

Anatomy of High Levels of Wintertime Photochemical Ozone in the Uintah Basin, UT 2013

**Russ Schnell, Samuel Oltmans, Bryan
Johnson, Emrys Hall, Patrick Cullis, Allen
Jordan, Chance Sterling, Rob Albee and
Thomas Mefford**

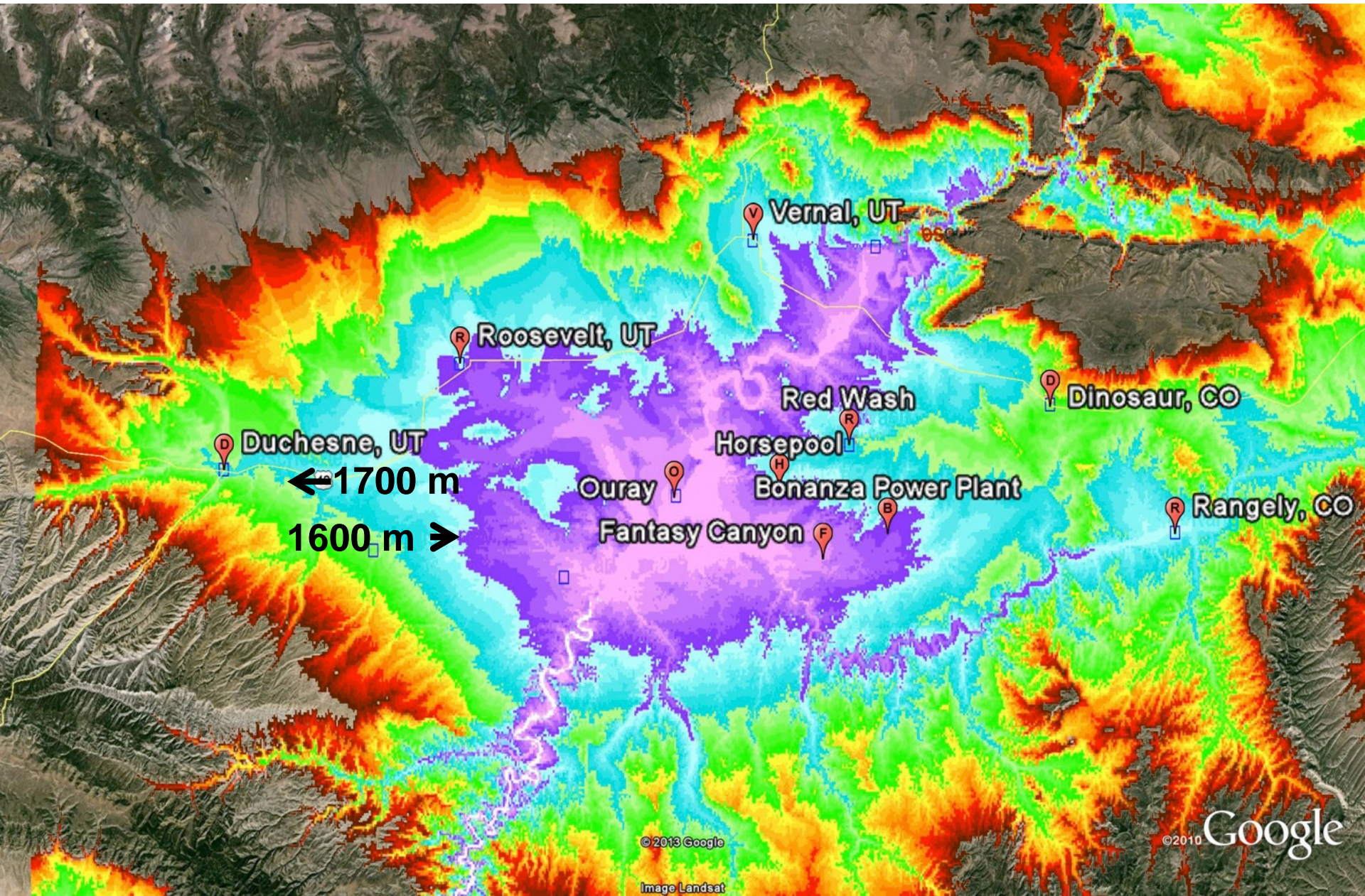
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration**

**325 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80305**

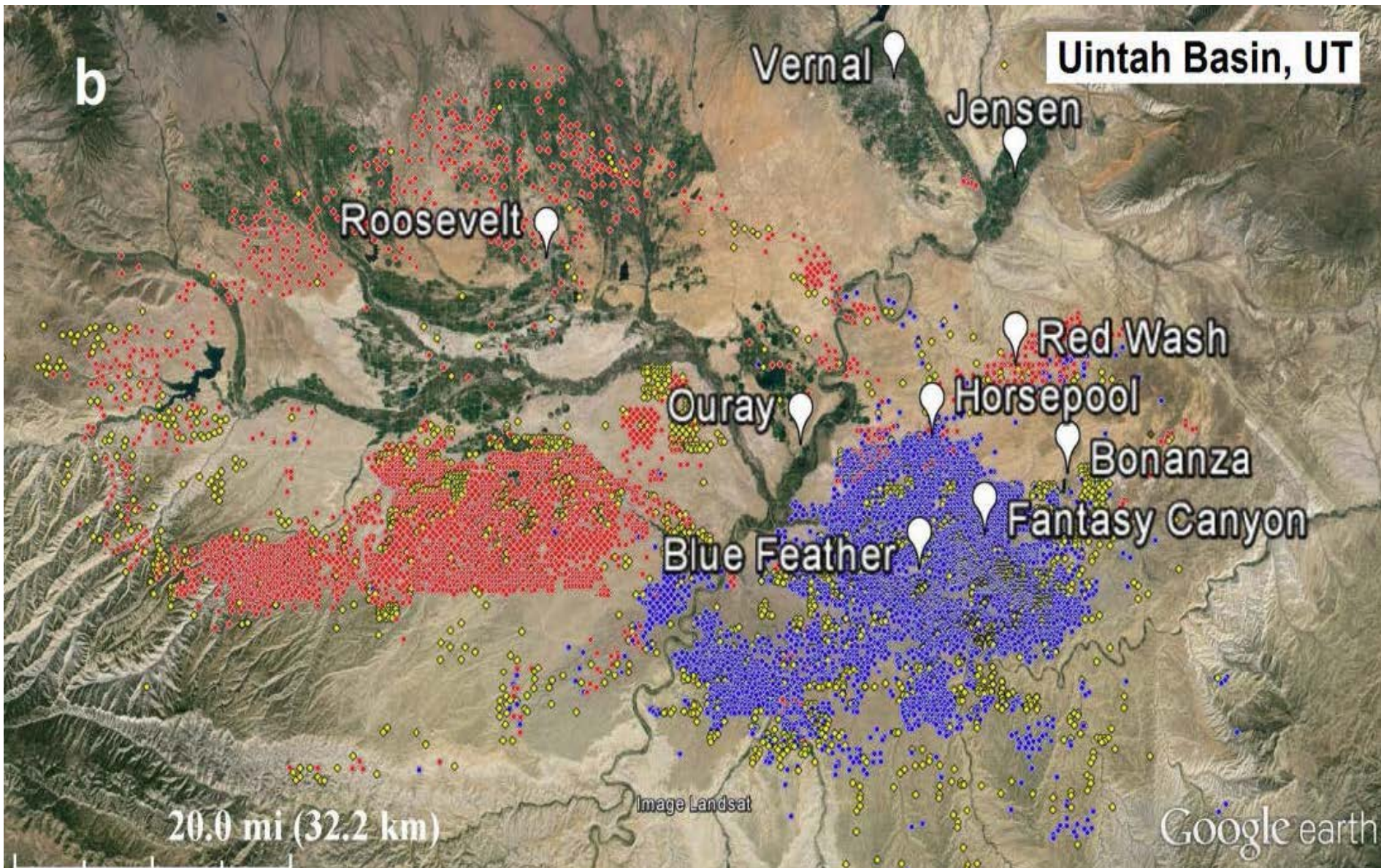
GMD GMAC

June, 2014

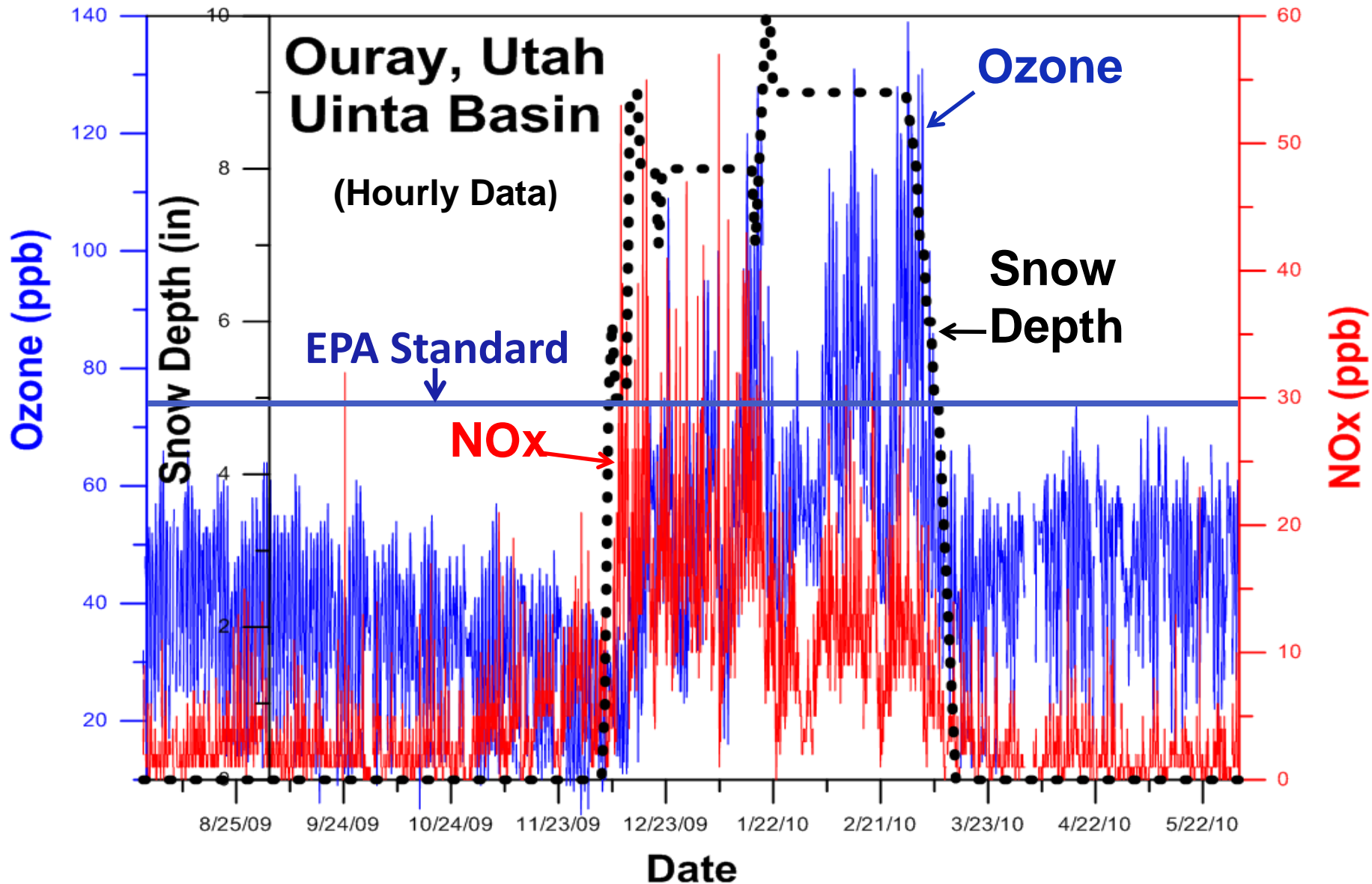
Surface Elevation Contours, Uintah Basin, Utah



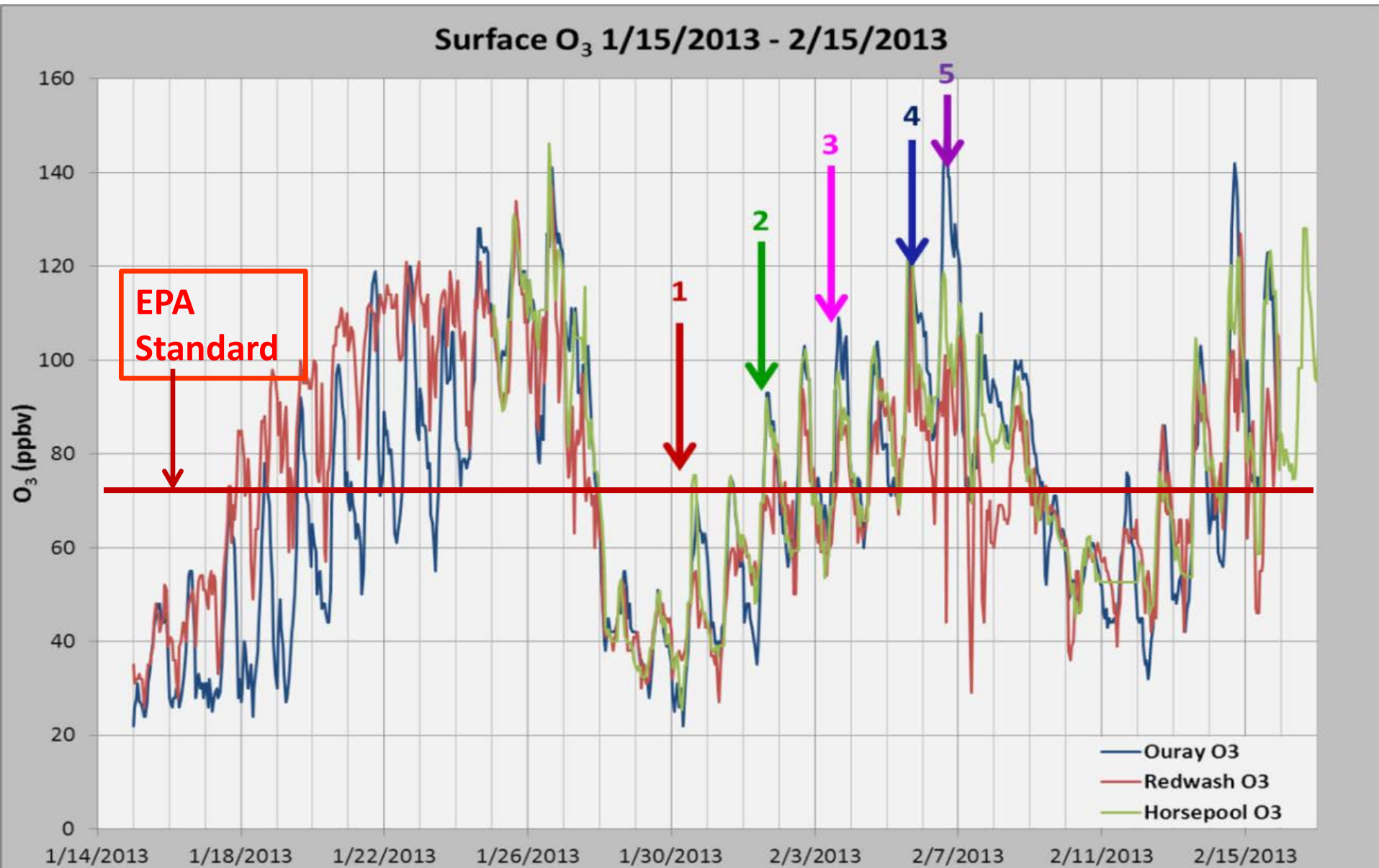
Oil (red) , Gas (blue) Wells and Measurement Sites, Uintah Basin, Utah



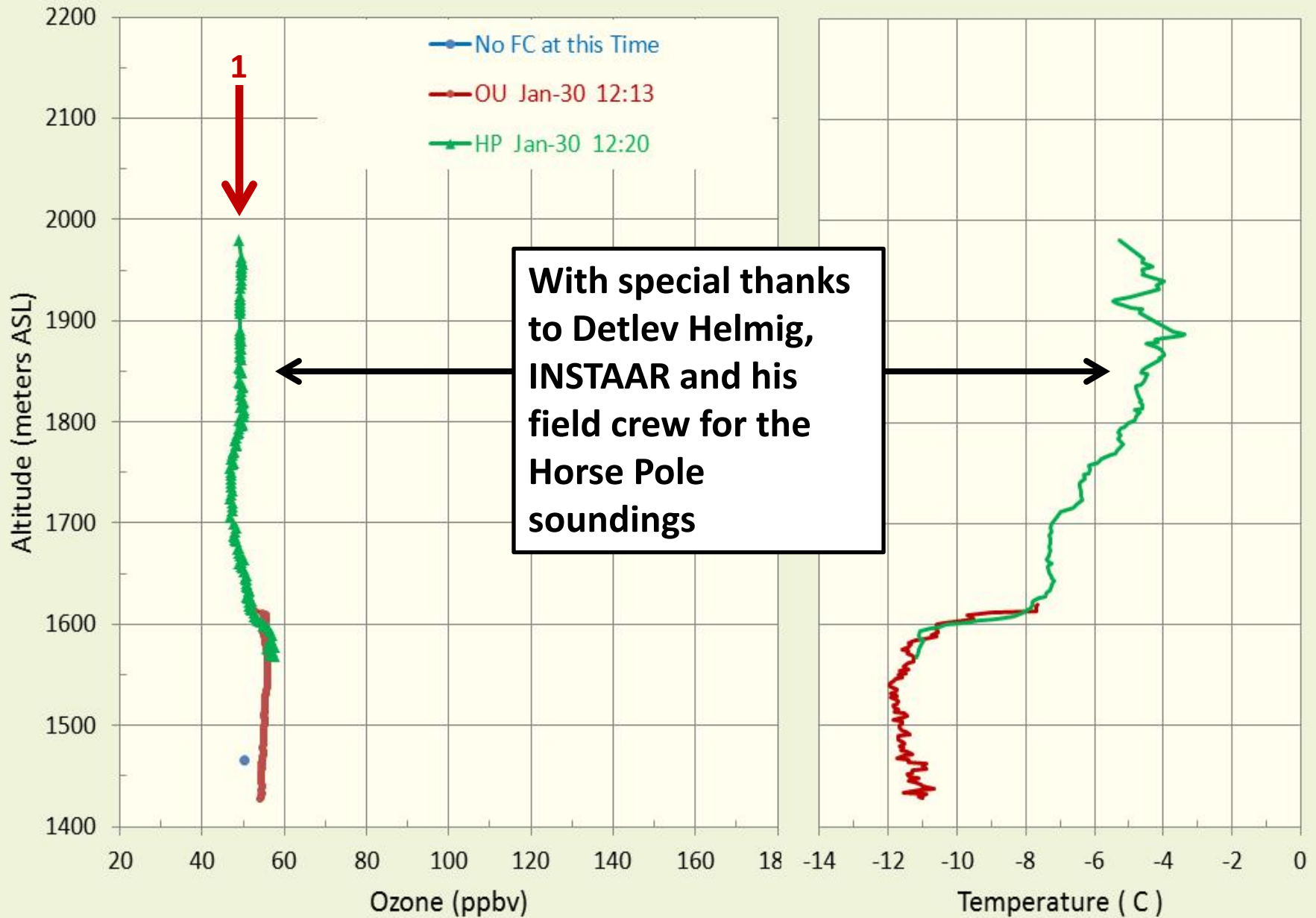
Ozone, NO_x and Snow Depth: Winter 2009/10



Surface Ozone Concentrations at Three Sites, Uinta Basin, Utah 2013 over Three Ozone Events

