

City of Fort Collins
Natural Areas Program

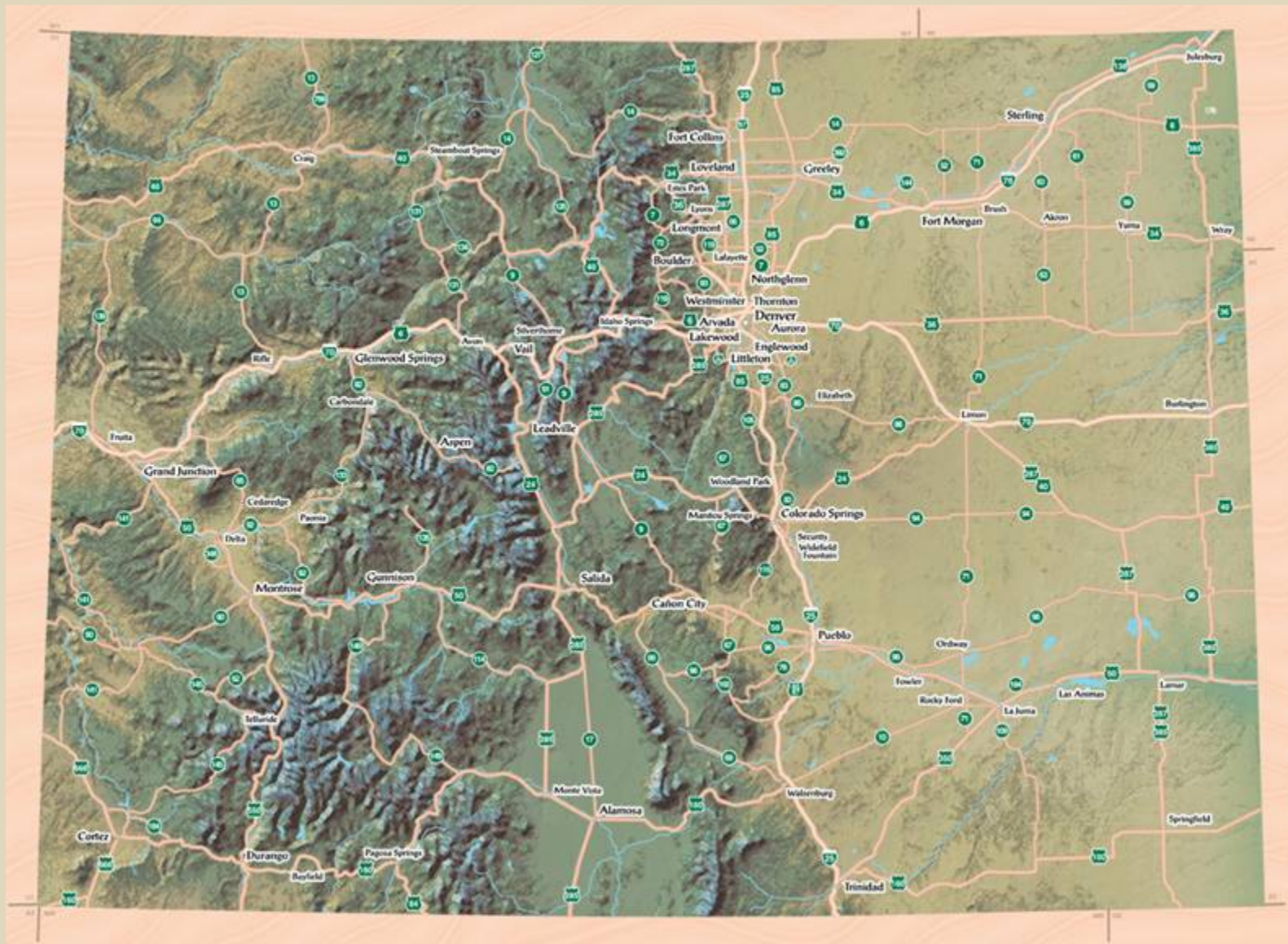


naturally yours

COLORADO LIFE ZONES



Mahoney Park, Bobcat Ridge
Natural Area



Russian Federation
ASIA

Arctic Ocean

Beaufort Sea

Brooks Range
Alaska Range

Gulf of Alaska
Bering Sea

Hudson Bay

Labrador Sea

Pacific Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

