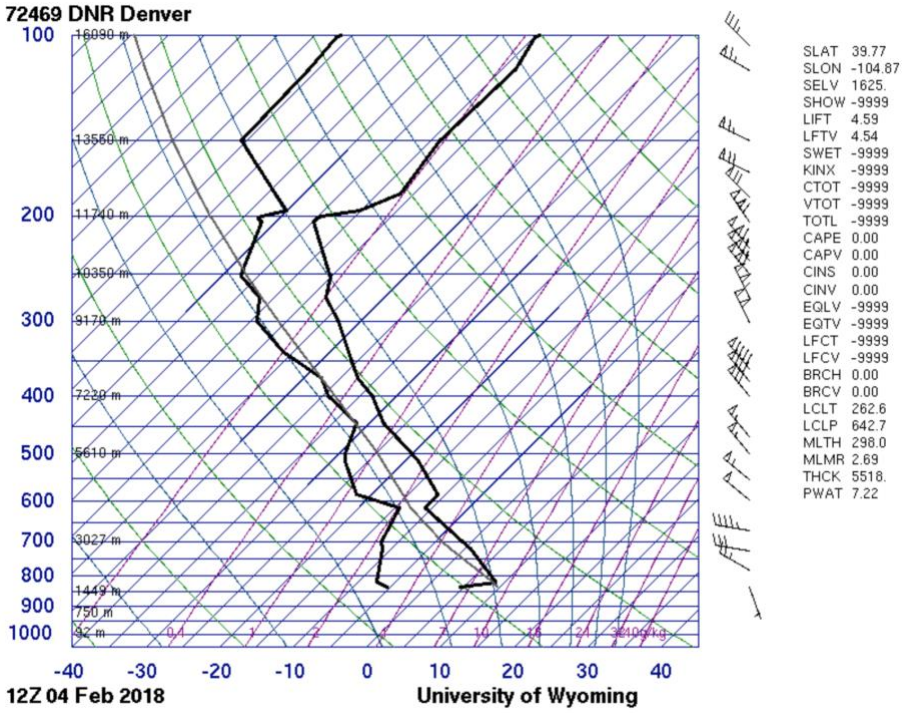
This image was taken for the first clouds assignment. The purpose behind taking this one in particular was to show how the mountains can manipulate the flow. I wanted to wait till around sunset to allow for light to shine brightly behind the mountains, and show different colors the sun can give the sky. I was wanted to get a cloud that would cover the sky like a blanket but still show the landscape. The goal was to portray as much of the front range as I could capture going down to a specific point.