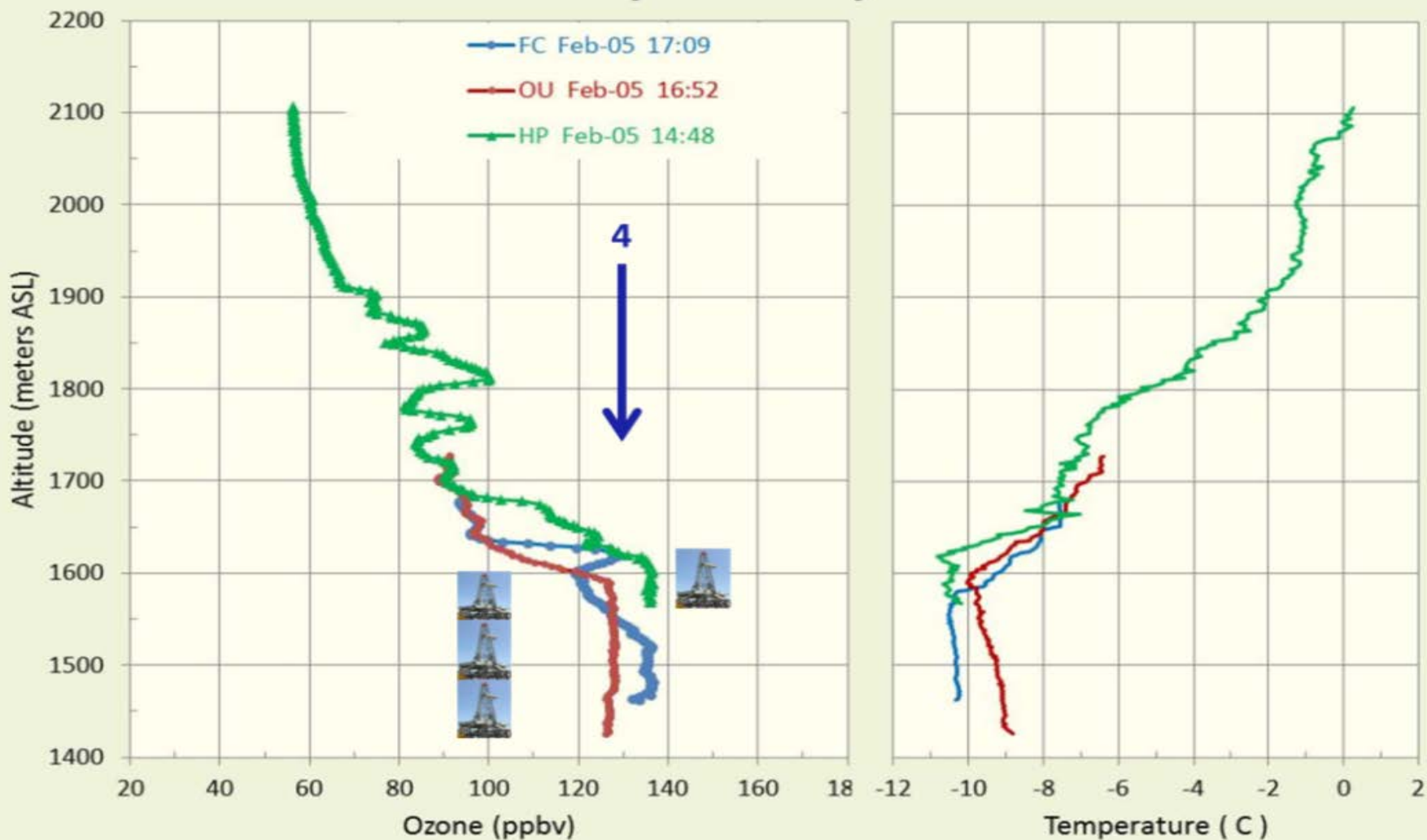


Uintah Basin, Jan 30, 2013

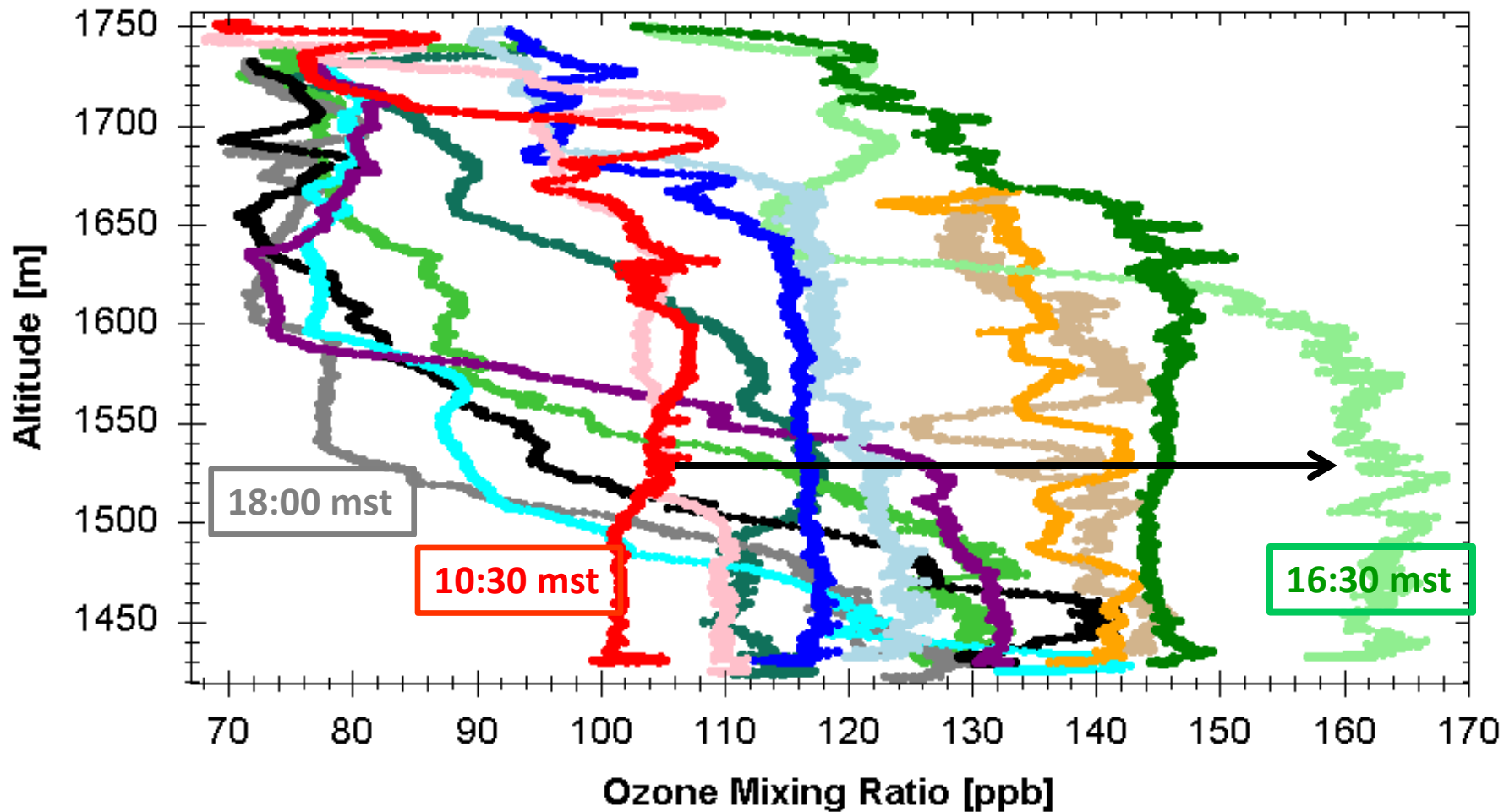


Ozone and Temperature Profiles

Uintah Basin, Feb 5, 2013



Ozone Mixing Ratio at Ouray, 2/6/2013

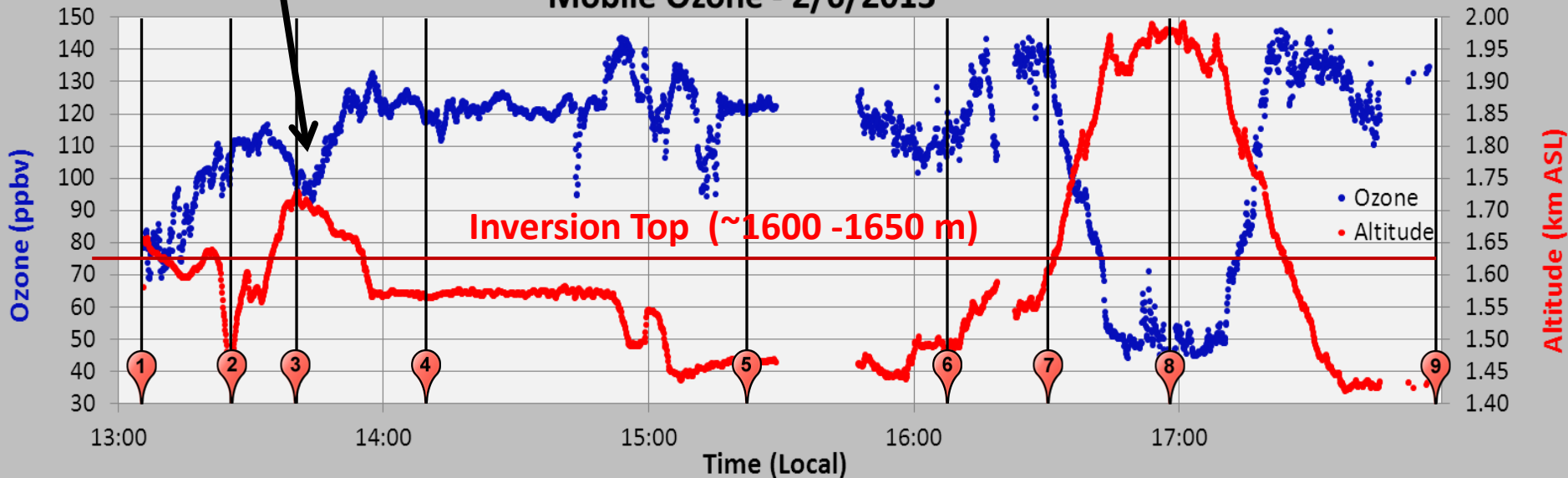


Mobile Ozonesonde Drive Feb 6, 2013

**High Point on Hwy 45
(1720 m) Forms
Northern Rim Elevation
for Ozone in the Basin**

Turn Around Point

Mobile Ozone - 2/6/2013

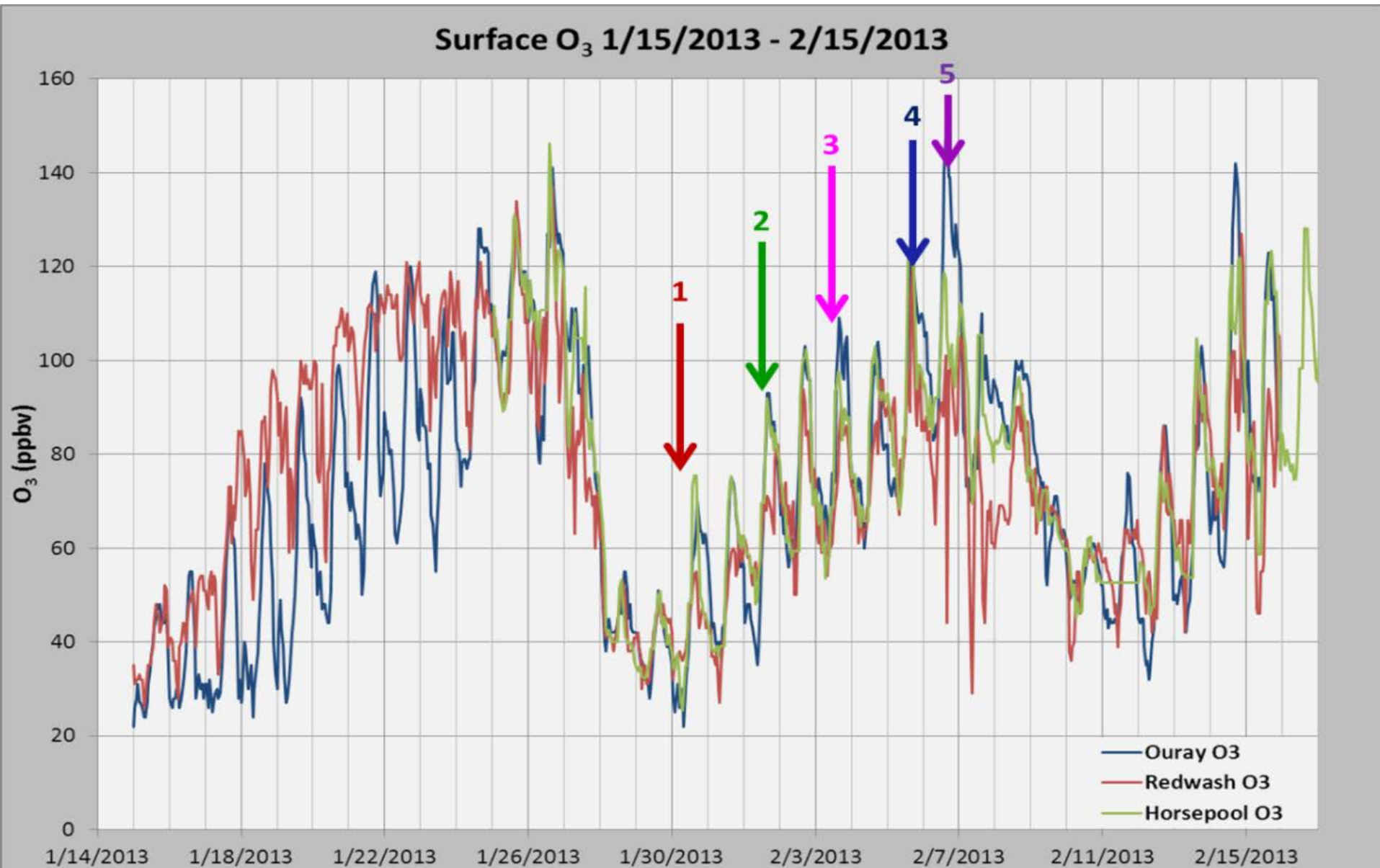




**Thank You for
Hanging in
Until
the
End!**

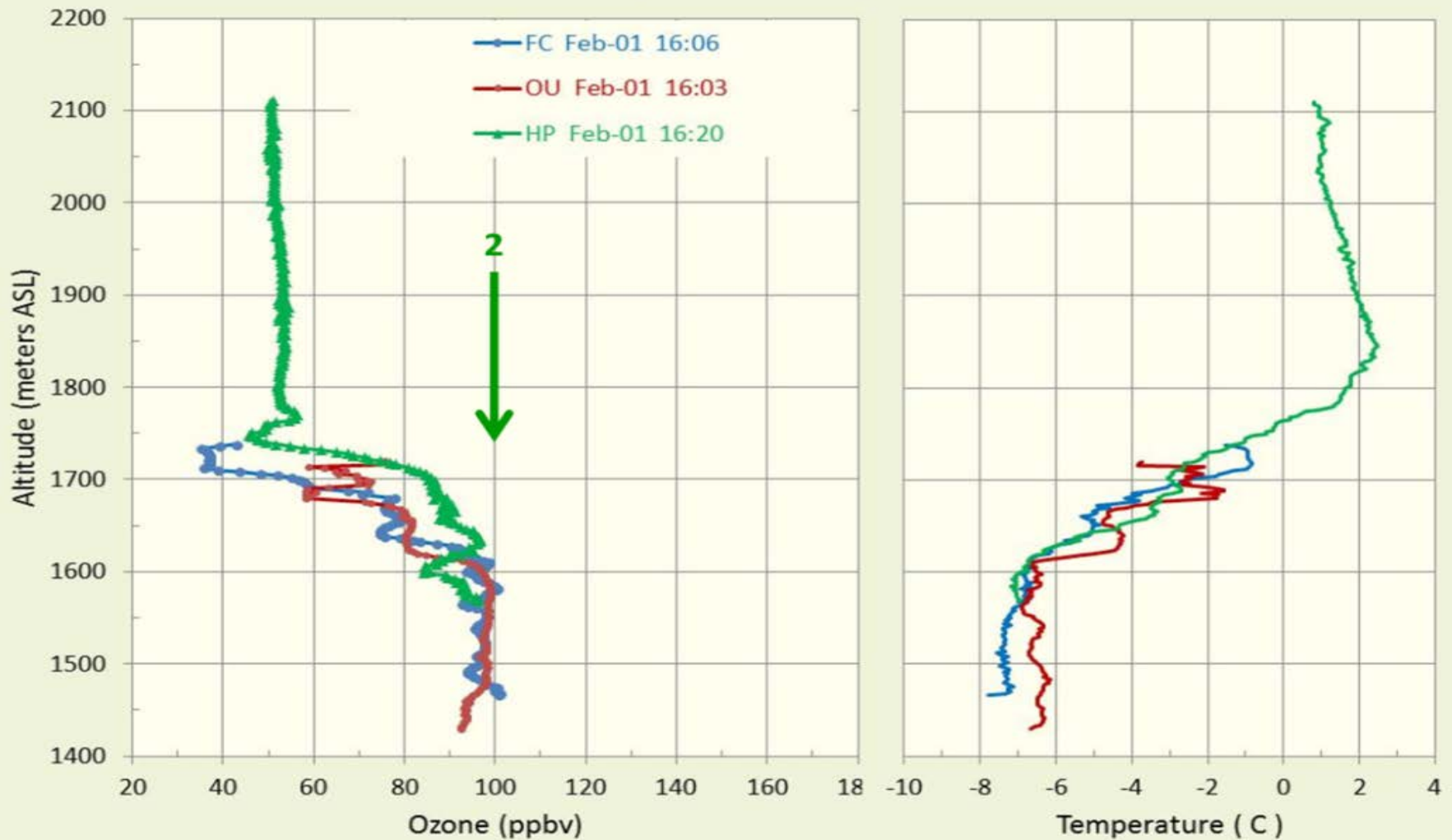
Thank you for
your time and
attention.

Surface Ozone Concentrations at Three Sites, Uinta Basin, Utah 2013 over Three Ozone Events



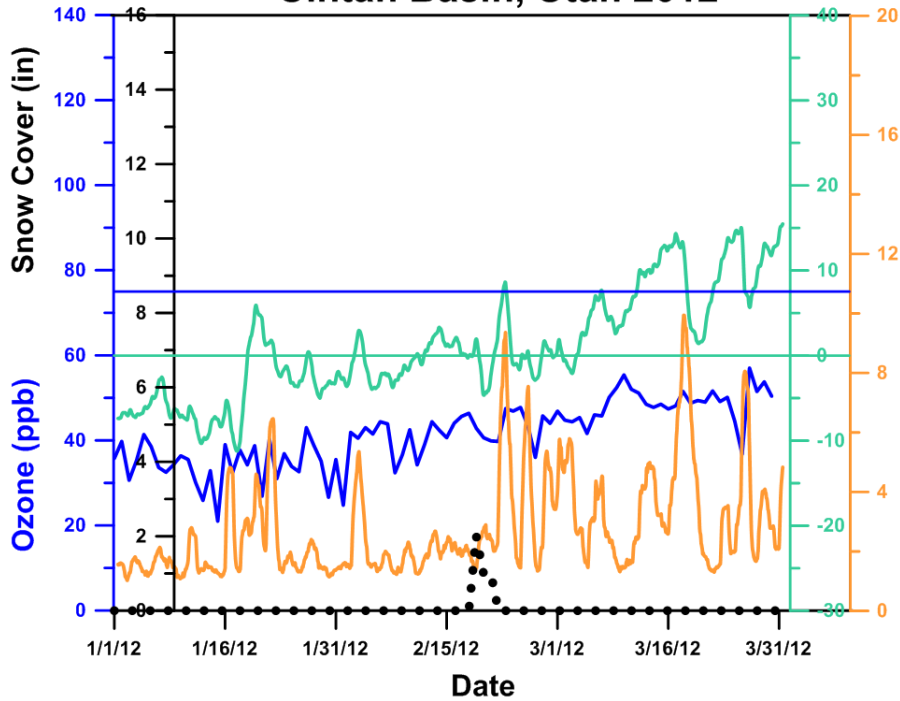
Ozone and Temperature Profiles at Three Sites in the Uintah, Basin