600 mi

600 km

COAST RANGES
Sierra Nevada
Cascades

Rocky Mountains
GREAT PLAINS

CANADIAN SHIELD

Great Lakes

Appalachian Mts

COASTAL PLAIN

Sierra Madres

Gulf of Mexico

CARIBBEAN

Caribbean Sea

NORTH AMERICA



Pacific Ocean

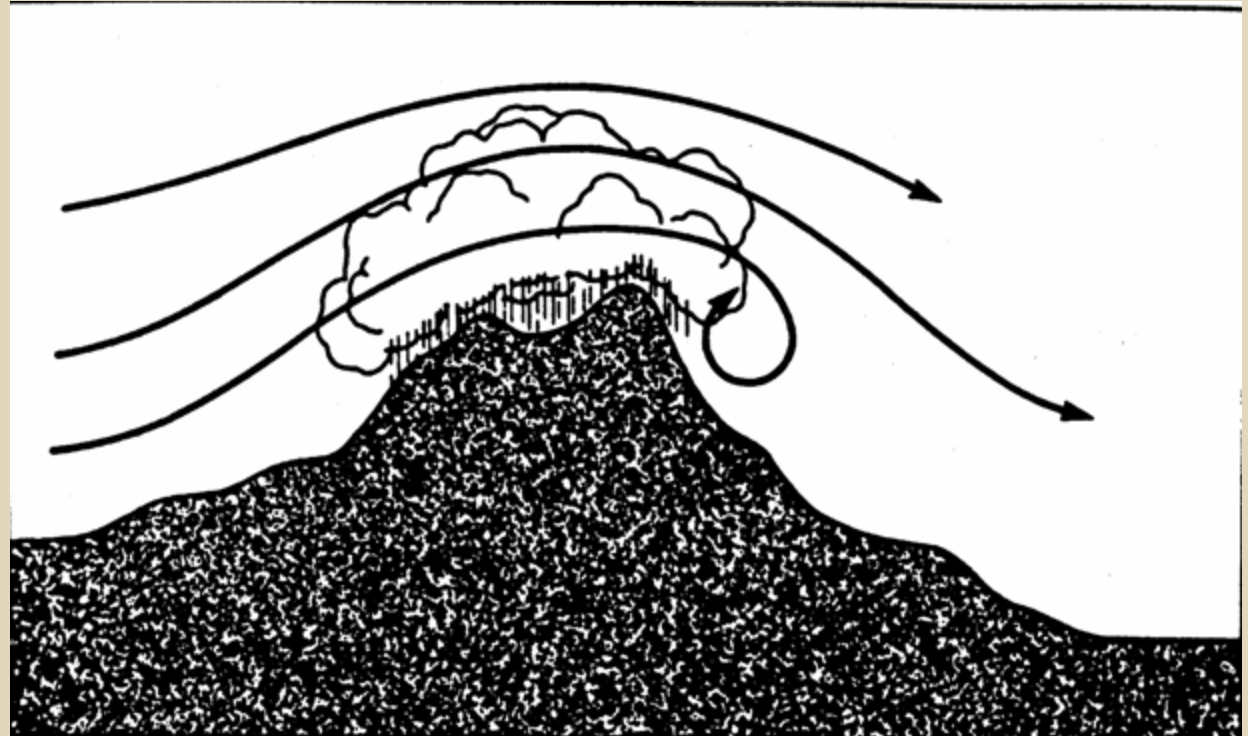
CENTRAL AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICA



