

Colorado Classics - Our Legendary Storms

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**Colorado
State
University**
Knowledge to Go Places



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1888

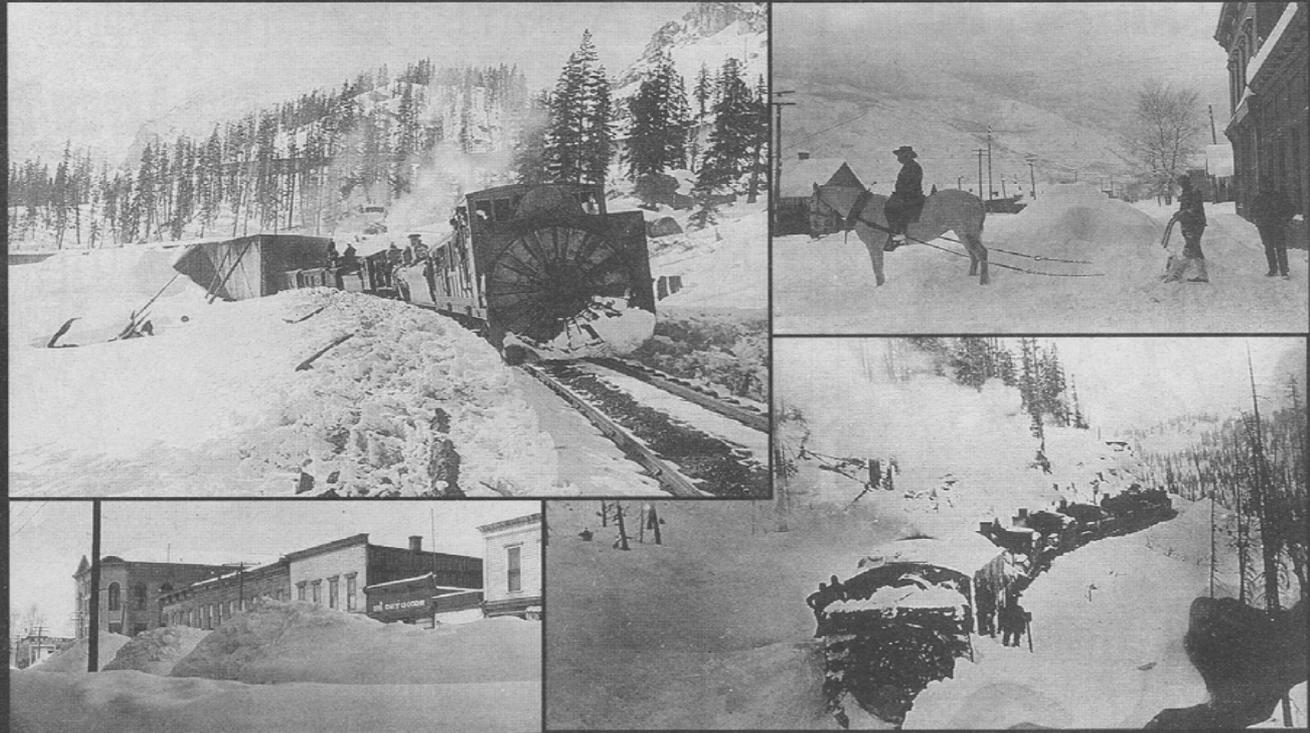


Colorado Historical Society, Call Number: MCC-3233

1899 January

- Huge mountain snow halted railroad traffic. Resulted in several deaths.

The legendary blizzard of '99



Photos courtesy of the Aspen Historical Society

1913 December



Colorado Historical Society

- Incredible Front Range snowstorm dumped 30-50 inches of fairly wet snow everywhere from Trinidad to Fort Collins.

