

1 The Cloud Seeding Literature and the Journal Barriers to Faulty Claims:
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3 Closing the Gaps
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38 The Cloud Seeding Literature and the Journal Barriers to Faulty Claims:
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44 **ABSTRACT**

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46 Independent re-analyses of journal-published cloud seeding experiments have usually led to the
47 discovery of flaws that contravene or at least cast significant doubt on the original published report.
48 These flaws could have been, and perhaps, should have been, detected in the peer review process prior to
49 publication. The flaws have recurring aspects. A review of two highly acclaimed sets of randomized
50 cloud seeding experiments demonstrating these flaws are used to illustrate weaknesses in our peer-review
51 system. Whether these weaknesses in peer review are still present in contemporary cloud seeding
52 literature is also investigated; the answer is, “yes.”

53 Several steps are suggested to improve peer review in the cloud seeding literature. These steps
54 include mandatory reporting of random decisions and other project data in real time, mandatory analysis
55 requirements, use of our best models to elucidate biases in random draws, and use of a wider range of
56 independent experts in the review of cloud seeding manuscripts among others.
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59 **1. Introduction**

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61 Scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals, such as our American
62 Meteorological Society journals, disseminate special knowledge that must overcome several
63 barriers before it can appear in print (e.g., National Academy of Sciences 1989, 2009, Foster and
64 Huber 1997). These barriers are intended to prevent faulty or poorly supported claims from
65 appearing. Should a false claim nevertheless be inadvertently published, those members of the
66 journal readership with expertise in the topic can be expected to, and some would say, have a
67 responsibility to publish criticisms of faulty claims so that they are prevented from being widely
68 accepted. Because the acceptance of faulty science is minimized, science moves forward and
69 society benefits. This process is much like the dominant team, “truth”, in a never-ending
70 baseball pennant race in which the teams “honest error,” “self-deception,” and “fraud”
71 occasionally win a few games. However, these never influence the “final” outcome.

72 The barriers to the publication and acceptance of faulty science will be laid out; followed
73 by brief review the history of modern cloud seeding to demonstrate the difficulties that “proof of
74 an effect” posed and the subsequent rationale for randomization of experiments.

75 The results of two sets of randomized cloud seeding experiments are examined in detail
76 to investigate whether randomization worked as advertised to eliminate storm and experimenter
77 bias.

78 The question will addressed whether peer-review should have caught the missteps in the
79 original journal published manuscripts that were subsequently documented. Some remedies
80 against faulty claims are suggested based on these case studies.

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82 **2. What are the barriers to the publication and acceptance of faulty scientific**
83 **claims?**

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85 a) *Peer review of proposals.*

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87 Faulty science is less likely to be funded in the first place because proposals for scientific
88 research are reviewed by two or three scientists familiar with the area in which the proposed
89 research is submitted. They determine whether the research is sound and worthy of financial
90 support. Unfunded (hobbyist) research is less likely to be submitted for publication than is
91 funded research--which can be seen as both an asset and a liability.

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93 b) *Peer review of articles submitted for publication in scientific journals.*

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95 Faulty science is less likely to appear in scientific journals because submitted articles are
96 also subjected to reviews by two or more scientists who are supposed to be experts on the subject
97 of the article.

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99 c) *Post-publication critiques of published articles by the journal readership or reviewers*
100 *who feel an article is flawed.*

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102 Problems or questions about suspect research that may have leaked through the first two
103 barriers can be discussed in open literature for a further redress of the claims made in the original
104 article.

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106 d) *Self-correction.*

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108 Should the authors of a paper discover an error in their conclusions or in important
109 data, it is assumed they will report the error and retract or modify their findings in a timely
110 manner.

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112 e) *Independent replication.*

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This is the most important barrier to the acceptance of faulty science. Experimental results must be replicated, and replications considered routine before they are subject to widespread acceptance. For maximum credibility, replication of experiments is carried out by laboratories or workers who are independent of the original researchers or the institutions from which the initial findings emanated.

Due to the public nature of cloud seeding experiments, we also have an additional safeguard that is tantamount to reviewing the lab notes and data of laboratory experimenters since precipitation data on which the results rest are often available through government publications:

f) *Independent validation of experimental results via reanalysis*

A researcher uses the same data sources (runoff or precipitation data that is often publicly available) that the original experimenters stated they used to form their conclusions. The independent researcher tries to replicate or expand the reported result based on these data using the same test statistic. Searches for alternative controls or other variables not considered by the original experimenters usually do not occur. This is because *post facto* investigations using alternative variables can lead to problems of multiplicity, that is looking through too many variables, which by chance can either validate or nullify a reported result (e.g., Tukey et al. 1978a, b).

Therefore, the independent investigator has a special duty to demonstrate that his results are a plausible extension of the methods and variables used by the original experimenters. In this most limited form, a reanalysis can be considered a form of independent replication of an experiment; only data errors, or regional patterns that were not noticed by the original experimenters can emerge.

140 *The persistent character of the cloud seeding literature: controversy and disdain*

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142 The barriers to the publication of faulty scientific claims described above have been
143 known to fail, sometimes spectacularly (e.g., Broad and Wade 1982, Feder and Stewart 1987,
144 Foster and Huber 1997). Hence, we should not be surprised if we discover failures in our own
145 domain of cloud seeding. The journal literature in cloud seeding has been subject to lively
146 debate and strong differences of opinion throughout its history (e.g., Fleagle et al. 1969, Byers
147 1974, Elliott 1974, 1986, Braham 1979, Changnon and Lambright 1990), and it can be argued
148 that this is due to faulty literature reaching the journals.

149 Some of the assessments by leading academicians, responding to exaggerated claims of
150 seeding effects, and faulty evaluations, have been severe. Surveying the field, Byers (1965)
151 wrote that, "In many parts of the world, including the United States, public policy concerning
152 weather control' is often guided by claims of cloud-seeding success based on evidence so
153 questionable as to seem farcical to a sophisticated statistician." Braham (1979), echoing Byers
154 15 years later suggested that, "...within meteorology and statistics alike, weather modification
155 and weather modifiers are often viewed with suspicion and disdain." And one prominent
156 statistician who was intimately involved in this field for 30 years was moved to conclude that
157 "much of the cloud seeding literature is slanted and unreliable," (Neyman 1980). Most recently,
158 Hobbs (2001), commenting on a recent survey of cloud seeding experiments by Silverman
159 (2001), echoed Neyman's assertion, describing the cloud seeding literature as "often unreliable."

160 What other field of science would have so many perverse statements by respected
161 academicians concerning their own field? And why is this?

162 There is a simple answer: inadequate reviews of cloud seeding manuscripts that
163 repeatedly allowed faulty claims to enter the field's literature. And because faulty literature

164 enters the field so often, it triggers needless controversies (e.g., Changnon and Lambright 1990),
165 which may not have occurred had reviews of manuscripts been stronger in the first place.

166 Experiments are also compromised and instigate controversy when the measurement of
167 precipitation, choices of control gauges, or other critical experiment variables and the
168 experimental data are collected and archived by the same organization that potentially benefits
169 from a successful experiment. This introduces the possibility of bias (unintended or otherwise),
170 and therefore, degrades the credibility of experiments, and fuels controversy (Rangno and Hobbs
171 1995a, hereafter RH95a; Mielke 1995)

172 Whether a cloud seeding experiment appeared to produce an increase or a decrease in rain
173 appears to stimulate different responses. Evaluations of cloud seeding experiments published in
174 journals that find that seeding decreased rainfall can have a cautionary effect on cloud seeding
175 activities² and can invite, as did Project Whitetop, vigorous debate and independent re-analyses
176 over many years (e.g., Braham 1979).

177 However, reports of cloud seeding successes do not appear to lead to such profound
178 immediate stimulation of reanalysis activity involving numerous independent investigators as did
179 Project Whitetop. In the two sets of acclaimed experiments examined in detail in this article, it
180 was the *absence* of vigorous debate about them when they were first being reported, and for
181 many years thereafter, that ultimately allowed them to prosper and gain a large amount of
182 “scientific inertia” as unambiguous successes for a long time³. Yet, it can be argued that
183 published reports of an ersatz cloud seeding success can have far more profound and costly
184 consequences than a negative cloud seeding outcome. For example, erroneous published reports
185 of a cloud seeding success, backed by what appear to be solid and supportive cloud
186 microstructural studies (which in reality, were ersatz, have led to:

² No replication of Project Whitetop was considered due to moral considerations following the initial analyses which found evidence for widespread decreases in rainfall due to seeding.

³ The Climax experiments, whose flaws are discussed at length in this article, are nevertheless being cited even today by a few researchers as having indicated increases in snowfall (e.g., Breed et al. 2014)

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1. delayed progress in weather modification by delaying field studies of cloud microstructure and dispersion of the seeding agent that are needed but are skipped because the journal-reported statistical successes accompanied by the experimenters' reports of cloud microstructure have made it appear that new, similar studies had a low priority,
2. discouraged funding of *independent* efforts to replicate results since, in view of the high cost and complexity of field experiments, and in the face of "proven" results, it may be deemed that these are not needed or feasible,
3. caused inaccurate assessments of cloud seeding skill by professional organizations which monitor the field-at-large;⁴
4. led to ill-advised and costly non-scientific, commercial cloud seeding projects funded by local governments or private companies which have relied on misleading assessments of the status of cloud seeding by respected professional organizations;
5. eroded public confidence in the scientific establishment, as when any faulty scientific research is overturned.

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3. Brief history of modern cloud seeding: the rationale for randomization.

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The following highlights of early cloud seeding experimentation will illustrate the problems that were encountered by the early experimenters and why randomization of experiments became the *modus operandi* and for credible cloud seeding results published in peer-reviewed journals.

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Attempts to replicate the spectacular seeding results first reported in the literature (Schaefer 1946, and Kraus and Squires 1947) met with limited success and soon, with

⁴ For example, assessments by the National Academy of Science's Panel on Weather Modification, American Meteorological Society's and World Meteorological Organization's Committee on Planned and Inadvertent Weather Modification.

212 controversy. While it was easy to create ice canals in thin supercooled Altocumulus clouds as
213 Schaefer (1946) had done, the demonstration of a seeding effect in more complex situations was
214 daunting. When the U. S. Weather Bureau attempted to replicate the results that were beginning
215 to appear in the literature in the late 1940s, it was not clear in their experiments whether more
216 precipitation was reaching the ground than would have occurred naturally (Coons et al. 1949,
217 Coons and Gunn 1951). This was because when precipitation did reach the ground after a cloud
218 had been seeded, it could not be determined whether seeding had merely accelerated a natural
219 event that was going to occur. Similar, natural clouds in the vicinity were almost always
220 precipitating. And, no one knew whether the precipitation that did fall after seeding was more or
221 less than would have evolved naturally. Often, only trivial amounts of precipitation reached the
222 ground. In no case, were they able to replicate the spectacular isolated growth of a Cumulus
223 cloud into a Cumulonimbus that produced heavy rain over “at least 20 square miles” area as
224 Kraus and Squires (1947) had reported, causing so much excitement.⁵

225 In addition, Coons et al found a flaw in the underlying hypotheses behind cloud seeding;
226 that clouds were largely ice-free until their tops were colder than about -20°C when they
227 encountered cloud warm-based clouds with ice in tops as warm as -6°C. Coons et al were to
228 report what was documented in Missouri by Koenig (1963) and Braham (1964) almost 15 years
229 ahead of them.

230 A series of more sophisticated experiments than those by Coons et al. (1949) were carried
231 out by government and academic scientists a few years later, but once again, the results were
232 ambiguous or no effects at all were observed (Pettersen et al. 1956).

233 When U. S. Weather Bureau personnel or other independent meteorologists examined
234 early published claims of cloud seeding successes from seeding projects (e.g., MacCready 1952),
235 they often found that the evidence was actually ambiguous or insufficient to support the original
236 claim because the experimenters used rather limited data or statistical tests (e.g., Brier and Enger
237 1952, Amer. Meteor. Soc. 1953).