Effects of mountains on weather

From Grasslands to Glacier, Mutel and Emerick

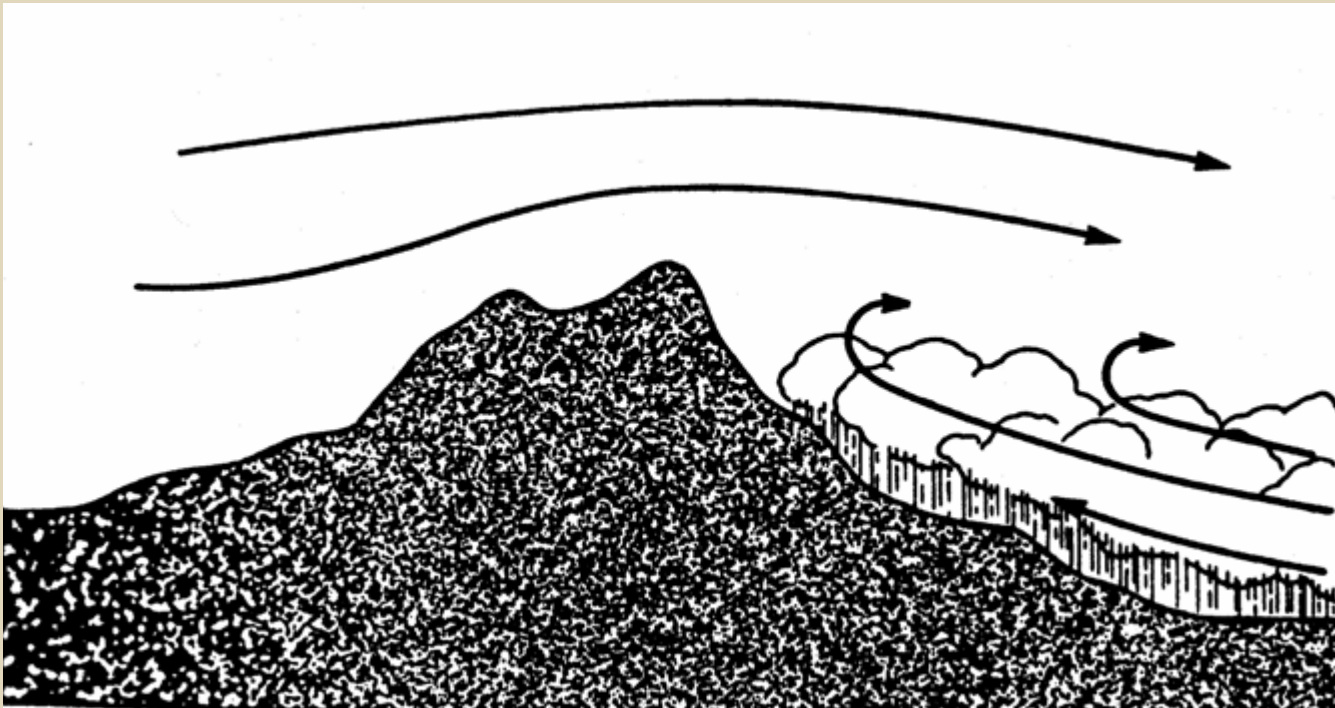


WINTER

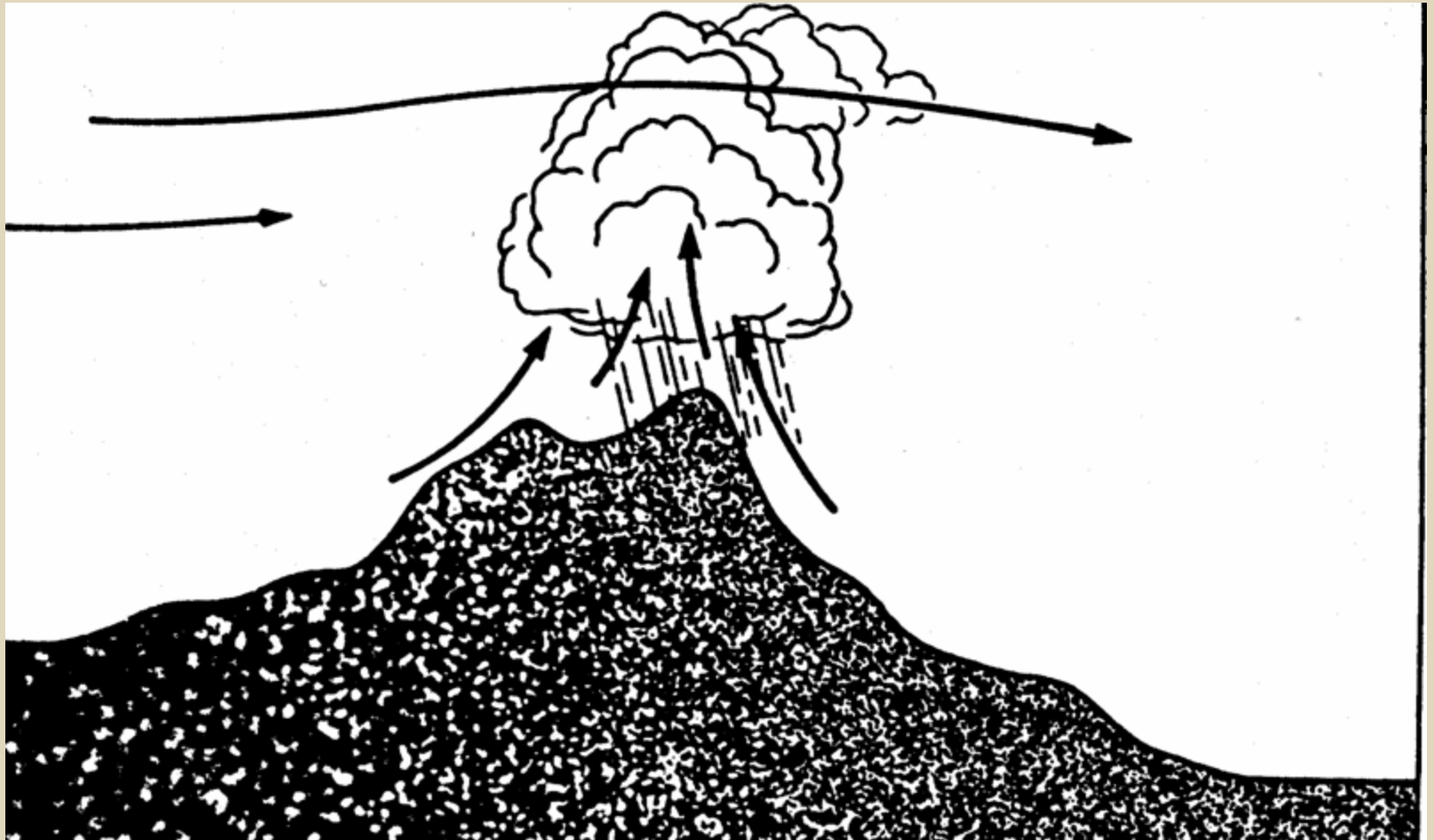
Air from the Pacific moves east with the prevailing winds. As it encounters land forms, the air moves up, cools off, water vapor condenses, and snow falls.