Uintah Basin, Feb 1, 2013

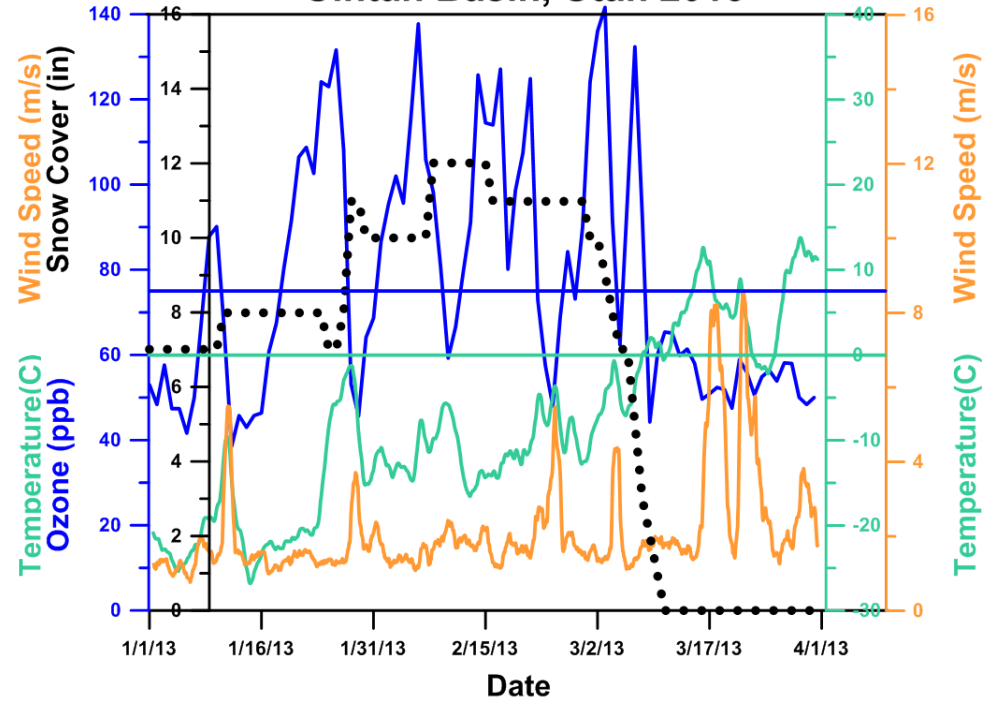


Ozone in the Uinta Basin of Utah in Winter 2012 and 2013

Uintah Basin, Utah 2012

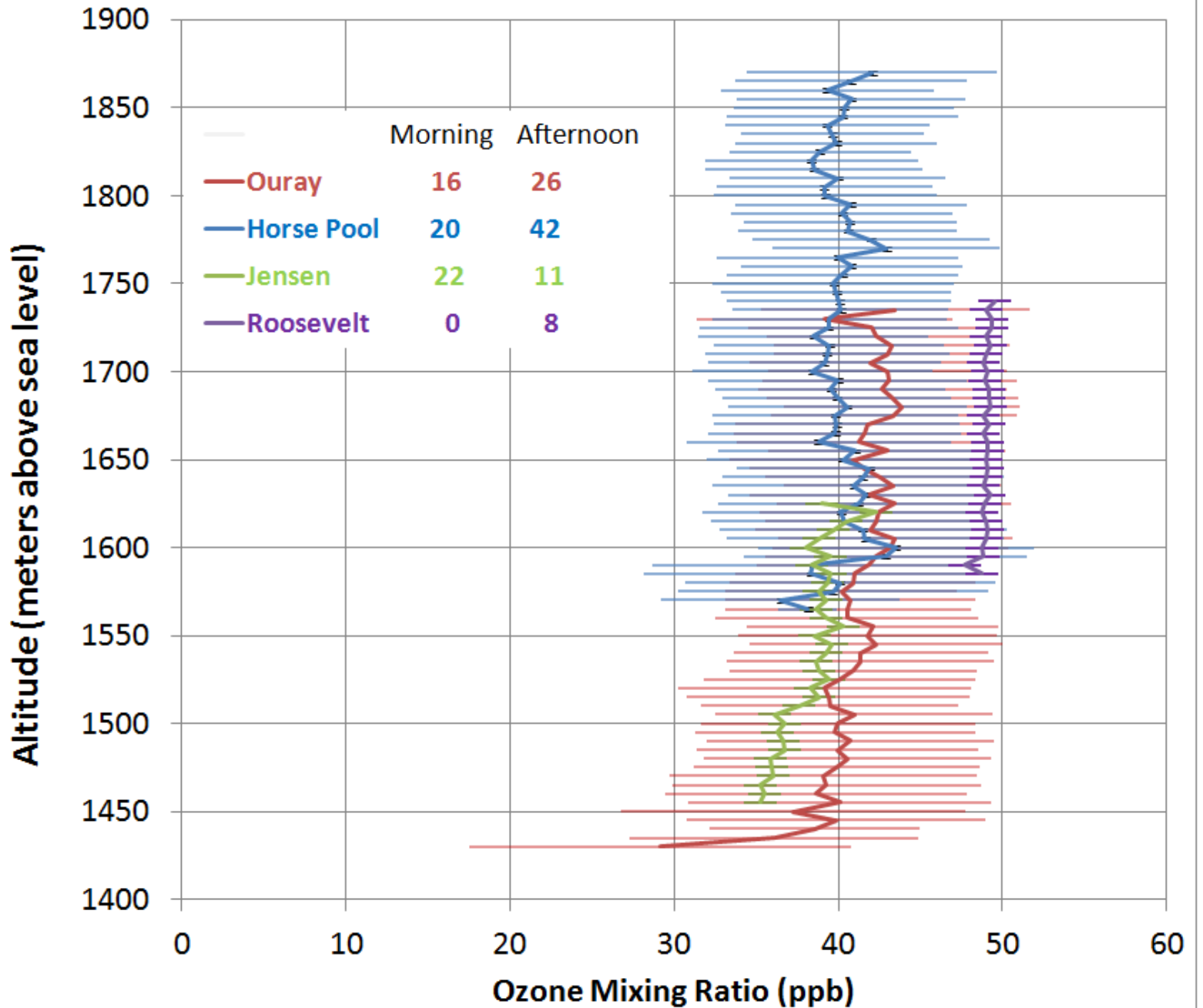


Uintah Basin, Utah 2013

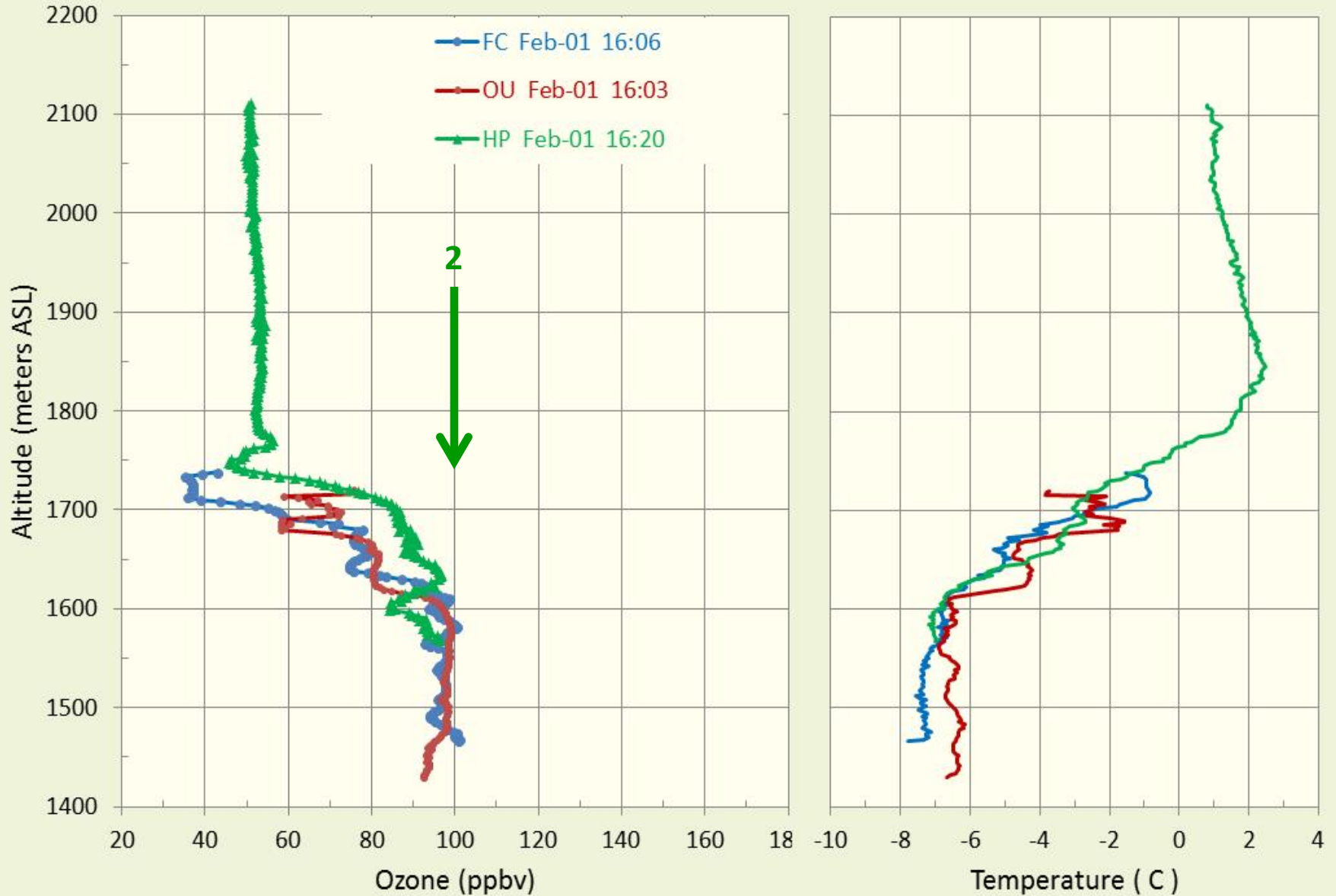


The difference!

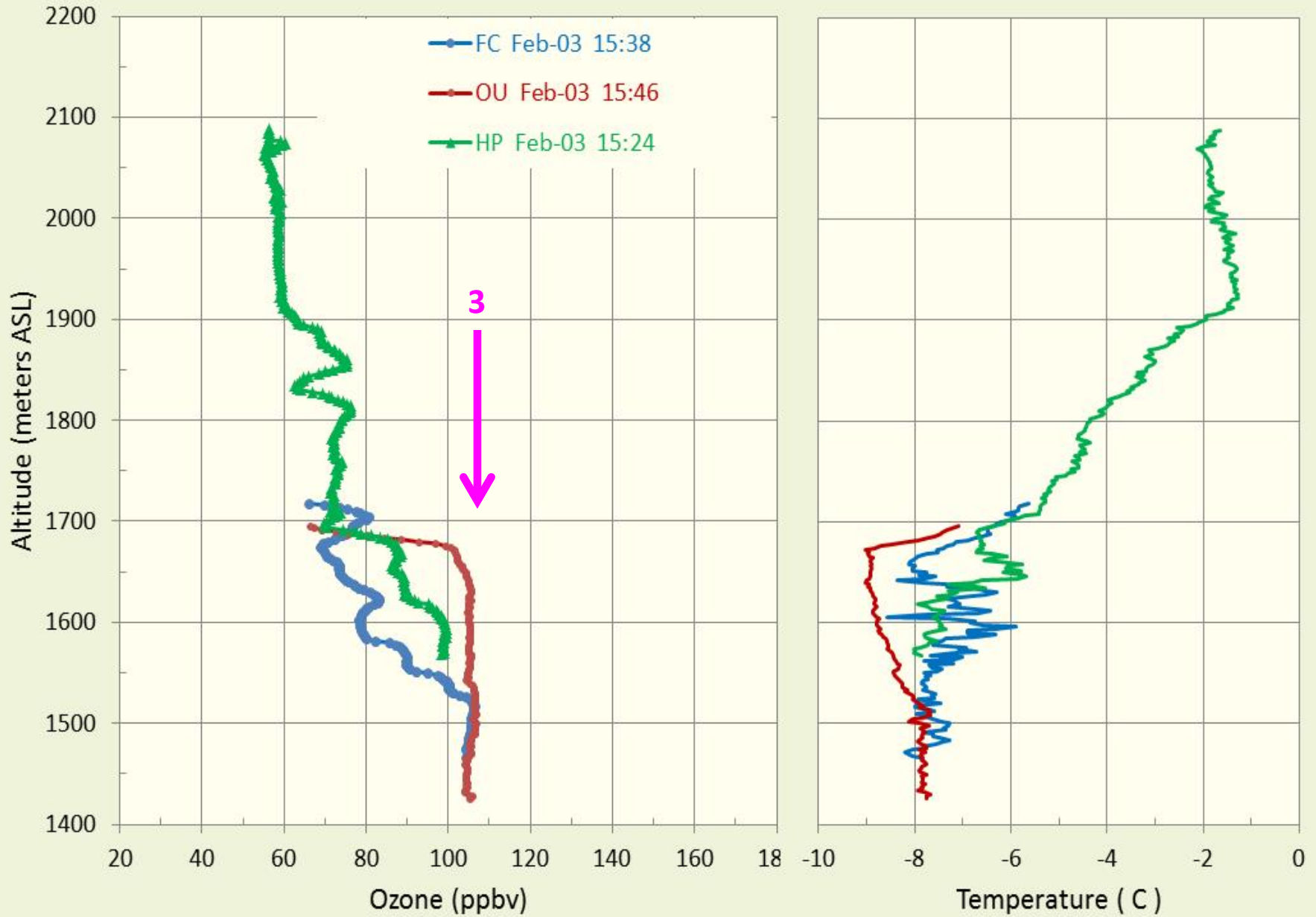
Unitah Basin Tethered Ozonesonde Profiles: February, 2012