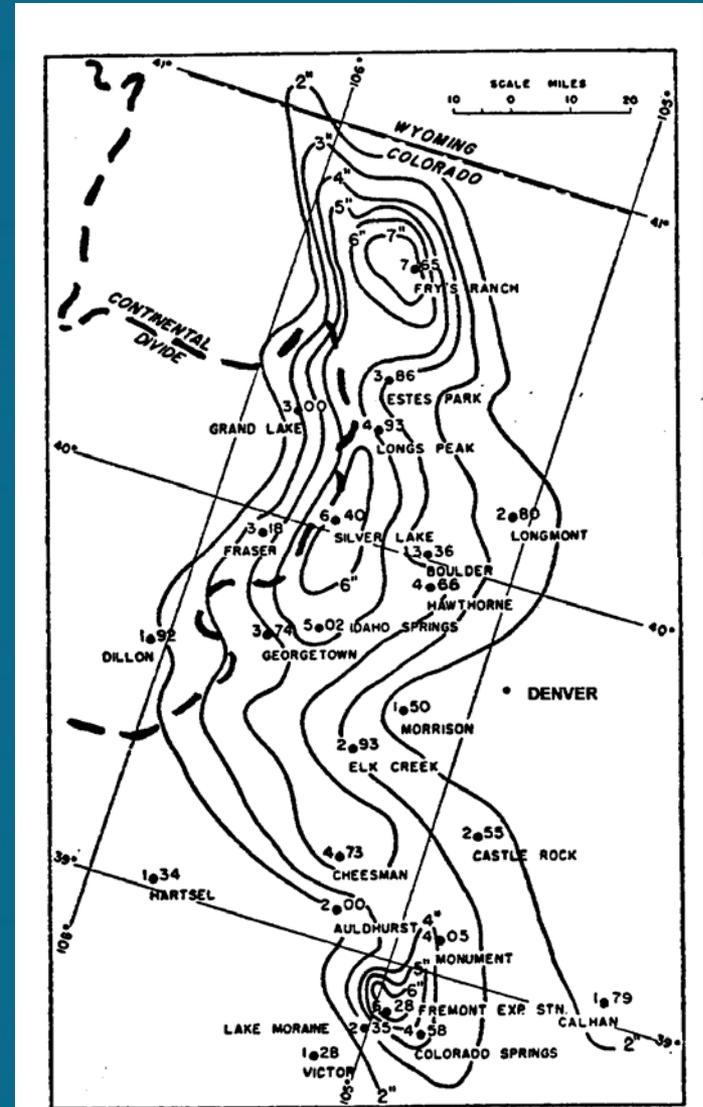


1913 blizzard in Colorado Springs
Ellis collection #93-1-P636

1921 April 15th

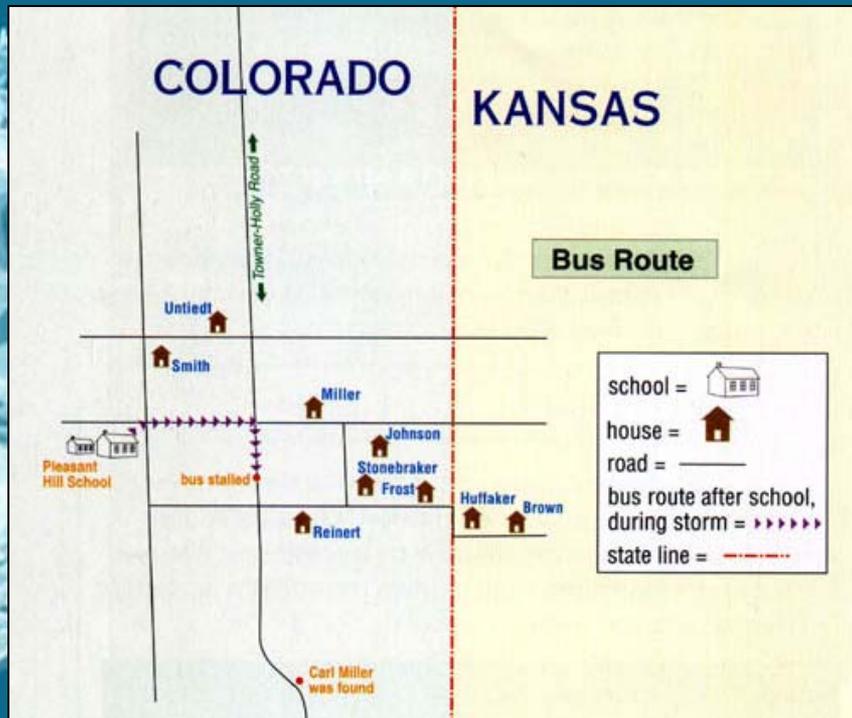
- Foothills snow-storm dropped 75.8 inches of snow at Silver Lake (above Boulder) in just 24 hours – a North American record!

