

**From:** [Stephen Torbit](#)  
**To:** [John Guinotte](#); [Andrea Ray](#); [Joseph Barsugli - NOAA Affiliate](#)  
**Subject:** RE: avalanche chute database for CO  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 10:25:11 AM

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Thanks for taking a shot at this John. Maybe we can get some kind of representative samples from both sites.

On another topic, I have to back in the RO no later than 1:15 tomorrow, so if you want to visit the avalanche folks, I will have to drive separately.

Andrea and Joe, we have received several requests from our Ecological Services Program staff to attend the in person meetings at NOAA. John and I have fended them off so that we do not have to re-plow already plowed ground. However, one of our ES folks, Marj Nelson will be coming up with us tomorrow to begin to catchup on our work. Just wanted to give you guys a heads up.

Steve  
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**From:** Guinotte, John [mailto:[john\\_guinotte@fws.gov](mailto:john_guinotte@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 9:19 AM  
**To:** Stephen Torbit; Andrea Ray; Joseph Barsugli - NOAA Affiliate  
**Subject:** Fwd: avalanche chute database for CO

Dear All,

I did some digging around this am to try to obtain avalanche chute info for our study areas. I spoke to Mike below and Doug Scott from [avalanchemapping.org](http://avalanchemapping.org). Short story is remote areas are not well populated with data for chutes. Doug said DOTs, railroads, ski areas, military (Afghanistan) etc are the ones who pay to have this work done. Mike is going to send us what they have for RMNP (I sent him our shapefiles). He said we could stop by tomorrow if we want.

Doug said to do this right we'd need to overlay the DEMs with multiple sources of historical imagery to id chutes in the study areas and it is time consuming. He did say a quick way to ID would be to map areas > 20 deg slope, but it may not be very accurate. I could take a shot at this and see what we get. Lets talk about this tomorrow.

Best, John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cooperstein - DNR, Mike** <[mike.cooperstein@state.co.us](mailto:mike.cooperstein@state.co.us)>  
Date: Tue, Jan 17, 2017 at 8:46 AM  
Subject: Re: avalanche chute database for CO  
To: "Guinotte, John" <[john\\_guinotte@fws.gov](mailto:john_guinotte@fws.gov)>  
Cc: "Logan, Spencer" <[spencer.logan@state.co.us](mailto:spencer.logan@state.co.us)>

John:

Sure we will do what we can. Spencer Logan will be in the office tomorrow so feel free to stop in. We are in the NWS office on the third floor room 3C 509. Just open the door and come on in. I'll check to see if we have any defined avalanche paths in the study area this afternoon, but like I said, most of our defined paths are along transportation corridors or ski areas.

Coop

**Mike Cooperstein**  
**Avalanche Forecaster**  
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On Tue, Jan 17, 2017 at 8:37 AM, Guinotte, John <[john\\_guinotte@fws.gov](mailto:john_guinotte@fws.gov)> wrote:  
Hi Mike,

I appreciate you helping us here. We are working with NOAA/CU to develop predictive snow pack models for areas surrounding Rocky Mountain National Park and Glacier National Park. This effort is meant to help inform the species status assessment for the wolverine across its range. Wolverines den in avalanche chutes and we'd like to have a database of known chutes in our study areas so we can take a closer look at these areas with respect to future snow projections. I've attached two shapefiles with both of our study areas.

Many thanks,  
John

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