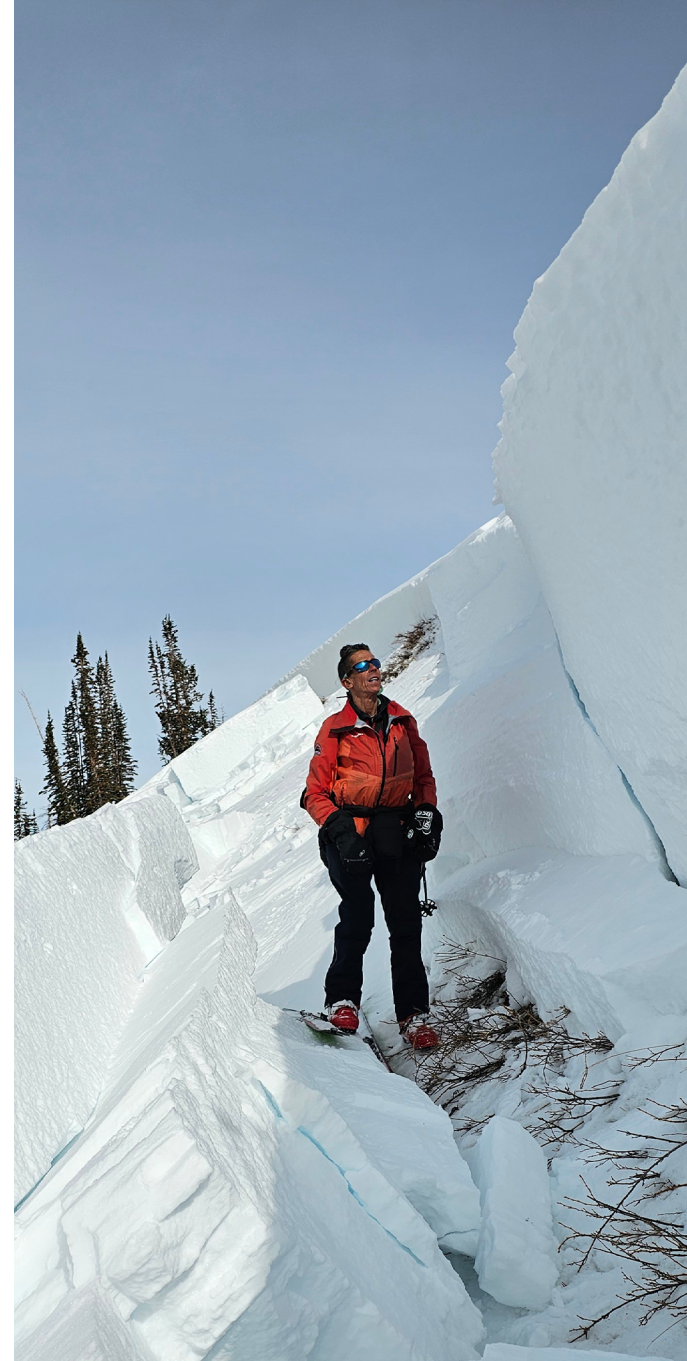
There were a few storms that kept the melt in check, and overall, **we ended our forecast season in mid-April with 131% of average SWE across the state.**

One storm of note occurred after the UAC closed for the season. **A late spring storm with accompanying strong winds dropped over 3" of SWE in the Central Wasatch from May 5-7.**

While no widespread avalanche activity was reported, **one avalanche accident claimed the lives of two young backcountry skiers on May 9.** Read more about the accident on page 12.



131%
OF AVG
SNOWFALL



"... it gives me joy to see you guys and know all the work you do to keep folks aware of conditions. The UAC website is one of the first things of my mornings."

23|24 SEASON IN-REVIEW

In addition to the season in review, here are some highlights for each region across the state, and points of interest along the way. Use the links in each section to gain more information!

SE IDAHO

A snowmobiler triggered and was buried in an avalanche near Midnight Lake on March 9. Luckily, his partners had the appropriate avalanche rescue equipment and quickly uncovered him. You can learn more about it at the link.

♦ bit.ly/seidahoAR

LOGAN

Many of the slide paths in the Wood Camp drainage naturally avalanched in late January, leaving behind a massive pile of debris, learn more here at the link.