Total Storm Precipitation
April 14-15, 1921
from Paulus (1953).



Mar 28, 1931

- Blizzard near Eads. School bus catastrophe, several children died



School bus where five children and the bus driver perished. March 28, 1931 (Ellis Photo, Alva, OK)



Pleasant Hill Elementary Classes 1931

1934

- Dust Blizzards and Hard Times!



Dust Bowl Cloud in the Midwest



Photo by John Haynes

John Haynes Cheyenne Wells, CO 2002

1946 November



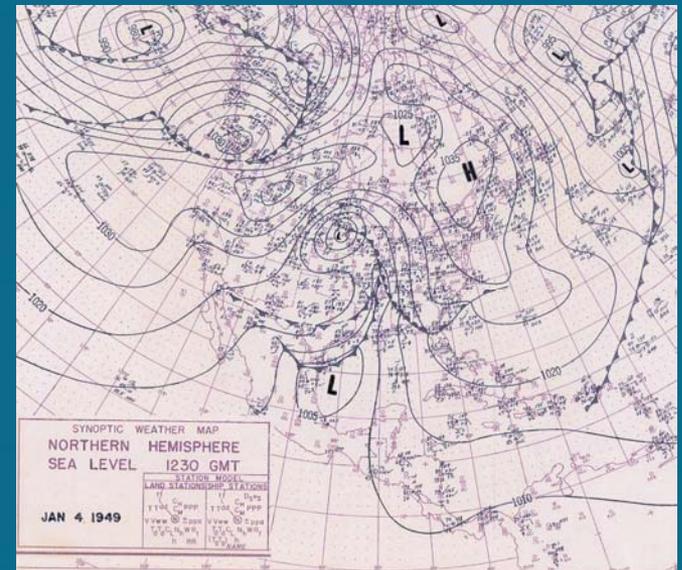
- Lengthy snowstorm clobbered eastern Colorado with 20-50 inches of snow and high winds. At least 13 people died.

1949 January

- Severe cold and high winds accompanied a modest snowfall claiming seven human lives and thousands of animals in northeast Colorado