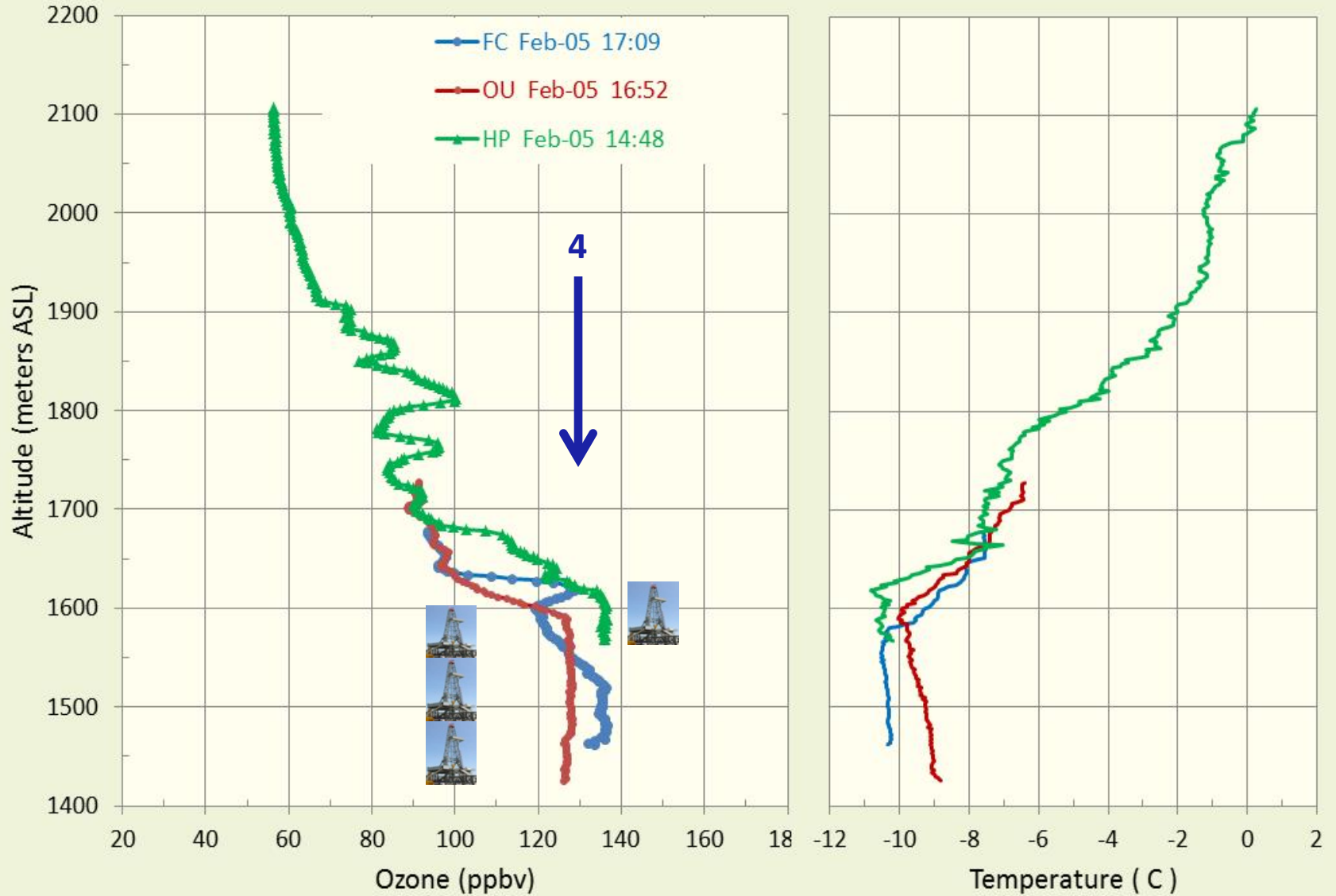
Uintah Basin, Feb 1, 2013



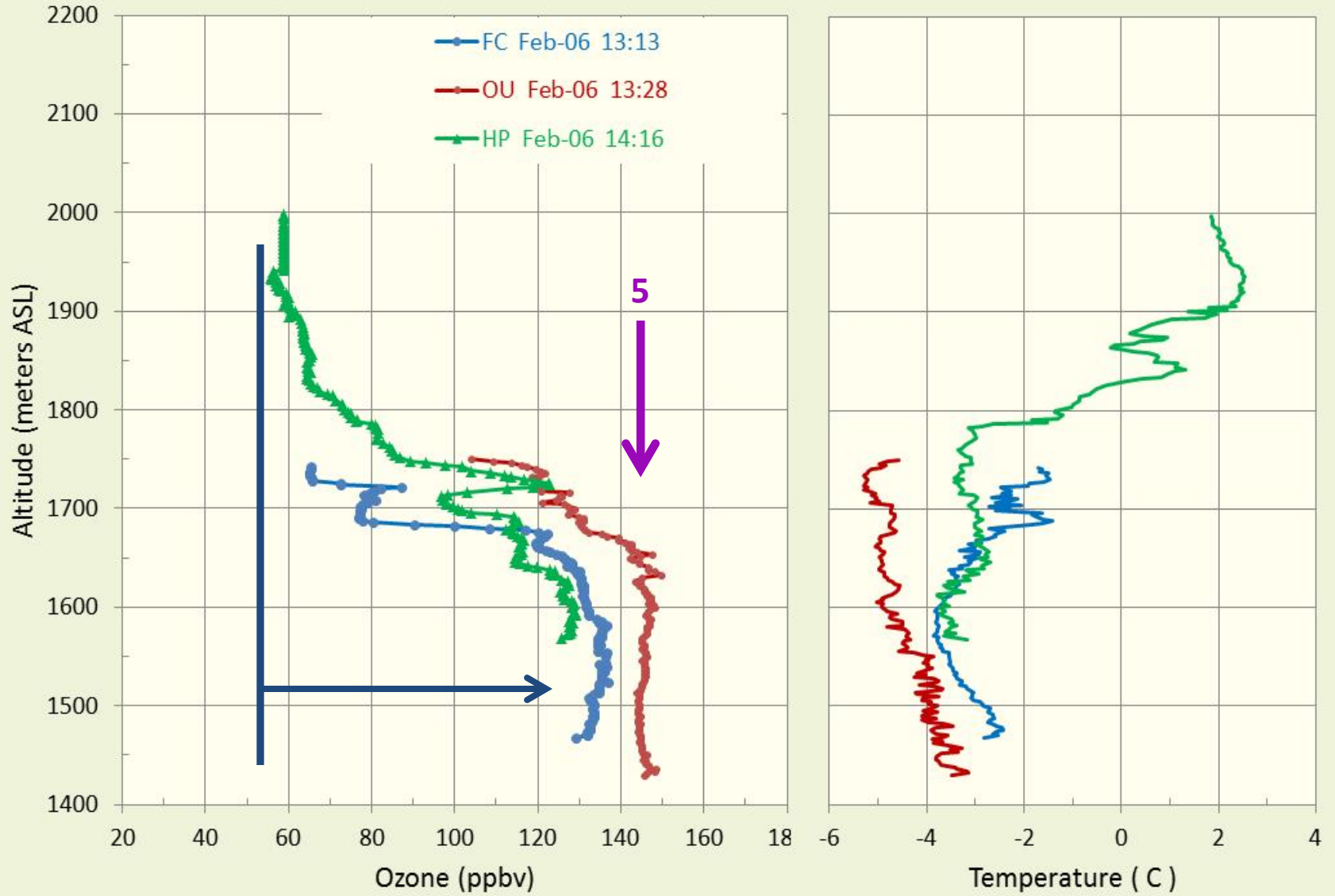
Uintah Basin, Feb 3, 2013



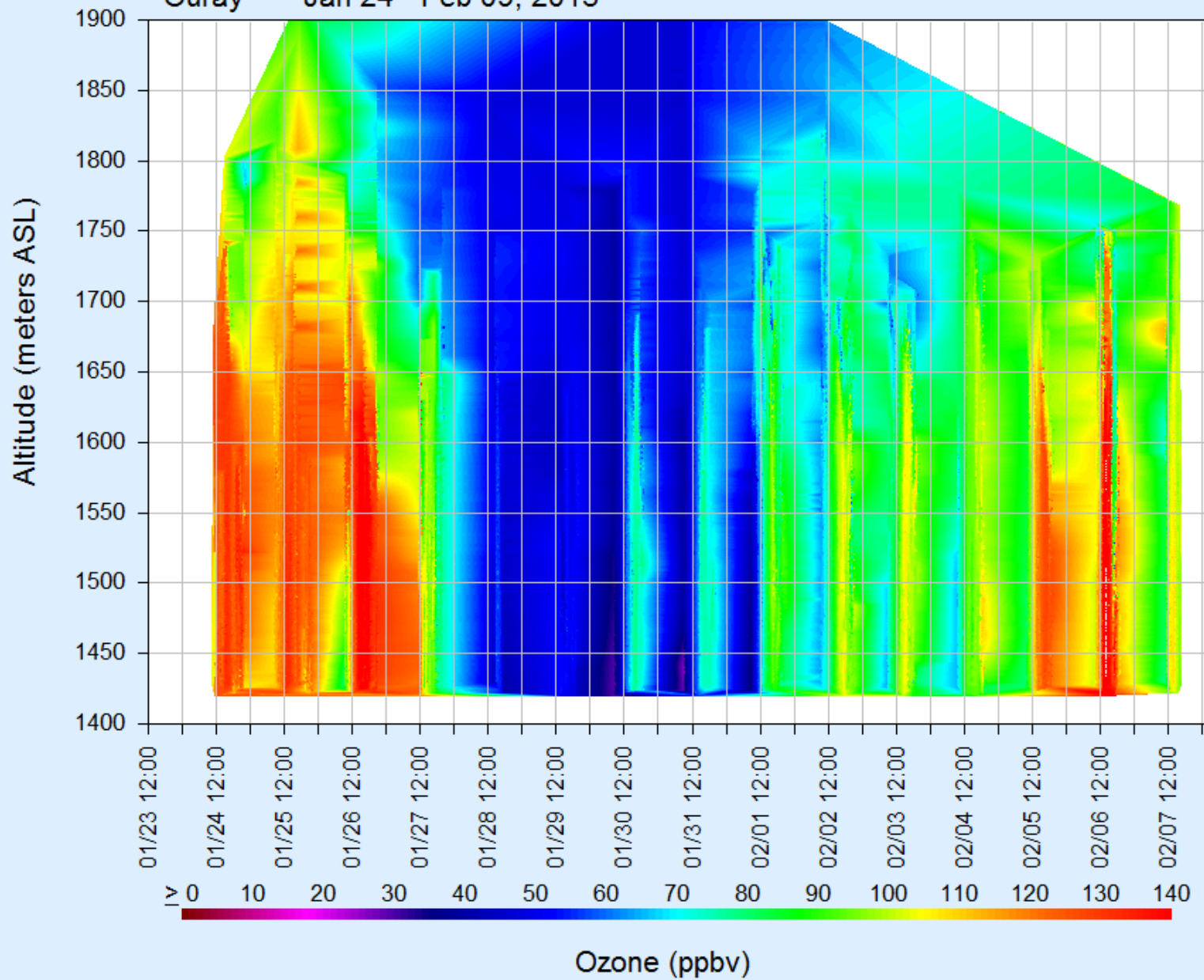
Uintah Basin, Feb 5, 2013



Uintah Basin, Feb 6, 2013



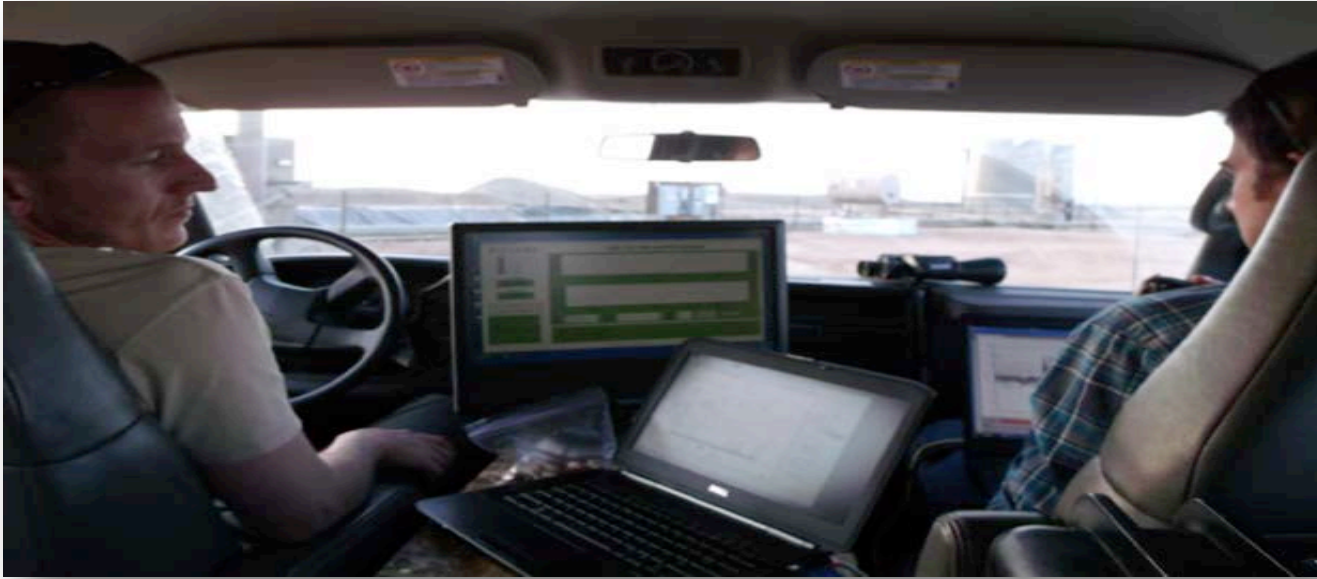
Ouray Jan 24 - Feb 09, 2013



Measuring Effluents from Oil and Gas Field: Uintah Basin



Instrumentation and Displays



NO NO₂

flasks

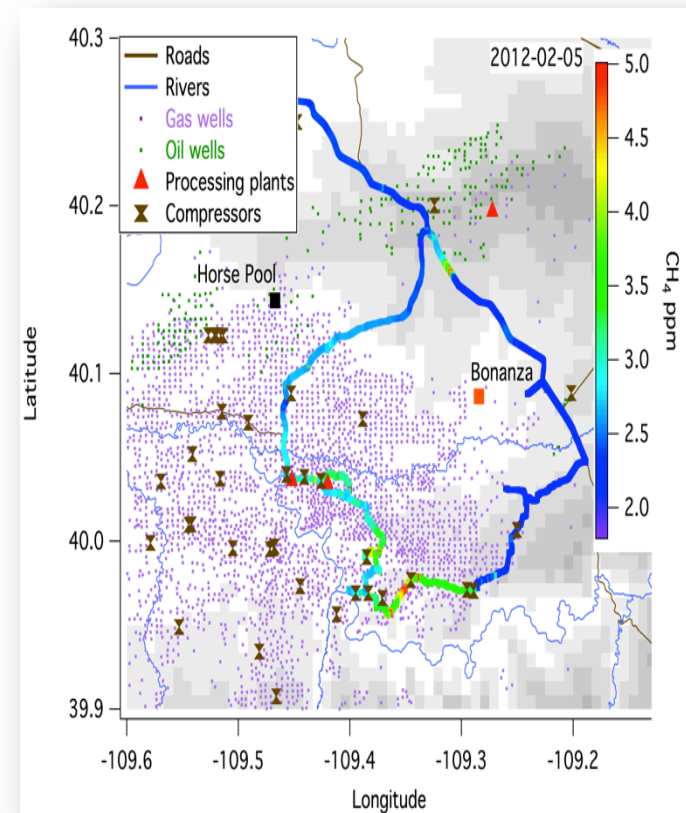
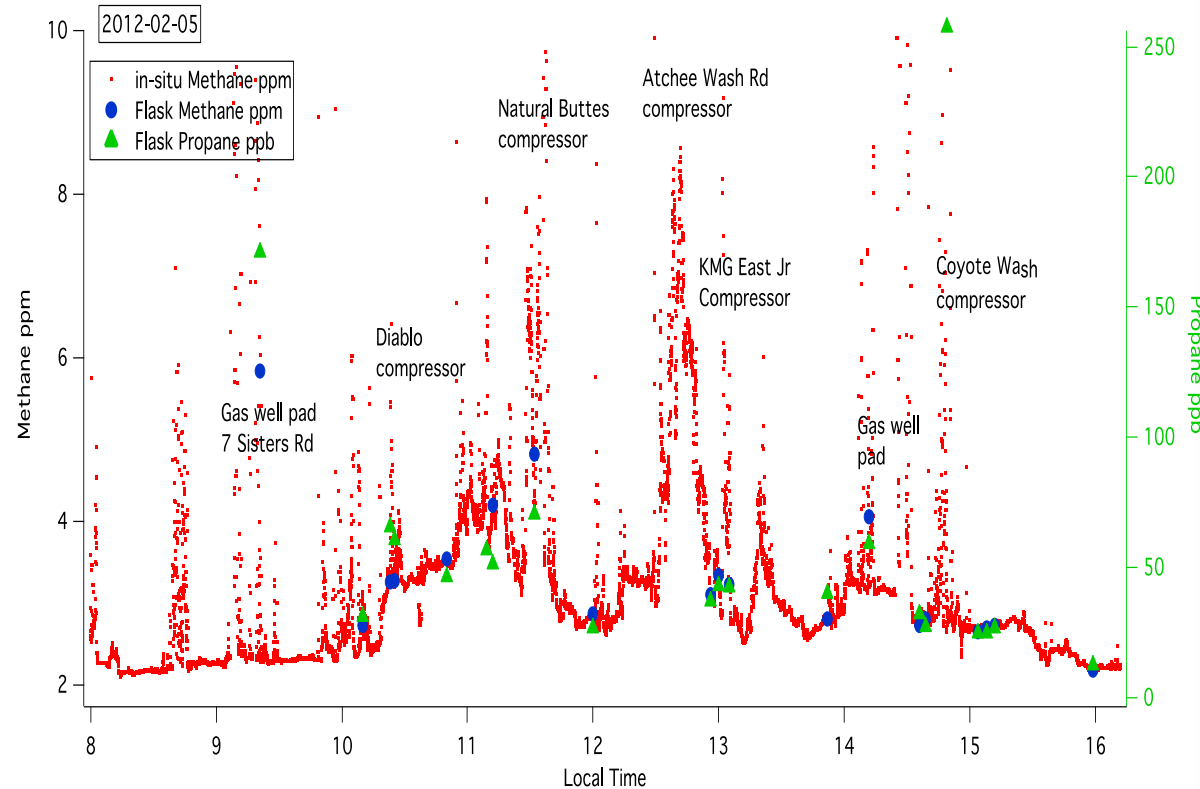
VOCs

CH₄ CO
CO₂



Example of local sources in the gas field: large fugitive emissions

Compressor Stations in the gas field in the Uintah Basin

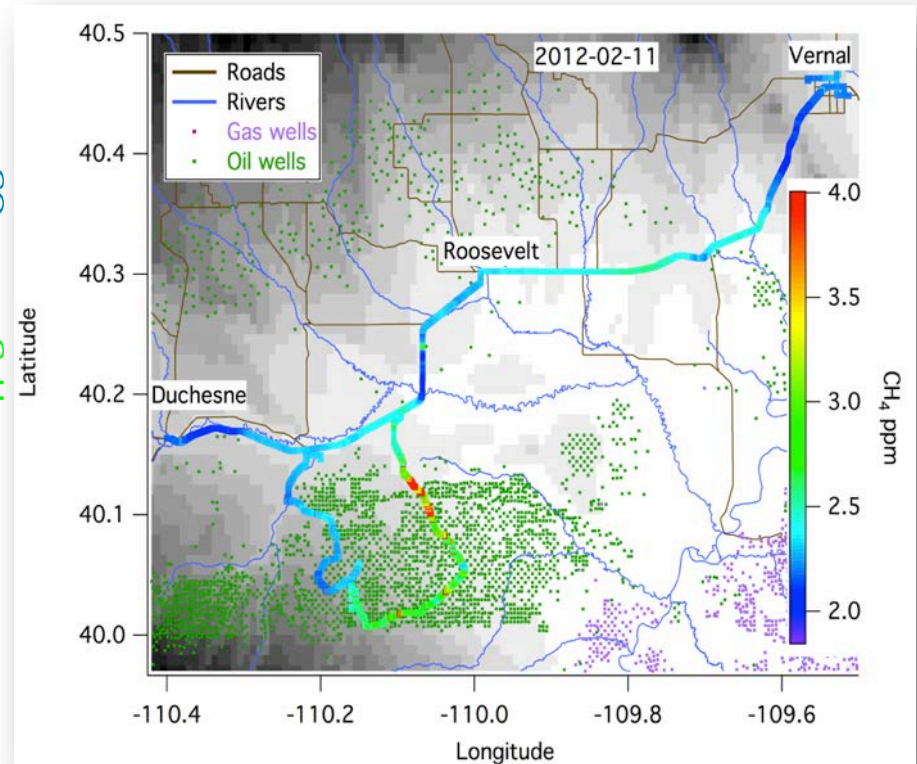
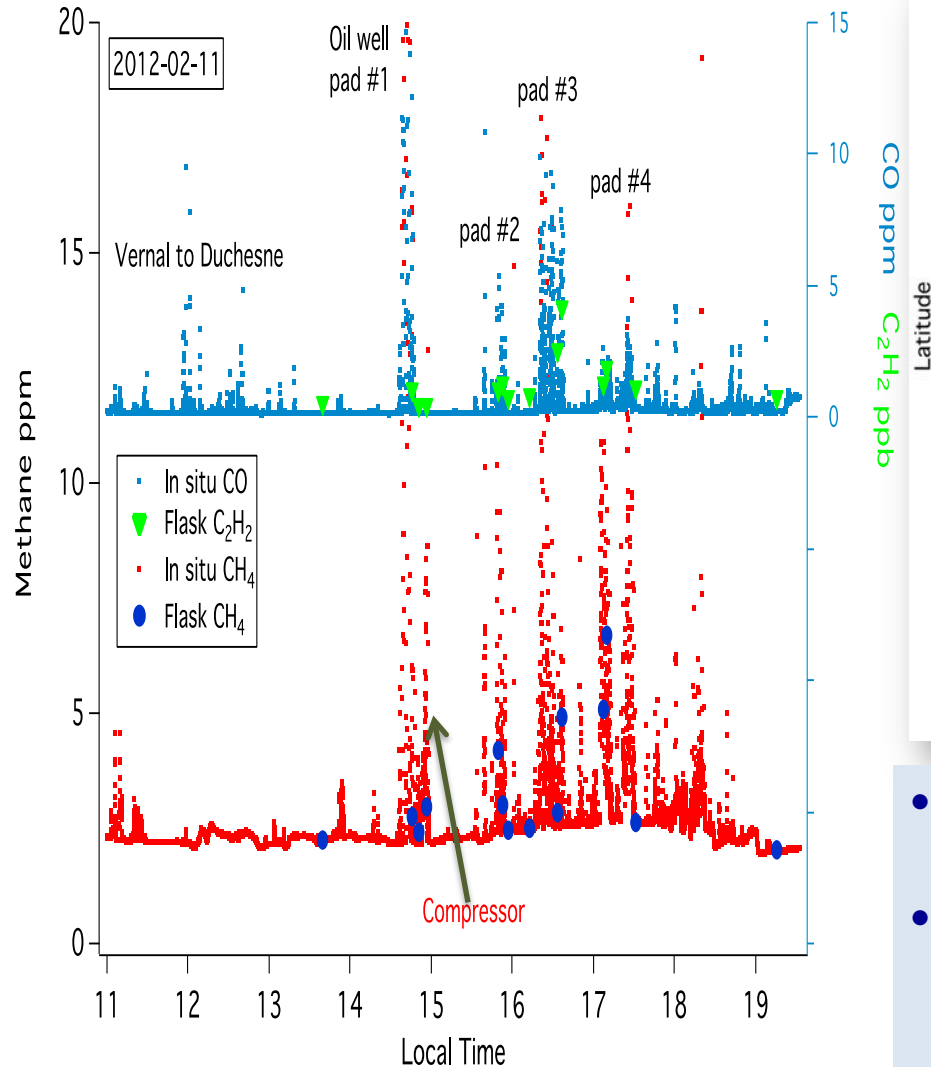


- Overall methane levels are very high (often > 2,500 ppb) in the gas field especially under stagnant conditions.
- Fugitive emissions of natural gas are substantial at several locations in the oil & gas fields such as at compressor stations.
- C₂+ alkanes are also elevated (> 10s of ppbs) and correlate well with methane.
- Levels are higher at night. They most likely are high under inversion conditions.

Example of local sources in the oil field: Poor engine performance

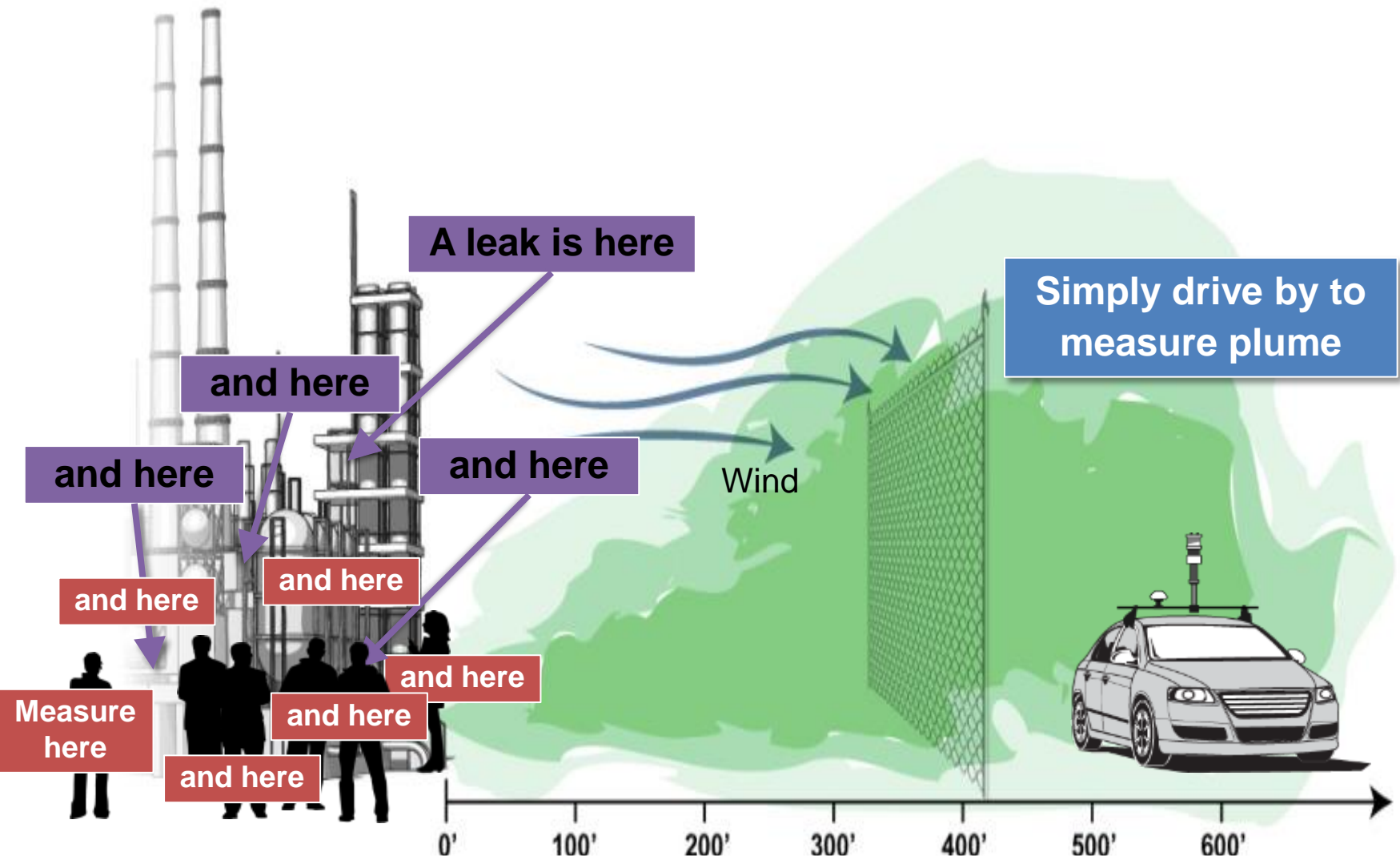


Natural gas powered artificial lifts & their emission products in the Gilsonite Draw field