♦ bit.ly/loganAR

OGDEN

On January 8, a solo snowboarder triggered a 16" deep, 100' wide soft slab avalanche that ran about 1500' vertical just outside the Snowbasin boundary in Hells Canyon. Though the snowboarder was not buried, the visible powder cloud caused a full response from Snowbasin Ski Patrol, Weber County Search and Rescue, and DPS.

Remember, if you see or trigger an avalanche near a resort, please let the appropriate authorities know.

♦ bit.ly/odgenAR

WESTERN UINTA

On February 11, a very lucky snowmobiler survived being buried in an avalanche in Chalk Creek. The giant hard slab avalanche was around 6' deep and 600' wide. We have no first-hand details other than observing two large holes the day after.

♦ bit.ly/uintaAR

SALT LAKE

No one avalanche stood out, but the number of catches and carries did. This past season, 50 people were caught and carried in avalanches in the Salt Lake zone (63 statewide).

It's a not-so-subtle reminder that one bad decision can change everything. The mountains are getting more crowded but don't let that push you into inappropriate terrain. Here is one of the reports from a highly traveled area, learn more at the link.

♦ bit.ly/saltlakeAR

See the next page for more highlights. >

23|24 SEASON IN-REVIEW

PROVO

Late February brought a round of robust avalanches to the Provo area mountains. There were no road crushers, but big, scary avalanches like this one could be seen for miles. ♦ bit.ly/provoAR

SKYLINE

The Skyline zone experienced the worst of the December facet factory. Travel was droppy, difficult, and dangerous for much of the early part of the season. Learn more at the link. ♦ bit.ly/mantiskylineAR

MOAB

A skier unintentionally triggered a very large avalanche on the NE face of Mt. Tukuhnivatz on February 4.

The slide path funnels directly down onto one of the main access paths to the upper part of the drainage. Luckily no one was caught in this avalanche. Keep in mind what's below you when you are traveling across a steep slope. Learn more below. ♦ bit.ly/moabAR

SOUTHWEST

In mid-January, the UAC issued an Avalanche Warning for the Southwest Mountain zone. A natural avalanche occurred on January 24 in the Lost Creek area. You can learn more here. ♦ bit.ly/swAR

ABAJO

From an observer in early January, "Our tour took us through a whole host of issues. Shallow snowpack, poor snow structure, and some solid wind loading. Be cautious with any new load. Every step we took was similar to walking in knee-deep sand."

By mid-March, it hadn't gotten better. "I observed several collapses both on skis and while on foot and assume that failures were probably occurring on the basal DH." -Chris Benson. ♦ bit.ly/abajoAR



PROVO



MOAB



ABAJO



A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

23|24 AVALANCHE ACCIDENTS

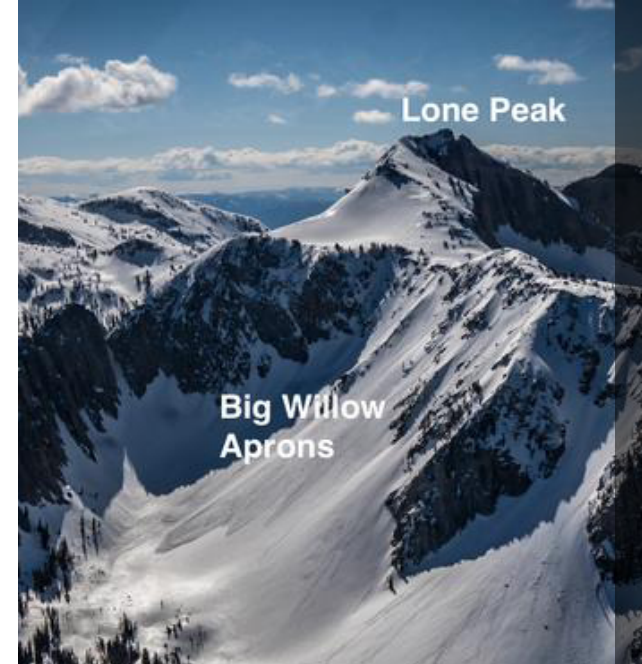
May 9th, 2024 | Three skiers caught; two fully buried and killed; one partially buried.

The Central Wasatch Mountain region saw its largest May snowstorm since 1986 on May 5-7. On May 9, three skiers planned to climb Big Willow Aprons to access Lone Peak.