Colorado Historical Society, residence in Keota, Colorado



1951 December 29-31

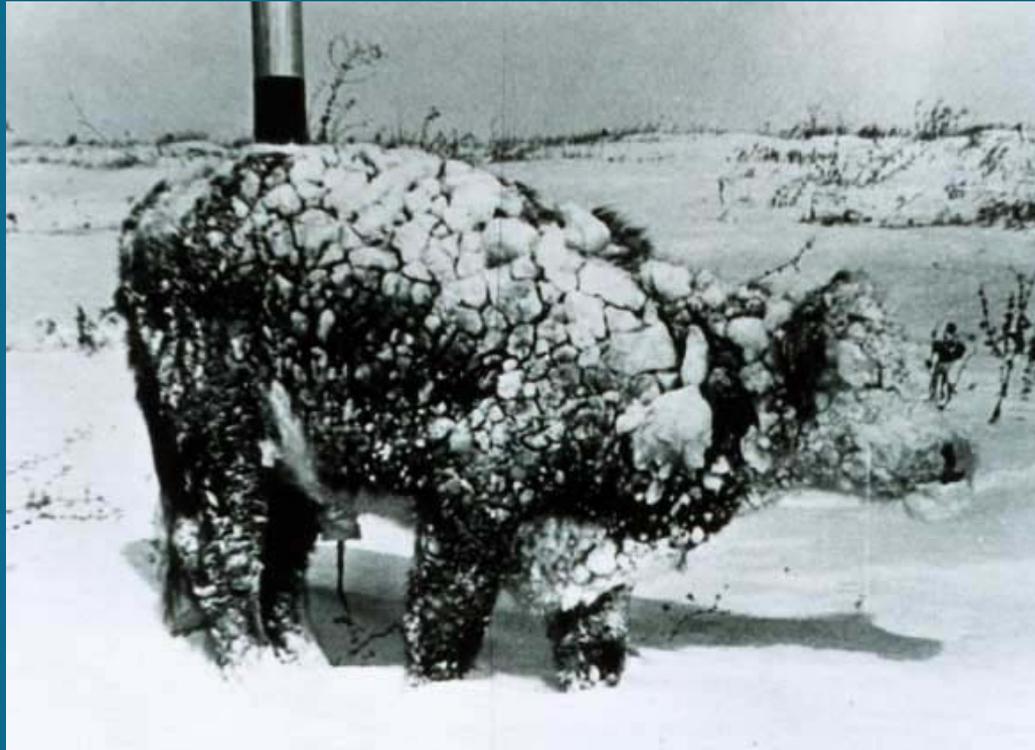
- Snow blitz



Colorado Historical Society, Call Number: RR-589

1977 March

- Blizzard on the plains which killed nine people



1978 May

- Late snow-storm on Front Range



Trail Ridge Road at elevation 12,000 feet in Rocky Mountain National Park, May 26, 1978.

1979-80

- Big winter of snow for this season
- Wolf Creek Pass record seasonal snowfall of 837.5 inches!



DESCRIPTION

Picture taken looking toward the southwest. Snow stick was attached to the standpipe gage faced toward observer's residence. Stick was attached by bolting it to angle-iron which in turn was bolted to the standpipe at the joint of the first and second section.



DESCRIPTION

Picture was taken looking toward the east. Climatological equipment can be seen in the distance just to the left of the first step on standpipe gage.

1982 December 24

- Christmas Eve blizzard shut down Denver and parts of northeast Colorado

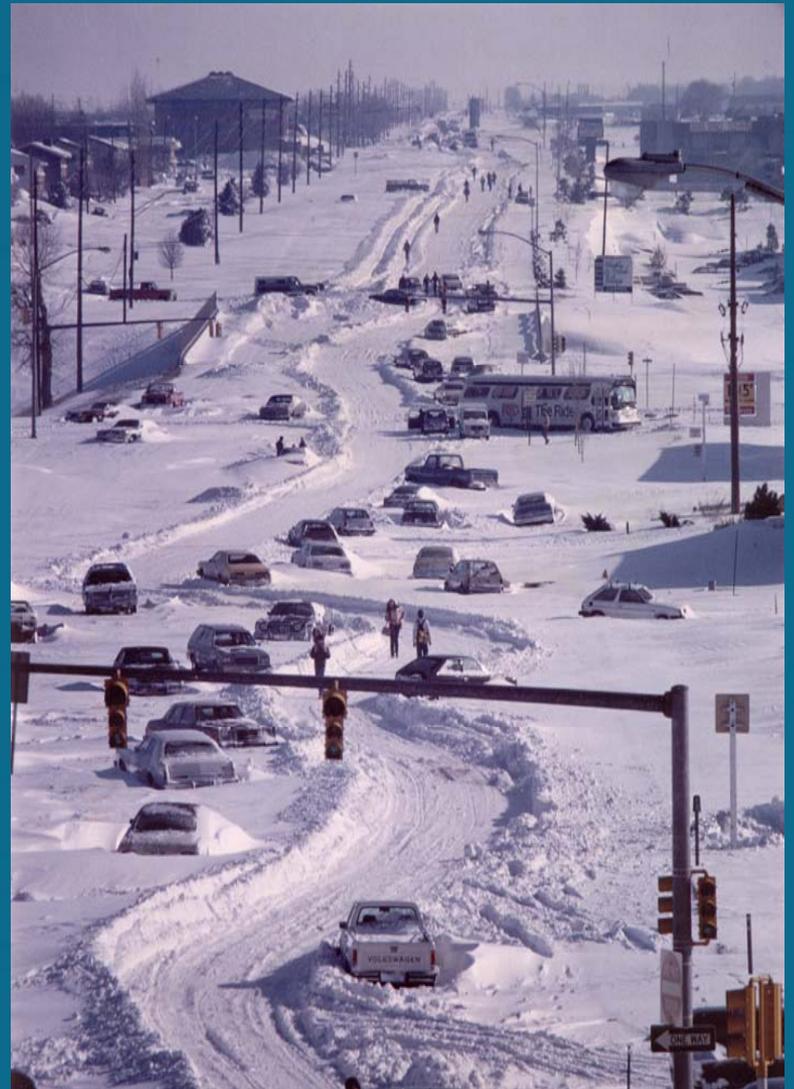
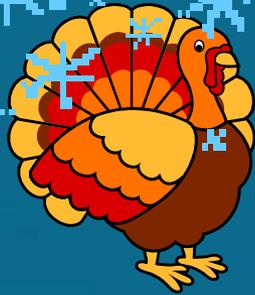