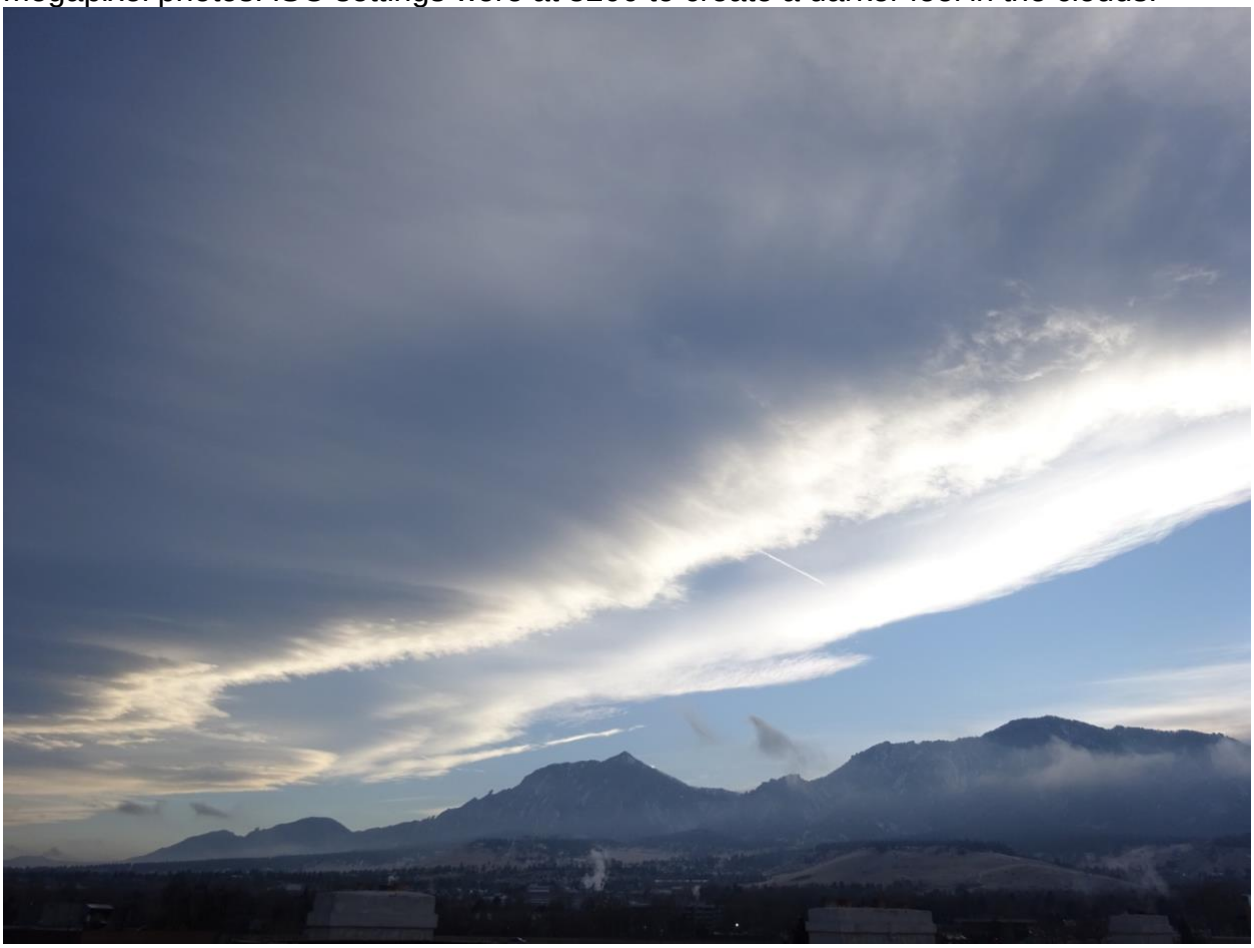
I chose to take this photo on top of my apartment building to get to the highest point that shows this angle of the Flat Irons. I enjoyed having open view without buildings or other distracting objects in the way. This is near Baseline and 28th street in Boulder, Colorado. The apartment building, I was on is about 50ft tall on my patio deck. The goal was to angle the camera level with the base of the mountains, so at about an angle of 0 degrees. This is facing east and a little bit south on a Sunday evening in February around 5 P.M.

The clouds in this image are stratus clouds with wave clouds caused by the mountains. There are layers that are clearly shown in the image which shows they are stratus. The lower broken off clouds formed from the mountain induced wave cloud. There are a few specific aspects of this image that I focused on capturing. First being the lights shining off the other side of the stratus clouds. It shows the bright sun reflecting off of it, while the other parts of the cloud have a dark storm feel to it. The clouds also have a similar diagonal slope as the front range of the mountains. They seem to converge to the same point in the lower left side of the image. In that same corner, the mountains are further away so they are much smaller, while still showing the same ratio of clouds and mountains. The sky is still blue since the sun has not completely set yet so it has a nice overall color.



The past few days leading up to when this photo was taken, it was colder days. This day in particular started to warm up which causes stratus clouds to form. Warm, wet air is blowing over the cold ground which then allows the water vapor in the warm air to condense. Then from their the clouds rise up to their stability level, that happens to be right above the mountain peaks.

The horizontal field of view is roughly two miles going down the front range. Vertical field of view is about 6000ft. The distances vary in this photo since it has images that are much closer than others. The main focus is the start of the clouds, so that is around 2000 meters above the ground. To take this photo, I used a Sony DSC-WX350 camera. It is a digital point and shoot style camera. It has the ability to take 18.2 megapixel photos. ISO settings were at 3200 to create a darker feel in the clouds.



This is the original photo taken. I cropped out the top of the building and edited the sharpness to increase the cloud edges. I also increased the saturation and lowered the contrast. This seemed to have the desired effect to show the feel the clouds and surroundings gave off. This image achieved my intentions of covering the sky with a blanket of water. Another part I thought added to this photo is the plane flying out of the clouds going into the deep of the mountains. I would also like to get the mountains darker while still showing the low hanging wave clouds in front. Overall I really enjoyed the outcome of this image.

MCEN 4151 Clouds Report Stratus Clouds 2/4/18, 5:00 P.M. Zachary Marshall