As they neared the ridge, an avalanche occurred, with one skier caught on one side of a fin feature and the other two caught on the other side. The one skier was partially buried and able to dig himself out. He skied down to where he thought he'd meet up with his partners but saw the other side of the fin had avalanched even bigger. He turned his transceiver to search and was able to locate both of his partners, but unfortunately, neither had

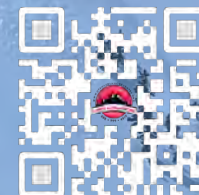
survived. Austin Mallet, 32, and Andrew Cameron, 22, died in the avalanche.

The avalanche occurred on a 40-degree north-facing slope and was a soft wind slab that had likely formed days prior during the storm earlier that week that delivered strong winds and 3.4" of SWE to the Wasatch Mountains. Winds generally from the west would have blown across the cirque and cross-loaded the fin feature. During our visit to the site, we did not observe any major deposits of wind-blown snow or deep drifts, and we suspect wind effects were more subtle in their contribution to this avalanche. Learn more at the link, or by scanning the QR code below.



We aim to learn from all avalanche accidents and offer comments to help others avoid future accidents. All of us at the Utah Avalanche Center have had our own close calls and know how easy it is to make mistakes. Our intention is for this report to offer a learning opportunity.

To learn more about this accident and others, visit bit.ly/accidentsAR or scan below.



23|24 AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Utah Avalanche Center Awareness Program's mission focuses on bringing awareness to avalanche information, education and forecasting products to the general public.

What a winter! Our avalanche awareness season began in the fall and built great momentum as our team attended ski swaps, sales, movies, and various community events. **We participated in over 88 events throughout the season, reaching over 10,498 people with crucial avalanche safety information.**

Our Trailhead Avalanche Awareness Program allowed us to meet many backcountry travelers directly at trailheads. These events are designed to provide current avalanche information right at the point of departure. This educates those who might be unfamiliar with the UAC, avalanche safety, or tools like the daily forecast. We cover the day's forecast, practice with rescue equipment, and offer additional learning resources. **This season, we held 15 TAAP events across the state, reaching over 900 people.**

We held six Community Avalanche Rescue Practices, **helping 360 people hone their avalanche transceiver skills.** Participants ranged from young children to experienced backcountry travelers. These free events are an excellent opportunity to learn about or refresh your knowledge of avalanche transceiver use.

We hosted the **5th Annual Avalanche Awareness Week in early December.** In 2019, House Bill 380 officially recognized the first week of December each year as Avalanche Awareness Week. The week kicked off with a media event and Community Avalanche Rescue Practice at Sugarhouse Park. Partners such as the Division of Outdoor Recreation, BCA, Black Diamond, Mammut, National Weather Service, Salt Lake County Search and Rescue, LifeFlight, Wasatch Backcountry Rescue, and the Utah Snowmobile Association joined us to promote avalanche safety. Media coverage by KSL, KUTV, FOX, and ABC4 helped spread our message statewide. **We reached over 800 people with 17 awareness events during this year's Avalanche Awareness Week.**

We published our monthly newsletter, The Powder Cloud, to highlight specific UAC activities and share important information about weather, snowpack, fundraising, events, and tech tips. **The newsletter is received by over 16,000 people.**

In 1996, the UAC produced the world's first avalanche education video, "Winning the Avalanche Game". This

was truly a game changer for avalanche awareness and education.

Previously, this video only existed on VHS, so many backcountry riders have never seen it or have not seen it in close to two decades. This season, retired Forecasting Director Bruce Tremper digitized the movie. Check it out at bit.ly/avalanchegameAR.

We are excited for the coming season. Our Trailhead Avalanche Awareness and Community Avalanche Rescue Practice programs will take place across Utah, and we will attend ski swaps, sales, movies, fundraisers, and more throughout the fall, ensuring people are aware of us and our essential safety products.

We are already scheduling events for next year and look forward to continued success with our outreach programs.

AWARENESS DASHBOARD

TOTAL EVENT ATTENDEES

10,498

TOTAL AWARENESS EVENTS

88

TRAILHEAD AVALANCHE AWARENESS DAYS

15





23|24 KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Know Before You Go is the first step in your journey through avalanche education. The program introduces you to avalanche safety with some simple steps you can take to stay safe and have fun in snow-covered mountains.

