

CLOUDS SECOND REPORT

MORGAN BENNINGER

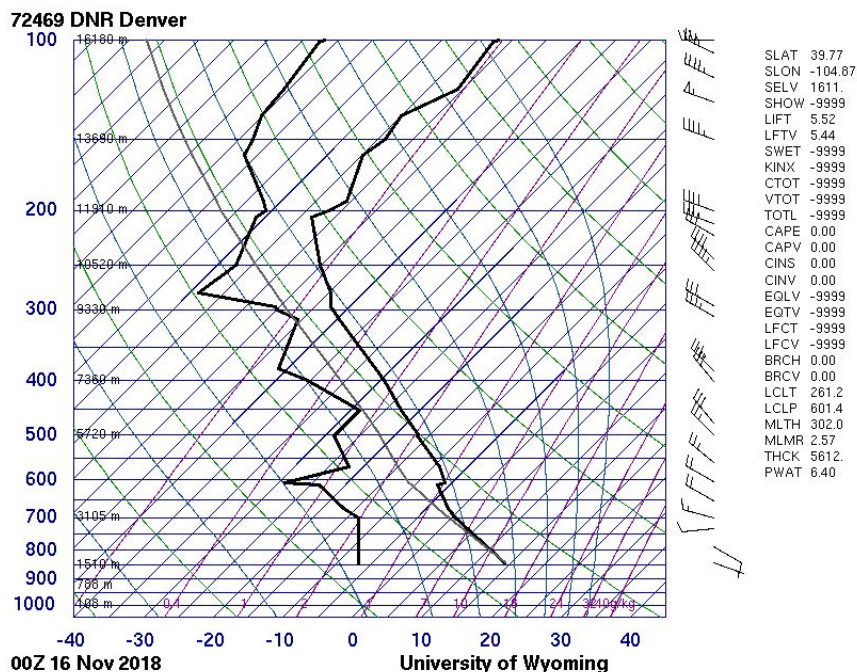
MCEN 4151-01



The purpose of this assignment was to give students an opportunity to further photography and creative skills in the form of photographing a cloud. This project offered a creative approach to understanding atmospheric happenings and types of weather system formations. Each student captured a different atmospheric condition and represented it in an image with a personal artistic touch. The particular phenomenon captured in the corresponding image are stratus and cumulus clouds in the later hours of the day. The heightened viewpoint of the image and the contrast of the colors in the clouds derived from the lighting at sunset and the development of the clouds.

The clouds captured in the foreground of this image are in the category or “class” of stratus. These clouds are easily identified by their thin wispy nature, low position, and lack of vertical development. The background of the image possibly shows some cumulus clouds with slightly more vertical development. The image was taken on November 16th and the CAPE at this time was zero. This indicates that the atmosphere was stable, which is consistent with the clouds we see in the foreground of the image; however, this does not fully align with the cumulus clouds in the background which usually indicate a more unstable atmosphere. Given that this image shows boulder valley, which happens to be right by the mountains, it is fair to assume that the reason for the development of the unstable clouds is the proximity to the

mountains. Mountains can have an unstable affect on local atmosphere.



The visualization techniques found in this image mostly derive from the natural lighting and perspective of the image. It is possible to see the vertical development of the cumulus clouds more clearly because the image was taken from a position above the valley ground level. This also allows the entirety of the stratus cloud to be visualized. Using the light at dusk gives color, shadows, and thus depth to the sky that would otherwise not be present that lend a hand in representing the atmospheric interactions taking place. The contrast between the stratus and cumulus clouds derived from the variation in light they were each receiving, helps differentiate the two and their development.

The setup for this image is rather straightforward. Because it is just a picture of a cloud no real controlling of the platform was necessary. The only preparatory measures taken to get the capture where to get a heightened viewpoint, and to wait until a time of day with more pleasing lighting. The camera used to take the image was an iPhone 6, with its default

landscape settings. The perspective and sunlight combined with the development of the clouds themselves all lend themselves to a successful image.

There were relatively small adjustments and postprocessing added to this image. The first and most important step in creating the final product was to crop out a bit of the unnecessary information. The next step was to highlight all of the colors in the image and to differentiate between the types of clouds, and their lighting. This involved a few simple adjustments in the form of increasing the saturation and also increasing the contrast. In the end these adjustments in combination with the perspective and natural lighting produced an aesthetically pleasing image that accurately captures the atmospheric conditions.