2019, 2015, 1980
A,B,C


May 15, 2019
NPS


May 30, 2015
D. E. GLIDDEN


June 3, 1980
D. E. GLIDDEN

AVC SEMI-PERMANENT SNOW BED
COMPARISON FOR SELECTED
SPRING YEARS
RMNP WIND RESEARCH PROGRAM
D. E. GLIDDEN

AVC SEMI-PERMANENT SNOW BED COMPARISON FOR SELECTED SPRING YEARS
RMNP WIND RESEARCH PROGRAM
D. E. GLIDDEN

2019 A

AVC SEMI-PERMANENT SNOW BED COMPARISON FOR SELECTED SPRING YEARS
RMNP WIND RESEARCH PROGRAM
D. E. GLIDDEN

2019 A

AVC SEMI-PERMANENT SNOW BED COMPARISON FOR SELECTED SPRING YEARS
RMNP WIND RESEARCH PROGRAM
D. E. GLIDDEN

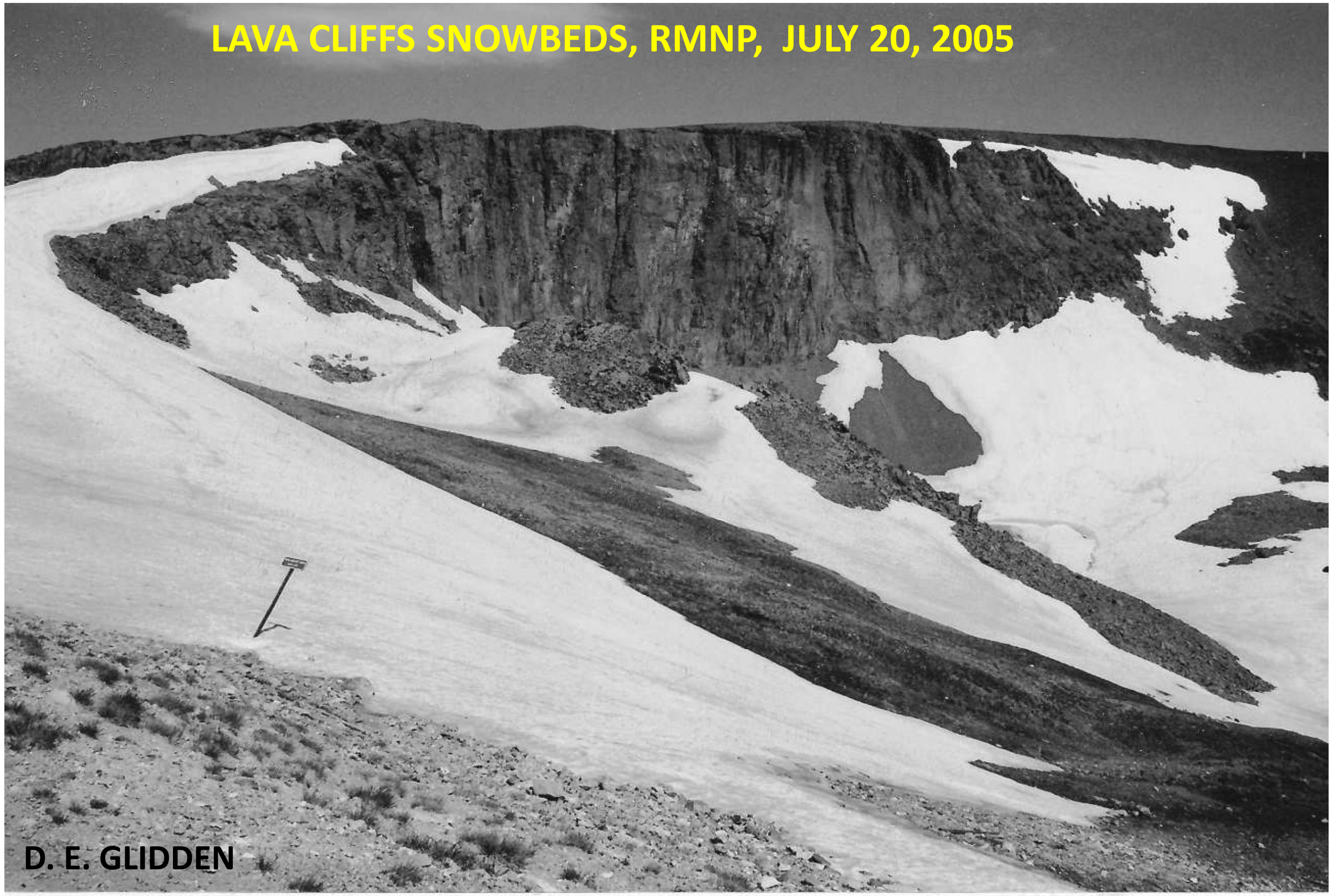
2015 B

AVC SEMI-PERMANENT SNOW BED COMPARISON FOR SELECTED SPRING YEARS
RMNP WIND RESEARCH PROGRAM
D. E. GLIDDEN

1980 C

LAVA CLIFFS SEMI-PERMANENT SNOW BED
COMPARISON FOR SELECTED SUMMER YEARS
RMNP WIND RESEARCH PROGRAM

2005 D



2019 D

It is remarkable how microtopography sculpts consistent and often predictable multi-decadal-long (and greater) wind patterns in many areas of the alpine.

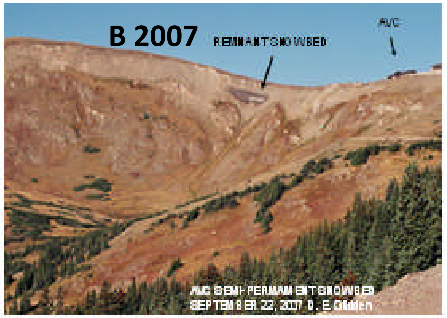
Although perspective and distance of shot are important, 2019 at Lava Cliffs (following a spring of heavy snow) appears quite similar to 2005, although there may be a suggestion that the ice thickness (where the sign is located) is somewhat greater in 2005.

LAVA CLIFFS SEMI-PERMANENT SNOW BED COMPARISON FOR SELECTED SUMMER YEARS
RMNP WIND RESEARCH PROGRAM

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

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 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**.**