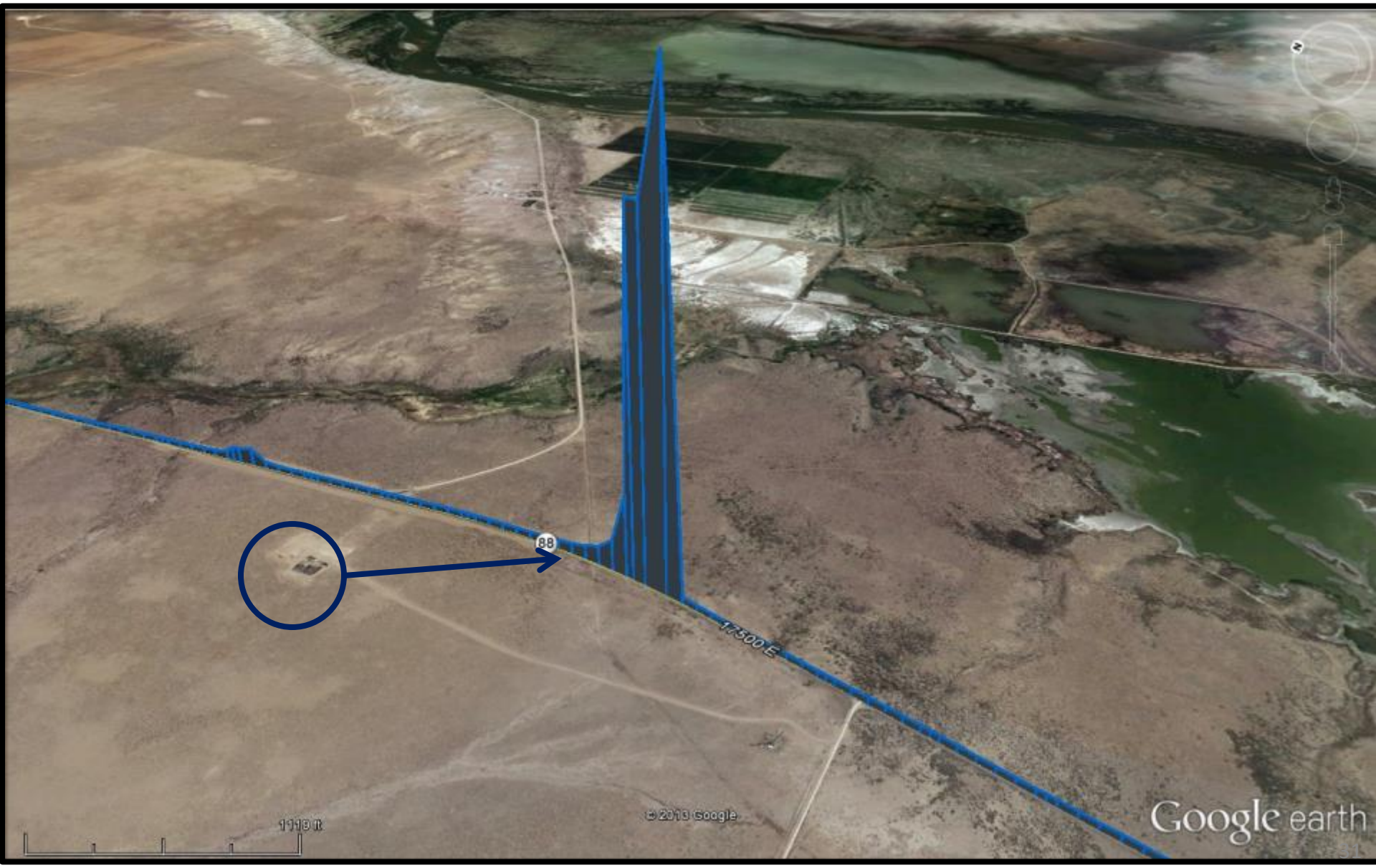


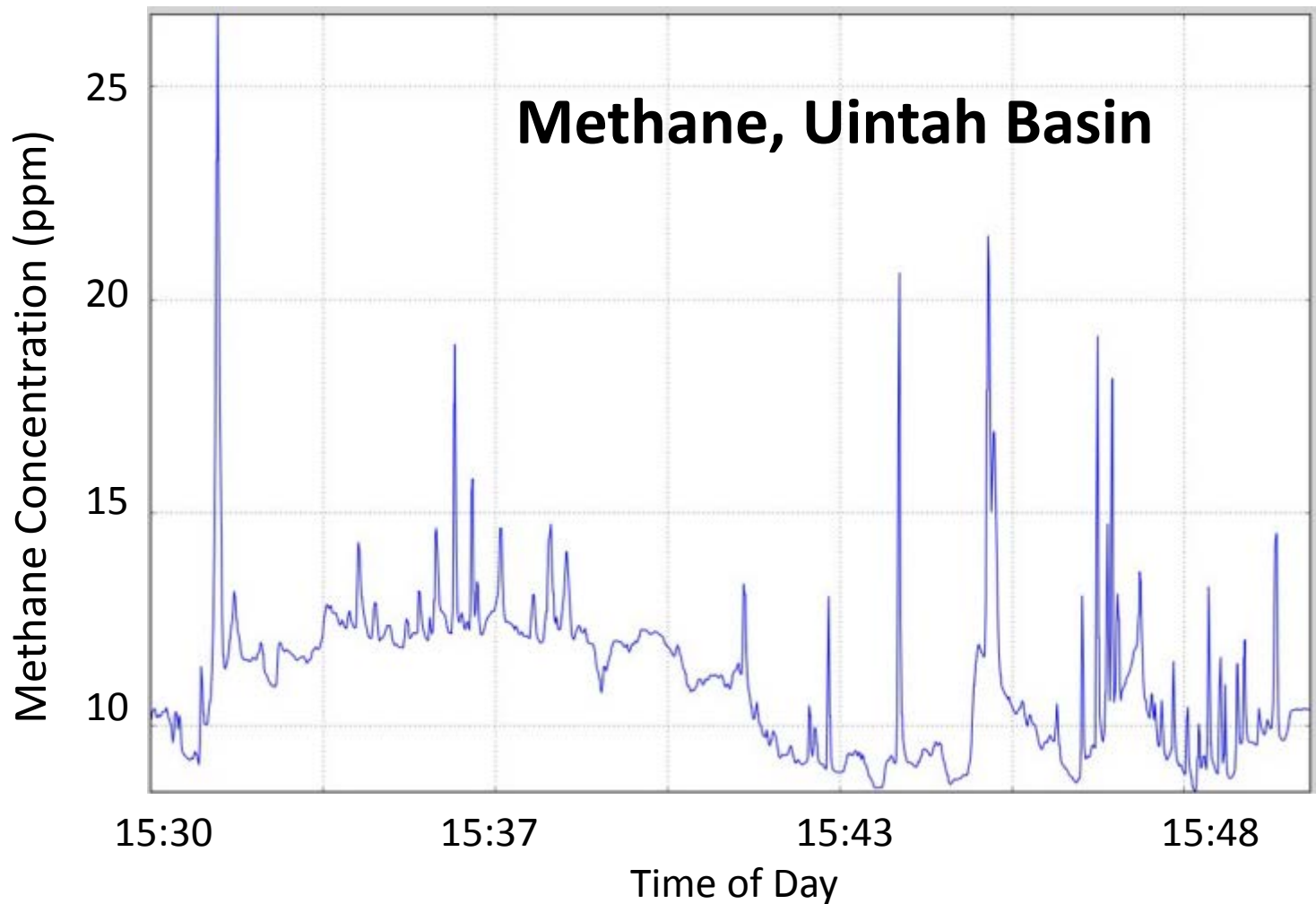
- Pumpjack engines in the oil field seem to be very dirty.
- An appreciable percentage of the natural gas used to power these engines can leak to the atmosphere.

Measuring methane leak rates by driving through the plume



An example of a plume in the Uintah Basin (Peak of 25 ppm)





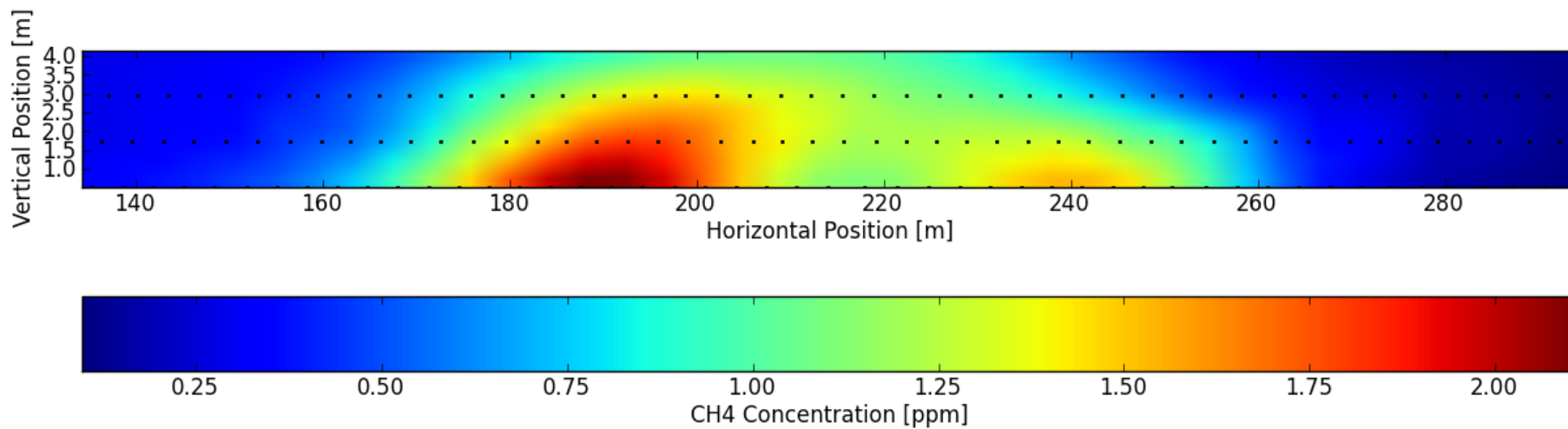
- ~10 miles of road in 15 minutes of driving.
- 23 leaks greater than 10 ppm, 34 leaks greater than 50 ppb (3 per mile traveled)

Uintah Basin

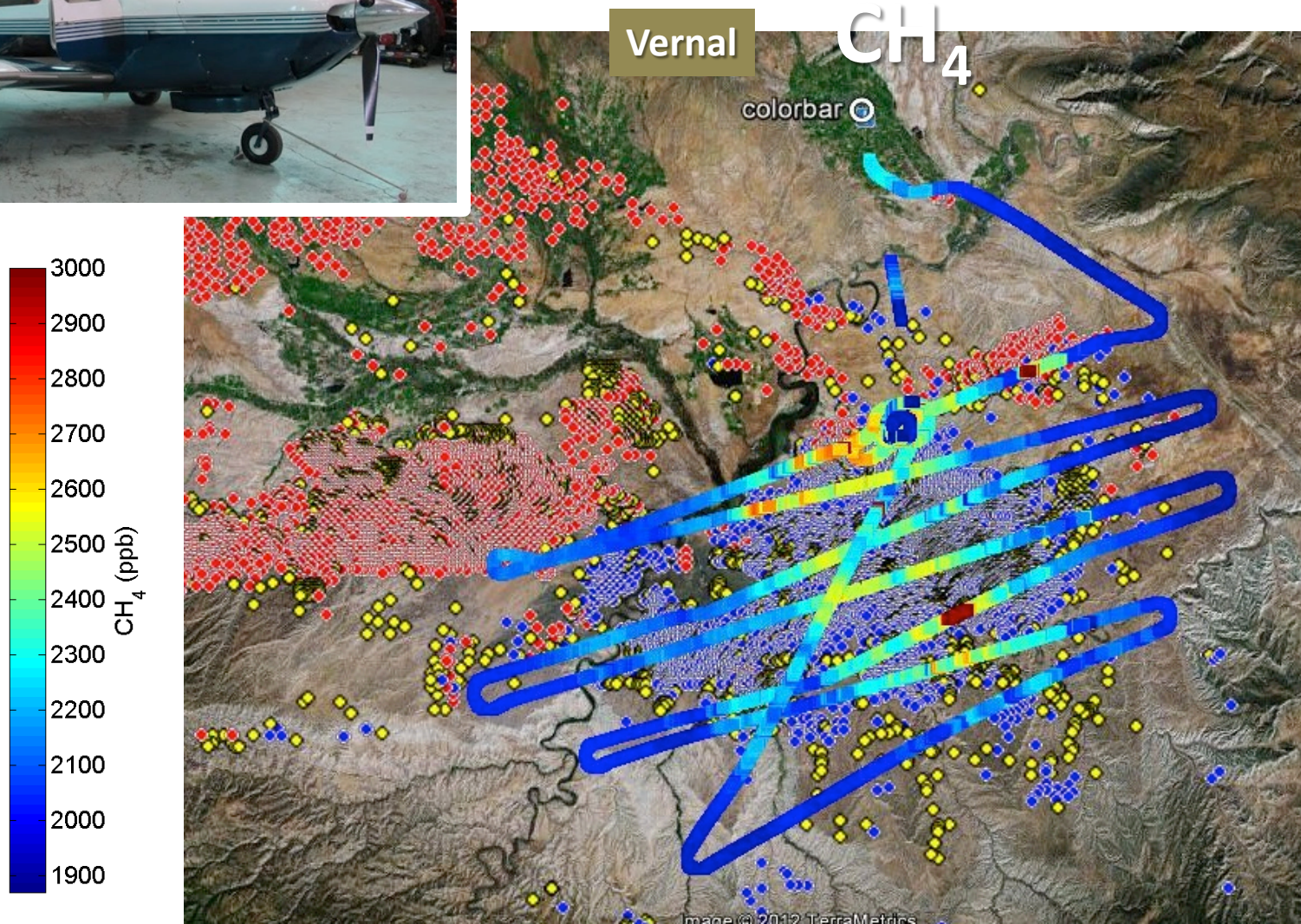


CH₄ Plume Observed 4 Feb 2013 16:27

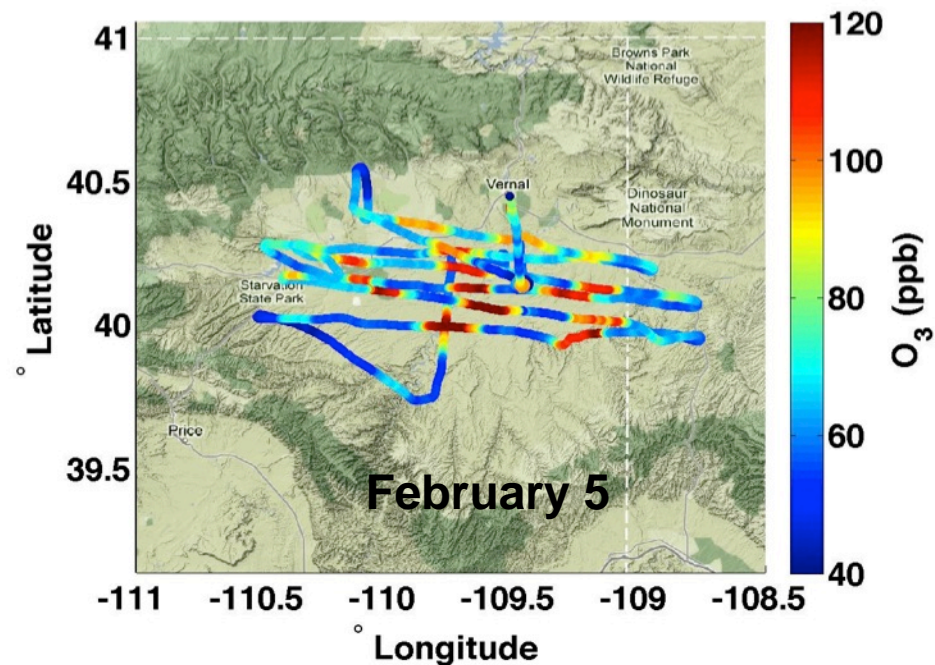
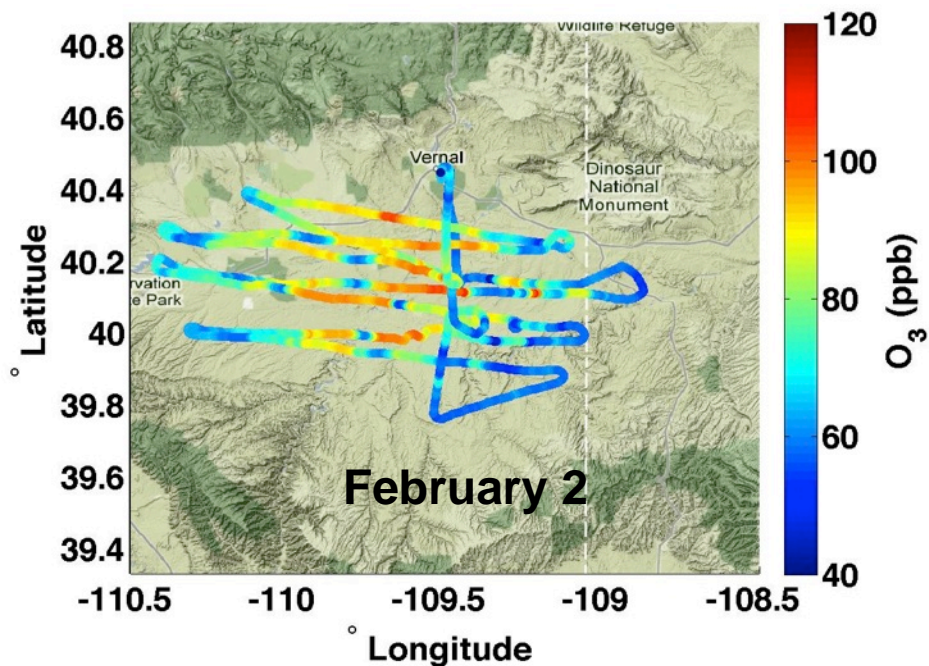
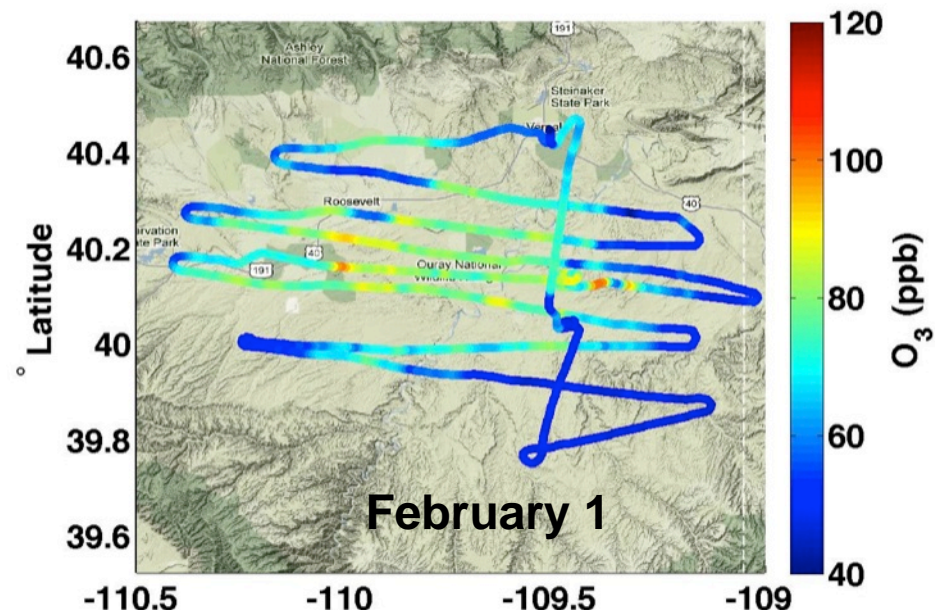
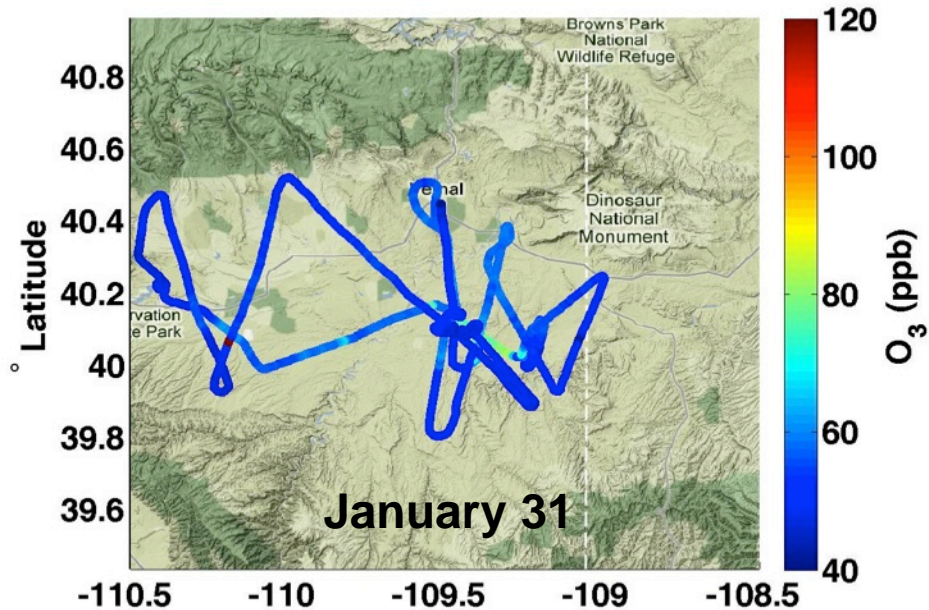
Car Speed	18.7 m/s
Lateral Wind Speed	0.54 m/s
Flux Estimate	>0.34 L/s



