



A sight not seen since early 1998, water near the spillway at Fort Peck! I took this while heading to Wibaux for the Skywarn class.

Under the Big Sky

April 29, 2010

Sending Photos to NWS and our media partners: Several of our media partners have commented to me that they would love to hear from you all regarding photos that you may have of significant weather that has impacted you. Those photos showing the snow over your car? Or the hail accumulated in your yard or the significant looking thunderstorm that is about to hit (Let's hope not!). Keep these email addresses or web URL's handy for the future, and you may hear your name, and see your photo on the air! Here are a few:

NWS Glasgow: ggw.wxreport@noaa.gov

Great Falls Tribune: tribphoto@greatfallstribune.com

Billings Gazette: citynews@billingsgazette.com

KRTV (Great Falls - Fred Pfeiffer): <http://www.krtv.com/krtv-montana-snapshots/>

KXGN TV (Glendive -Emilie Boyles): newsdesk@kxgn.com

KFYR/KUMV (Bismarck/Williston – Kevin Lawrence): http://www.kumv.com/sky_spies.asp

KLTZ Radio (Glasgow) – kltz@kltz.com

KX Networks (Bismarck, Dickinson – Tom Szymanski) - weather12@kxnet.com

KX Networks (Minot, Williston – Tom Schrader) tschrader@kxmcnews.com

Beartooth NBC (Helena – Erin Yost) - hotshots@beartoothnbc.com

NWS Glasgow happenings:



Cleaning up NWS Glasgow: A recent wind storm left quite a mess in our surrounding grounds around the office. Intern Amy Schnetzler and Forecaster Grant Hicks did an Earth Day Clean Up picking up two bags of garbage. Thanks to our MT National Guard neighbors who picked up a lot of their trash the morning after their dumpster was blown over! **Keep our Planet Clean!**

Earth Day Global Warming discussion: Our Science and Operations Officer Dr. Bill Martin gave a presentation on Earth Day on how the temperatures across the globe have varied over time, and how things have warmed in the last century. He also discussed sea ice in the Arctic and Antarctica. The attendees at St. Matthews Church in Glasgow had plenty of questions for him, and he discussed some of the controversies that exist around global warming/climate change.



Fort Peck Tribes Earth Day Event: Congratulations to Vina Smith for a lot of hard work on her annual Earth Day event in Poplar. The first day had 400 students attend, and the second day had 600 students come through! John Pulasky and I teamed a presentation that focused on how the NWS takes weather observations and the various types of equipment used. We only were able to attend Friday, but we were pretty beat after talking to groups in 20 minute intervals all day long!

Aviation visits: Our new aviation forecasting focal point Grant Hicks has been talking with airport managers around the area discussing our products and services. He recently got to visit in person with Leon Baker at the Glendive airport. In case you haven't seen them yet, Leon does have web cameras at the airport, you can see them at: <http://www.midrivers.com/~airport/>

Skywarn: Had some really fun Skywarn sessions recently, including the one in Glasgow with John Pulasky. It's so great to see the familiar faces and meet new ones! We do have two new sessions set up. They are:

- Circle Senior Center, May 6 from 6-8 pm
- Zortman BLM office, May 13 from 5-7 pm



LEFT: Grant Hicks co-presenting with me at the Glendive Skywarn Training. Half the audience was returning spotters, and we had two students in the group as well!

Right: John Pulasky dishing on the weather with one of my favorite cowboys, (and loyal weather spotter) Kermit Flom. This was at the end of the Skywarn talk in Glasgow.



