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This image was taken for our second cloud assignment. I always have a camera with me and try to capture as many cloud images as possible. For the last assignment I used a classic mountain wave shot over Boulder. I wanted to use a different location and feel for the second image so I chose one taken in Rocky Mountain National Park in full winter conditions. The clouds in the image were unique to my other images.

As mentioned, this image was taken in Rocky Mountain National Park, overlooking a large cirque. The camera was facing nearly dead west at a nearly horizontal angle. The shot was taken at approximately 4:30 PM MST on 2/24/12.

The clouds look mainly to be cumulo-stratus that have possibly deteriorated from nimbo-stratus. The image was taken at a very windy spot (clouds are hovering over continental divide in the image). This was even a particularly windy day for this spot. It felt like the gusts were at least 35 mph and up to 50mph. It had been snowing on and off for the previous night and day and the clouds were just beginning to clear up on this day (3-6in of snowfall). The height of the clouds in the image is fairly easy to ascertain because the ridgeline they are sitting on is right at 13,000ft. They don't seem to be more than a few hundred feet above the top of the ridgeline. One of the more interesting aspects of the image is the haze that is caused by blowing snow. This is a sort of a cloud of its own. As indicated, below, the skew-T (Denver) from this day doesn't show any significant cloud activity. This activity seemed very localized and specific.

The size of field of view is pretty massive. The content in the frame stretches probably at least a mile in all directions (beside foreground). The object is at least a mile away from the lens (only about 1,000 feet above me at the highest. The f number was 22. The exposure time was 1/640 sec. The ISO was set to 360. I was using my 4mm fish eye lens on my Canon EOS 7D (2/3 chip). The size of the image is 5,148x3456 pixels. In Photoshop I darkened the image a bit and made it black and white.

Overall, I was very pleased with this image. It was a nice change from my first image of the class. I wish that the clouds jumped out more as being the star of the image, but other than that I am very pleased with it and thinks it looks lovely.

Works Cited

“University of Colorado Weather Network”. Current Weather Archive. <http://atoc.colorado.edu/index>. 4/15/2012.

“University of Wyoming Department of Atmospheric Sciences”. Weather Sounding Archive. <http://weather.uwyo.edu/upperair/sounding.html>. 4/15/2012.