

Introduction

The Delta Junction High school was requested to join the snow view globe photos of snow in clouds, trees, and on land intensive observation. (IOP) globe training to learn globes protocols for land cover about observing snow on the ground which can be compared to NASA remote sensing technology records to see if they get the same reading.

Snow is part of the local and global water cycle that impacts agriculture and natural resources within the interior region of Alaska. The purpose was to see how much water equivalent is in the snow for agricultural and natural resources. Sharing of data with citizen scientists around the world about snow drift accumulation due to wind occurrences helps with this purpose.

Delta High School windward drift.



Hypothesis

What wind speeds are required to create snow compaction in a windward snow drift?

Methodology

- Globe and landcover snow measurements (snow collection sampling were utilized.)
- From November to February 2025, the windward snow drift at the Delta Junction High school was surveyed for snow ed monitoring.
- Protocol sites selected from toe of the drift to the peak of the drift
- High school students collected and measured snow and melt water samples at each incriminated site.
- Used measuring devices:
 1. Meter stick for snow or the lack of snow
 2. Rain gauge to measure liquid of total snow (Also known as snow water melt equipment in mm)
 3. Snowboard during snow event to measure depth, amount of water, and ph of new snow
 4. Weather station to collect wind data

Ice layers on drift; showing of icicle creation/layers.

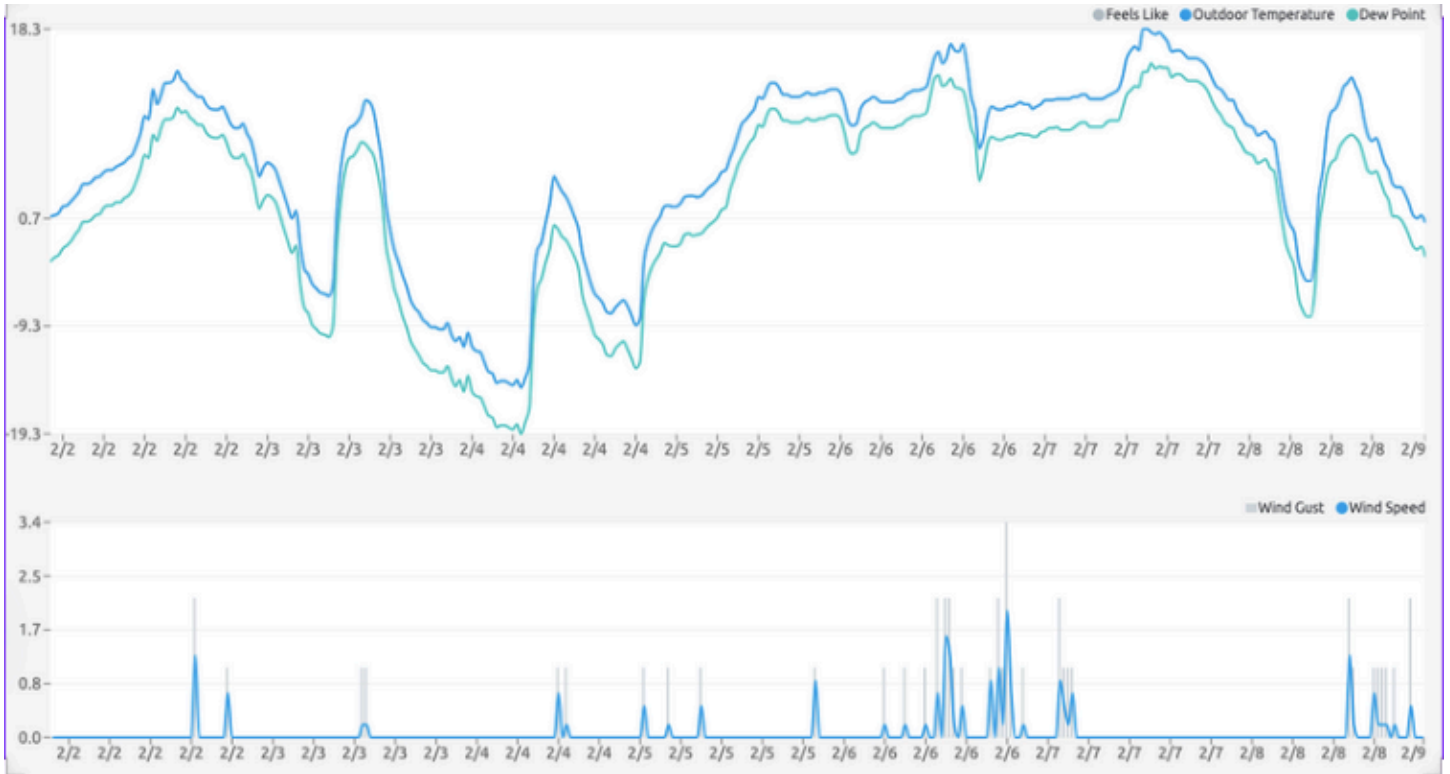


Data

- Later on in our research, a Chinook (warm tropical wind) occurred feb 2-9th, losing over a foot of snowpack .
- Was reported reported high 39 degrees and average 19 degree with wind clocked at 60mph.
- Height of snow drift was 2438.4 mm tall before Chinook, after it went down to 1524 mm.

- From monitoring before and after the Chinook, estimated a total of 680 mm of snow melt occurred.
- Was reported from Ft. Greely Garrison source.

Data Images



Results

After a few weeks of measuring, we had discovered it was completely ice at the bottom and we were no longer able to measure physically along the snow drift entirely because of the ice. During this, we had found melt clusters as well when looking around the Chinook (snow layer that when heated due to rain, warm weather, etc. melts down.) and a full display of ice layers.

When heat rose, and our melt water started to spread through the snow ribs/boundary layers (percolate), it would then further compact once the atmosphere's heat lowered, made a new layer, as well as fortified the snow ribs.

Weathered down ice layer



First site on Drift



Wind Contribution

Conclusion; We had discovered that the wind, specifically harsher wind speeds (such as 60 mph) can help with snow compaction when it came to our windward snow drift.

The wind typically blows it in a leapfrog manner called saltation, helping create a new outer layer. However, it doesn't just do this to the drift. Since wind helps with temper control, the

harsher the wind, the more it contributes to creating further pressure and compaction when it freezes over.

Continuing research will continue through 2025 until snow has dissipated and water findings can be fully calculated

References

Sturm, M. (2010). *Apun*. University of Alaska Press.

Path to Science: Journey to a NASA SnowEx Internship



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*GLOBE Alaska and NASA SnowEx: Reciprocal Mentoring and Collaboration (NASA Award 80NSSC24K0117)