This past season, the Know Before You Go (KBYG) program celebrated its 20th anniversary with significant milestones and impactful initiatives.

We kicked off the season at the International Snow Science Workshop (ISSW) in Bend, Oregon, where we showed our newly created film, *To the Hills and Back* (kbyg.org/to-the-hills), to an audience from across the globe.

We developed this film in partnership with Sherpas Cinema, with generous support from Mammut, KÜHL, and Backcountry. The film went live on YouTube in March and saw an impressive 62,000 views in the first two months.

Another remarkable achievement was the engagement of over 6,000 individuals spanning 31 countries through the dynamic online learning platform at learn.kbyg.org.

Back home in Utah, our commitment to education and outreach remained unwavering. We expanded partnerships with instructors in the southwestern regions of

Utah, ensuring that avalanche awareness reaches communities throughout the State. We continued to nurture our relationship with the motorized community through motorized-specific talks and strategic partnerships.

Throughout the season, our instructors delivered 119 in-person presentations across Utah, engaging over 4,900 people directly. We were excited to pilot a new, four-part educational program with McGillis School, rekindling our commitment to providing top-tier avalanche awareness to youth statewide.

As we look back on our achievements, we are committed to furthering avalanche awareness and safety globally. Looking ahead, we plan to continue efforts to increase the number of youth attendees, and expand programs outside the skiing/riding community.

If you are interested in hosting a KBYG presentation for your school, club, ski or snowboard team, company, or any group that enjoys mountain recreation, please contact the UAC. We are always open to new partnerships and opportunities to spread our message.

TOTAL
KBYG PRESENTATIONS

119

TOTAL KBYG
ATTENDEES

4,948

E-LEARNING
COURSES COMPLETED

3,404

TO THE HILLS AND
BACK VIEWS

61,800

KBYG 
DASHBOARD

SCAN HERE TO
LEARN MORE



23|24 AVALANCHE EDUCATION

The Utah Avalanche Center Avalanche Education Program's mission: Provide quality entry-level avalanche education to motorized and non-motorized users focusing on foundational skills to provide a solid starting point for the lifelong pursuit of avalanche education.

To help keep people on top of The Greatest Snow on Earth®, the UAC provides on-snow avalanche education taught by avalanche professionals throughout Utah. This season, the UAC hosted 32 avalanche classes for 379 eager students looking to learn more about avalanche safety.

Our on-snow avalanche courses include Introduction to Avalanche Rescue course, the flagship Backcountry 101: Introduction to Avalanches, Backcountry 201: Terrain Management, and Motorized Backcountry 101 for snowmobilers and snowbikers.

Our instructors traveled across Utah to host avalanche classes in the Logan, Ogden, SLC, Western Uintas, Provo, and Moab regions. We were pleased to host our first Intro to Avalanche Rescue class out of Nordic Valley this season, as well as hosting our first on-snow avalanche workshop for the YMCA of Northern Utah.

We also enjoyed working with organizations such as Alta Community Enrichment and the Division of Outdoor Recreation to provide avalanche education for employees working in mountain environments.

Last summer, we revised our online pre-coursework to represent the most up-to-date avalanche research and practices. This summer, the UAC Education team is working on a brand-new Student Portal designed to be a one-stop-shop of avalanche education for students who enroll in our courses.

Our Student Portal includes online pre-coursework, links to weather tools specific to Utah, educational videos, avalanche accident case studies, and more.

We're also working with a wilderness medicine professional to develop a new course combining avalanche rescue and wilderness medicine. Stay tuned as we release more information on this new course over the summer.

If you're interested in taking an on-snow avalanche course next season, keep an eye out for class postings in August 2024.

EDUCATION DASHBOARD

TOTAL CLASSES

32

ON-SNOW ATTENDEES

379

INJURIES IN THE FIELD

0

HOURS OF INSTRUCTION

3,023

STUDENT TO INSTRUCTOR RATIO

3:1



23|24 OBSERVATION PROGRAM

In 1987, The UAC became the first avalanche center in the US to receive and publish public observations. This was the beginning of a the UAC Observation program.

