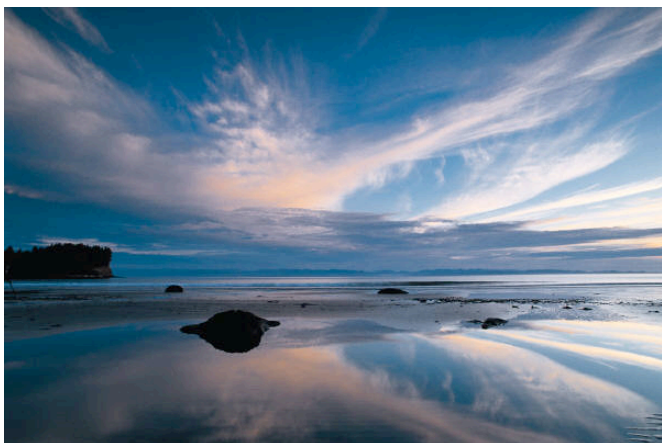


US Starts Cloud Seeding Experiments

An 8 million dollar project conducting experiments in the skies of western North America has brought a lot of controversy. Research scientists in the US have been injecting silver iodide into the clouds to create snow.

A twin-engine airplane injects the silver iodide and acetone into the clouds. The water molecules in the clouds gather around the elements that look like ice. When enough molecules have gathered, snow is formed and falls back down to the land.



Should every cloud have a silver lining?

The western states spend millions of dollars every year. For example, the Wyoming water development program has been spending a lot on research to find an inexpensive source of freshwater. A report claims that this human-made snow could bring almost \$5 million worth of water to the drylands. Also, more money could be produced from hydroelectric power, tourism, and other environmental benefits.

One of the main concerns in Wyoming and other western states is the drought. People hope that this scientific study would increase the water supply in that area and reduce the drought problem. They do not realize that air pollution such as the particles being injected into the sky is actually increasing the drought problem. As a project scientist said, maybe the project could correct the pollution that makes the problem worse.

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