⁵ Apparently Kraus and Squires were never again able to produce the effect they reported in 1947 in their subsequent flights.

238 However, some commercial cloud seeding operators argued that government scientists
239 were not as experienced as they were in carrying out seeding projects. In response to these
240 claims, Thom (1957), on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Weather Control, evaluated a
241 select number of commercial cloud seeding projects that appeared to have the best data bases.
242 Thom concluded from his analyses that precipitation, in fact, had been increased by about 10% in
243 several commercially-run orographic projects. These increases were deemed statistically
244 significant by Thom. Thom found no detectable effects of cloud seeding in non-orographic
245 settings.

246 Thom's findings, however, were subject to severe criticisms by some statisticians (e.g.,
247 Brownlee 1960, Neyman and Scott 1961). This was mainly because the commercial projects
248 Thom examined were not randomized, were subject to optional starting and stopping times
249 which could create spurious seeding effects, and because they were only a few of the many
250 commercial orographic projects that had been carried out.

251 Despite these criticisms from statisticians, the idea that precipitation might be increased
252 in orographic settings by cloud seeding has remained a doctrine supported by the Amer. Meteor.
253 Soc. since Thom's report (e.g., Amer. Meteor. Soc., 2011).

254 It was becoming clear from the vigorous debate swirling around cloud seeding in the
255 early and mid-1950s that the detection and scientifically acceptable proof of an economically
256 important effect from seeding clouds was going to be much more difficult to prove than had been
257 initially expected. Only careful, randomized experiments would be able to properly evaluate the
258 effects of seeding so that experimenter (and storm) bias could be removed as much as possible
259 from the seeding trials and evaluations, to establish a baseline of credible scientific methodology.

260 The era of randomized experiments was then launched with the beginning of several
261 important long-term experiments in Australia, United States, and Israel in the late 1950s or early
262 1960s (cf., Mason 1980; 1982).

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265 **4. The era of randomization of cloud seeding experiments: Did it remove**
266 **“experimenter” and “storm” bias as intended?**

267
268 Table 1 is a list of randomized experiments that have appeared in the journal literature
269 and have been subject to *both* analysis and reanalysis or critical commentaries. Table 1 strongly
270 suggests that the answer to the question posed in the title of this section is “no.” This is because
271 those re-analyses and commentaries significantly weakened or removed the initial results; serious
272 flaws were discovered that had escaped the attention of the original experimenters.⁶

273 Table 1 reveals this when randomized experiments are reanalyzed, usually by those who
274 did not take part in the experiments. Instead of the independent evaluations of cloud seeding
275 experiments merely confirming or expanding the original (usually optimistic) finding, the
276 independent re-analyst most often finds insufficient evidence for a previously claimed seeding
277 effect.

278 For example, in Table 1 flaws were found in 13 of the 18 original reports of increases in
279 precipitation due to seeding. The flaws in those analyses were serious enough that they
280 weakened or eliminated the credibility of the former optimistic result. Using the binomial
281 theorem, the null hypothesis that an independent re-analyst will confirm an a report of increased
282 precipitation due to seeding can be rejected at the 0.04 level. The outcomes of the few re-
283 analyses by the original experimenters also often result in a weakened claim for seeding effects
284 or cannot substantiate them, corroborating this trend (e.g., Gelhaus et al. 1974; Mielke 1979;
285 Gabriel and Rosenfeld 1990). No independent re-analyst has found indications of a seeding
286 effect *larger* than was in the original reports by experimenters.

287 In most of these cases, the independent re-analyst expanded the original analysis by the
288 experimenters to find that the same effect attributed to seeding in the target was also observed in
289 regions where seeding could not have occurred or would have been minimal. Such findings are
290 sometimes called “lucky draws” or more technically a “Type I” statistical errors where the null

⁶ The latter have usually been carried out by individuals removed from the conduct of the experiment.

291 hypothesis of no seeding effect has been erroneously rejected.

292 Therefore, Table 1 suggests that flawed reports of randomized cloud seeding successes
293 have breached journal barriers against the publication of faulty claims on numerous, and
294 ultimately, with costly ramifications. The flaws discovered do not appear to have been dredged
295 up in “SORTIES” (search and destroy missions) by anti-seeding fanatics using esoteric variables
296 to dispose of seeding effects. Rather, re-analysts have used the original experimenters’ own
297 statistical tests.

298 The purpose of this review is to find out why journal published re-analysts and
299 “commentators” almost always turn up major flaws that the original experimenters, and
300 implicitly, the reviewers of such papers, failed to recognize. In doing so, the author will
301 examine the two most widely accepted, but ultimately flawed sets of randomized cloud seeding
302 experiments to make the point that the barriers to the publication of faulty claims in the peer-
303 reviewed journal literature are inadequate.

304

305 **5. Examples of Faulty Literature that Breached Peer Review**

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307 Figure 1a-d shows data from several journal-published cloud seeding experiments that
308 seemed to unambiguously support the case for a strong effect on precipitation or runoff due to
309 cloud seeding. However, in each of the cases shown in Figure 1, when the same controls that
310 the experimenter chose to elucidate seeding effects in the target area were used for upwind and
311 side wind regions, the same precipitation or runoff anomalies attributed to seeding were also
312 seen (Figure 2). Hence, in a region-wide view it was a small group of *controls* that had actually
313 behaved anomalously on seeded days (having low precipitation or runoff) rather than the target
314 area having a localized, positive one. The complete discussions of these seemingly robust
315 experiments can be found in the references in the figure caption. The results of the re-analyses,
316 by the way, should not be construed as meaning that there no seeding effect whatsoever in those
317 experiments; it simply wasn’t detectable in a statistically-significant way.

318 In the four examples shown in Figures 1, the Type I errors (random draws that favored
319 seeded days or seasons relative to the controls) were not caught in the peer review process; nor
320 were there journal-published criticisms of these faulty cloud seeding claims for many years, if at
321 all. Nor did the authors of the papers themselves detect faults, or, if they did, did not find them
322 until many years after the fact. Thus, the journal barriers that we depend on to prevent the initial
323 publication of faulty claims in the cloud seeding domain *do* have gaps, and self-detection of
324 flaws does not come into play.

325 The “sign” of the faulty claims by the experimenters, one cannot fail to observe, is
326 generally in the same direction; that is, to report that a cloud seeding experiment was more
327 successful than it actually was. Also, many subsidiary statements about how the experiments
328 were carried out that made the findings look more robust were, in fact, ersatz. Because of this
329 tendency, the errors by experimenters evaluating their own experiments do not appear to be
330 random; we can confidently conclude that subjective factors crept into the reporting of cloud
331 seeding experiments by the scientists who originally conducted them.

332 It should not be surprising that this might happen; “blind” and “double blind” experiments
333 are an accepted way of conducting laboratory experiments, not because we think that most lab
334 doctors are crooks and will cheat if they have the chance; but rather because we have learned
335 painful lessons about how powerful subjective feelings can be in our interpretations of the “cure”
336 we’ve administered.

337 However, the kinds of stringent precautions as those mandated in laboratory experiments
338 are rarely completely taken in cloud seeding experiments, leaving the door open for subjective
339 influence.

340 In this context, it becomes relevant, therefore, to try and determine why the peer review
341 process failed in the realm of the cloud seeding literature and what remedies there might be
342 against intrusions of sincerely believed, though misleading reports.

343 In the next section, a detailed look into this problem reveals that several sometimes subtle
344 but recurring factors crept into the original analyses that misled both the experimenters, the

345 reviewers, and ultimately, the journal readership for many years. In the following Section, two
346 of the four experiments in Fig. 1 will be examined more closely.

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348 **6. An Examination of Two Highly Acclaimed Sets of Randomized Cloud Seeding** 349 **Experiments**

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351 a. *Cloud seeding in the Colorado.*

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353 “Hence, in the longest randomized cloud-seeding project in the United States (at Climax,
354 CO), involving cold orographic winter clouds, it has been demonstrated that precipitation can be
355 substantially increased and on a determinate basis.” National Academy of Sciences (1973)

356

357 A series of three extremely important and apparently highly successful randomized cloud
358 seeding experiments took place at Climax and Wolf Creek Pass, Colorado, during the 1960s. For
359 a time, these experiments appeared to end the remaining doubt about whether cloud seeding in
360 mountainous regions could produce significant snowfall increases under certain conditions.
361 The results were stunning--increases of 50% and more were reported on favorable days (e.g.
362 Grant and Mielke 1967); and the results were widely quoted without reservations by prestigious
363 national panels and in numerous textbooks (e.g., National Academy of Sciences 1973, Sax et al.
364 1975, American Meteorological Society 1984, Wallace and Hobbs 1977, Mason 1980, 1982,
365 Moran and Morgan 1986). The results of the experiments in the Rockies continued to be cited by
366 a few authors (e.g., Cotton and Pielke 1995, 2007, Breed et al. 2014), though they have generally
367 fallen out of favor with most scientists for reasons that will be made clear.

368 Why were these Colorado experiments so convincing to the scientific community when
369 they were first reported?

370 They were so convincing, *en toto*, because they appeared to provide very strong evidence
371 of snowfall increases in no less than *three* independent, relatively long-term, randomized

372 experiments. The first two, the daily randomized Climax I and II experiments ran for portions of
373 eleven winter seasons (Grant and Mielke 1967; Mielke et al. 1970, 1971; Chappell et al. 1971;
374 Grant and Kahan 1974). The third, a seasonally randomized experiment at Wolf Creek Pass, CO,
375 ran for six complete winter seasons (Morel-Seytoux and Saheli 1973). These experiments
376 appeared to confirm one another in the conditions under which seeding produced increases in
377 snowfall. This was when the 500 hPa temperatures were above -20°C to -23°C ; large increases
378 in snowfall occurred when the clouds were seeded under this condition. In the Wolf Creek Pass
379 experiment, the extra snowfall produced over the entire seeded winter seasons was seen in large
380 amounts of extra runoff from the target rivers in the three seeded seasons when compared with
381 control river runoff (Fig. 1a).

382 Also lending credibility to these statistical results was the fact that the experimenters also
383 had what appeared to be a plausible reason why the increases in snowfall had occurred. The 500
384 hPa temperatures, they claimed, were markers for cloud top temperatures (e.g., Grant and Mielke
385 1967; Mielke et al. 1981), and that cloud top temperatures, in turn, were measures of the ice
386 crystal concentrations in the clouds (e.g., Grant 1968). Therefore, when 500 hPa temperatures
387 were high (i.e., $\geq -23^{\circ}\text{C}$) during storms, cloud top temperatures had to be warm, and the clouds,
388 they further reasoned, contained so little natural ice that they were unable to precipitate.

389 Also, ice multiplication, a phenomenon in which ice crystal concentrations are far higher
390 than those that can be accounted for by ice nucleus concentrations (e.g., Hobbs 1969, Auer et al.
391 1969), did not occur in the Rockies (Grant 1968). Ice multiplication is considered strongly
392 detrimental to the type of cloud seeding carried out, termed “static” carried out (e.g., Dennis
393 1980). In static seeding, the clouds are targeted with relatively small amounts of silver iodide,
394 just enough to get them to precipitate.

395 Lending further credibility to the descriptions of the Colorado results was the fact that the
396 seeding effect was limited to extending the duration of snowfall only and had no discernible
397 effect on intensity (e.g., Chappell et al. 1971). This was compatible with the type of clouds being
398 seeded and the way that they had been seeded--cold wintertime stratiform clouds seeded by

399 ground generators which released relatively small doses of silver iodide--an intensity change
400 produced by the small amounts of seeding material released would have been difficult to explain.

401 These three Colorado experiments, therefore, comprised an amazingly complete and
402 stunningly successful picture of cloud seeding results founded in what appeared to be a logical
403 physical picture. It is not hard to understand why the journal publication of these many results
404 and the many supporting factors instilled great confidence, a consensus, in the scientific
405 community that the seeding effects reported in Colorado were real and not mere statistical flukes
406 (e.g., National Academy of Sciences 1973, Mason 1980).