SPRING AND FALL

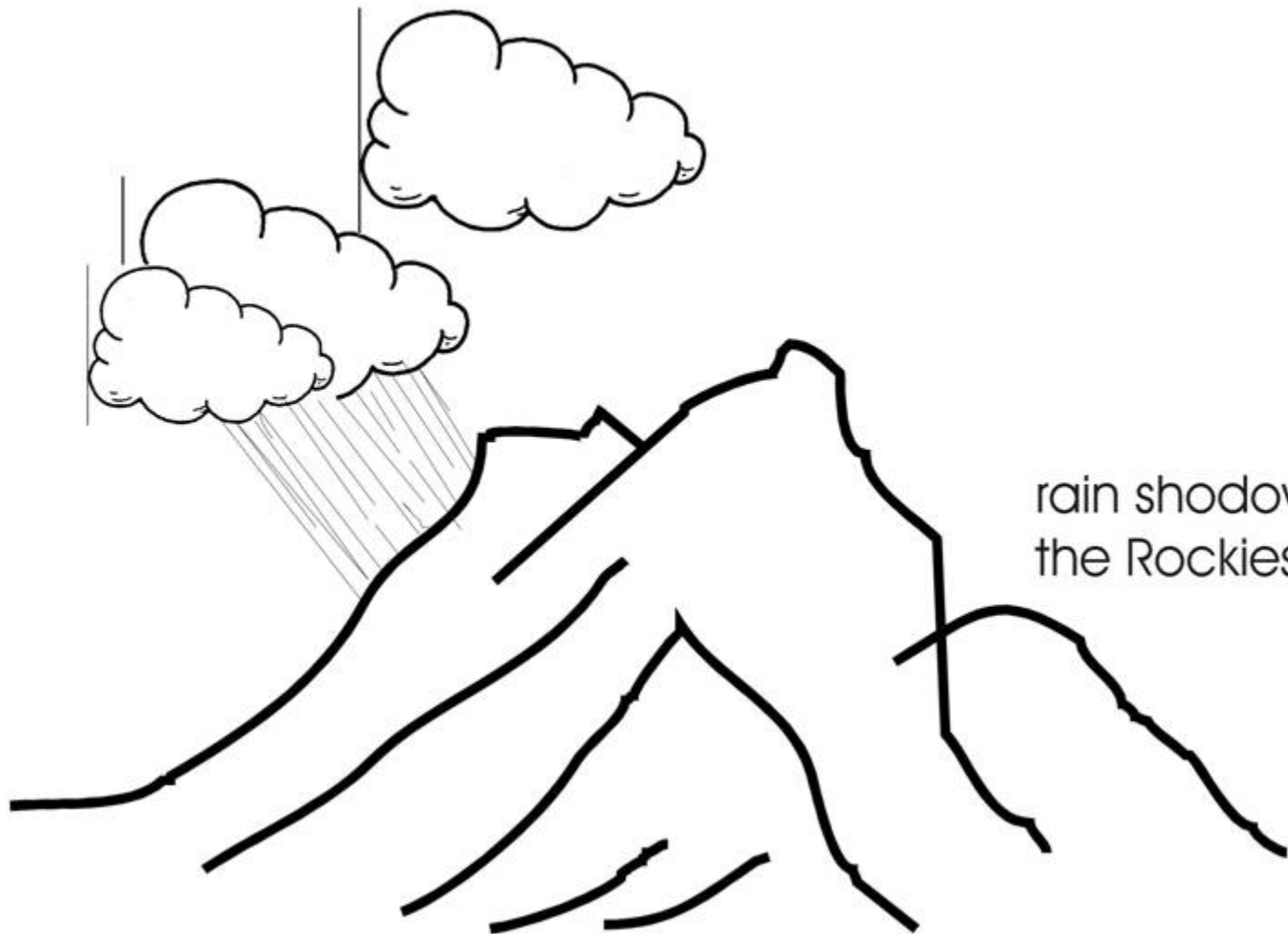
Air moving upslope from the Gulf of Mexico brings precipitation to the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains.



SUMMER



Afternoon thunderstorms



rain shadow of
the Rockies

LIFE ZONES

C. Hart Merriam - 1889

belt of vegetation and animal life, based on elevation, precipitation and temperature.

LIFE ZONES

❖ Grasslands

❖ Foothills (Lower Transition)