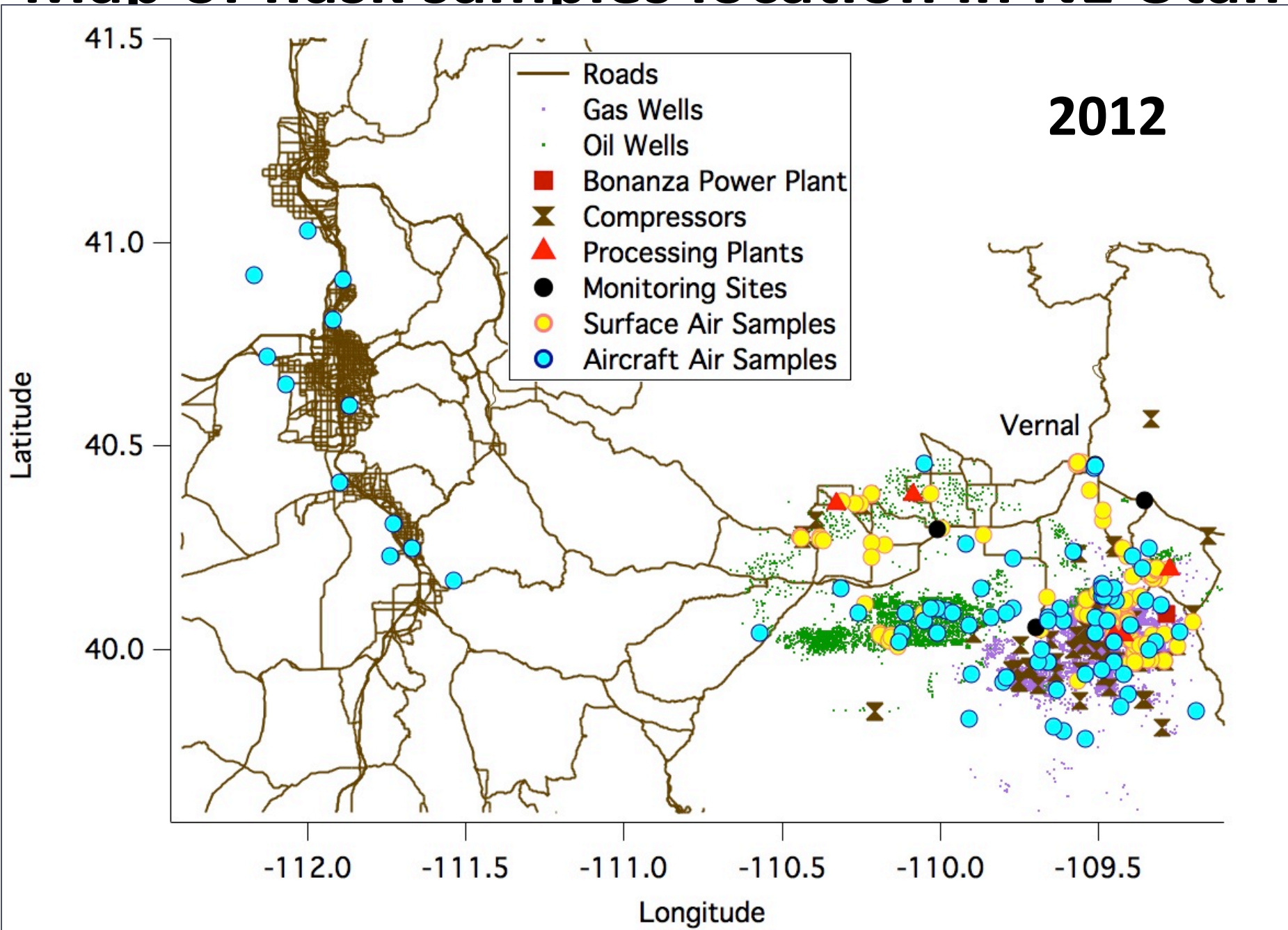
Feb 7, 2012: Low Wind Conditions



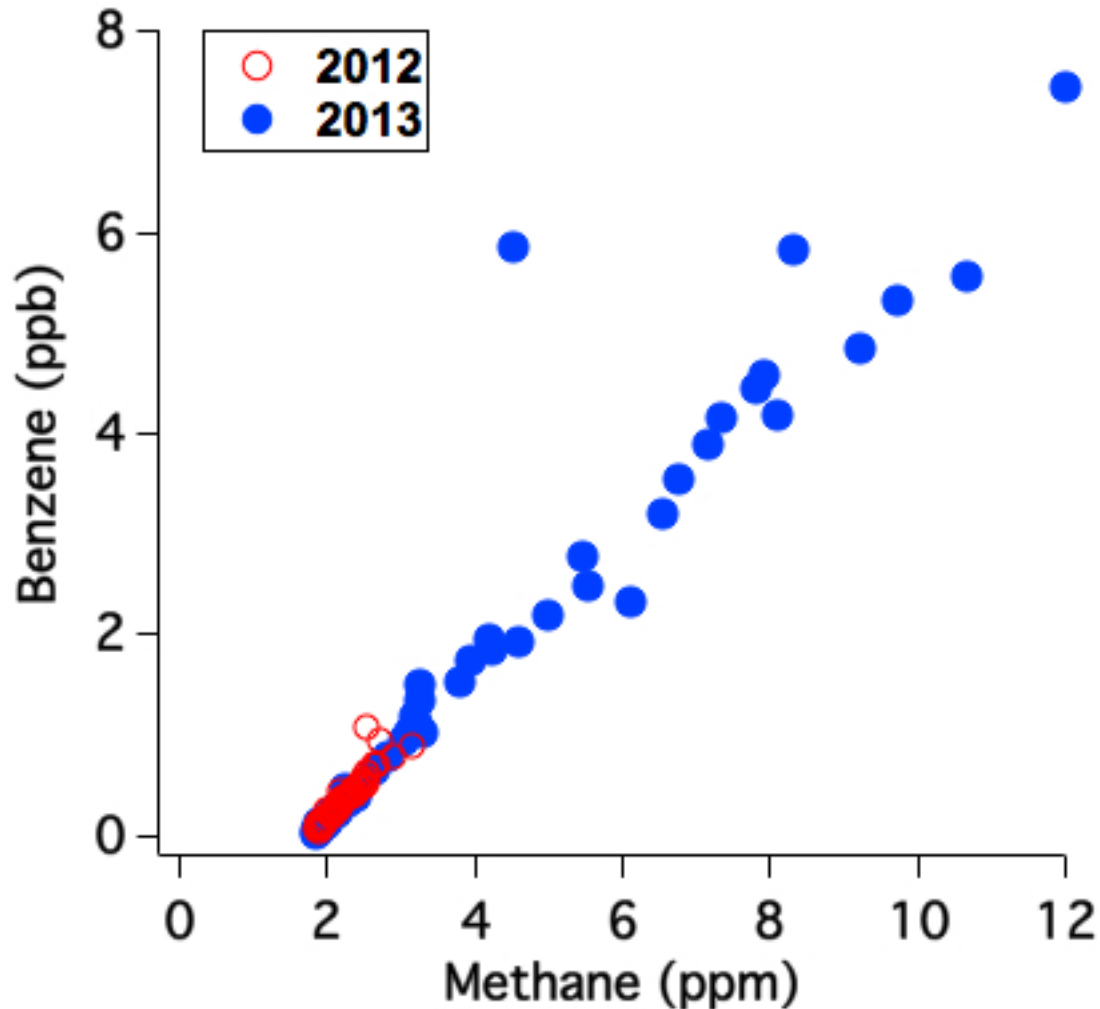
Ozone across the basin on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2, and 5



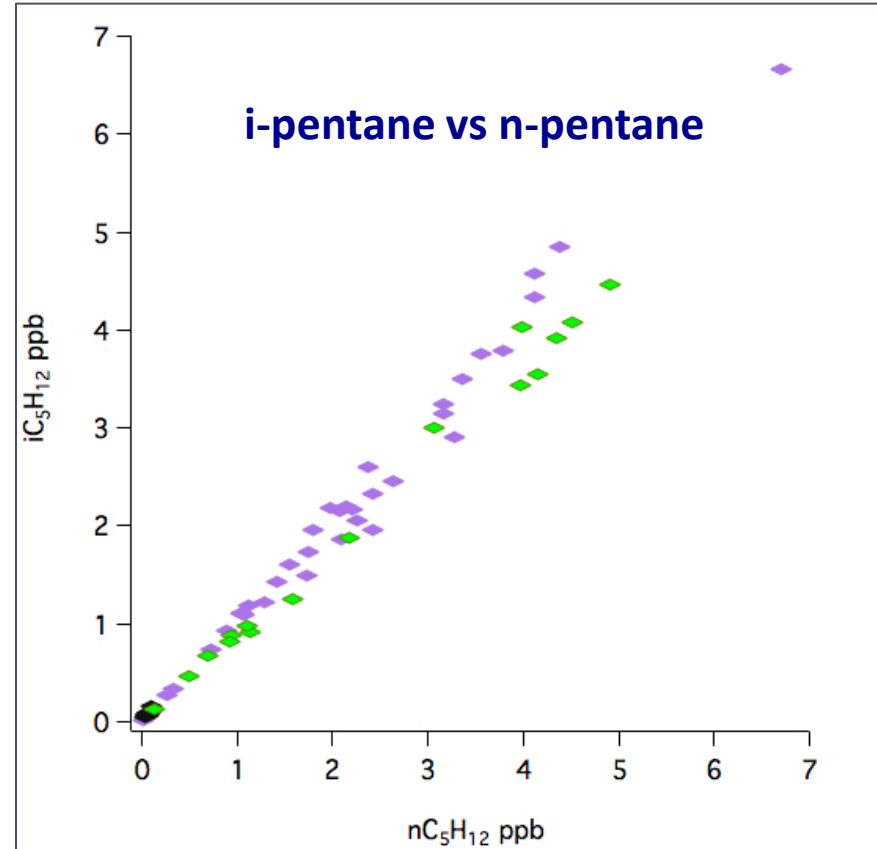
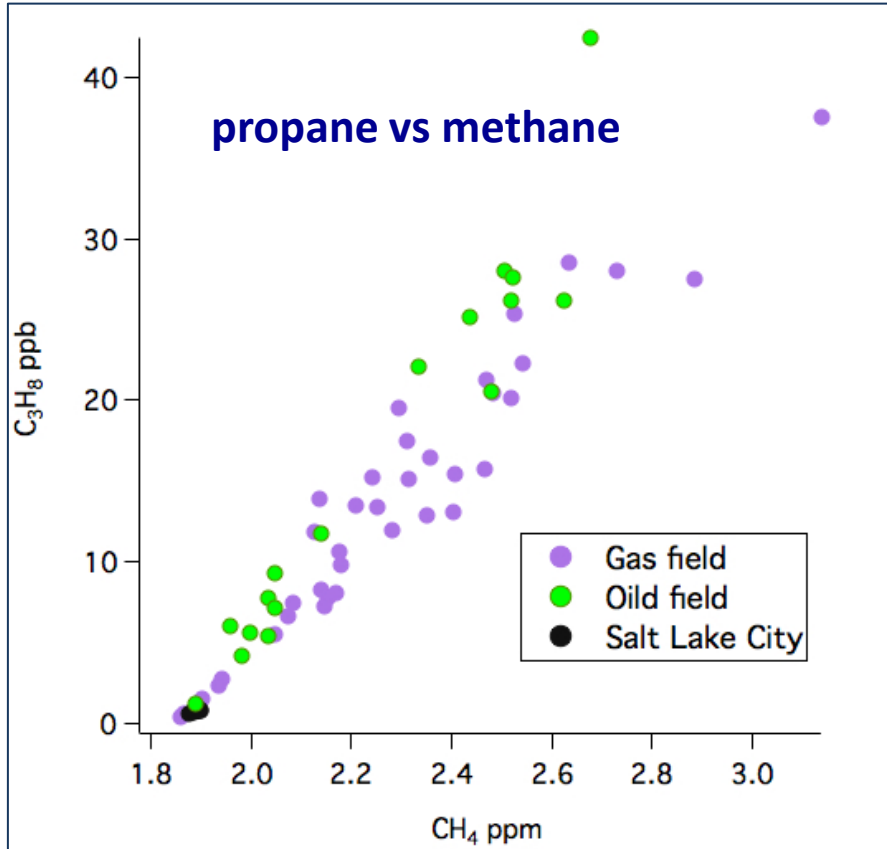
Map of flask samples location in NE Utah



Airborne flask samples, Uintah Basin, Above and below Inversion 2012 and 2013

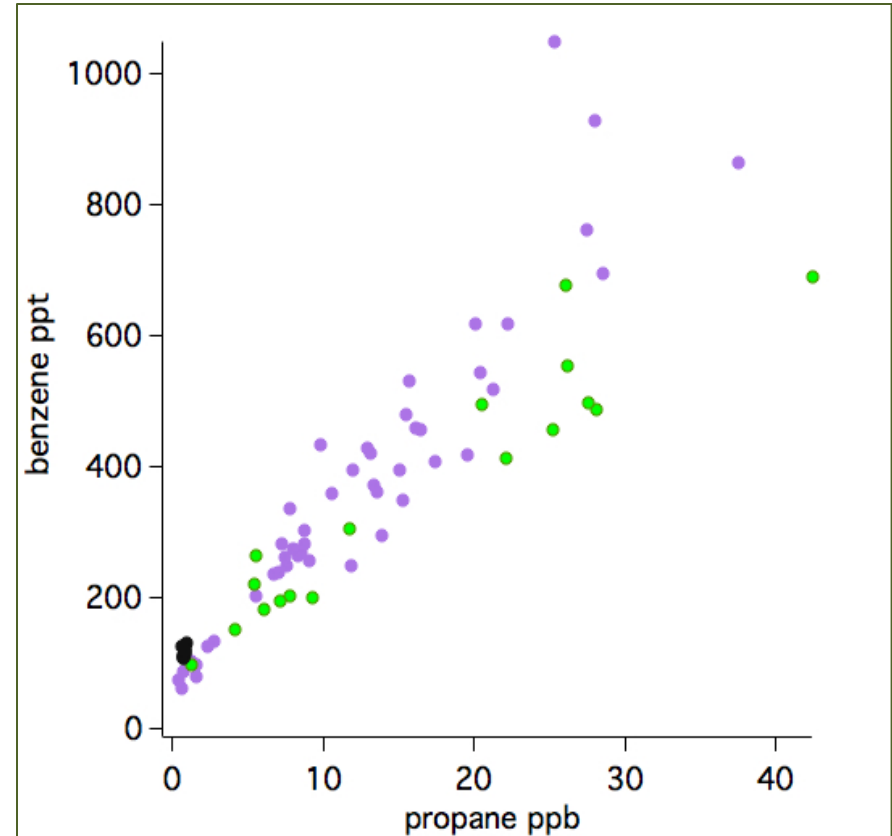
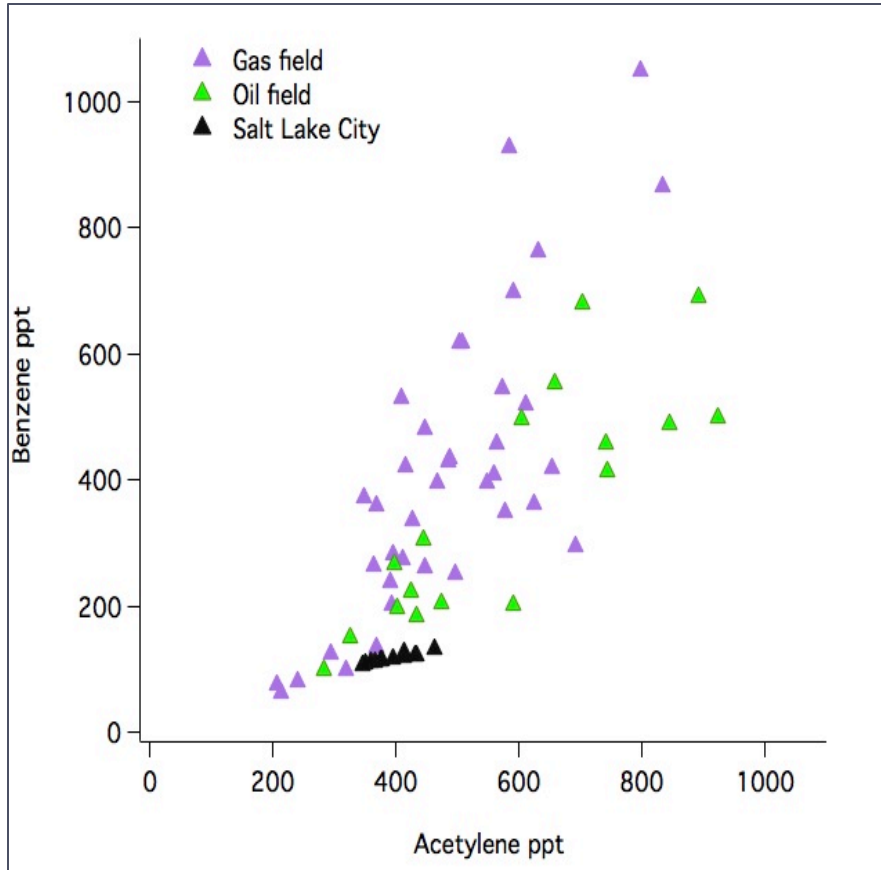


Very low alkane levels in SLC



- Alkanes such as methane and propane are very good markers of natural gas.
- High levels of alkanes were measured in the Uintah Basin, over both the oil (green) and gas (purple) fields
- i-pentane/n-pentane ratio is equal to 1 (typically close to 2 in urban areas).

Vehicle Exhaust Signature in SLC are Not Seen in Uintah Basin



- Benzene and acetylene are used as markers of vehicle emissions.
- The benzene-to-acetylene ratio in Salt Lake City is typical of urban regions.
- Air samples collected in the Uintah Basin show much higher levels of benzene than the Salt Lake City.

Bonanza Powerplant Plume, Uintah Basin

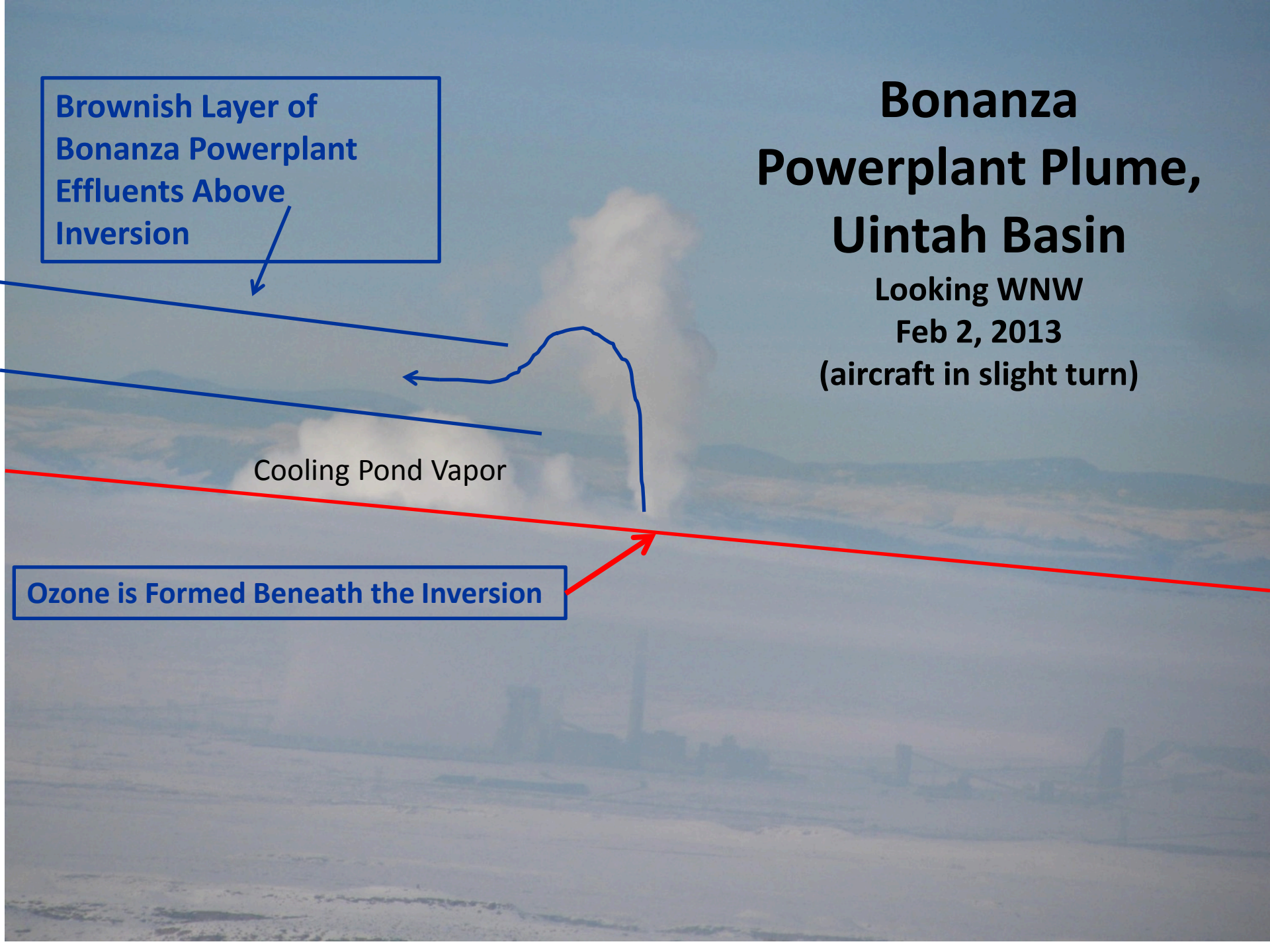
Looking WNW
Feb 2, 2013
(aircraft in slight turn)