407 Further, the reports from the Colorado scientists concerning their experiments appeared at
408 a time of increasing optimism on the part of the scientific community about the ability of cloud
409 seeding to increase snowfall in orographic clouds (e. g., National Academy of Sciences 1966).
410 The scientific community in weather modification was primed for a success to be reported in a
411 randomized orographic cloud seeding experiment.

412

413 b. *Cloud seeding in Israel*

414

415 *“Almost every review of the status of weather modification published since 1970 has*
416 *described the Israeli experiments as providing the most convincing evidence available*
417 *anywhere that cloud seeding can, in fact, increase average rainfall over an area. The*
418 *credibility of the reported rainfall increases from Israel I and Israel II is due to impressive*
419 *compilations of statistics and to Dr. Gagin 's cloud physics studies, which provided a plausible explanation*
420 *for the rainfall increases suggested by the statistical analyses”.* Arnett S. Dennis (1989)

421 At about the same time the Climax and Wolf Creek Pass experiments were first being
422 reported in the journals in the mid and later 1960s, another landmark experiment conducted in
423 Israel was also being reported for the first time in the peer-reviewed literature. The experiments
424 were conducted under the aegis of scientists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ). The

425 first of two daily randomized experiments (called Israeli I⁷), had two targets, one of which was
426 designated in advance to be seeded each day during the Israeli rainy season. This type of
427 experiment has been referred to as a “crossover” experiment in which the results of seeding are
428 combined from the two target areas. In this way, the experimental data builds rapidly compared
429 to single target experiments. It was assumed, at least in this case, that there is appreciable
430 correlation in rainfall between the two targets and that the natural cloud microstructure in the two
431 targets is virtually the same. The two targets were separated by a small “buffer zone” that was to
432 be left unseeded. The seeding in the first experiment was carried out by a single aircraft flying
433 parallel to and within about 10 km of the coastline for about 65-75 km legs⁸ each way upwind of
434 each target on its seeded day⁹. After 2 ½ winter seasons, the seeding track was moved inland
435 (Neumann et al 1967).

436 This seeding method was identical to, and probably patterned after that used in the
437 important Project Whitetop experiment then underway in the U. S. (Braham 1979).

438 The first experiment lasted six and a half rainy seasons. The results of seeding appeared
439 to have produced statistically significant increases in rainfall of 15% when the results in *both*
440 targets (called “North” and “Center”) were combined (e.g., Gabriel 1967a, 1967b, Neumann et al
441 1967, Gabriel and Feder 1969, Gabriel and Baras 1970, Wurtele 1971, Gagin and Neumann
442 1974, hereafter, GN74). Further, the seeding effects were larger in the Center target area than in
443 the North target area, and they were larger farther inland from the coastline (GN74).

444 Oddly, the seeding effects were greatest of all in the small “buffer zone” region between
445 the two targets that the seeding aircraft had tried to avoid (Wurtele 1971, GN74). This discovery
446 was later inferred by the experimenters to be unintended seeding effect (GN74), though Wurtele
447 (1971) had quoted the Chief Meteorologist of the seeding experiment stating that seeding could
448 only have affected the buffer zone “5-10% of the time” and “probably less.”

⁷ Both Roman numerals and numbers have been used when referring to these experiments over the years.

⁸ Legs were shortened in those cases where there was no clouds ahead, at least during daylight flights.

⁹ Several ground generators were located in the extreme northeast of the North target area near the Syrian border.

449 Most remarkably, perhaps, line seeding was carried out for an average of only 4 h per day
450 by this single aircraft to produce the statistically significant results in each target area and,
451 apparently, in the buffer zone (Gabriel 1967, Table 1). Brier et al. (1973), in an independent re-
452 analysis, examined rainfall in Lebanon and Jordan, and while confirming and extending the
453 seeding effects, they also found some indications for seeding effects in regions which could have
454 only been marginally seeded if at all.

455 A second daily randomized experiment, Israeli 2, was carried out from 1969-70 to 1974-
456 75. This second experiment was also a crossover experiment in which random seeding took
457 place in two target areas, this time called “North” and “South.” The North target area was shifted
458 inland from Israeli I (e.g., GN81). The South target area was appreciably larger than in Israeli I.
459 It included the area of the “Center” target area of Israeli I as well as a large area to the south
460 (GN74; Gabriel and Rosenfeld 1990). A narrow coastal region located upwind of the North target
461 area that exhibited a high correlation in rainfall ($r \approx 0.9$) with the North target farther inland was
462 designated as a control area since the target for the North had been shifted inland from the
463 coastline.

464 The amount of seeding was significantly increased from the first experiment by adding a
465 second aircraft and installing a network of 42 ground generators (NAS 1973). The ground
466 generators were added for more effective seeding of the inland hill region than had been the case
467 in the first experiment. However, the complete seeding details of the second experiment have
468 not yet been reported.

469 Israeli 2, therefore, had several design/evaluation components, 1) a crossover design
470 using the combined data from both targets, 2) a target/control design for the North target area, 3).
471 using the rainfall data for one target on all of its seeded and control days (single area evaluation),
472 4) using the rainfall in the adjacent, non-seeded target on the days that seeding takes place in the

473 adjacent target. According to GN74, the advantage of the latter method, (4), was to eliminate
474 (the inevitable) storm bias on the seeded days of each target because a heavy storm was likely to
475 affect both regions on the same day because of their proximity. It was a sound argument¹⁰.

476 However, the results of the completed second experiment were limited for more than 14
477 years to just target-control evaluations of the North (e.g., GN81, Gagin 1981, hereafter, G81,
478 Gagin 1986, hereafter, G86, Gagin and Gabriel 1987). These limited evaluations of the second
479 experiment appeared to offer an unambiguous confirmation of the seeding results of Israeli I and
480 were cited on numerous occasions by other scientists as having demonstrated a confirmation of
481 the first experiment, and as a “stand alone” seeding success by numerous scientists and
482 organizations (e.g., Tukey et al. 1978a, 1978b, Simpson 1979, Mason 1982, Kerr 1982, Braham
483 1986, Silverman 1986, Cotton 1986, Dennis 1989; World Meteorological Organization 1992,
484 Young 1993, Cotton and Pielke 1992, 1995).

485 But another ingredient for widespread acceptance of the statistical results of the Israeli
486 experiments was in the making during the 1970s: cloud microstructure reports began to appear
487 in the journal literature. These reports described the clouds of Israel as unusually ripe with
488 seeding potential. Just as the scientists had in the Colorado experiments, the HUI scientists
489 reported that ice crystals were relatively rare in Israeli clouds until their tops became colder than -
490 21° C (e.g., G75, 1981, 1986, Gagin and Neumann 1976, 1981, Figure 3, dots).

491 Because cloud bases in the eastern Mediterranean are located at temperatures almost
492 exclusively between 5°C-12°C at around 700-800 m above sea level, it appeared that there was a
493 relatively great depth of liquid water both above and below the freezing level in which the
494 introduction of artificial ice crystals (and later as raindrops) could take advantage. These cloud

¹⁰ Gagin and Neumann (1974) wrote: “In the (crossover) design only one of the two experiment areas is seeded on any one day, the area being determined in a random manner. On the same day the second area serves as a ‘control’ area.”

495 reports lent considerable credibility among scientists to the view that the statistically significant
496 results obtained in two randomized cloud seeding experiments were indeed real and not
497 statistical flukes.

498 Thus, the ice-forming characteristics wintertime cumuliform clouds of Israel, as unlikely
499 as it might seem at first glance, was being reported as a mirror image of the cloud microstructure
500 of the wintertime stratiform clouds in Colorado. Nor did ice multiplication occur in the clouds
501 of Israel according to researchers (e.g., G75, G81, G86).

502 In refining the statistical results of Israeli 2, HUI scientists reported that radar studies
503 showed that it was *only* those clouds with radar tops between -12° and -21° C that were
504 responsible for the increases in rainfall (e.g., Gagin and Neumann 1976, GN81, G81, G86).
505 When the Israeli 2 results were confined to the effects of seeding on clouds with radar tops
506 between -12° and -21° C, rainfall was increased by seeding by 40-50%. More importantly, this
507 “cloud top” temperature stratification improved the already statistically-significant overall results
508 for the North target area (in the target/control evaluations--e.g., GN81).

509 In both the exact temperature range in which seeding appeared to have produced the
510 greatest seeding results, and in the magnitude of the response in precipitation to seeding, the
511 Israeli experiments appeared to be a mirror image of the results that had been reported by
512 Colorado scientists a few years earlier.

513 But the HUI scientists had an important edge over the Colorado experimenters; they
514 appeared to have *measured* the tops of the clouds that produced the large seeding results whereas,
515 in contrast, the Colorado scientists had merely *assumed* that a strong relationship existed between
516 500 hPa and cloud top temperatures and had not actually measured cloud top temperatures
517 (M79, Hobbs and Rangno 1979, hereafter, HR79, Grant 1986).

518 Also, both the Colorado and HUI experimenters had presented results that the seeding
519 effect ceased at cloud top temperatures above about -12° C. This was because of the low
520 nucleating activity of the silver iodide used to seed their respective clouds at these higher

521 temperatures and because the clouds with top temperatures this warm were too shallow to
522 produce appreciable precipitation at the ground even if extra ice crystals did form (e.g., GN81).

523 It was also reasoned by both groups of experimenters that the presence of too many
524 natural ice crystals (>about 10 l⁻¹) had resulted in a cutoff of the positive cloud seeding effects at
525 “cloud top” temperatures below about -20° C.

526 The final parallel reported between the experimenters in Colorado and Israel was that the
527 effect of seeding was to increase the duration of precipitation with little if any effect on the
528 intensity (e.g., Chappell et al. 1971, G86, Gagin and Gabriel 1987). These last findings lent
529 additional credibility to their respective results, as noted previously, the relatively low
530 temperatures of the clouds and the small doses of the seeding agent released made it seem
531 reasonable to most other scientists that *only* the duration of precipitation could have been
532 affected by this type of seeding in both experiments.

533 Hence, in every way, despite the differences in seeding techniques (ground vs. airborne)
534 and the types of clouds seeded (stratiform vs. cumuliform), the results of the two experiments
535 were virtually identical. The two sets of experiments conducted in Israel, too, were considered
536 complete and credible in every way by the scientific community, just as they had been in
537 Colorado. Thus, with the Climax I and II, and the Israeli 1 and 2 statistical and supporting
538 microstructure reports in hand, the 1970s and early 1980s were indeed the “glory years” of
539 confidence (and federal funding) in the field of cloud seeding as described by Cotton and Pielke
540 (1995, 2007).

541

542 **7. The unraveling of the experiments.**

543

544 Could all of these glowing statistical results supported by seemingly solid cloud
545 microstructure studies and various subtle, supportive seeding effects described above really be
546 “scientific mirages” (Foster and Huber 1997)? And as such, could they still be published in our
547 peer-reviewed journals?

548 As we will see, the answer to this last question appears to be, “yes.”

549

550 *a. The Colorado experiments*

551

552 The experiments at Climax and Wolf Creek Pass probably first began to unravel with the
553 reanalysis by Meltesen et al. (1978) who showed that a natural storm bias on seeded days led to
554 the misperception that seeding had increased snowfall downwind from Climax in the eastern
555 Colorado plains. Melteson et al.’s report meant, indirectly, that the random draw of the Climax
556 experiments had been meteorologically uneven as well. Mielke (1979, hereafter, M79) followed
557 with a stunning report that *both* Climax I and II experiments had been impacted by Type I
558 statistical errors (“lucky draws”) due to random draws that produced naturally heavier
559 precipitation on seeded days. He reported that the effects on precipitation at Climax, which had
560 been attributed to seeding, were also observed over wide areas of western Colorado that could
561 not have been seeded.