Photo by James Wiesmueller

1983 November

- Thanksgiving blizzard



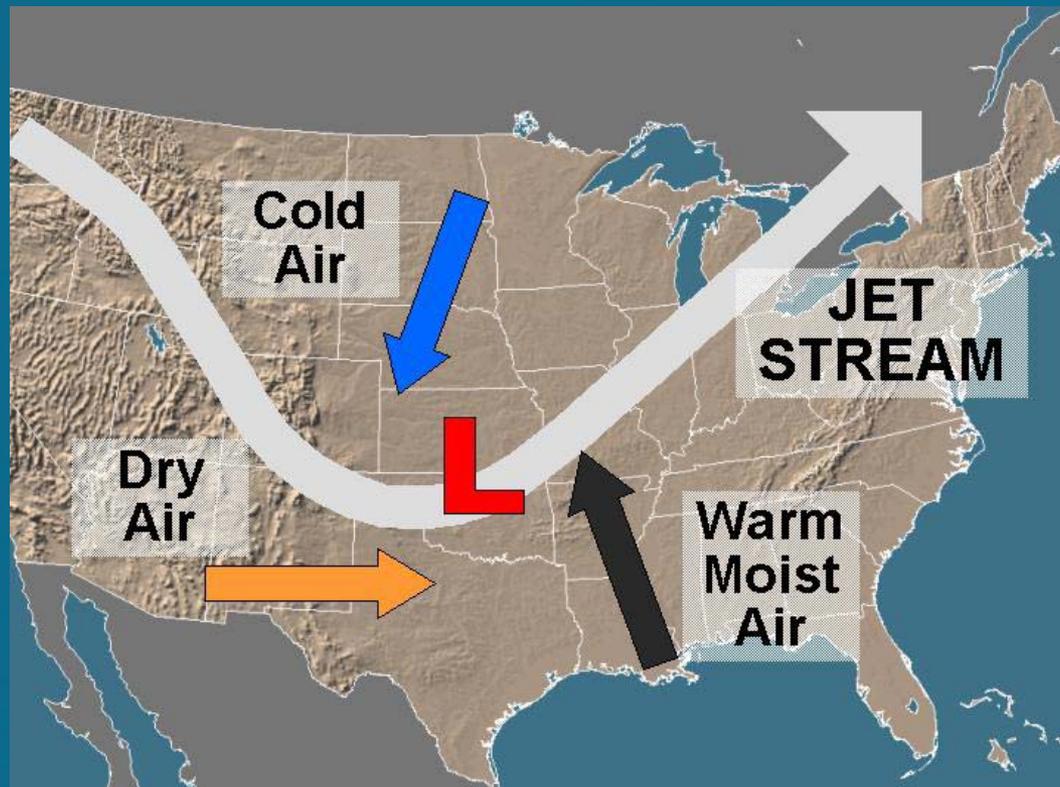
1983 Nov-Dec

- Mountain snow blitz
- Snow fell 49 out of 53 days from 11/8 through 12/31 for a total of 214.5" at Berthoud Pass.



