

Clouds First

Cumulus Humilis

CVEN 5153

09/12/2026

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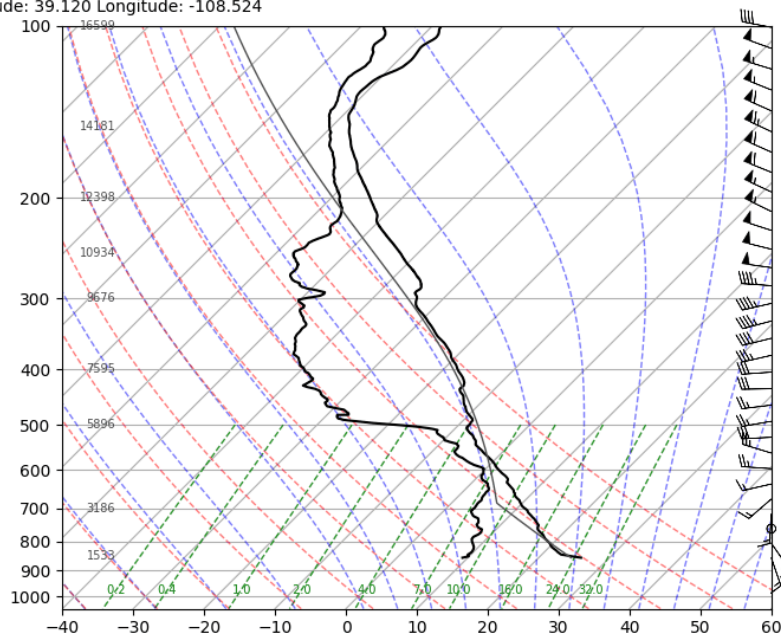


The purpose of this image was to take a picture of and identify a cloud. My goal with the image I took was to capture clouds at high elevation to see a different angle and be able to compare with cloud images taken at a lower elevation.

This image was taken from the top of Mount Sherman at 14,000'. It was taken facing East Northeast at 7:55 am. The camera was angled roughly 30 degrees above the horizon.

The main focus of the image is the lone cumulus humilis cloud in the center of the image. This classification is mostly based on the appearance of the cloud as it is small, "fluffy" looking and is not part of any other cloud formation. There was a very strong wind moving west to east up the mountains due to the sun rising and differential heating. There also appears to be a front approaching far in the background that isn't interacting with the main cloud in the image. It is not known what the clouds were like the previous day. There were no precipitation events within a few hours of the photo taken, but it did snow roughly 12 hours later, likely due to the front that can be seen approaching in the background. The skew-T chart for Grand Junction at 18 UTC is included below.

Station 72476 at 18 UTC 12 Sep 2026
GRAND JUNCTION/WALKER FIELD, CO., USA
Latitude: 39.120 Longitude: -108.524



University of Wyoming Atmospheric Science

This skew-T shows a conditionally unstable atmosphere with the lifting condensation level at 650 mb which is approximately 12,000'. This inconsistency between the skew-T and the actual conditions observed is likely due to differences in the air mass caused by the extreme elevation differences in the ground level between the Grand Junction site and the peak of Mount

Sherman. Because of this the estimate for the cloud height is based entirely off of observations. The estimated cloud height is roughly 18,000' above sea level. The prevailing wind upwards and eastwards likely had a hand in this cloud formation as moist cool air was driven higher by the winds.

FOV	
Distance	6400 ft
Lens Specs	8.8mm - 36.8 mm
Camera Type	Canon Powershot G7X mk2
Original Image Size	5472 x 3648 pixels
Edited Image Size	5472 x 2876 pixels
Aperture	11
Shutter Speed	1/2000 s
ISO	1000
Editing	Just Cropped to center cloud of interest



Unedited cloud photo

As described above the image shows a cumulus humilis cloud in the morning light briefly after sunset. I really like the generally peaceful feeling of the image and I feel like the lighting and colors do a very good job communicating when the image was taken due to the more muted sky and slight pinkish undertones. I also feel that it does a good job communicating the physics as the whole cloud is centered well and the boundaries are clearly visible without feeling overly harsh. I also feel that the higher elevation had the desired effect of being able to see the cloud slightly more in profile rather than just from below. I'm very happy with this image in particular and don't think there is anything I'd like to improve about it. In the future it would be cool to take more photos from a high elevation and try to get a good image of a front like the one in the back from a better location.