562 But Mielke went even farther: he also acknowledged that the stratifications of the
563 experiments by upper level temperatures were based on a faulty understanding of the
564 meteorology in the region and that cloud top temperatures could not, in fact, have been reliably
565 known in the Climax experiments. Mielke’s 1979 findings were repeated by Grant et al. (1979) at
566 conference¹¹.

567 HR79, independently examining the foundations of the Climax experiments, found that
568 the experimenters had no evidence for their original claims of a close relationship between upper
569 level temperatures and cloud top temperatures. In fact, Cooper and Marwitz (1980) found that
570 the coldest precipitating cloud tops—those well above the 500 hPa level in winter storms in the
571 Rockies--were usually associated with higher temperatures at 500 hPa, thus further undercutting
572 the assumption of a viable link between those two temperatures as had been claimed (e.g., Grant
573 and Mielke, 1967, Grant and Elliott 1974, Mielke et al. 1981).

¹¹ Presented by J. O. Rhea.

574 The WCP experiment, the third piece of the Colorado cloud seeding triad, was also
575 reanalyzed at this time. It was found that this experiment, too, had suffered from a lucky draw or
576 Type I statistical error (Rangno 1979, hereafter, R79). The effects that had been attributed to
577 seeding in the target watersheds were also observed over a several state region. Because so
578 many watersheds in a multi-state region were high relative to the chosen controls, it was the
579 control runoff that had behaved anomalously rather than the target area runoff in the WCP.

580 In later dispersion studies at Wolf Creek Pass, Hobbs et al. (1975) found that seeding
581 material was not reaching the clouds, or if it did, it was at locations so close to the crest that
582 could not have produced a fallout of snow in the target. For comparison, the cloud seeding
583 generator releases studied by Hobbs et al. were more numerous and they were situated at higher
584 locations than those that had been used in the WCP experiment.

585 Moreover, ice multiplication *does* occur in the wintertime clouds of the Rockies (Auer et
586 al. 1969, Vardiman 1972, Vardiman and Grant 1972a, 1972b, Cooper and Saunders 1980,
587 Cooper and Vali 1981). These findings weakened the early claims of high seeding potential for
588 wintertime clouds in Colorado (e.g., Grant 1968). And little correlation between cloud top
589 temperatures and ice particle concentrations was found (Vardiman and Hartzell 1976) at Wolf
590 Creek Pass, and by DeMott et al. (1982) in the central Rockies, further undercutting a crucial
591 physical argument used to explain the Climax and WCP statistical results.

592 Thus, the Climax and Wolf Creek Pass experiments were mortally flawed by uneven
593 random draws that favored seeded days and by the lack of a physical basis to explain the
594 supposed results.

595 However, despite these mortal flaws, the Colorado experimenters began publishing new
596 reanalyses of the Climax experiments. These reanalyses attempted to account for the uneven
597 random draws in Climax I and II as reported by M79; the new results suggested that cloud
598 seeding had, indeed, increased snowfall when the 500 hPa temperatures were $\geq -20^{\circ}$ C though by
599 not nearly as much as had been indicated in the earlier studies (e.g., Mielke et al. 1981). In spite
600 of the M79 statement that the upper level temperatures could not have indexed cloud top

601 temperatures in the Rockies, Mielke et al. 1981 nevertheless renewed that claim; the 500 hPa
602 temperature stratifications in their new analyses were linked to cloud tops (and, presumably, ice
603 particle concentrations). To date, no evidence has been presented in support of these renewed
604 claims.

605 Additional problems with the Climax experiments soon surfaced, however; these ranged
606 from the experimenters having used a different observational day for the control station
607 precipitation than they had previously used (Rhea 1983), to the discovery that publically-
608 available published precipitation data for the key, independently-maintained gauge at Climax did
609 not match that used by the experimenters (Rangno and Hobbs 1987, 1995a, hereafter, RH87,
610 RH95a).

611 Rhea (1983) reported that when the precipitation data at the control stations were
612 synchronized with the target, the seeding effect in Climax II diminished to statistical non-
613 significance; it had not replicated Climax I after all.

614 A critical flaw discovered in Climax I was that the increases in snowfall due to seeding at
615 Climax at the cooperative “independent” gauge disappeared *after* the date (halfway through
616 Climax I) that the experimenters had selected their subset of control stations (Rangno and Hobbs
617 1993, hereafter RH93, Figure 1). There was no further indication of a seeding affect at that
618 central gauge after that date throughout the rest of the Climax I and II experiments (RH93). This
619 phenomenon suggests data dredging to find an effect that did not actually exist as subsequent
620 data proved.

621 Seeding logistical problems, and as yet, inexplicable interruptions in the flow of random
622 draws affected the outcome of the Climax experiments were also exposed in RH93.

623 Mielke (1995) has addressed some of these questions and reiterated his belief that the
624 increases in snow purported by the experimenters over many years in their publications were, in
625 fact, real.

626 The impact of the published results of the Climax and WCP experiments--before the
627 many problems discussed above were beginning to be reported in the late 1970s and 1980s--was

628 profound. They not only appeared to have established beyond a doubt in the most skeptical
629 scientific minds that cloud seeding really worked in mountainous regions (e.g., NAS73, Mason
630 1980; 1982), there was also the practical impact of having those flawed results lead to an
631 ambitious, well-planned, and extremely costly attempt at an independent replication of the
632 Colorado experimenters' results in a new sophisticated randomized experiment, the Colorado
633 River Basin Pilot Project (e. g., Braham 1979).

634 Not surprisingly, during the Colorado River Basin Pilot Project (CRBPP), the attempt to
635 replicate the results at Climax and Wolf Creek Pass, met with numerous operational problems
636 during its five-year lifetime (Elliott et al. 1973, 1978, Elliott 1979, 1986, Braham 1979, R79,
637 Hobbs 1980, Rangno and Hobbs 1980a). These operational problems mainly arose due to
638 discrepancies in the original experimenters' assumptions about clouds and where their tops were
639 located. Ultimately, the CRBPP failed to replicate the results of the Climax and WCP when the
640 same methods used by the experimenters to stratify seeding effects were also used (R79; see also
641 Elliott et al. 1978; Rangno and Hobbs 1980a for wider discussion of the CRBPP results).

642

643 *b. The experiments in Israel; erosion of the original cloud reports*

644

645 A similar erosion of confidence in the results of the Israeli experiments has also occurred
646 over the past 30 years. The Israeli experiments were not just apparent statistical successes
647 standing in isolation. The statistical results were buttressed by seemingly solid cloud
648 microstructure reports. Figure 3 (dots) is a plot of cloud ice data given in support of the
649 statistically successful cloud seeding experiments. These data led scientists worldwide to believe
650 for many years that the wintertime cumuliform clouds in the eastern Mediterranean were
651 unusually ripe with seeding potential (e.g., Kerr 1982, Mossop 1985, Silverman 1986, Dennis
652 1989).

653 The great seeding potential seen in these data was because the clouds appeared to be able

654 to form only a relatively few ice crystals per liter on average even when cloud tops were as cold
655 as -21° C. This meant that the introduction of a seeding agent was required to form ice crystals
656 for an effective release of precipitation from these clouds, thought to require concentrations of a
657 few tens per liter for an effective release of precipitation (e.g., Mason 1971, Dennis 1980).

658 The “Xs” in Figure 3, however, represent later airborne measurements collected in the
659 eastern Mediterranean with modern probes that show quite a different picture than could be
660 deduced by the original experimenters. Ice crystal concentrations of tens to hundreds per liter
661 were encountered by Levin 1992, 1994, and Levin et al. (1996) near cloud tops with temperatures
662 of about -6° to about -13° C. According to the original cloud reports, this was a cloud top
663 temperature range in which very few if any ice crystals were supposed to occur. Perhaps the
664 most notable aspect of this finding was that Levin et al. gathered these surprising results on only
665 four days of sampling on six flights. Levin’s reports were preceded by an analysis of Israeli
666 rawin data that indicated that rain fell from clouds with tops warmer than -10° C, and that warm
667 rain formed in them (Rangno 1988). These findings have been supported in satellite data
668 (Ramanathan et al. 2001).

669 Finally, Freud et al. 2015 have confirmed these reports by reporting that the natural
670 precipitating efficiency of Israeli clouds moving in from the Mediterranean was so high that by
671 the time their tops reached just -3° C, they were already precipitating and unsuitable for seeding
672 with silver iodide. This is about at the 700 mb level during most storms.

673 Due to these new ice-forming results, the clouds of Israel no longer stand out from similar
674 clouds as noticed by Rangno and Hobbs (1988), updated in RH95. There is no longer debate
675 about the unsuitability of Israeli clouds as targets for cloud seeding.

676 Thus, the “mirror image” cloud microstructure reports that matched those in the Colorado
677 Rockies, and also appeared to explain *why* seeding had worked in Israel, were faulty. Neither
678 the clouds in Colorado nor those in Israel are virtually ice-free until their tops are colder than -
679 20° C. And, ice multiplication is now known to be active in both locations (*loc. cit.*).

680 Researchers have attributed the ice-forming efficiency of Israeli clouds to various causes; dust
681 particles (Rosenfeld and Farbstein 1992), dust particles coated with sulfates (Levin et al 1996,
682 2005) and due to large cloud droplets resulting from Mediterranean Sea spray (Freud et al. 2015).

683 Moreover, no one has yet documented the cloud that is responsible for producing virtually
684 the entire statistical significance in precipitation in both the Colorado and Israeli projects; the
685 deep cloud that does not naturally precipitate until seeded, and then when seeded, precipitates at
686 the same rate as natural precipitation. Only the routine presence of such non-precipitating natural
687 clouds could have provided the “extra duration” due to seeding responsible in *both* experiments
688 for the statistical significance (e.g., Chappell et al 1971; G86; Gagin and Gabriel 1987).

689 Lastly, RH95b, 1997b) concluded that the stratifications of seeding effects by cloud top
690 temperatures in Israeli 2 are unreliable due to inadequacies of the 3-cm wavelength radar used by
691 the experimenters for this task. This conclusion was reached in large part by the radar’s distance
692 from the North target area for which the experimenters reported “modal” cloud tops.

693

694 *b. Erosion of the statistical reports for Israeli 2.*

695

696 The new cloud assessments in the late 1980s and 1990s, were accompanied by new
697 statistical reports for Israeli 2. The full analysis of Israeli 2 using the results of random seeding
698 on both targets, revealed that there had been a null result of seeding; it had not replicated Israeli 1
699 after all as had been believed for many years. Rainfall had been unusually heavy in *both* target
700 areas on the days when the North target area was seeded (Gabriel and Rosenfeld 1990). When
701 the results of the two target areas were combined what appeared to be rainfall increases in the
702 North target area on seeded days were canceled out by apparent decreases in rainfall due to
703 seeding in the South target area. Gabriel and Rosenfeld (1990) found that the average rainfall in
704 the South target area on control days (which are the same days as when the North target area was
705 seeded) was 30-40% above historical daily average by “several standard errors” and was

706 “statistically significant” a remarkable finding¹².

707 RH95b showed that the same effects described above (heavy rain on North target area
708 seeded days) extended as far north as Beirut, Lebanon, and throughout western and central
709 Jordan downwind of the South target area. When the South target’s rainfall *was* used as a control
710 for the seeded target, the seeding effect in the North target area was reduced to -3%, nearly the
711 same result as had been reported for the experiment by Gabriel and Rosenfeld (1990) using a
712 different set of rain gauges.

713 Ironically, using the pre-planned crossover design described by Gagin and Neumann
714 (1974) produced the worst result (-3%) of the several precipitation comparisons made by RH95b,
715 1997a. RH95b attributed the Israeli I and II results to Type I statistical errors, some of which
716 were obscured in the reports preceding Gabriel and Rosenfeld (1990) full analysis because the
717 experimenters’ used different evaluation techniques in each of the two sets of experiments.