State of Montana Hazard Mitigation Plan: I attended a meeting that was set to review the state of Montana Hazard Mitigation Plan. It is required by FEMA that a state has this plan in effect for it to receive any money or assistance after a disaster. The plan is an interesting thing to read if you have an interest in disasters, and you are welcome to read it, and comment on it (After May 1st) by going to: <http://www.mt-hmpupdate.com>



ACCAS: What does that mean? I came to work last week, and saw these cool ACCAS clouds, so I took a photo and put it on my Facebook page. The next thing I know, is that many people wondered what that meant, so I gave a brief explanation that I'll share with you all. ACCAS stands for Alto-Cumulus Castellanus. Seeing them already in the morning tells us that the mid-levels of the atmosphere are already unstable, and that storms be possible later in the day.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altocumulus_castellanus_cloud

Current Storm: I'm sure many of you are interested in seeing how much rain has fallen around the region with this event. It seems the center portion of the state has all of their roads shut down this afternoon due to the heavy, wet snow. To see the latest precipitation reports, try the following sites:

Montana CoCoRaHS: <http://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=mt>

NWS Precipitation Analysis: (Click on Montana, turn on counties) <http://water.weather.gov/precip/>

NWS Observations Page: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mesowest/gmap.php?map=ggw>

(On this page, select the "Precip" option under data display)

Latest Climate Outlooks: The latest outlook shows equal chances of above or below normal temperatures and precipitation for May. But, the May-June-July outlook does have us in a cooler temperature area, and an above normal precipitation bullseye just east of us in ND. To see the outlooks, go to: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Other Environmental News:

Incredible photos of the Icelandic Volcano no one can pronounce: A friend who used to be at the Weather Channel recently sent this link. The photos from the Iceland volcano are pretty incredible, and I encourage you to click on this link and look at them!

http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2010/04/more_from_eyjafjallajokull.html

Oil Spill in the Gulf: NASA has some satellite imagery of the oil spill occurring in the Gulf of Mexico. Press reports indicate that 210,000 gallons of oil a day are being pumped from the oil rig that had the accident recently. The photos are at:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/NaturalHazards/view.php?id=43768>

Some experts fear this spill could be larger than the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska many years ago. It is expected to hit shore (at a wildlife refuge sadly) during the day on Friday.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36850248/ns/us_news-environment/

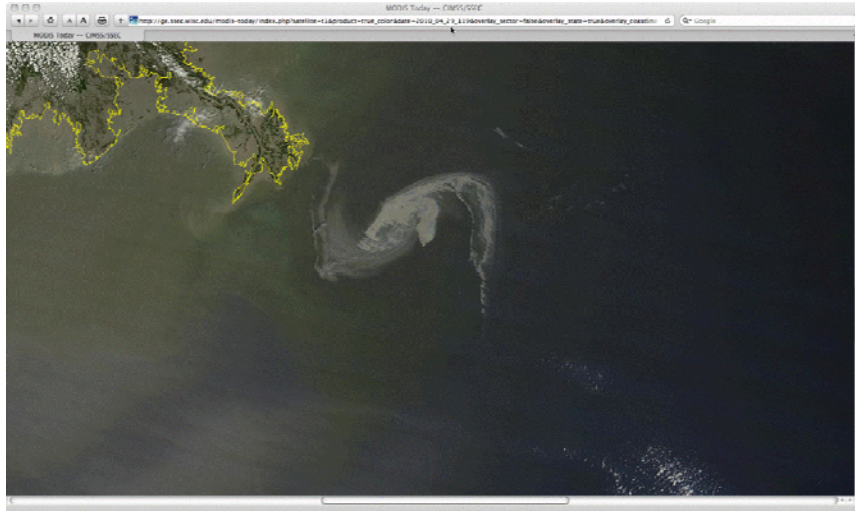


Image from MODIS satellite taken 4/29/10 of the oil slick, and the LA coastline.

Weather Humor:

Here was a little conversation during the Wibaux Skywarn talk on Monday this week:

Tanja: We don't want our spotters going out and chasing storms, we want them to remain home, or in a safe shelter.

Beach, ND Spotter: You want us to use the ABC's!

Tanja: What do you mean ABC's?

Beach, ND Spotter: Armchair, binoculars and a case of beer!

You gotta love living in the high plains! 😊