1989 February

- Alaska Blaster – heavy snow with subzero temperatures east and west of mountains



1990 March



- Front Range snowstorm was so dense that snow-plows bogged down and many trees and power-lines were downed or damaged.

Photo by Joel Radtke

1994 July 4th

- Mountain snowstorm in July cancels fireworks

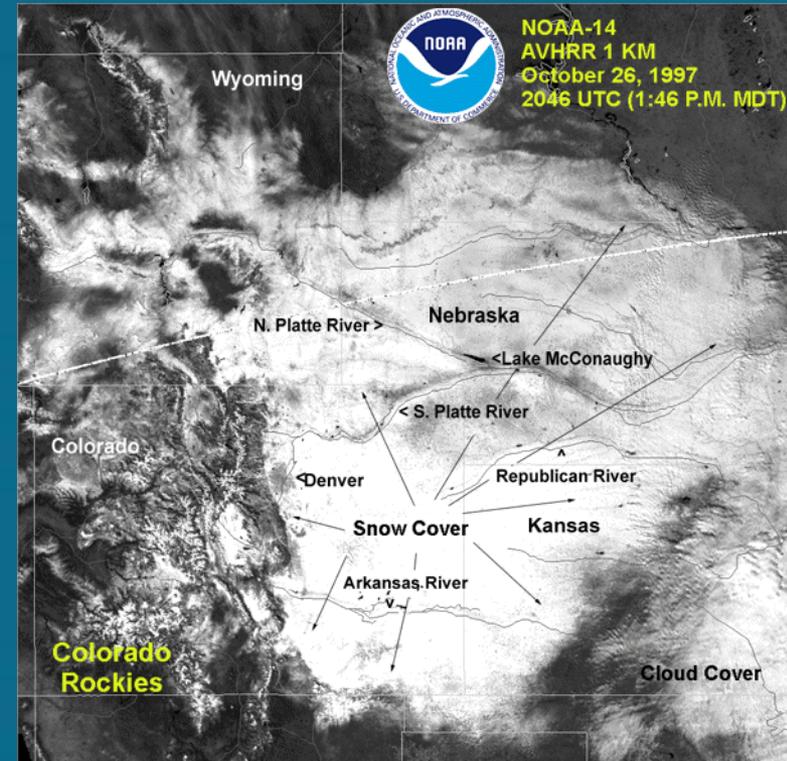


1997 October

- Southeast Colorado blizzard



Drift outside Pueblo NWS Office

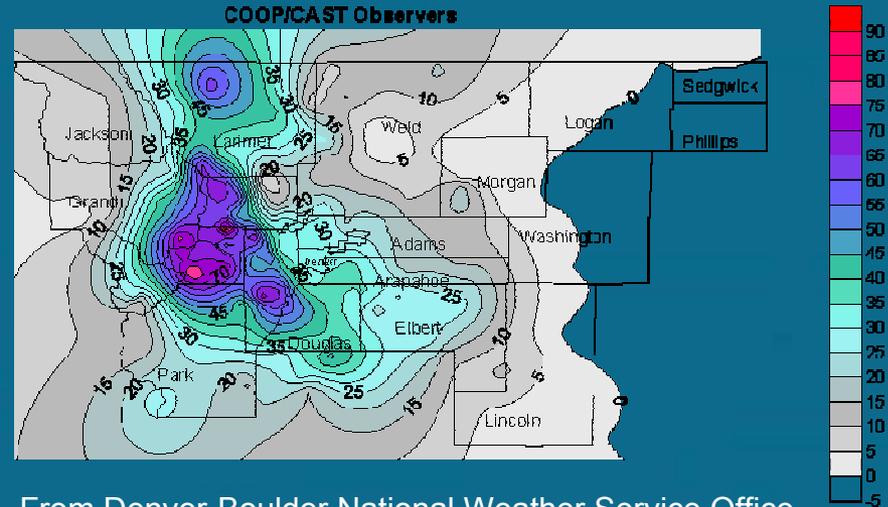


Satellite image of the Western Plains on October 26, 1997. The image clearly shows a deep snow cover over parts of the central Rockies and across the high plains of Nebraska, Kansas, and portions of western South Dakota and the panhandles of Oklahoma and Texas. Over 2 feet of snow fell in portions of Colorado due to the storm.