The term crowdsourcing was coined in 2016. Nineteen years earlier, in 1987, the UAC began crowdsourcing backcountry information with the official launch of the observation program. We were the first avalanche center in the US to receive and publish public observations.

Public backcountry observations are a vital part of our forecasting operation, helping us monitor many areas and mountainous regions for which we lack information or do not have a daily avalanche forecast.

We openly accept backcountry observations on our website and have a group of **124 professional observers across the state**. Backcountry observations are crucial for writing accurate avalanche forecasts. A forecaster can see limited terrain on a field day, but we receive valuable information from dozens of locations in each forecast region daily with public observations. In addition to these observations being used for forecasting, after reading the

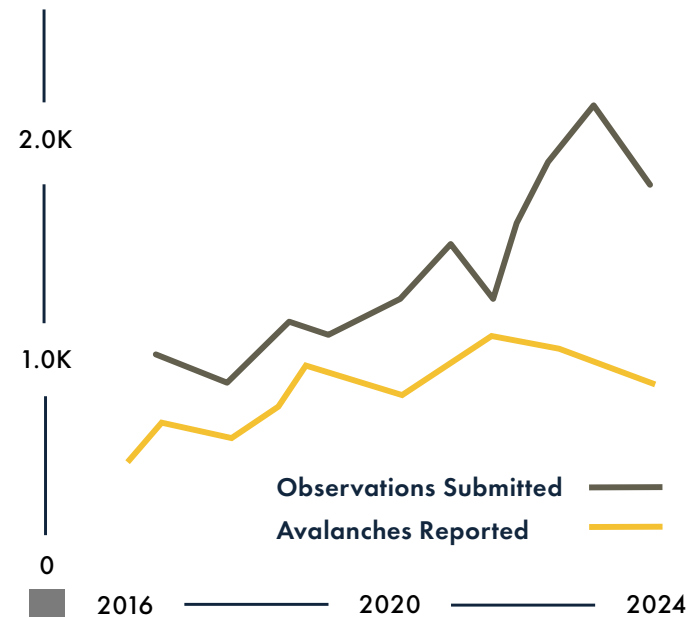
daily avalanche forecast, reading the published observations is one of the most valuable tools a backcountry user has to learn and understand backcountry and avalanche conditions.

This season we were excited to launch our new web-based **Observation Explorer**. This project was made possible by the generous donations of our community.

We have over **24,000 observation and avalanche field reports** in our database. The observation explorer allows users to quickly filter through these reports to find just the information they are looking for.

The Observation Explorer provides easy access to data that was otherwise very difficult to access. You can access this new tool from the Observations & Avalanches menu option on our website, or visit bit.ly/obexplorerAR.

PUBLIC SNOW & AVALANCHES OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED SINCE 2016



OBSERVATION DASHBOARD

TOTAL OBSERVATIONS STATEWIDE

1,869

REPORTED AVALANCHES

902

HUMAN TRIGGERED

356



A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.



"I just wanted to tell you how phenomenal your daily avalanche reports are. Incredibly informative, and easy to use."

Robert Stern | Utah

23|24 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Utah Avalanche Center Internship Program aims to offer unique and emerging opportunities to young and aspiring professionals in the snow, avalanche, and outdoor industry. From education to awareness, public speaking to fundraising, this internship is a one-stop-shop!

The UAC internship program provides an immersive experience in delivering avalanche awareness and education and nonprofit organization operations including running events and fundraising. Designed for individuals passionate about winter sports and outdoor recreation, this internship provides a unique opportunity to work alongside experienced professionals in the avalanche industry.