718 Rosenfeld (1997) has suggested that the seeding effects on rainfall, using the buffer zone
719 precipitation as a control, show a consistent positive seeding result in the two Israeli experiments
720 that is confined to the North target area, with non-statistically significant decreases in rainfall
721 suggested in the Center and South target areas. For a more complete discussion of these
722 interesting experiments and differing interpretations of the Israeli experiments, see Rosenfeld
723 (1997), Dennis and Orville (1997), Woodley (1997), Ben-Zvi (1997), Rangno and Hobbs (1997a,
724 1997b, 1997c, 1997d, 1997e).

725 *c. Israeli 3*

726 The final results of a third randomized experiment, Israeli 3, were reported by Rosenfeld
727 (1998). This experiment began in 1975 and was confined to the South target area of Israeli II.

¹² An inspection of the random sequence for Israeli 2 showed that it is very different from that used in Israeli 1. In Israeli 1, the same decision occurred on the following day on 13% of the draws, but on 59% of the draws in Israeli 2, the next day had the same decision. Could this account for the lopsided draw?

728 The results decreases in rainfall of 5-10% on seeded days after 19 winter seasons and nearly 1000
729 random decisions (Rosenfeld 1998). The null result in Israeli 3 appears to support the lack of
730 seeding effects in Israeli 1 and 2 deduced by RH95b), but also supports the interpretation by
731 Rosenfeld (1997) of a lack of decreases in rain due to seeding in the southern targets of all three
732 experiments over almost 30 years.

733 Additional re-analyses of seeding on rainfall in Israeli 2 were reported by Levin et al 2010
734 who concluded that the appearance of increases in rainfall in Israeli 2 was due to synoptic factors
735 and not due to seeding. This finding was criticized by Ben-Zvi et al (2011) with a Reply by
736 Levin et al 2011.

737 In sum, not only were the statistical results of the Colorado and Israeli experiments
738 undermined by similar flaws and omissions; so too were the experimenters' cloud reports and
739 stratifications by cloud top temperatures flawed in similar ways. In both cases, the experimenters
740 were unable to correctly assess their clouds; they reported far too low natural ice particle
741 concentrations in both locales, but ones that the supported the seeding effects they were
742 reporting.
743

744 **8. Why Did Peer Review Fail?**

745

746 How did all of this happen? How could so many reports fraught with faulty conclusions
747 based on inadequate evidence slip into the published literature and gain widespread acceptance as
748 solid, unambiguous cloud seeding results when evaluated by our highest professional
749 organizations, panels, and individual scientists? What went wrong from the beginning that could
750 have been, and perhaps should have been, caught in the peer review process?

751 Why *do* reviews of manuscripts sometimes fail? And why don't the mechanisms of
752 journal post-publication criticisms, or author self-correction, seem to work?

753 Many answers to these questions are obvious to those who do reviews, or have had
754 manuscripts reviewed, but what factors were responsible can't be known for sure until the
755 reviewers of the faulty journal articles discuss what happened.

756 Faults in the original analyses that were missed by reviewers included:

- 757 a) the control or target stations for the cloud seeding experiment were not selected before
758 the experiment began. Instead, the optimistic statistical result was due to the use of a
759 subset of the available control stations were selected after or mid-way through the
760 experiment;
- 761 b) the choice of controls, among many that could have been chosen, profoundly affected
762 whether the experiment appeared successful;
- 763 c) the experimenters did not carry out regional analyses that would have shown that the
764 same effect which they attributed to cloud seeding in the target area had occurred over
765 a wide region which could not be seeded;
- 766 d) the seeding potential of the clouds was over-estimated by the experimenters because
767 they found lower concentrations of ice crystals in clouds than actually exist;
- 768 e) the experimenters reported relationships between cloud top temperatures and ice
769 crystal concentrations that do not exist;
- 770 f) the efficiency of seeding methods was over-estimated;
- 771 g) ersatz data that enhanced the statistical results of an experiment were used;
- 772 h) portions of experiments that cast doubt on a cloud seeding success were omitted from
773 published analyses, thus making the experiment appear more successful than it really
774 was;
- 775 i) results of follow-up experiments which did not replicate the results of previous,
776 "successful" experiments were not reported.

777

778 But *why* didn't reviewers of these many papers catch these many faults? And why didn't
779 those who knew there were problems in some experiments (such as the author) comment on

780 published papers having ersatz data or physical arguments? The following list of likely factors
781 will not surprise anyone, but they do, as we shall see later, represent continuing obstacles that
782 must be overcome in the review process:

783

784 j) reviewers are too busy to do a proper job;

785 k) reviewers of papers and proposals are not skeptical enough about some of the claims
786 contained in papers because they are, perhaps, naive about human nature and the
787 temptation to improve the outcome of cloud seeding experiments (any paper?) due to
788 self-deception or other reasons;

789 l) reviewers have their own agendas and allow weakly supported science to get published
790 that favors their viewpoints;

791 m) the journal editor has a viewpoint and distributes submitted papers on cloud seeding
792 to those whose reviews are likely to agree with his own viewpoint;

793 n) the selection of reviewers by journal editors is often too narrow in expertise for the
794 breadth of territory covered by a paper on cloud seeding (i. e., statistics, cloud
795 microstructure, dispersion, synoptic meteorology);

796 o) some scientists believe that post-publication peer review criticism of papers is, per se,
797 not a useful scientific activity and detracts from other, funded work even when they
798 are skeptical of published results. Hence, they ignore or do not cite work they are
799 skeptical of;

800 p) open criticism of a colleague may not occur because a potential critic may feel that
801 his/her chances of receiving grants or having papers published might diminish if the
802 colleague is likely to review his/her papers or proposals;

803 q) the most knowledgeable critics of published papers are probably those *within* the same
804 institution from which faulty research emanates and are not likely to comment on
805 questionable work because of an unwritten “it’s in the family” code of conduct;

806 r) the most knowledgeable critics within a cloud seeding establishment may be under

807 financial duress if they comment critically on their own organization's work;
808 s) knowledgeable critics within the same institution are, *ipso facto*, unlikely to be
809 anonymous reviewers of work emanating from the same institution;
810 t) the randomization of the experiments themselves, in the absence of experience about
811 how perniciously uneven random draws could be even over periods of years (e.g.,
812 Israeli 2 and 3, perhaps led to a misplaced assurance of no storm (or experimenter)
813 bias.

814

815 Perhaps, given this list, we should be surprised if *any* valid results are published!

816 And, we can be sure, and can commiserate that these are not problems that have solely
817 afflicted the domain of cloud seeding (e.g., Feder and Stewart 1987, Foster and Huber 1997.)

818 On the other hand, reviewers should not have to be “gumshoes” (private investigators)
819 looking for the omitted data or other mischief. An implicit trust exists between authors of
820 manuscripts and reviewers which is when the authors of a manuscript state that they did
821 something, the reviewer should be able to assume that they did it, and that the seeding effect the
822 experimenters are reporting was an isolated anomaly in the target. And that they have cited all
823 of the pertinent literature for the reader as a background.

824 For example, when experimenters report that they have examined many precipitation
825 gauges or watershed runoffs for use as covariates before selecting the ones that they did to test a
826 seeding effect (as did Morel-Seytoux and Saheli 1973, Hastay and Gladwell 1969, Mielke et al.
827 1970, etc.), it is assumed, as a trust issue by reviewers, that any problems or contrary evidence to
828 a “successful experiment” that may have turned up in the search will be reported.

829 But, as the experiments examined above show, this apparently did not happen. Had
830 reviewers insisted that Mielke et al. (1970) display the results of the seed/no seed precipitation
831 ratios for “all western Colorado gauges” in Climax I (which the experimenters stated they were
832 already evaluating at that time), it would have helped them confront a Type I statistical error (or
833 “good draw”), one that they were unable to detect until ten years later (M79). The demand for

834 statewide seed/no seed ratios in the Climax experiments was apparently never made by any of the
835 reviewers of the several papers on those experiments. Perhaps it was believed by reviewers that
836 the randomization of experiment itself, conducted over five years in both Climax I and II, would
837 take care of uneven draws--why expect them?

838 The same can be said about the value of regional plots for the Wolf Creek Pass
839 experiment (Morel-Seytoux and Saheli 1973), the Skagit Project (Hastay and Gladwell 1969),
840 and in the Israeli experiments (e.g., GN81). Had the authors been required to display their
841 statistical results on a regional-scale (against the controls they chose for measuring seeding
842 effects), they would have been forced to confront evidence of uneven random draws that favored
843 seeded days, and, at least, would have had to explain them.

844 Another indication of a problem, perhaps obvious only in retrospect, was that in both the
845 Colorado and Israeli experiments the seeding effect was confined to a precipitation duration
846 effect, a report, however, that was compatible with the kind of seeding carried out. However,
847 the seeding of natural non-precipitating clouds was so efficient that it made them precipitate at
848 the same rate as natural clouds, a red flag, a highly unlikely outcome. The alternative to this
849 inference of causing non-precipitating clouds to precipitate was that the experimenters were
850 dealing with a natural bias that had produced the misperception of extended “duration effects” on
851 seeded days.

852 Moreover, day-to-day weather forecasters in the Rockies with the National Weather
853 Service who plotted rawinsondes by hand in the days of the Climax experiments are not likely to
854 have accepted the claim by the Colorado experimenters of a close correspondence between cloud
855 top and 500 hPa temperatures (e.g., Grant and Mielke 1967, Mielke et al. 1981). Indeed, some
856 cloud seeding workers in the Rockies (Rhea et al. 1969, Rangno 1972, Elliott et al. 1973), were
857 already reporting that there were problems with this assumption. However, none of these latter
858 findings were widely distributed, nor were they submitted for publication in peer-reviewed
859 journals. Rather, they remained husbanded in “project reports” within the agency that was

860 largely funding these experiments.¹³ The scientific personnel within the agency also did not act
861 to publish or make known these findings.

862 Weather forecasters in the Israel Meteorological Service (IMS) were also aware that
863 significant rain fell from clouds with tops equal to or warmer than -10°C (tops that are generally
864 between 3.5 and 4.5 km above sea level). Such knowledge by the IMS forecasters ran counter to
865 the claims contained in cloud microstructure reports that were appearing in foreign journals
866 purporting that the clouds of Israel were very inefficient producers of rainfall (viz., could not
867 form any ice crystals until the tops became colder than -14°C , and not many until the tops were
868 colder than -21°C (e.g., G75).

869 One might assume, reasonably, that improving systems of measurements would have had
870 an effect; if these researchers had only had modern instrumentation these faulty reports could
871 never have appeared. Strangely, and perhaps pointing to subjective influence, this is not true.
872 For example, the first sign that something was seriously amiss with the cloud microstructure
873 reports in Israel were deduced by an analysis of conventional, and widely available rawinsonde
874 data (Rangno 1988).

875 Moreover, the HUJ experimenters themselves had, for two consecutive rainy seasons
876 (1976-1977 and 1977-1978), measured the tops of clouds with no less than two radars, one a 5-
877 cm scanning radar located at Ben Gurion Airport, and a 3-cm vertically-pointed radar located
878 near their offices at the HUJ. They also used an instrumented aircraft to verify cloud top heights
879 over the vertically-pointed radar (Gagin 1980). METEOSAT thermal imagery, as well as
880 rawinsonde data from which to deduce cloud tops heights and temperatures was also available.

881 And yet, despite these many tools, they were still unable to discern, or more accurately,
882 report, that their cloud reports were in substantial error.

883 Recall, too, that in the Colorado Rockies, the experimenters also had a vertically-pointed
884 3-cm radar and they, too, were unable to see the fallacy of their claims that 500 hPa and cloud
885 tops were well-correlated (“outed” by Hobbs and Rangno 1979; RH93.)

¹³ The now defunct Atmospheric Water Resources Management Division of the Bureau of Reclamation.

886 These two experiences in Colorado and Israel strongly suggest that there is a role for day-
887 to-day weather forecasters in the review of manuscripts on cloud seeding and the cloud properties
888 and storm types that might befuddle cloud seeding experiments within their forecasting domain.
889 It is noteworthy in this discussion that the problem of “storm types” and their ability to
890 compromise cloud seeding experiments was brought to the attention of those evaluating a cloud
891 seeding experiment by a weather forecaster (E. M. Vernon) with the U. S. Weather Bureau in San
892 Francisco (Neyman et al. 1960).