2003 March

- Three day snowstorm halted Denver and surrounding area

March 17-20, 2003 Snowfall Totals



From Denver-Boulder National Weather Service Office



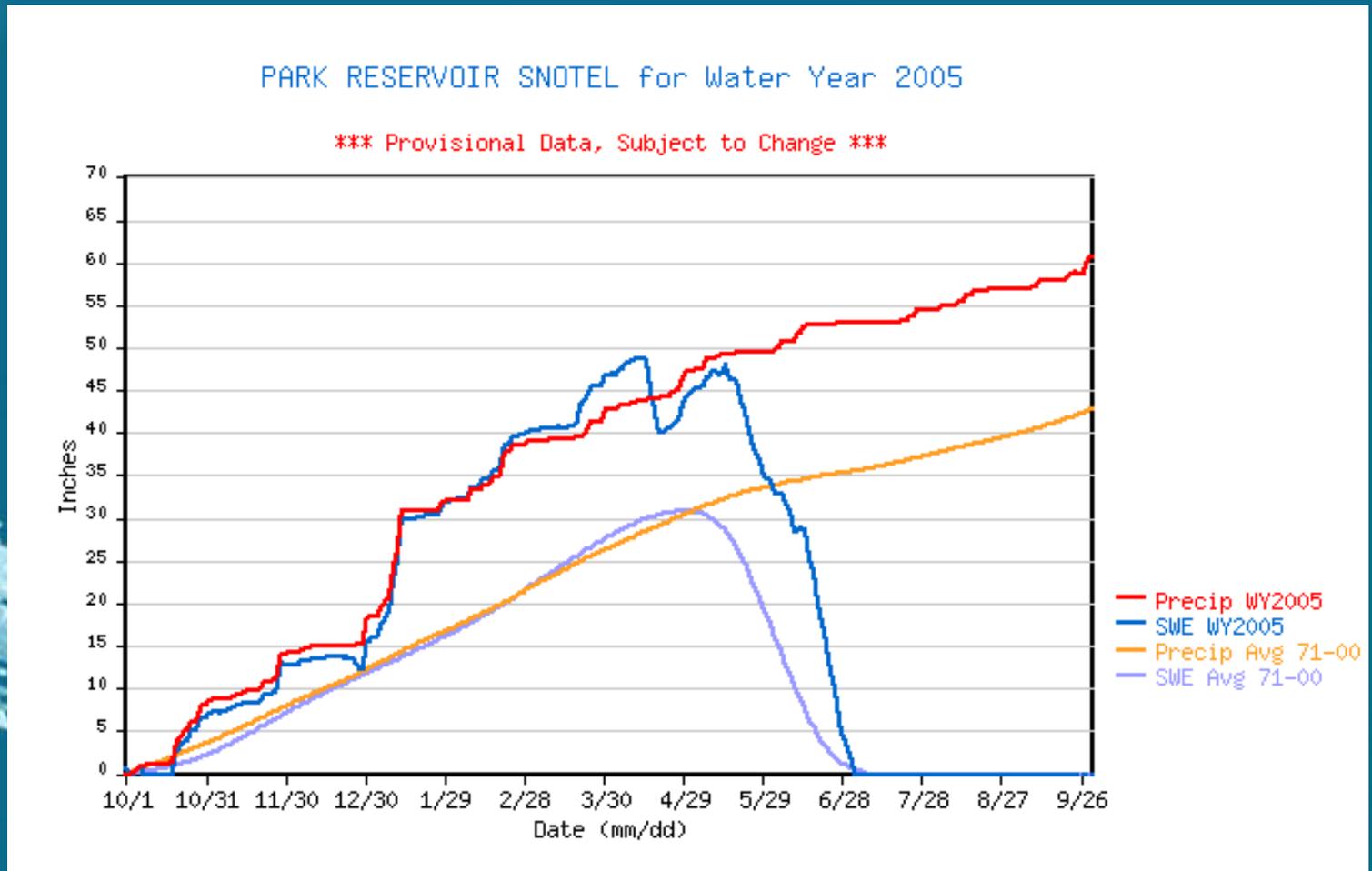
Photo by Stacey Seseske



Photo by Ron Phillips

Dec 28, 2004 – Jan 11, 2005

- Southwest Colorado snow blitz



Climate Trivia Question

1. Which of the following cities has the lowest average annual snowfall total:

Spokane, WA

Billings, MT

Minneapolis, MN

Albany, NY

Colorado Springs, CO

Climate Trivia Question

2) Which of the following Colorado cities gets the most large snowstorms of 8" or greater in 24 hours

Canon City

Gunnison

Monte Vista

Boulder

Steamboat Springs

Climate Trivia Question

3) If it snowed like crazy this morning and if there was 4" of snow on the grass by noon, then it stopped and by 7 PM the snow was all gone, would the official snowfall report for the day be

4"

2"

Trace

0.0"

Climate Trivia Question

4) Which of the following Colorado locations receives the most snow in a typical winter

