# The 1999 slide of Avalanche pass

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## Introduction

In the March of 1999 a landslide occurred in the High Peaks area of the Adirondacks. The landslide obscured the Avalanche Pass Trail and some materials moved into a nearby lake. We hope to gain a better understanding of the Avalanche Pass landslide and similar Adirondack landslides. We also hope to determine the stability of the landslide area and determine the possible hazard of similar Adirondack landslides.

## Work Plan

Due to the climate of the area we intend to conduct all field observations and measurement in one day and before the weather (snow) makes it impossible for this year.

We intend to hike into the area using the Avalanche Pass trail. We will take several GPS readings for the area. While there we will conduct at least, a basic simple survey of the topography, considering the remoteness of the area and the possibly treacherous (steep exposed bedrock or unstable soil) slide a very thorough survey may not be possible. This survey will be used to later calculate and determine the volume that slide, and the sheer stress before the slide (and after). While in the area we will photograph the slide and other topographic features that may have influenced or been influenced by the slide.

After our field measurements we will look for aerial photos and topographic maps of the area for slide scars and possibly the underlying substrate. We will also use weather history data from the Whiteface and Paul Smith weather stations near to our site to determine the cause for the ’99 slide.

## Conclusion

By thoroughly examining the area we will attempt to prove the hypothesis that the 1999 avalanche pass landslide was caused by unstable substrate and above average amount of rain in 1998. We will determine if the slide was stabilized by revegetation or compete loss of loose soil over bedrock.

## Materials List

GPS
Altimeter
Tape measurer
Maps
Compass