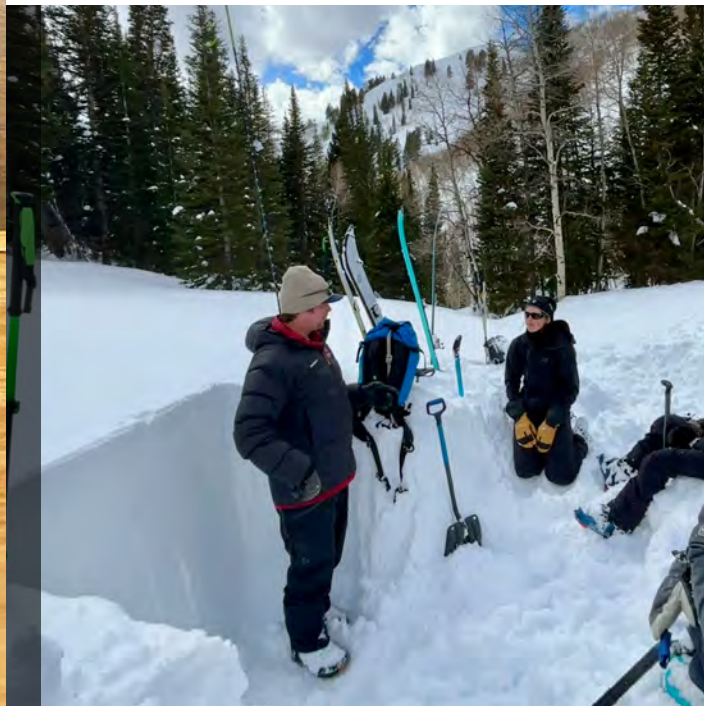
What started as a small opportunity for young and ambitious individuals has turned into a program, essential for the UAC and its awareness, education, and development success.

A key component of the internship is education and outreach. Interns assist with on-snow courses, classroom sessions, fundraising and development tasks, and delivering public presentations. The program is not limited to traditional snow profession tasks, and allows interns to be immersed in many different fields and aspects of the nonprofit UAC.

Interns receive guidance from experienced snow and industry professionals, educators, guides, forecasters, and more. Beyond technical skills, the internship cultivates teamwork, communication, and leadership abilities essential for working in any field. The program duration typically spans August to April, when our operations are in full-swing.

By participating in this program, interns not only enhance their own capabilities but also contribute to the safety and well-being of winter recreationists in Utah and beyond.

Overall, the Utah Avalanche Center internship program offers a rewarding experience for individuals interested in nonprofit business, outdoor education, snow, and avalanches. It equips interns with practical skills, theoretical knowledge, and professional connections necessary for pursuing careers further down the road in the outdoor industry or a nonprofit business.



23|24 COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

Our top priority is communicating lifesaving information to the public through accurate avalanche forecasts, weather updates, and educational materials.

Communicating avalanche information to the public is our highest priority, and we use various methods to ensure we do so effectively.

This highlights the importance of the UAC's mission to provide accurate avalanche forecasts, weather updates, and educational materials to the backcountry community.

Continued growth for the UAC website traffic, email engagement, mobile app usage, and social media interactions shows the community's reliance on UAC for timely information.

Our social media presence saw remarkable growth this year. On Facebook, our reach increased significantly, content interactions rose substantially, link clicks went up, and profile visits increased, gaining many new followers. On Instagram, our reach soared, content

interactions skyrocketed, link clicks surged, and profile visits rose dramatically, resulting in a significant number of new followers.

All of this growth was achieved organically.

This year, we worked with a communication consulting firm to enhance our strategies for staying ahead in the fast-paced growth of the internet and social media. Additionally, we organized an internal team to restructure our communication programs, covering social media, newsletters, graphic design, marketing, and video production.

Our dedicated team is committed to constantly improving the quality and effectiveness of our messaging to keep you informed and safe on The Greatest Snow on Earth®.