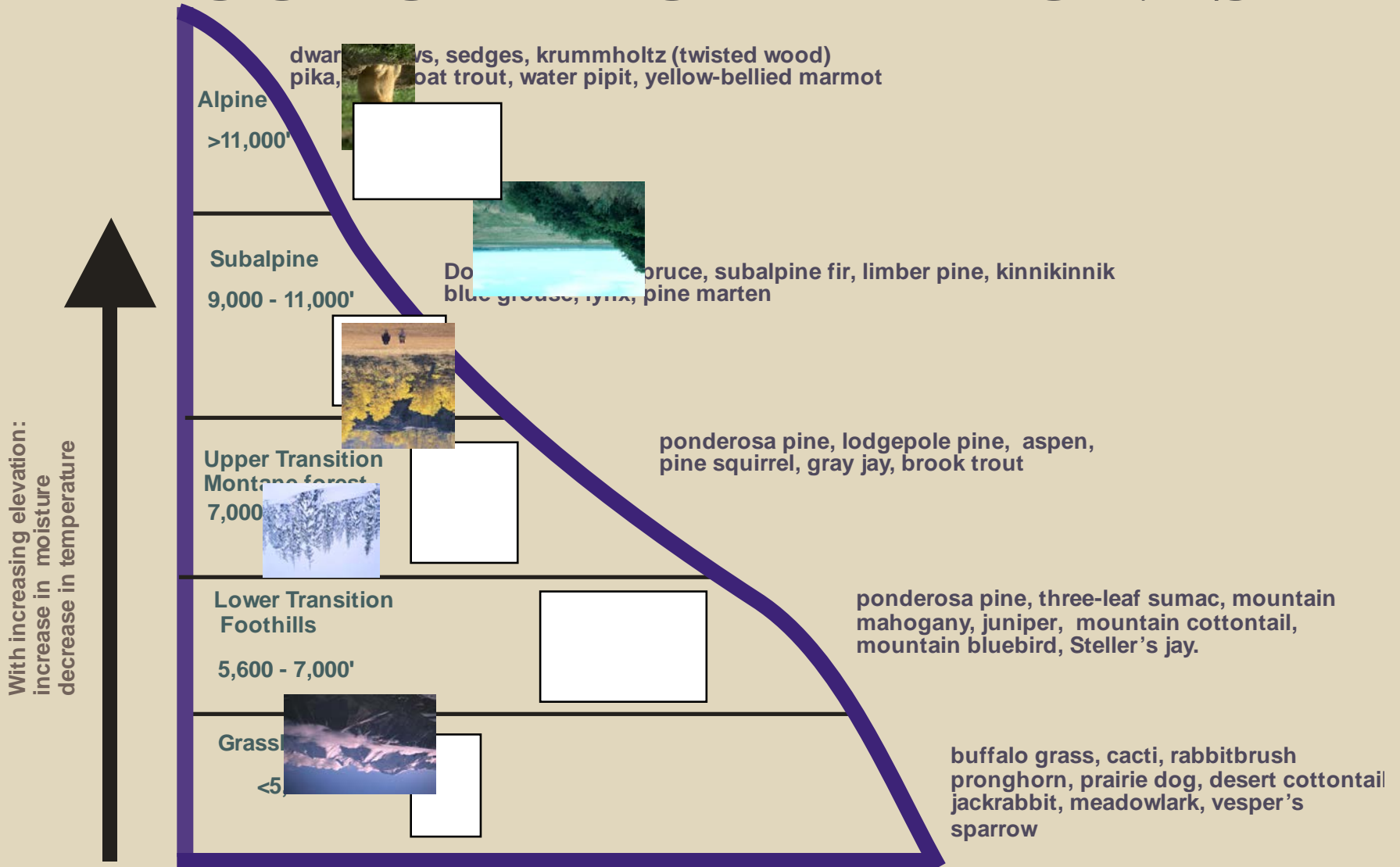
❖ Montane (Upper Transition)