Brownish Layer of
Bonanza Powerplant
Effluents Above
Inversion



Cooling Pond Vapor

Ozone is Formed Beneath the Inversion

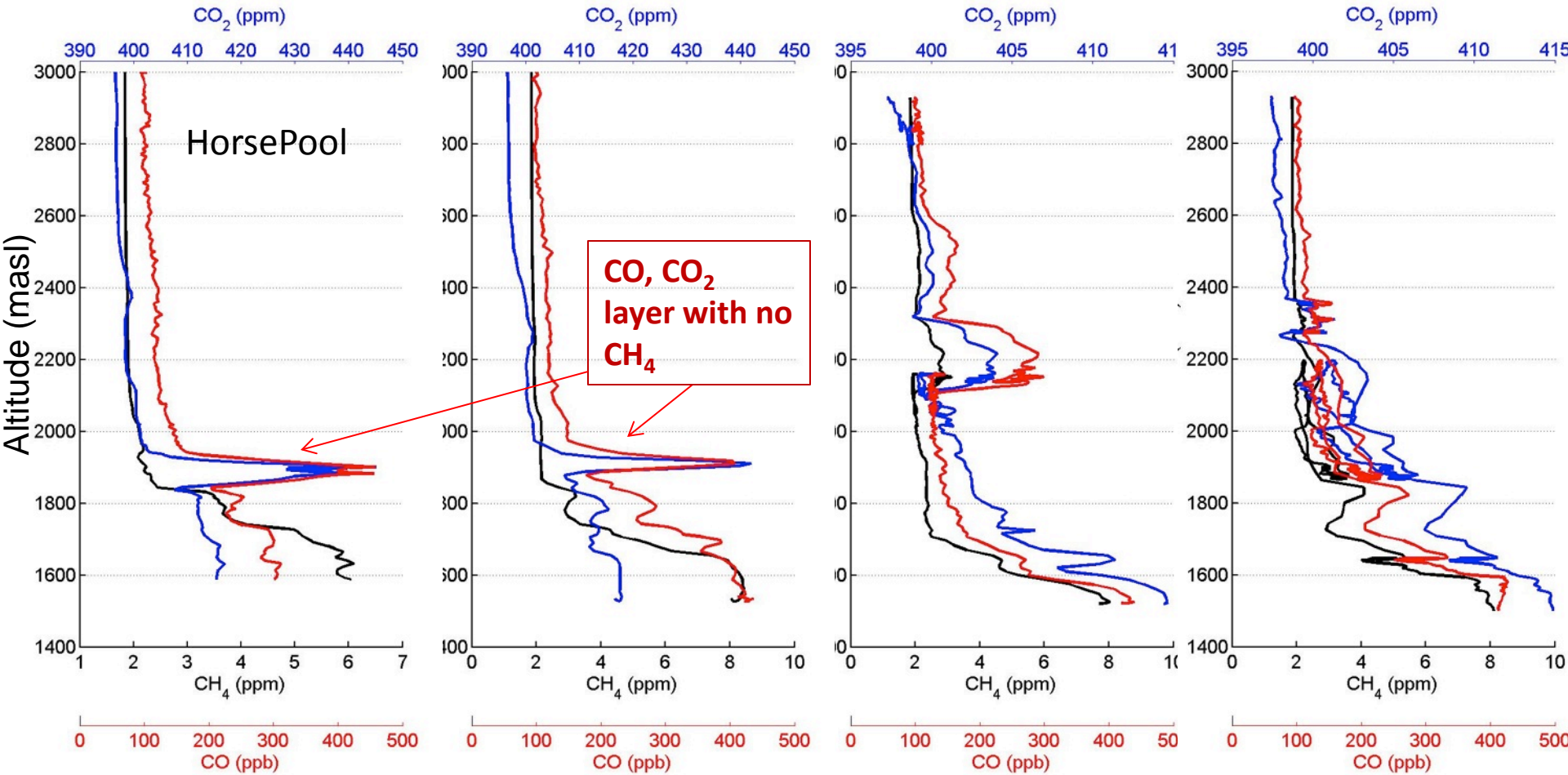


05-Feb-2013 18:57:55 Profile 1

05-Feb-2013 19:06:46 Profile 2

05-Feb-2013 22:41:58 Profile 3

05-Feb-2013 22:59:26 Profile 4

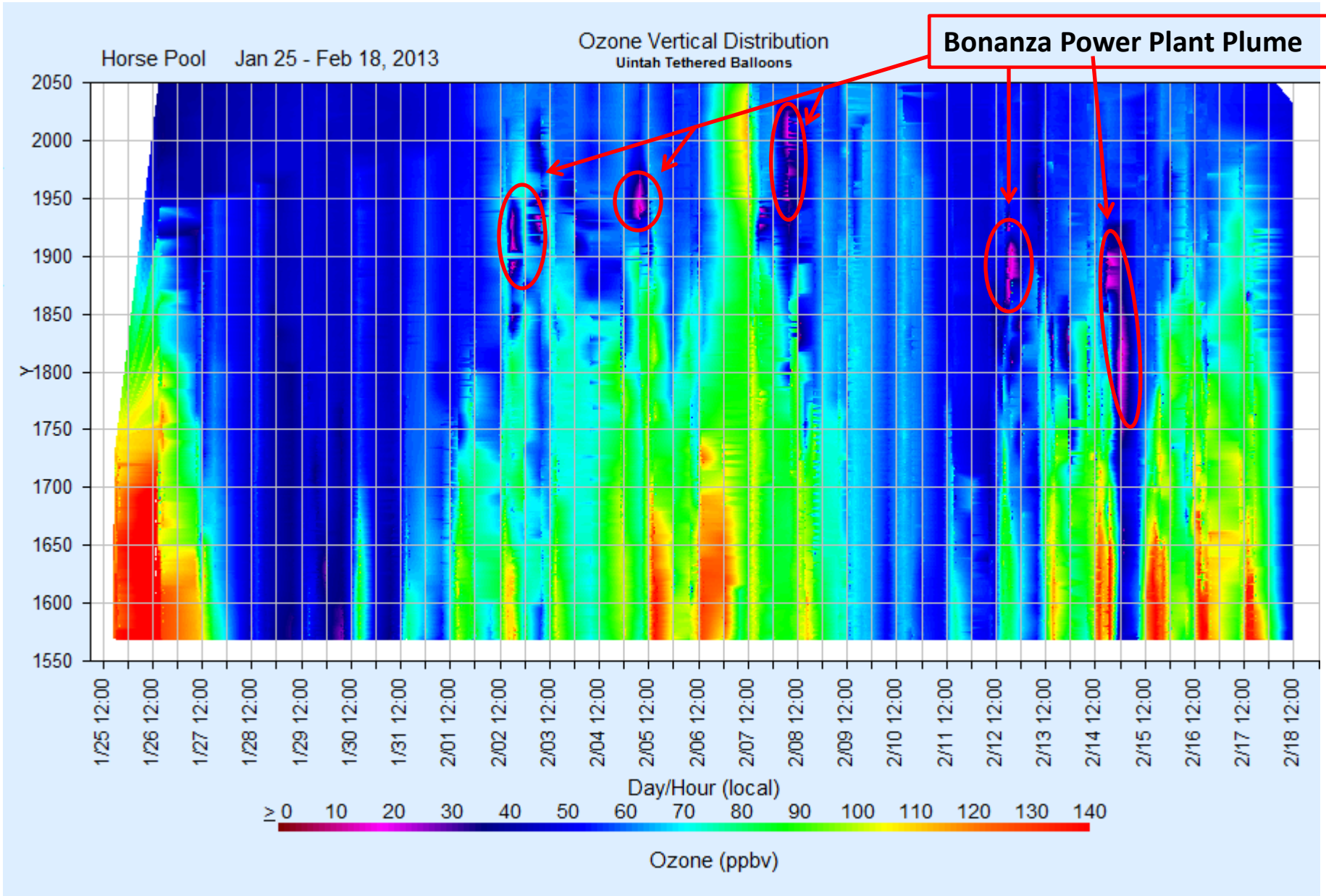


Power plant layer above inversion apparent in Profiles 1 & 2 in CO, CO₂

Plume between 1800 and 2000 masl has ratio of CO:CO₂ ~6-8 ppb

Layer at higher altitudes (>2000 masl) has more CO, esp. in western side of basin.

Horse Pool, Jan 25 - Feb 18, 2013

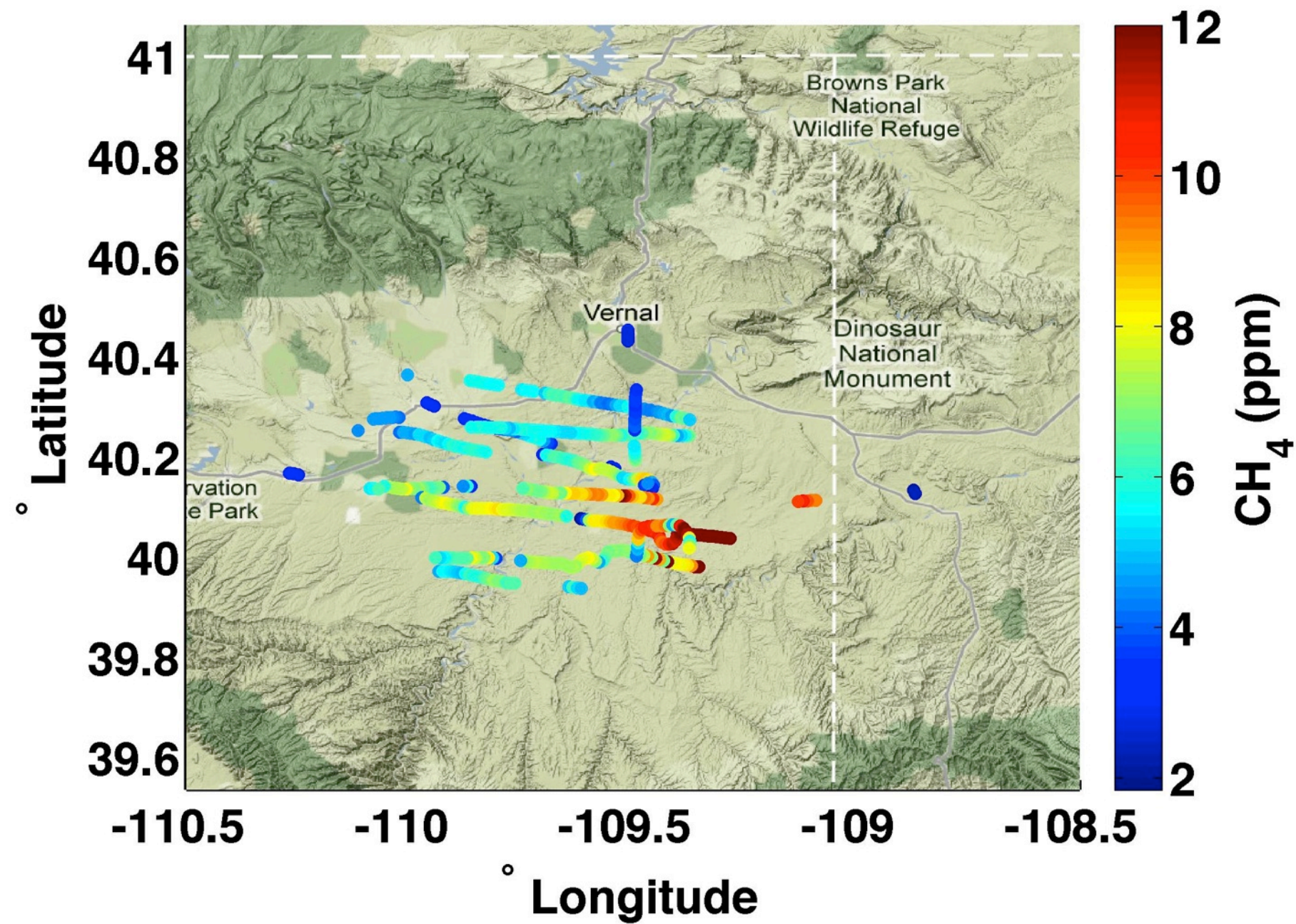


Conclusions

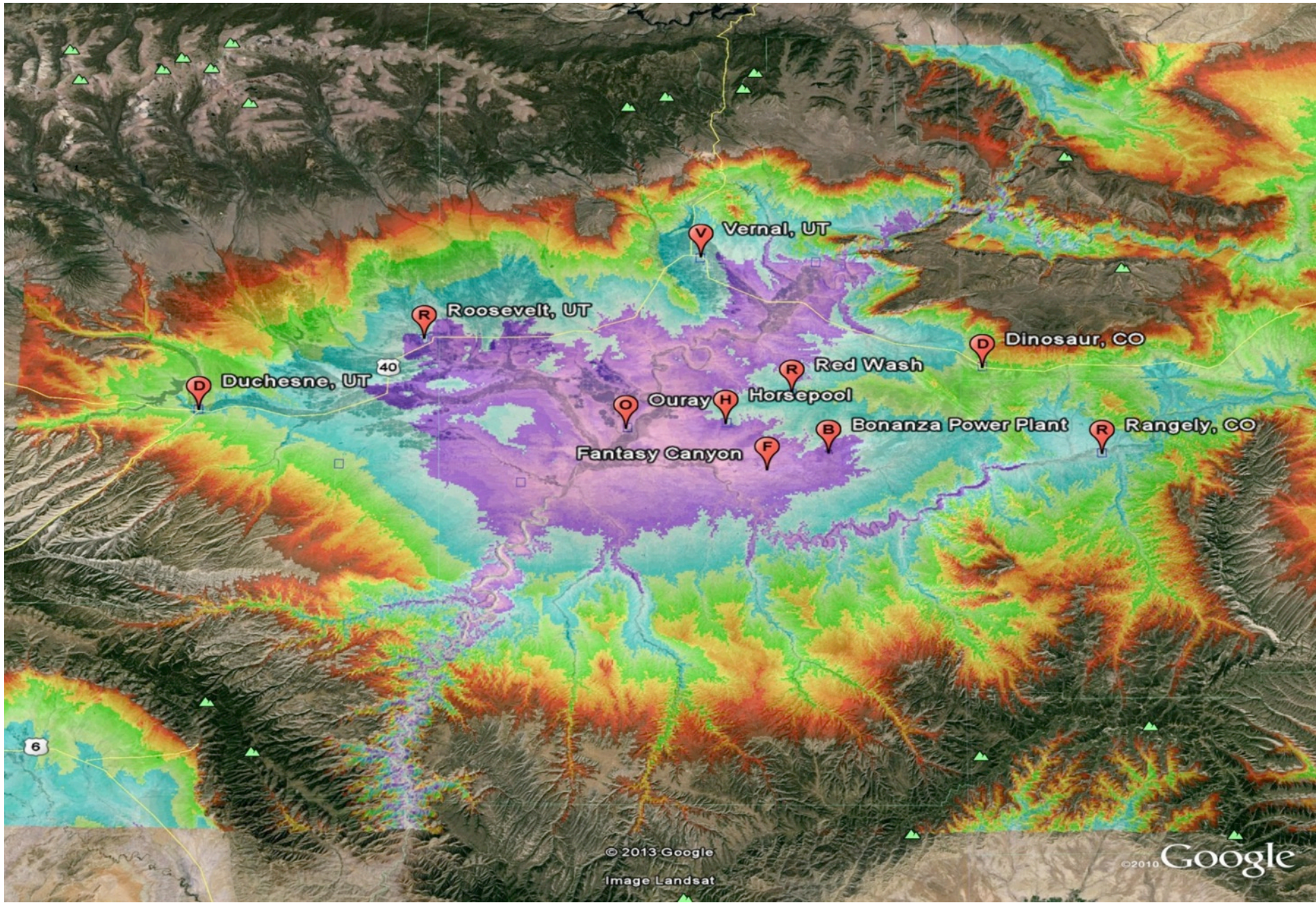
- **Snow** is key to the meteorology and chemistry of winter ozone formation. No snow, no ozone.
- **Bonanza** power plant is **not** a contributor to NOx or ozone in winter Uintah ozone formation.
- The ozone precursors are coming from oil and gas **extraction and transport** processes.
- Transport of ozone and ozone precursors from outside the Basin is **inconsequential**.
- The depth of the enhanced ozone layer is **shallow**, varying from the equivalent of one to three 150 foot drill rig heights.

Thank you for
your time and
attention.

20130202



Physiography: Uinta Basin, Utah

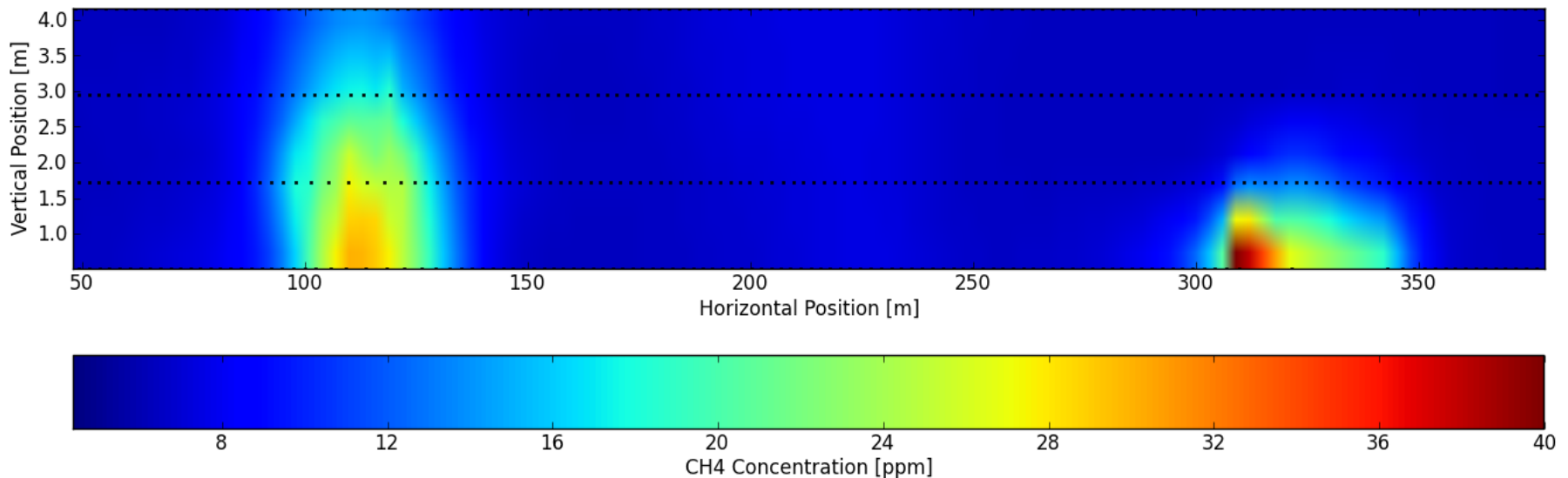


Uintah Basin, Feb 2013

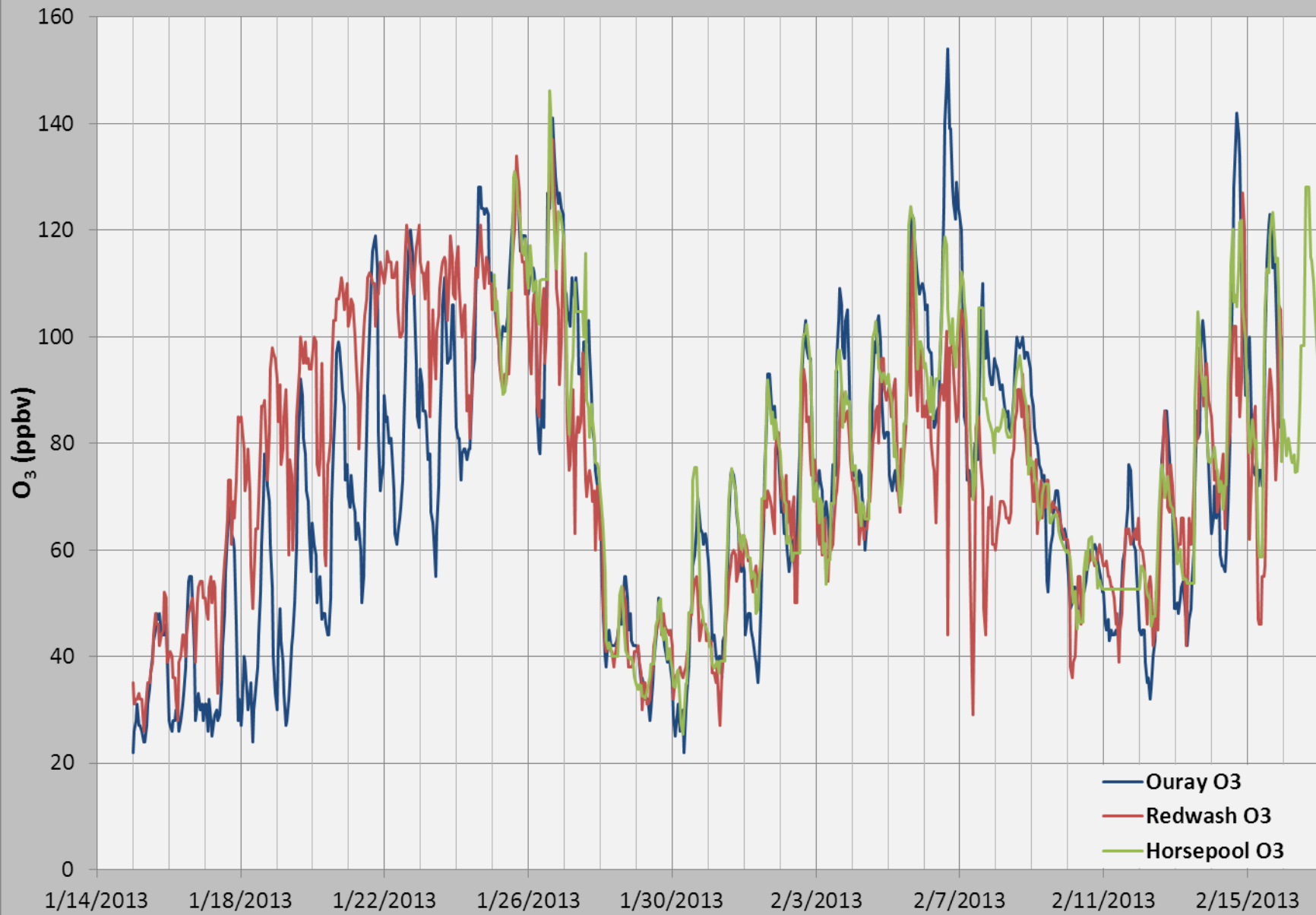


CH₄ Plume Observed 31 Jan 2013 13:00

Car Speed	13.0 m/s
Lateral Wind Speed	1.5 m/s
Flux Estimate (Left)	>3.2 L/s
Flux Estimate (Right)	>1.3 L/s