COMMUNICATION DASHBOARD

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

169K

TOTAL POSTS

807

POST IMPRESSIONS

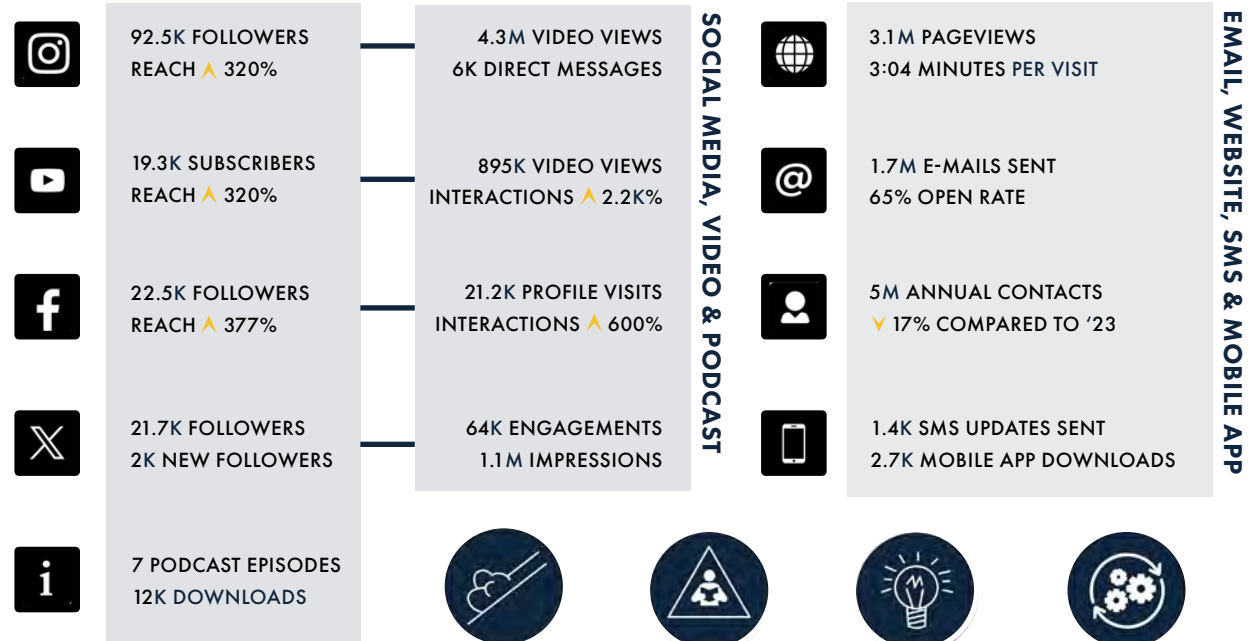
12.8M

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

1.7M

SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECT MESSAGES

6K





23|24 DEVELOPMENT & FUNDRAISING

This year, we saw remarkable growth and success in our development and fundraising efforts. We had two key highlights this season.

First, we welcomed **Kate Waller as our Development Director**. Kate brings a wealth of experience from both the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

Next, we launched our new membership program. **Set initially with a goal of 200 members, the program has exceeded expectations and attracted over 320 passionate supporters.** This overwhelming response underscores the strong community support for avalanche safety and education and provides a solid foundation for future growth and engagement with our mission.

Our partnership with the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation has also flourished, significantly enhancing our technological capabilities and forecasting efforts. Through the RTP Motorized and Non-motorized and OHVR grant programs, we have received substantial funding to support crucial projects.

These funds have enabled us to develop the new Observation Explorer tool, build our SMS notification system, install new weather stations in rural regions, and bolster our trailhead awareness program. These

technological advancements are pivotal in providing timely and accurate information to backcountry users, ensuring their safety and enhancing their experience.

In addition to these achievements, we have made significant strides in building our corporate partnership efforts. By forging new relationships with businesses and strengthening existing ones, we are creating a robust network of corporate supporters who are committed to our cause. These partnerships are essential not only for financial support but also for expanding our reach and impact. Collaborating with corporate partners has opened new avenues for funding, resources, and community engagement, which are vital for our continued success and sustainability.

Our year-end fundraising campaign capped off an incredible year with record-breaking success. **Thanks to the generous contributions of our community we raised an unprecedented \$277,000** to directly support avalanche forecasting across Utah. This milestone is a testament to the dedication of our community and the hard work of the staff, and volunteers.

As we look ahead, we are energized by these achievements and are committed to building on this momentum to further our mission of promoting avalanche safety and education.

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

1,638

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

\$407K

TOTAL NUMBER OF UAC MEMBERS

321

AVERAGE DONATION

\$341

DEVELOPMENT DASHBOARD



23|24 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Since 2000, backcountry use across Utah has surged, **growing approximately 20 times**. This rapid increase has driven a 25 times rise in the costs of providing avalanche forecasting, awareness, and education.

Despite **cumulative inflation of 75%** during this period, our efficiency has improved dramatically: for every dollar spend today, **we reach four times as many people as we did in 2000**.

The UAC remains financially robust, with an average asset growth rate exceeding **13% over the past 20 years**.

Our funding model is strong, with **82% of our program costs covered by the nonprofit UAC** through community and industry support, while the remaining **18% is sourced from federal, state, and county government funds**.

The steadfast support from the backcountry community and the outdoor industry is crucial to our continued success.

