

# **Avalanche Hazard Zones of Hinsdale County and Town of Lake City, Colorado.**

## **A Preliminary Assessment.**

### Highway 149 - South

#### Belle of the West

Description: Two south to south west facing areas, approximately 1100' in height. Ground cover is ponderosa pine, fir and spree.

Hazards: These two slide areas rarely hold snow but for short periods of time. Evidence shows these have avalanched in the past. These would over run the highway.

Mitigation: Road closures.

Conclusions: Identification and inclusion in a highway plan.

### Highway 149 - North

#### Valley Veiw Ranch

Description: A large south facing hill side, 900' in height and .5 miles in width. average angle is 45 degrees. Ground cover is spree, talus, cliffs, fir and ponderosa pine.

Hazards: This area could avalanche and would over run the highway.

Mitigation: Road closures.

Conclusions: Identification and inclusion in a highway plan

#### Lake Fork Canyon

Description: Cliffs with catch basins in upper areas. This area is as much as 740' in height and is 1.6 miles in length.

Hazards: This entire area along the Lake Fork of the Gunnison would an area of high avalanche danger during periods of catastrophic snows.

Mitigation: Road closures.

Conclusions: Identification and inclusion in a highway plan.

This report was prepared as a public service by Eric E. Larson for the Hinsdale County Emergency Services. This preliminary report only identifies areas of hazard. Hazard plans and avalanche studies are needed to explore the full extent of these problem areas, and to offer solutions to deal with these hazard zones in the future.

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