

Zone Homework

Provided by William "Willie" Webster

I assign a little more work in level 2. Each student chooses a different backcountry zone, some place well out of the area we're teaching the course in, preferably a different snowpack. Their job is to map out some potential runs/ zones with attention to slope angle, aspect, elevations, ect. Then they need to dig into the local advisory's archives and come up with a synopsis of the season's snowpack and weather history paying close attention to any PWLs. Lastly, they look at the current hazard and the weather forecast. This kind of 'assignment' could go on forever, so I encourage them not to overdo it, just look for the main trends. Students can share with one another what they discovered and any issues they had in doing research. Students found this valuable because many of them looked into areas that they were planning on visiting that season.