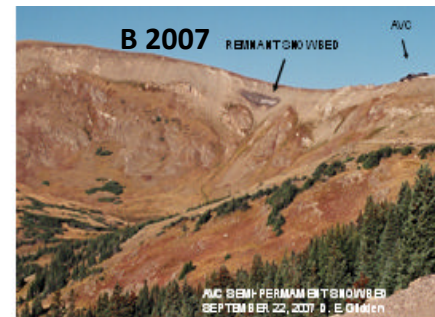


ALPINE VISITORS CENTER, RMNP
SELECTED SNOWBED COMPARISON FOR
AUGUST 1, 2006, SEPTEMBER 22, 2007,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2011, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014
AND SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

D. E. GLIDDEN



AVC

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In addition to glacier aerial and satellite surveys, permafrost studies, and attempts at measuring spring snow depths along Trail Ridge Road, photo-comparisons of a specific topographic site (at time of Fall minima) are always interesting and informative.

2007 and 2018 appear to reflect similarities in Fall minima, although 2018 may indicate even less segmented, visible ice extent. On a subsynoptic scale, it may suggest that even apparent extremely low snow years (as well as the effects of prevailing wind speed and direction, higher or lower average alpine temperature regimes, frequency and persistency of summer air mass exchanges, and variability of total percent of hours of cloud cover) may yet be followed by more restorative snow deposits in a (presumably) overall warming mountain environment.

All things being equal (and they rarely are), significant snowfall amounts - such as during early May 2016, for example - may be a single impactful contributor to late-season snowbed extent, especially with redistribution by exceptionally strong winds.