

Megan

Firestone

Cloud 2

11/15/07

Clouds 2

On the day i photographed this image, there was a cold front heading into Boulder. The purpose of this project was to capture an image of clouds and describe the type phenomena and weather conditions behind the photo. I wanted to capture the clouds during a sunset in order to see the vibrant color variation that occurs in boulder. I took this picture around 5:20 PM on november 8, at the bottom of baseline and 8th street. I was looking towards the mountains while standing on a roof top platform directly across from the mountains when the photo was taken.

I shot this image with a canon EOS. The shutter speed was at 1/90 while the aperture was f 4.1. It was hard to capture an in focus image while trying to keep the intensity of the colors of the clouds. The focal length was 11.80 mm. Considering the natural lighting of the sky and outside light source a flash was not needed. If a flash was used it would have taken away from the natural setting of the sky light. Photo shop was used only to intensify the contrast of the image, not to alter the phenomena seen in the original photograph. The ISO speed was at 149. All the images photographed were taken in raw footage.

Strato clouds is the type of cloud i photographed because they are uniform, flat and thick to thin layered clouds. The clouds consist of a low layer that can cover the entire sky like a blanket, bringing generally gray and dull weather. There was a cold front heading in at the time i shot this photograph, therefore bringing in the low clouds coverage seen in this image.

Since this image was captured during a sunset the low-level clouds absorb the reflection of the brightly colored light source from the sunset in process. The cloud bases are usually only a few hundred feet above the ground. Over hills and mountains they can reach ground level when they may be called fog. Also, as fog lifts off the ground due to daytime heating, the fog forms a layer of low stratus clouds.

This condensation (cloud formation) happens when warm and cold air meet, when warm air rises up the side of a mountain and cools as it rises, and when warm air flows over a colder area, like a cool body of water. Therefore I feel the clouds I photographed are considered to be alto-stratus rather than strato-cumulus. The long, flat brightly colored cloud you see in the photo represents the strato layer of clouds which are developed during the time when a cold front is heading in.

The image I chose to use for this project intrigues me because of the blanket of colors seen overlaying the city horizon. I enjoy the image because the clouds stand out in vibrance over the silhouette seen below it. The pink, orange and yellow tones displayed, emphasize the intensity of the sunset and allow the viewers to understand the time of day in which the image was captured. Visually this image captured my attention more than the others I took because of the contrast of colors seen, along with the visual element of a cloud parallel to the buildings below.