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Theme -Theme 2: Observing in Support of Adaptation and Mitigation

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Poster title (brief) Changes in Cloud Cover Behavior Subarctic Alaska

Abstract - text box

Observations come in many forms and do not belong exclusively to scientists and experts. In the rapid changing environments of the Arctic and Subarctic global regions, observations to include a variety of input, can increase awareness and prompt timely adaptation and mitigation. The observations recorded in these daily photos, document distinct changes in the cloud cover across the Tanana Valley, visible to the city of Fairbanks, Alaska. However, this phenomenon has not yet been explained to date and requires attention. The period ranging from the spring of 2017, to the present, marks the onset of this unconventional cloud cover exhibiting odd behavior throughout each day. Not only is the behavior odd, the color and density warrant explanation. Finally, the regularity of this persistent condition, especially in the winter months, is most obvious. Questions can be raised by the community observer to include: Where does this cloud cover originate and from what source? Is it a result of trans-boundary pollution arriving with the prevailing winds out of the West; algae blooms seeding clouds coming from the Bering Sea; or the increase in carbon being released from various sources? Are these clouds an example of the aerosols now being studied and do people need to worry about what may come from these clouds when thinking about harvests? Observations taken from a variety of stakeholders deserve validation, encouragement, and should not be reserved to scientific studies only.