893 It has been suggested, too, that if the reports of the true ambiguity of many of the
894 experiments in Table 1 had been reported initially, would there have been a more rapid advance
895 in cloud seeding experimentation because so many questions would have been raised
896 immediately and likely investigated.

897

898 **9. Some Remedies**

899

900 Several recurring themes in the “pathology” of faulty published results suggest a few
901 remedies for improving cloud seeding manuscripts. Many of these have been suggested in the
902 past (e.g., Court 1960, Neyman and Scott 1967, Dennis 1980), but are worth recalling here.

903

904 *a. Improving the reliability of published cloud seeding research*

905

906 A panel of experts representing several disciplines should be given the responsibility for
907 assessing the quality of manuscripts submitted on cloud seeding. This is because of the strong
908 subjective influences that appear to creep into the evaluation of cloud seeding experiments by
909 those who conduct them or have vested interests. Manuscripts on cloud seeding, due to the great
910 breadth of territory covered and the questions they raise, such as:

911 Was it likely that the seeding agent was transported to the proper locations and in the
912 right concentrations at a reasonable point upwind of the target area?

913 Was the statistical conduct of the experiment proper? Were the clouds likely to have
914 responded favorably to artificial increases in concentrations of ice crystals?

915 Are the cloud reports representative of the region?

916 Could differing storm-types on seeded or control days have affected the experiment? A
917 review panel to answer these questions might consist of:

918

919 1. two independent statisticians, neither associated with the institution carrying out
920 the cloud seeding experiment.

921 2. one or more experts in airborne cloud microstructure measurements,

922 3. one or more experts in diffusion,

923 4. one or more weather forecasters or synoptic meteorologists with expertise in the
924 region in question,

925 5. an anonymous reviewer from within the department or institution from which the
926 cloud seeding report emerges.

927

928 The formation of a panel to evaluate manuscripts on cloud seeding experiments may seem
929 like a drastic measure. However, efforts suggested by this recommendation must be weighed
930 against the cost of the faulty or partially-reported results that have been published in our journals
931 thus far that misled us.

932

933 b. *Improving the robustness of cloud seeding experiments reported in journals.*

934

935 Mandatory requirements should include:

936

937 1. Reporting the results of experiments using all experimental units. Subsets of
938 days/units, and why should follow, not precede the full analysis (often not
939 presented).

- 940 2. Regional maps of the test statistic used to evaluate the effectiveness of seeding
941 in the target will be shown for all available stations.
- 942 3. An experimental unit chosen to maximize the amount of independent data that
943 can be used to evaluate the results of seeding in an experiment. For example, if a
944 24 h experimental day is used in the U. S., it should end at 0700 or 0900 LST, the
945 times at which the maximum number of NOAA cooperative gauges are read for
946 24 h totals.
- 947 4. Control precipitation *stations* or other covariates against which the effect of
948 seeding will be tested must be *publicly* identified *before* an experiment begins.
- 949 5. The random decisions of the experiment should be placed in a public repository
950 at the time they are made.
- 951 6. Daily records of the hours of aircraft and/or ground seeding operations, rate of
952 seeding, and the percent of the clouds/precipitation that was actually seeded will
953 be made available for public inspection at the end of each experimental unit.
954 Preferably these data would be placed on-line in a near real-time basis.
- 955 7. Where radar is installed to evaluate seeding effects, it should be operated by, and
956 the analyses of the radar data performed by groups that are independent of the
957 experiment and have no knowledge of the random seeding decisions in real time.
- 958 8. All precipitation and radar data will be placed in a public archive as the
959 experiment progresses. Preferably these would be available on-line as close to
960 real time as practicable.
- 961 9. Where special networks of precipitation gauges are installed for the purpose of
962 analyzing cloud seeding experiments, the gauge readings must be made by an
963 independent organization that is not aware of whether an experimental period has
964 been seeded or not (as in the CRBPP).
- 965 10. Precipitation gauges, measurements, and hydrological data must be tamper-
966 proof.

- 967 11. The National Weather Service forecast for the time closest to experimental units
968 must also be archived.
- 969 12. Submitted papers that profess to find a seeding effect (or lack of one) based on
970 *post facto* selected controls should not be considered for publication *unless* it is
971 made clear that it is the result of exploratory analyses and confidence in any
972 result presented is degraded and should be used with caution.
- 973 13. Omitting results from cloud seeding experiments for more than five years
974 following completion of an experiment will be considered misconduct.
- 975 14. Those who design, conduct, or promote commercial cloud seeding should *never*
976 evaluate cloud seeding experiments. This must be left to independent groups
977 such as university statistical departments.
- 978 15. High resolution numerical models (e.g., Morrison et al. 2015) should be used to
979 produce estimates of natural precipitation on control and seeded days.

980

981 c. *The authors of cloud seeding studies should disclose their vested interests in the*
982 *outcomes of cloud seeding experiments and key personnel should attest to the validity*
983 *of the result being reported.*

984

985 Following the lead of several leading medical journals, American Meteorological Society
986 and other journals should also require a “disclosure” statement signed by the author(s) that is
987 either privately addressed to the journal editor (to be used at his discretion), or appears at the
988 conclusion of each article on cloud seeding. Such a disclosure statement should include the
989 following information:

- 990
- 991 1. Authors must divulge whether their employment is dependent upon the “sign” of
992 the cloud seeding results presented.
- 993 2. Authors and their associates (e.g., radar technicians/ meteorologists/forecasters

994 who monitor cloud systems, pilots performing seeding missions, etc.) must also be
995 signatories on statements accompanying submitted manuscripts indicating that the
996 conditions and results described in the paper are true to the best of their
997 knowledge.

998 3. Their *a priori* convictions about cloud seeding.

999

1000 We must also encourage workers who know of discrepancies in the descriptions of cloud
1001 seeding experiments to report them to the scientific community. The author regrets not having
1002 done so during the CRBPP in the early 1970s when discrepancies were being documented
1003 concerning the Climax and Wolf Creek Pass cloud top height hypotheses.

1004

1005 **10. Has Peer Review improved? A Brief Examination of Recent Cloud Seeding** 1006 **Literature**

1007

1008 The foregoing analyses have demonstrated that peer review was inadequate on numerous
1009 occasions in the cloud seeding literature in past decades. But these stories are old hat. Have we
1010 learned from these painful, costly lessons of inadequate peer review since the Colorado and
1011 Israeli experiences and have we “closed the gaps” to faulty literature? Many of the suggestions
1012 in this article have been put forward since the era of modern cloud seeding began. But have they
1013 been implemented to root out bias?

1014 In this section, we now examine recent publications for signs of increased peer-review
1015 robustness in the renewed cloud seeding activity centered around a massive, \$9 million dollar
1016 randomized experiment in Wyoming, one resembling in scope and planning, the Colorado River
1017 Basin Pilot Project of the early 1970s. The latter was undertaken in to replicate the apparent
1018 large (but in reality, non-existent) increases in snowfall that were being reported in the Climax I,
1019 II and Wolf Creek Pass randomized experiments.

1020 In this review, we keep in mind that organizations that are vested in weather

1021 modification, such as the now defunct Atmospheric Water Resources Management/Research
1022 division of the Bureau of Reclamation, some universities with persistent cloud seeding programs
1023 and research, segments of NCAR, and nations with tens of thousands of workers dependent on
1024 funding of cloud seeding programs, are surely ripe for producing slanted, unreliable results
1025 concerning cloud seeding research due to the inherent pressures of having to prove a viable cloud
1026 seeding effect to maintain funding. This is probably one of the more obvious concerns by this
1027 author going into this review, as it should be for all of us outside the cloud seeding culture.

1028 Think of the faulty research that emanated from powerhouse research universities here in
1029 the US (Colorado State University) and in Israel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) as examples
1030 of how vested interests (jobs and funding) and likely *a priori* beliefs, created an environment for
1031 corrupted research, an issue recently addressed in an editorial about the causes of fraud in science
1032 (Nature 2008).

1033 Within such environments in weather modification, only reports finding that seeding did
1034 not increase precipitation are virtually certain to be reliable. Those reports, including field
1035 experiments, case studies, model simulations, statistical analyses that conclude increases in
1036 precipitation from institutions under “seeding funding duress” must necessarily be given extra
1037 attention. They might be valid and thorough in every way, but they must be reviewed with extra
1038 vigor as will be demonstrated.

1039

1040 *The National Center for Atmospheric Research and cloud seeding*

1041

1042 The NCAR Research Applications Laboratory (RAL) group has been involved with
1043 seeding assessment programs for many years and has produced extremely thorough Final
1044 Reports, such as NCAR RAL (2005) for rainfall assessment program in the United Arab
1045 Emirates. No stone was left unturned and the report included all the warts that happen in field
1046 programs. There are no indications of bias, and all relevant literature is cited.

1047 Presently NCAR (using a different set of researchers), has become heavily involved with

1048 cloud seeding research in Wyoming. And due to that involvement, worth millions, has already
1049 made a basic misstep that will undermine the credibility of any reported “success” from this
1050 otherwise well-planned program of research.

1051 The compromising misstep?

1052 Having the same organization that planned a \$9 million dollar experiment (NCAR),
1053 evaluate its results, NCAR (Breed et al. 2014). For all of its faults, even the Bureau of
1054 Reclamation’s Division of Atmospheric Water Resources Management knew better when it
1055 planned the massive Colorado River Basin Pilot Project than to have its own scientists evaluate
1056 its results!

1057 But how can we tell if slanted reporting of seeding effects are occurring, or are likely to
1058 occur from NCAR in the future? Answer: evaluate the early literature already emanating from
1059 NCAR. We focus on two examples.

1060 Surprisingly, in Breed et al. (2014) of NCAR, the signs of bias are rife. Here are
1061 examples of citations that prove that unreliable reporting still lives in the cloud seeding domain,
1062 and, specifically, in some quarters of NCAR:

1063 1) The former illustrious Climax, CO, randomized experiments, whose rise and fall cycle
1064 are discussed at length in the present paper, are cited in Breed et al. 2014: Mielke et al (1981),
1065 Mielke et al (1982), and Grant (1986).

1066 There are no further citations of the many concerning the compromising flaws in those
1067 experiments (a null result). They no longer have credibility outside of NCAR.

1068 In reading the first two citations by Breed et al., the reader will be led to reports of
1069 statistically-significant cloud seeding increases in snowfall. Today those results are known to be
1070 bogus (e.g., RH95a) as well as the underlying microphysical foundations of those experiments
1071 (e.g., M79, among many others that could be cited). Grant (1986) was not candid about those
1072 missteps, whereas M79 was.

1073 Citations that only refer to the “happy” results reported by the Colorado experimenters,
1074 without filling in the whole, sad, costly story, is tantamount to citing Fleischmann and Pons

1075 (1989) as having provided evidence of “cold fusion” without citing the follow up research that
1076 proved it was a bogus.

1077
1078 In slanted publications, a second aspect is that references documenting the major faults in
1079 the Colorado experiments will, of course, *not* be cited, as is observed in Breed et al. 2014 to
1080 maintain a one-sided view of those experiments.

1081 A slightly paraphrased version of the FTC Statement on consumer fraud is worth
1082 recalling in the context of Breed et al.’s limited citations and for other researchers who practice
1083 one-sided citations:

1084 “Certain elements undergird all deception cases. First, there must be a representation,
1085 omission or practice that is likely to mislead the (journal reader).” In Breed et al. 2014 the reader
1086 is clearly misled about prior seeding work in the Rockies.

1087 However, because Breed et al. 2014 describe the single area Climax experiments as
1088 “crossover” experiments, it indicates that neither the authors, nor the reviewers of their
1089 manuscript were familiar with the topic they were addressing. Could it be that they were also not
1090 aware of the many faults uncovered in the Climax experiments by HR79, Rhea (1983), RH87,
1091 RH93, and RH95a, that included suggestions of data tampering?