❖ Subalpine

❖ Alpine



COLORADO LIFE ZONES



SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE

Less than 5,600 feet in elevation



Grasslands

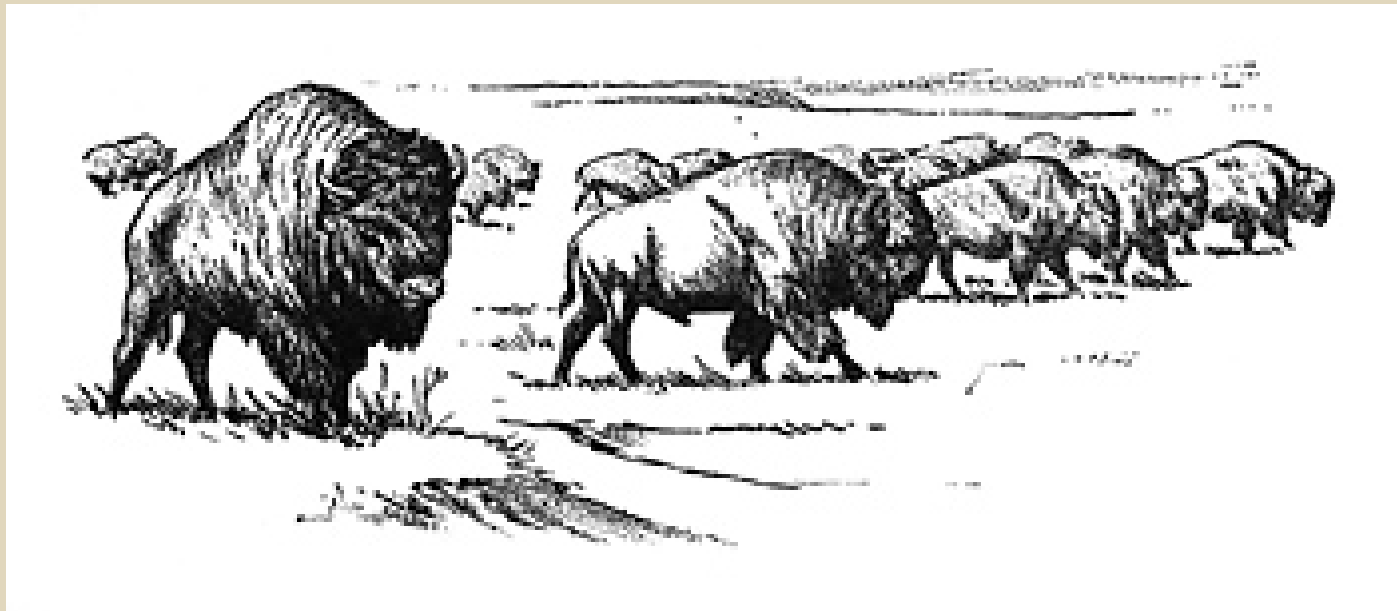
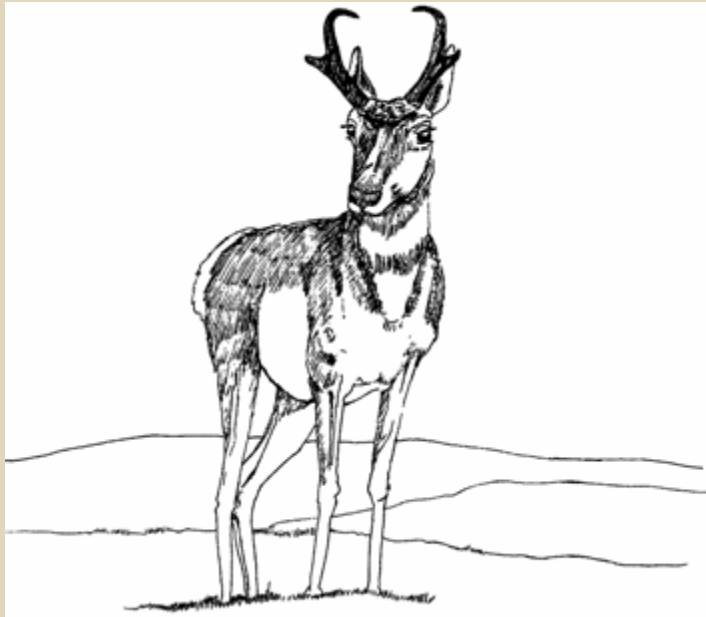
Prairie

- Grasses are taller than three feet
- Grow close together, very little exposed soil
- No trees

Steppe

- Grasses are less than three feet tall
- Spread out, leaving much exposed soil
- Includes woody plants





FOOTHILLS – Lower Transition

5,600 - 7,000 feet in elevation





Mountain mahogany



American plum



Ponderosa pine

MONTANE - Upper Transition



7,000 -9,000 feet in elevation

SUBALPINE

9,000 - 11,000 feet in elevation



ALPINE

More than 11,000 feet in elevation



Throughout all Life Zones:

- Grasslands and Meadows

- Riparian Areas:

 - rivers, streams, wetlands, and marshes

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