FEDERAL, STATE, & COUNTY
\$322,500

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$407,985

CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS
\$256,821

GRANTS
\$352,194

FUNDRAISING EVENTS
\$328,267

SALES OF GOODS
\$121,432

\$1,789,209

FORECASTING
\$759,226

EDUCATION
\$289,663

AWARENESS
\$562,724

DEVELOPMENT
\$54,406

ADMINISTRATION
\$26,035

\$1,692,054

REVENUE

EXPENSE

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

REVENUE

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

18%
FUNDRAISING

18%
FEDERAL, STATE & COUNTY

20%
GRANTS

14%
CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

7%
SALES OF GOODS

EXPENSE

33%
AWARENESS

3%
DEVELOPMENT

2%
GRANTS

45%
FORECASTING

17%
EDUCATION



23|24 SUPPORT & PARTNERS

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

- ◆ Canyonlands Natural History Association
- ◆ Chris and Ellen Rossi Charitable Fund
- ◆ George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
- ◆ Jennifer P. Speers Family Trust
- ◆ Park City Community Foundation
- ◆ Making A Difference Foundation
- ◆ Petzl Foundation
- ◆ Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
- ◆ Shrontz Family Foundation
- ◆ Snowbird, Play Forever Wednesdays
- ◆ Steiner Foundation
- ◆ Steven B. Achelis Foundation
- ◆ Vail EpicPromise
- ◆ W.L. Eccles Foundation

MOTORIZED SUPPORT

We would like to give a big thank you to Polaris and Ski-doo, along with Karl Malone Powersports SLC, Young Powersports, and Ultimate Outdoors, for their dedication to avalanche safety and support of the UAC. Snowmobiles are essential for our forecasters, enabling them to venture into the field to gather crucial snow and weather data for our forecasts, as well as engage with users in the backcountry.

This season they generously provided us with six snowmobiles, allowing us to have better access to terrain throughout the state in order to get you the most up-to-date avalanche information possible.

RESORT SUPPORT

Utah ski resorts once again graciously donated lift tickets to the UAC. We continue to enjoy a great relationship with the Utah resorts, communicating regularly on snow conditions and cooperating on avalanche education for professionals and the public.

Thank you to Ski Utah, Alta, Beaver Mountain, Brighton, Deer Valley, Park City Resort, Powder Mountain, Snowbasin, Snowbird, Solitude, and Sundance for supporting this program.



Avalanche forecasting provides the information necessary to stay safe in avalanche terrain. Our team publishes daily avalanche forecasts using field observations, stability testing, weather data, and other tools and technology.

FORECASTING



Avalanche awareness empowers anyone to understand the dangers of avalanches. Through Know Before You Go, trailhead events, and other outreach opportunities, our team provides free avalanche information to people of any experience level.

AWARENESS



Avalanche education is necessary to deepen one's knowledge as a backcountry user and prevent avalanche accidents. Our team provides on-snow education and continuing education for professionals and the general public.

EDUCATION



The UAC's programs are made possible by working toward a strategic vision of a resilient and financially stable organization. Our team works year-round to carry out essential planning, training, fundraising, and other operational tasks to fulfill the UAC's mission.

OPERATIONS



\$20K +



\$10K - \$20K




\$5K - \$10K



\$1K - \$5K



\$500 - \$1K

Want to see your logo on the sponsor page?
Scan the code, or visit to reach out to bit.ly/contactuacAR.

23|24 SUPPORT & PARTNERS

THANK YOU

The Utah Avalanche Center truly is a team effort; every individual donor, local business, sponsor, supporter, and community member plays a vital role in helping us Keep You on Top.

Thank you to each donor, business, sponsor and supporter who has helped to make our work possible for 44 years.



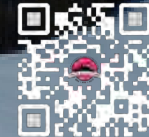
A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.



**FORECASTING
AWARENESS
& EDUCATION**

23 | 24

UNTIL NEXT TIME,
LET'S STAY CONNECTED!



Scan the code, or follow along here: bit.ly/linktreeAR



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**KEEPING YOU
ON TOP**
FOR 44 YEARS.



**THE UAC
MISSION**

The Utah Avalanche Center's mission is to keep people on top of The Greatest Snow on Earth[®] by providing avalanche forecasting, awareness, and education throughout the State of Utah.