1092 2) Breed et al. 2014 also do not address the large number of ice multiplication findings
1093 that have been reported in the Rockies (e.g., Auer et al 1969; Vardiman 1978, Marwitz and
1094 Cooper 1980, Cooper and Vali 1981), nor that cloud tops and cloud ice concentrations have been
1095 found to be uncorrelated (e.g., Vardiman and Hartzell 1976, DeMott et al 1982).

1096 Ice multiplication is generally considered a scourge to increasing precipitation via static
1097 cloud seeding (e.g., Dennis 1980) and a relationship between cloud top temperatures and ice
1098 particle concentrations, has been a mantra of seeding partisans in defining seeding “windows”
1099 (e.g., Grant 1968, 1986; Grant and Elliott 1974).

1100 These aspects of clouds in the Rockies should have been addressed in Breed et al. 2014
1101 and not ignored. Since this information presents complications to seeding, ones that no model
1102 has satisfactorily solved, it can be presumed that this is the reason these topics are not discussed
1103 since funding might be compromised.

1104 In the Israel literature, Freud et al. (2015) can also be viewed as having similar faults
1105 such as one-sided citing and omitting relevant literature in the way that Breed et al. 2014 did.

1106 Ironically, and amazingly so, the reporting of the Colorado and Israeli cloud seeding
1107 literature continue to mirror one another long after the glory days of ersatz “successes.”

1108

1109 **11. Conclusions**

1110

1111 This review has demonstrated that randomization of a cloud seeding experiment *per se*
1112 does not appear to compensate for experimenter bias or other non-scientific factors that appear to
1113 operate in the realm of cloud seeding experiments. It has been demonstrated that the same costly
1114 problems of inadequate, or friendly peer reviews still persist in this literature today.

1115 Perhaps it is not surprising that it can't be eradicated so easily. Donald Kennedy (2003)
1116 in a *Science* editorial concerning proved cases of fraud in physics and the biological sciences,
1117 informed readers that the main driver of fraud was “career enhancement.”

1118 Unless we believe that atmospheric researchers in cloud seeding are somehow superior to
1119 medical or physics researchers, the force to improve or maintain our positions in life will drive
1120 some to be less forthcoming or worse concerning their cloud seeding research. We must be
1121 vigilante and implement as many safeguards as we can.

1122 As scientists, it appears to this author that we are more emotionally involved in the
1123 outcome of a randomized cloud seeding experiment than we are about the outcome of our other
1124 research activities, such as measuring the size of the effective radius in Stratocumulus clouds in
1125 the Atlantic Ocean. On the other hand, we seem to care an awful lot about whether a seeding has
1126 increased precipitation in our own experiments (e. g., Table 1).

1127 Like a Hollywood movie set, which exudes glamour and authenticity when viewed from
1128 the front--an empty shell no doubt lies behind other, non-independently scrutinized reports of
1129 cloud seeding successes, some of which may still be relied upon by our most distinguished
1130 scientists and panels in their assessments of cloud seeding. The author believes that Neyman's
1131 (1980) call for a careful, comprehensive *independent* review of the cloud seeding literature on
1132 which our present AMS and World Meteorological Organization official assessments rely was a
1133 reasonable, essential one.

1134 Furthermore, it is suggested that we could learn so much more from long term
1135 commercial seeding operators if they would only randomize their efforts, with independent
1136 (university) evaluations. Mandating in federal law that all commercial projects randomize their
1137 seeding operations should be considered. We owe it to the public to carry out randomized
1138 experiments instead of purely operational ones and to evaluate them in a robust, scientific way to
1139 so that the public, the operators and funders can learn what they have been doing all those years
1140 of seeding.

1141 Israel paid a dear price for operational seeding (Sharon et al. 2008), and the Bureau of
1142 Reclamation one, too, on an experiment to replicate non-existent results. Both of these painful
1143 chapters were both to faulty research published in our journals by those who had the most to
1144 gain. Surely, more flawed operational seeding projects will be "outed" if randomization was
1145 mandated, a good thing.

1146

1147

1148 Acknowledgments. This paper is dedicated to Jerzy Neyman because his presence on the cloud
1149 seeding scene as a leading statistician from the 1950s to 1980 and his intense scrutiny of the
1150 cloud seeding literature no doubt improved articles on cloud seeding even before they were
1151 submitted and he helped to elucidate many points once they were. Surely, he would have made
1152 a difference had he lived to see the initial, partial results being reported for Israeli 2.

1153 While this article represents solely the viewpoint of the author, he nevertheless owes a
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1155 three decades.

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1159 *Meteor. Soc.* in 1999. This one has been updated with a review of recent cloud seeding literature
1160 (Section 10, “Has peer-review improved?”)

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1568 Table 1. List of journal-published re-analyses and critical comments on randomized cloud
 1569 seeding experiments and their conclusions relative to the initial ones reported by the
 1570 experimenters.

1571	1572	1573	1574	1575	1576	1577	1578
Experiment	Reanalyst/Commentator	Original findings confirmed?					
1579	Whitetop [¢]	Lovasich et al. 1969a,b	Yes*				
1580		Neyman et al. 1969a,b	Yes*				
1581		Decker et al. 1971	No*				
1582		Lovisich et al. 1971a,b	Yes*				
1583		Braham 1979	Yes (?)				
1584		Dawkins and Scott 1979	Yes*				
1585	Grand River	Gelhaus et al. 1974	No				
1586	Climax, Wolf Creek Pass, and others	Grant and Elliott 1974	Yes, all				
1587	Santa Barbara II	Bradley et al. 1978, 1979	No then Yes*?				
1588	Tasmania	Mason (1980, 1982)	No*				
1589	Florida Area Cumulus-1	E. C. Nickerson 1979, 1981	No*				
1590		Mason 1980, 1982	No*				
1591	Wolf Creek Pass	Rangno 1979	No*				
1592	Climax I and II	M79	No, both				
1593		Hobbs and Rangno 1979	No				
1594		Mason 1982	Yes*				
1595		Mielke et al. 1981	Yes, both				
1596		Mielke et al. 1982	Yes, both				
1597		Mielke and Medina 1983	Yes, both				
1598		Rhea 1983	No*				
1599		Rangno and Hobbs 1987, 1993, 1995a	No*				
1600	CRBPP [†]	Rangno and Hobbs 1980a	No				
1601	Climax, and several others	Vardiman and Moore 1978	Yes				
1602	Climax, and several others	Rangno and Hobbs 1980b, 1981	No*				
1603	Climax, and several others	Rottner et al. 1980, 1981	No*				
1604	Israeli I	Wurtele (1971)	Yes* (?)				
1605		Mason 1980, 1982	Yes*				
1606		Rangno and Hobbs 1995b, 1997a, 1997b	No*				
1607		Rosenfeld (1997)	Yes (?)				
1608	Israeli II	Mason 1980, 1982	Yes*				
1609		Gabriel and Rosenfeld 1990	No (?)				
1610		Rosenfeld and Farbstein 1992	Yes (?)				
1611		Rangno and Hobbs 1995b	No*				
1612		Rangno and Hobbs (1997a,b)	No*				
1613		Rosenfeld (1997)	Yes (?)				
1614		Silverman (2001)	No*				
1615		Levin et al (2010)	No*				

1617 [¢]Original result suggested decreases in rainfall on seeded days.

1618 ? Suggests ambiguous results; evidence for a positive seeding effects were also found, amid indications of no effect.

1619 ? See this reference for further discussion concerning ambiguous results.

1620 *The reanalysis was performed by persons not associated with the original experimenters *or* the institution that
 1621 conducted it.

1622 [†]Colorado River Basin Pilot Project

Figure Captions

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Figure 1: a) map of the percentage of increases in snowfall attributed to cloud seeding in the Climax I randomized experiment when the 500 hPa temperature was $\geq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ (after Mielke et al. 1970); b) map of the seed/no seed double ratios for the North target area of Israeli II and its subsections (denoted by the letter N with subscripts) (after GN81, Table 5). Those double ratio values above 1.00 suggest a seeding effect of the same magnitude (in percent) as the fractional value above or below 1.00. The letter C in (1b) marks the control region; c) the target runoffs of the seeded seasons (denoted by X's) and non-seeded seasons (denoted by dots) vs. the control runoffs for the Wolf Creek Pass experiment (after Morel-Seytoux and Saheli 1973); and d) the same as (c) for the Skagit River Project target and control runoffs (after Hasty and Gladwell 1969).

1636 Figure 2. Evaluations of the same reports over a wider field of view; a) Colorado, Climax I,
1637 seed/no seed ratios b) Israel, on north target area seeded days, seed/no seed ratios, c) Wolf Creek
1638 Pass seeded seasons in watersheds that were sidewind and upwind of Wolf Creek Pass, and d)
1639 the Skagit Project runoff for rivers sidewind and upwind of the Skagit River at Newhalem target
1640 watershed. These evaluations show that what the experimenters reported as seeding effects were
1641 observed over a wide area and could not have been due to seeding.

1642
1643 Figure 3. Ice crystal concentrations vs. cloud top temperature (dots), including the least squares
1644 regression (dashed line) for these data (after Gagin 1975). In the original equation shown, the
1645 letter "C" denotes ice crystal concentration and the letter "T", the cloud top temperature. The
1646 solid line with the open triangles denotes average ice nucleus spectrum. The "X's" are ice
1647 crystal concentrations recently measured by Levin et al. (1996). The upper dashed line
1648 represents a criteria suggested by Hobbs (1969) above which the observed concentrations of ice
1649 crystals qualify as a case of "ice multiplication."

1650

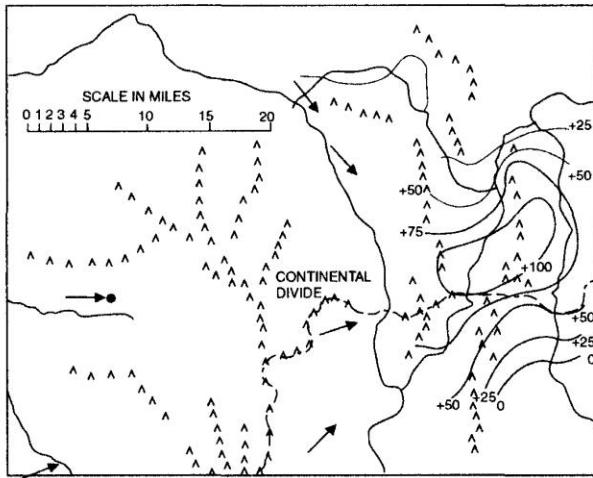
1651 Figure 4. Simulation in the HYSPLIT 2010 12-km dispersion model of the vertical plume
1652 dimensions of a 100 acre fire. The immediate vertical rise is not applicable to a cloud seeding
1653 generator which produces, in contrast virtually no heat. The modeled AgI plume top by Xue et al
1654 2013 is 2-km higher for unknown reasons.

