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Clouds First Report
MCEN-5151
March 19, 2018

This image was taken in an effort to show stratocumulus clouds. Stratocumulus clouds can have a very fluffy effect, in a way that can make them look like a painting. The cropped image in figure 3 shows this in a way that can hardly be seen in the uncropped image in figure 2.

This picture was taken in Longmont Colorado, on March 4, 2018, at about 5:00 pm. I was being driven back to Boulder, so the photograph is taken in the southwest direction, and the camera was almost parallel to the horizon.

As mentioned earlier, these are stratocumulus clouds. Stratocumulus clouds rarely precipitate, but very often show up just before or just after a storm. In this case, a storm was approaching. They generally are around a height between 2,000 and 6,500 feet, which is pretty low among the different cloud types. This is verified in figure 2, as they look quite low compared to the horizon. The skew-T diagram for this time is shown in figure 1 below.

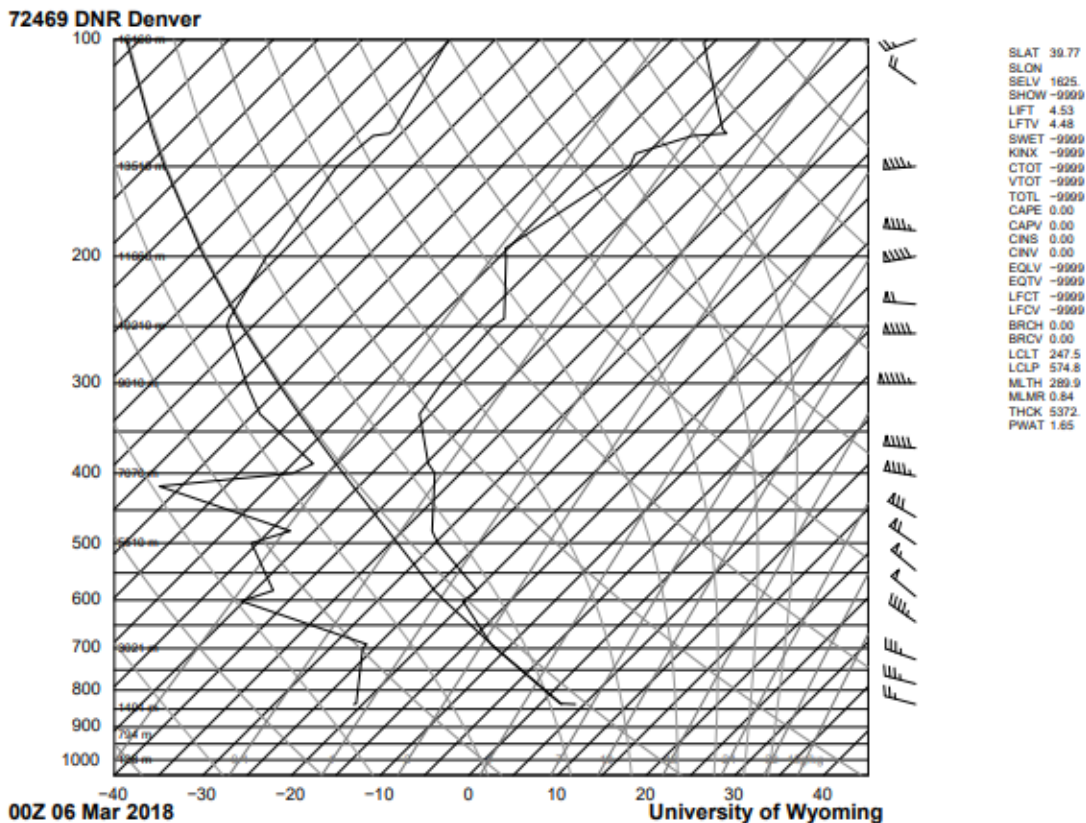


Figure 1: Skew T Diagram, March 6, 0000z

The cropped image (figure 3), comes from the upper right corner of the uncropped, original image (figure 2). The details below are all about figure 3. The field of view is a few hundred feet. The clouds are about a mile in the air, and 2 or 3 miles in front of us, so they are likely around 3 miles away from the camera. The camera used is an iPhone 8. The only manipulation from the original image to the final was cropping.



Figure 2: Original Photograph

The image was not altered apart from cropping in an attempt to show that these types of clouds really do look fluffy. I think that this image does a pretty good job of that, although it is a little bit blurry. I like that on the right side of the image, you can just start to see the clouds getting darker, showing that a storm front is coming in, but it is subtle.



Figure 3: Final, Edited Photograph