

Logan Moore

2026 Cloud First

MCEN 4151 - 001

Monday, 19, 2026

Stratocumulus

October 6th, 6:30 pm

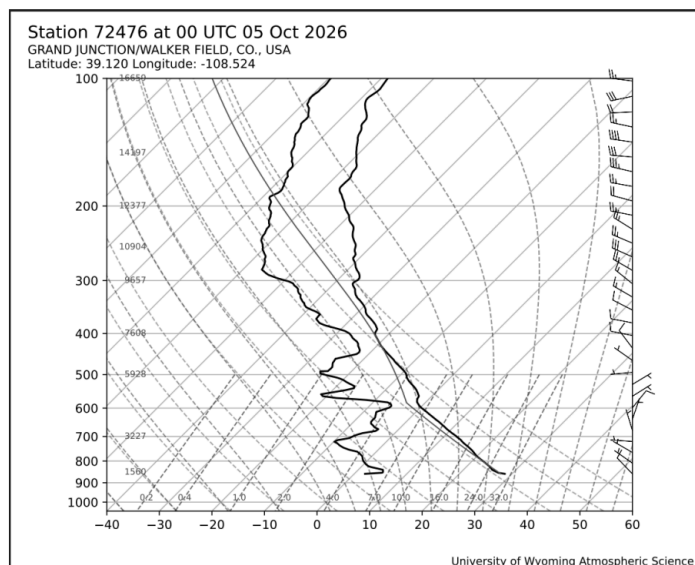
2026 Cloud First Report

Introduction

The Cloud First assignment is to take a picture of clouds and identify what kind of clouds they are based on their elevation and stability. For the picture I took, I wanted to capture the cloud with the sunset in it. I left the CU Rec at 6:30 and went down the skybridge to the Boulder Creek Path, where I stopped to take a picture of the clouds, facing northwest. My camera was tilted up a little but was pretty much horizontal.

Cloud Type and Stability

The clouds in the image are Stratocumulus. The Skew-T plot shows the clouds are at



about 4600 meters above sea level. The clouds are unstable because the line is to the left of the adiabat. The rest of the sky was very fair that day, with clouds all around but no signs of rain or thunderstorms all day. There had been

little wind around CU campus. This all leads to the clouds being stratocumulus as they are unstable clouds below 6,500 m above sea level.

Photography Technique

To take this photo I used the iPhone 15 which has an FOV of about 71 degrees. The cloud I photographed was about 2,800 meters away from the lens vertically and an estimated 900 meters away horizontally, even though it probably spans a mile. So, based on these rough calculations, the big cloud I captured is about 3,000 meters from the lens. The lean focal length is 26 mm. The original size is 5712 x 4284. There was no cropping. The aperture is 1.6, the shutter speed is 1/136 s, and the ISO is 32. To edit the image I increased the exposure and color contrast to make the sunset brighter in the clouds.

Original	Edited
	

Reflection

This image shows how large the clouds were at this time of day and how unstable they were, as you can see from the streaks in the clouds. It illustrates the sunset by capturing it in the clouds. I really like the picture; however, I wish I had edited it differently so there wasn't as much of a bright spot in the clouds.