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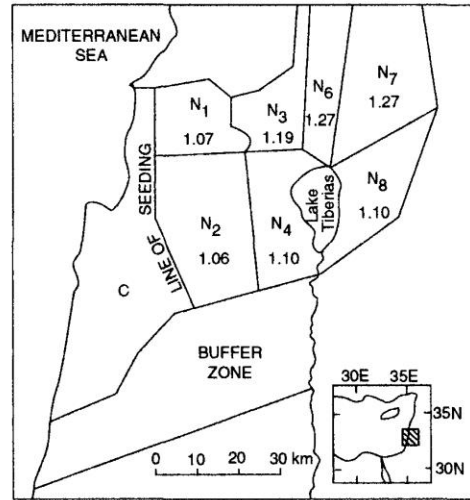
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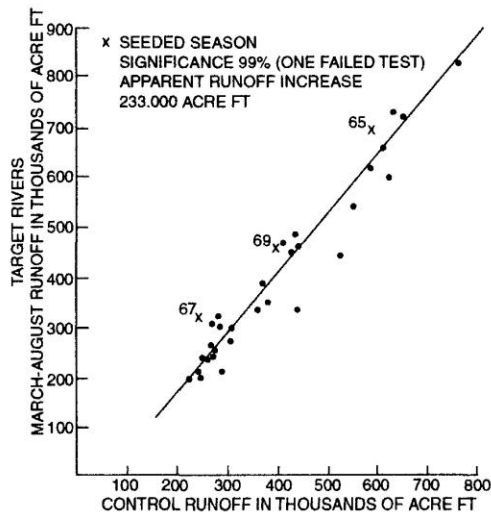
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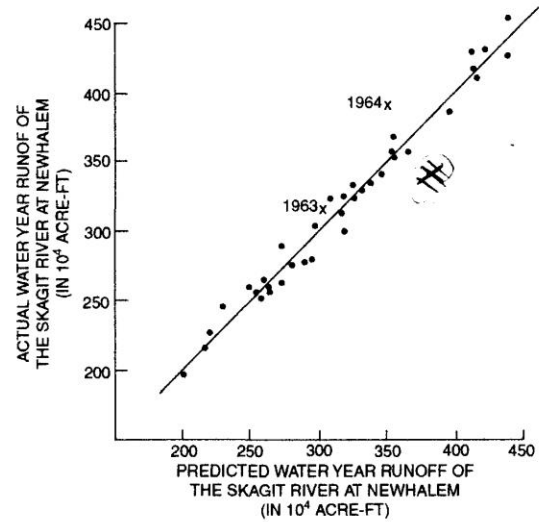
(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

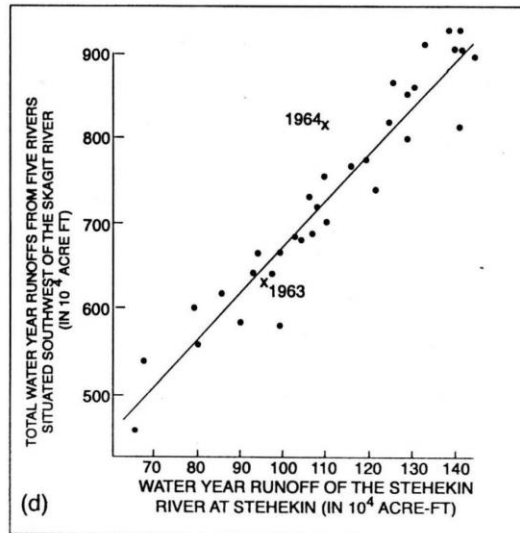
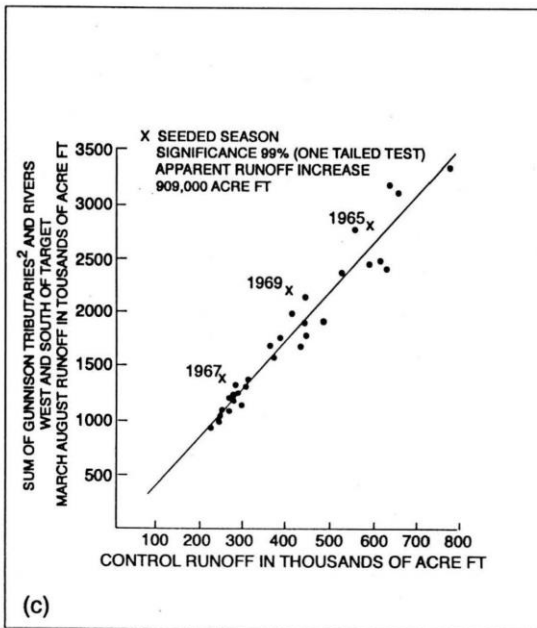
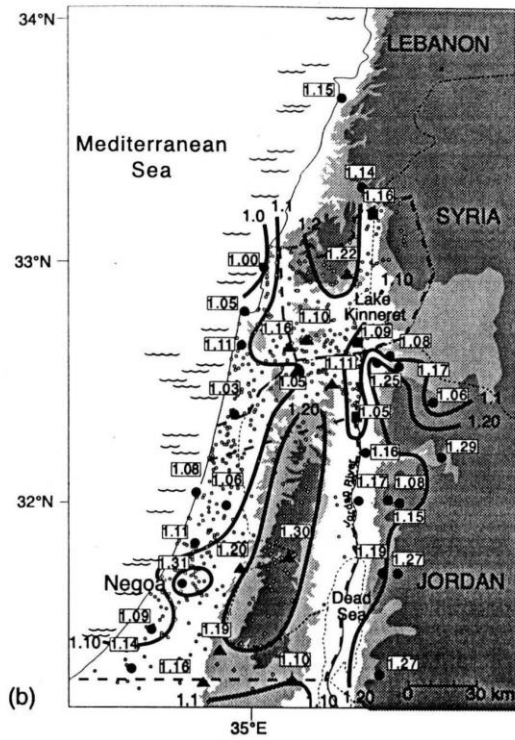
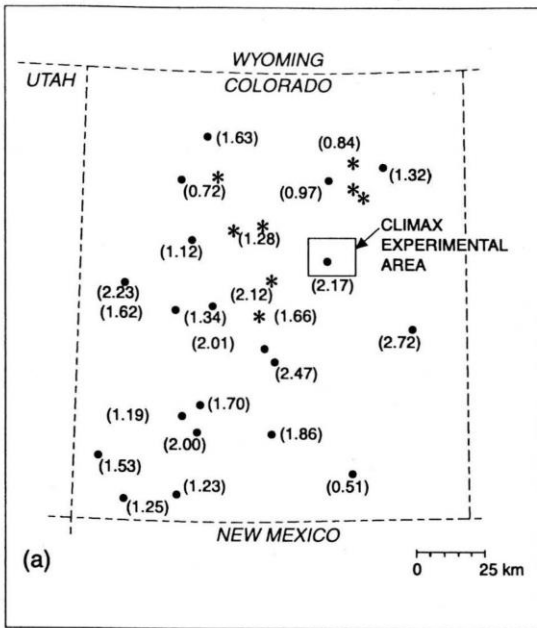
Figure 1

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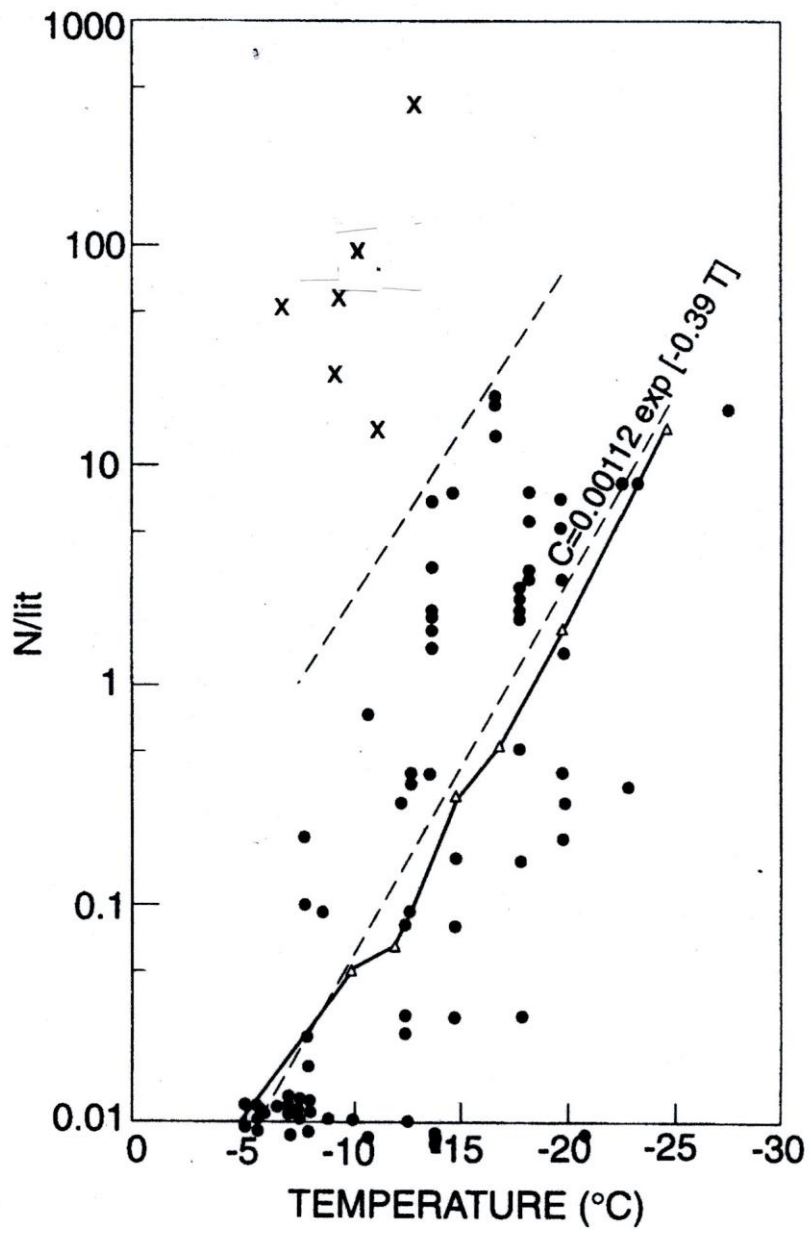
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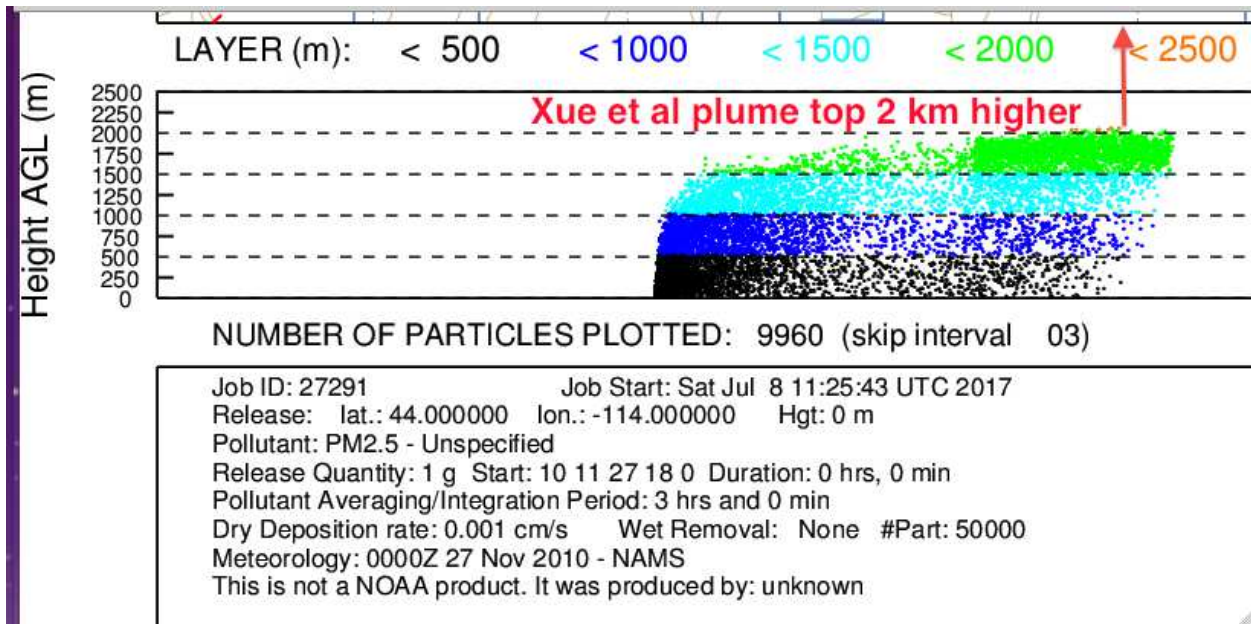
Figure 2



1665

1666

Figure 3



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1668

1669

Figure 4