

Avalanches

Under certain conditions the snow that has built up in the mountains will slide off as **avalanches**. In springtime especially the rain thaws the snow and causes avalanches. Avalanche debris remains in shaded areas, like the upper **Bealey** Valley, well into the summer (see Photo Gallery).

Avalanches can be triggered by an unwary skier or climber crossing a snow slope. In places where avalanches occur often, a distinct well-worn **avalanche path** is left. The trees and shrubs in these areas never get a chance to become fully grown. This can be seen in the upper Bealey Valley.