

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest administers the most complex avalanche mitigation program in the U.S. In the early 1980's, public use was expanding into avalanche prone areas requiring more sophisticated use of avalanche control methods including military weapons, avalaunchers (1), hand charges and helicopter use. With this came emphasis on employee safety including the importance of visibility from a distance and above. We felt that the standard all green or reversible orange was not the optimum visible color. We identified that ski area snow safety employees that had coats with a yellow yoke were the most visible. Accordingly, the Forest submitted a proposed green winter coat with a yellow yoke to the National Forest Service Uniform Standards Committee. The Committee approved the proposed green with yellow yoke winter coat and the Forest locally sourced the new coat.

Robert M. Cron
Oct. 2022

- (1) The Avalauncher has been an integral tool for avalanche mitigation work for close to 50 years. With their ability to place a kilogram of high explosives up to two thousand meters away, they routinely serve as a short-range alternative to military artillery