Pikes Peak

Wolf Creek Pass

Vail Pass

Buffalo Pass (near Steamboat Springs)

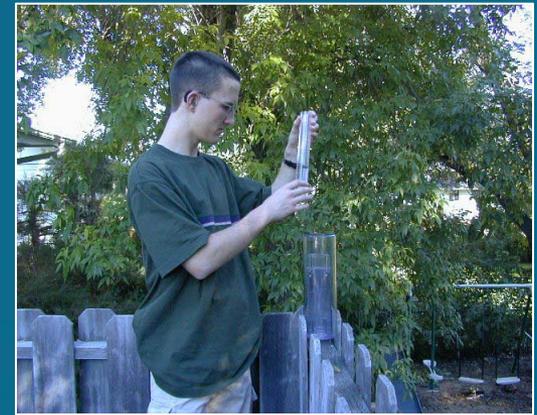
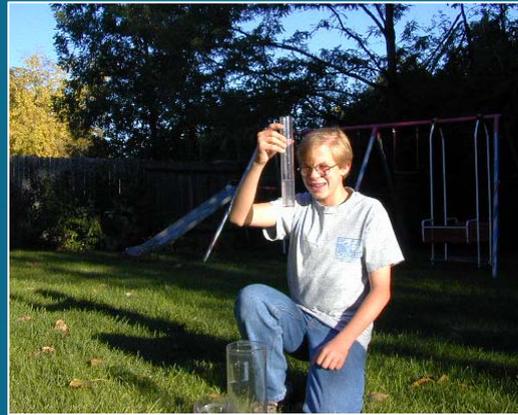
Eisenhower Tunnel

Climate Trivia Question

- 5) How many days did the Vail NWS cooperative weather station report at least one inch of new snow this past winter, 2004 – 2005?

CoCoRaHS

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network



<http://www.cocorahs.org>

- Over 1,500 volunteers in Colorado participate in rain, hail and snow measurements.
- More accurate maps, verifies forecasting, radar research, crop damage, drought/flooding, educational purposes.

**For more information visit the
CoCoRaHS Web site**

<http://www.cocorahs.org>



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Colorado Climate Center

Data and Power Point Presentations
available for downloading

<http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu>

- click on “Drought”
- then click on “Presentations”