Surface O₃ 1/15/2013 - 2/15/2013

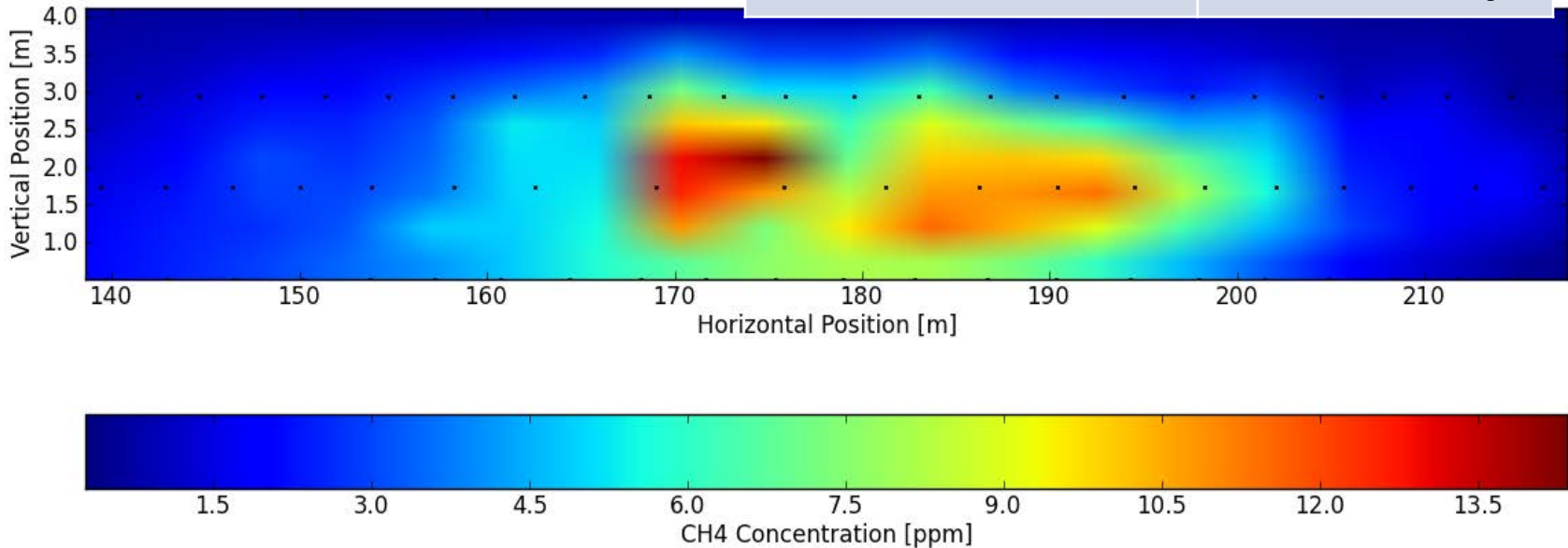




GPS: Uintah Basin

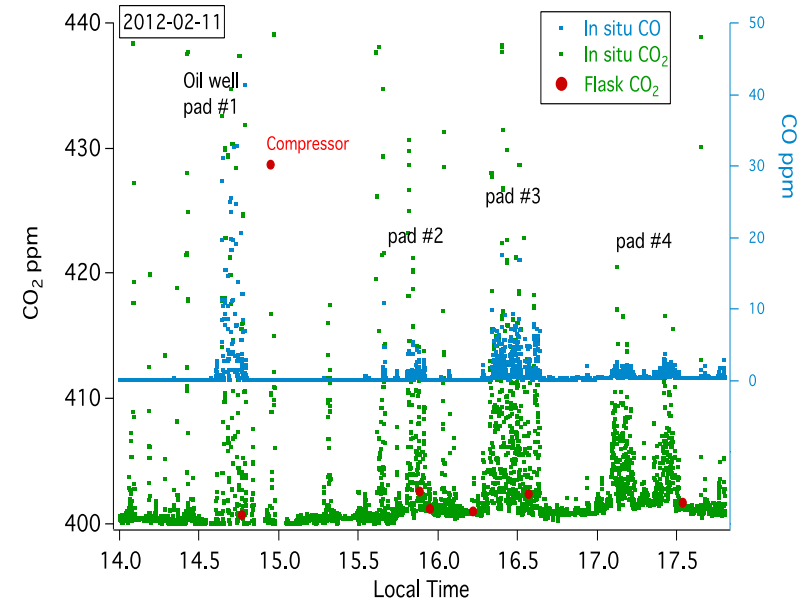
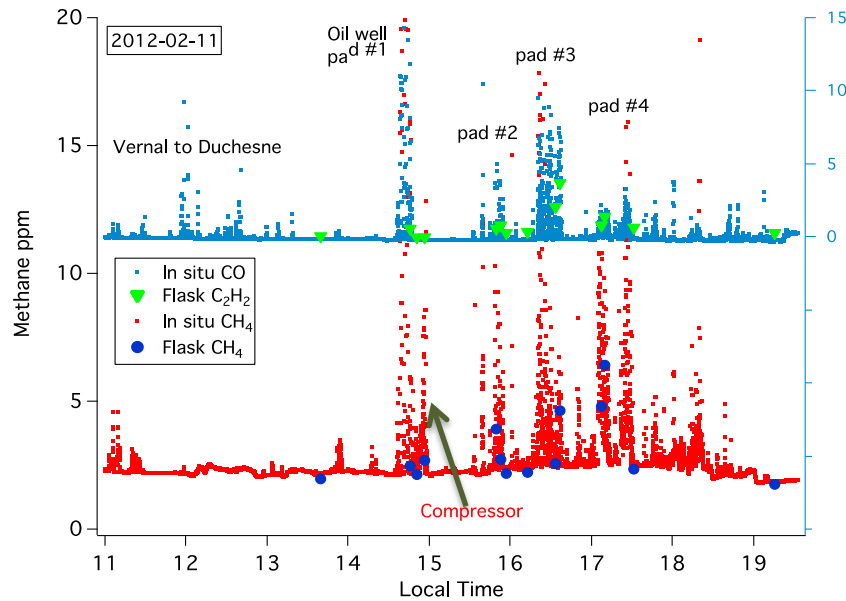
CH₄ Plume Observed 4 Feb 2013 16:57

Car Speed	18.8 m/s
Lateral Wind Speed	1.4 m/s
Flux Estimate	>2.9 L/s



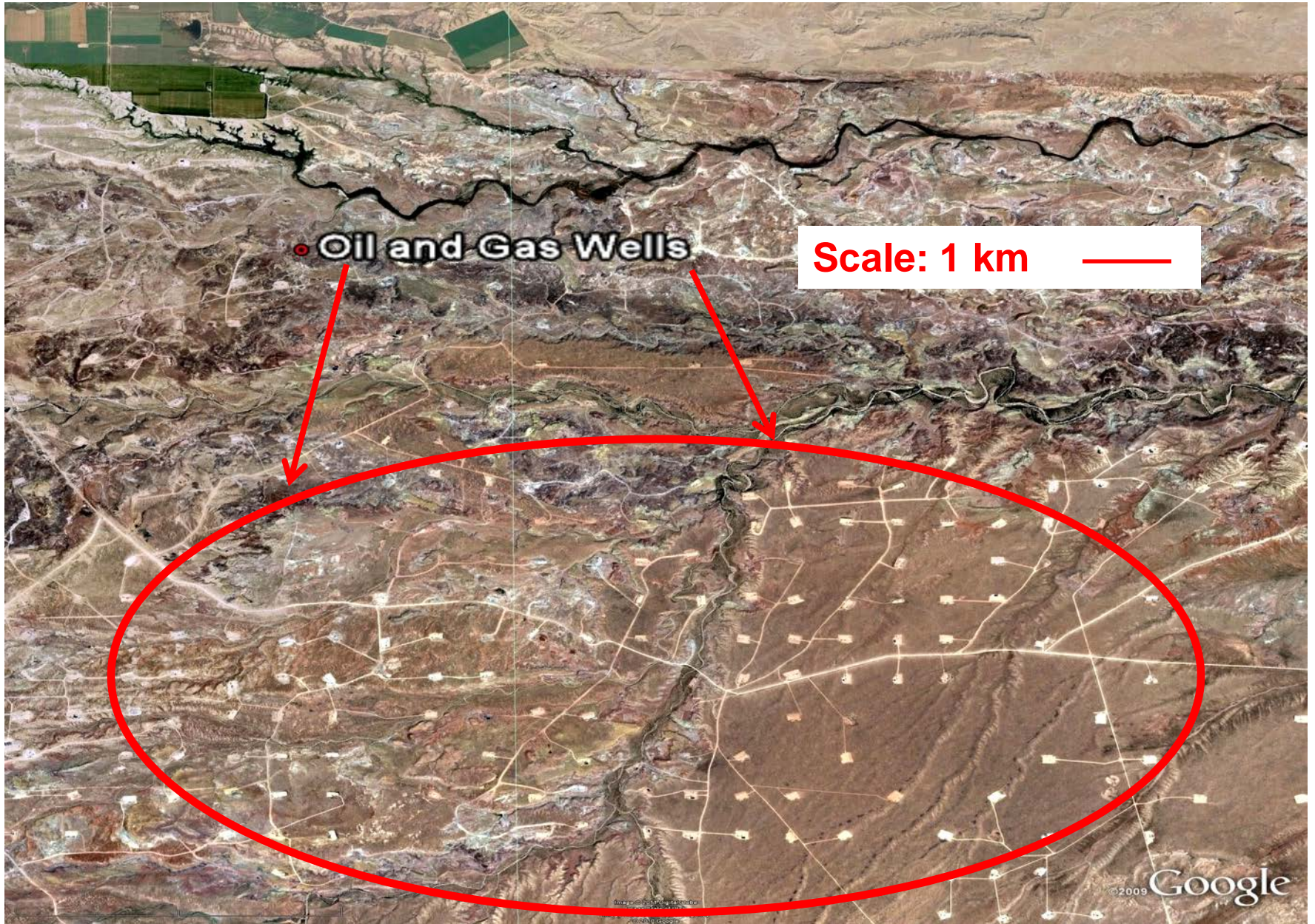
Example of Emission Factor Derivation

Natural gas leaks in oil field & combustion products

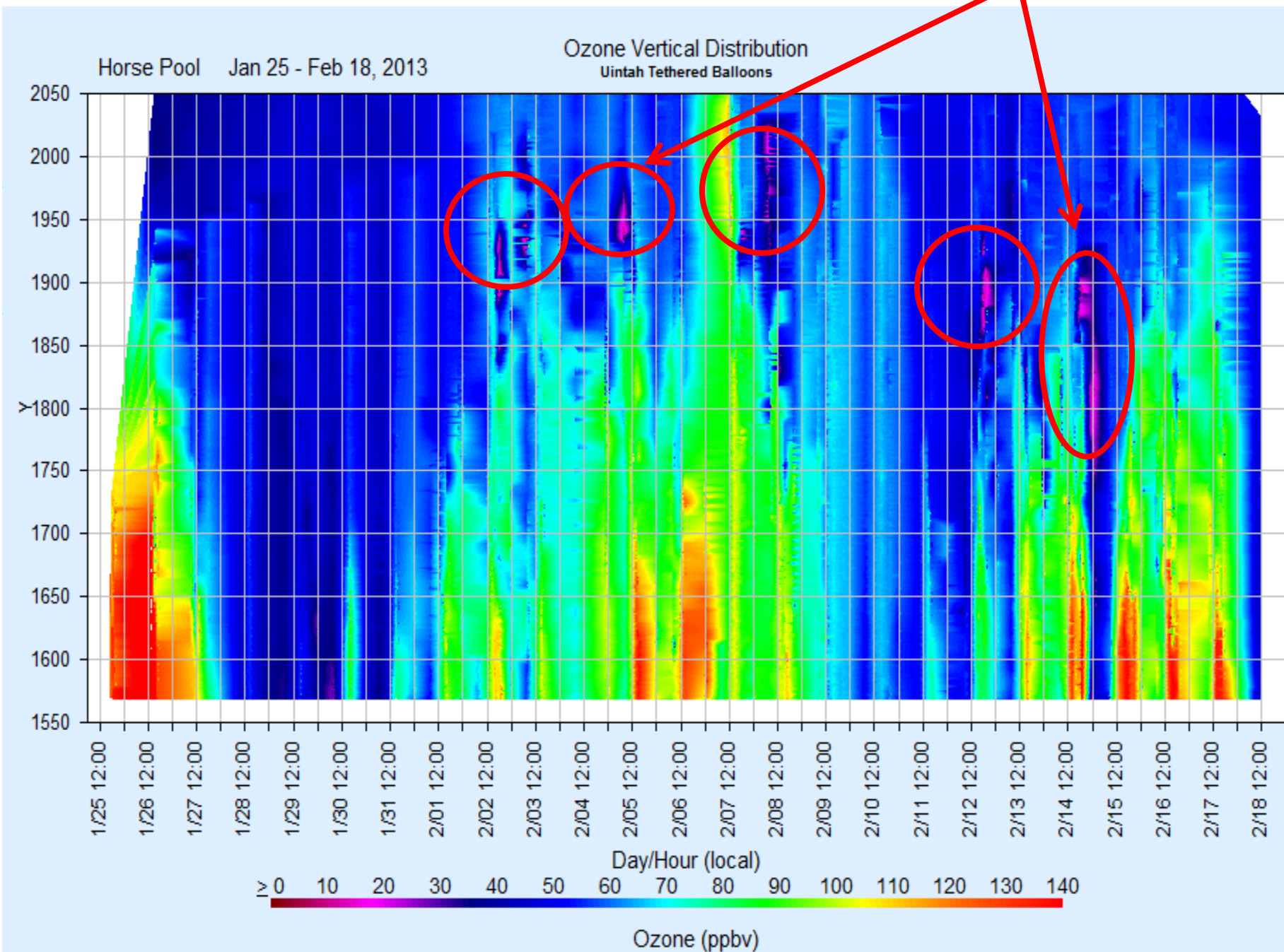


Molar ratio Pad #	CO/CO ₂	CH ₄ /(CO ₂ +C O)
1	85%	22%
2	23%	25%
3	52%	17%
4	19%	61%

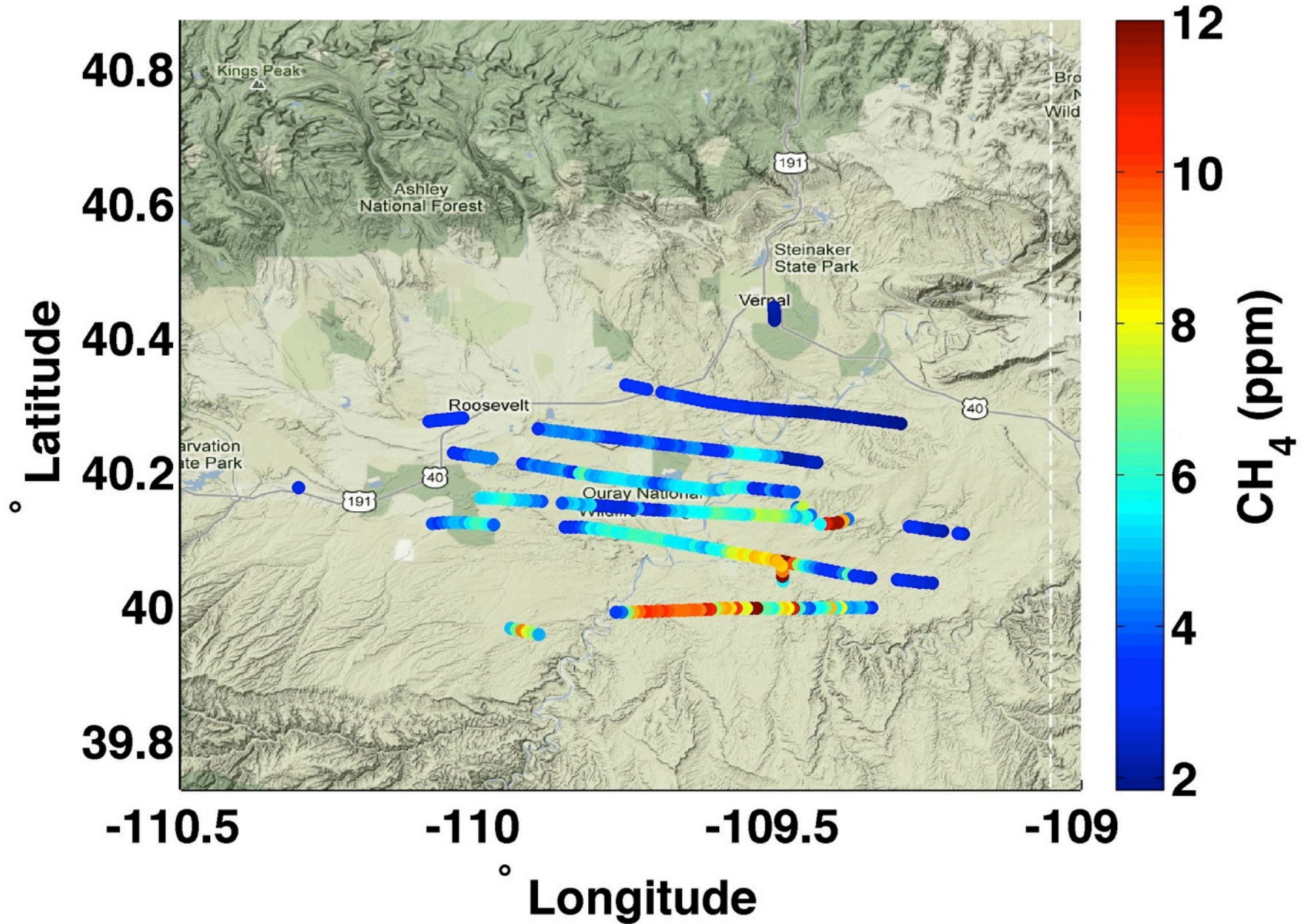
Uintah Basin Field



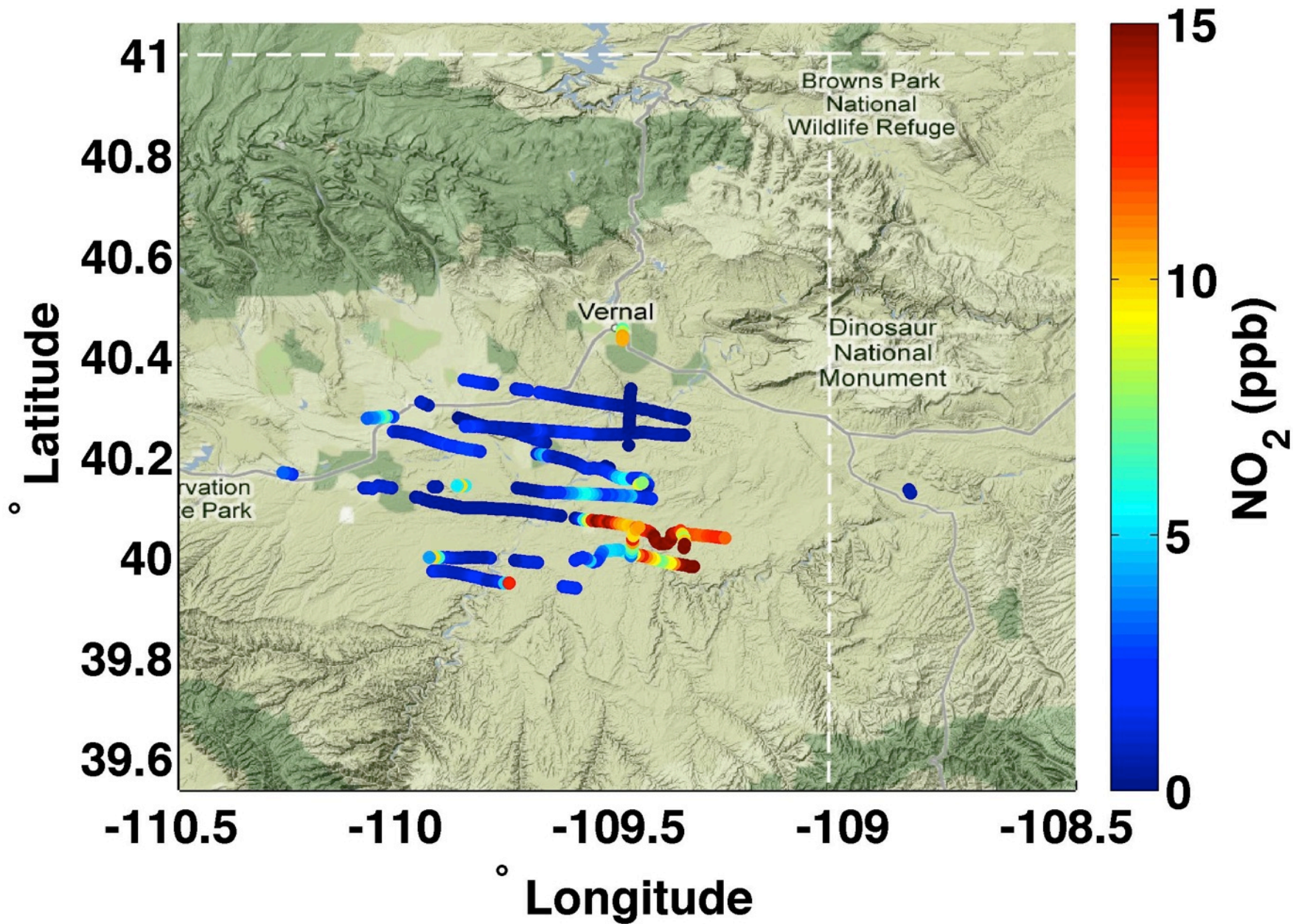
Ozone Events and the Bonanza Powerplant Plumes Aloft



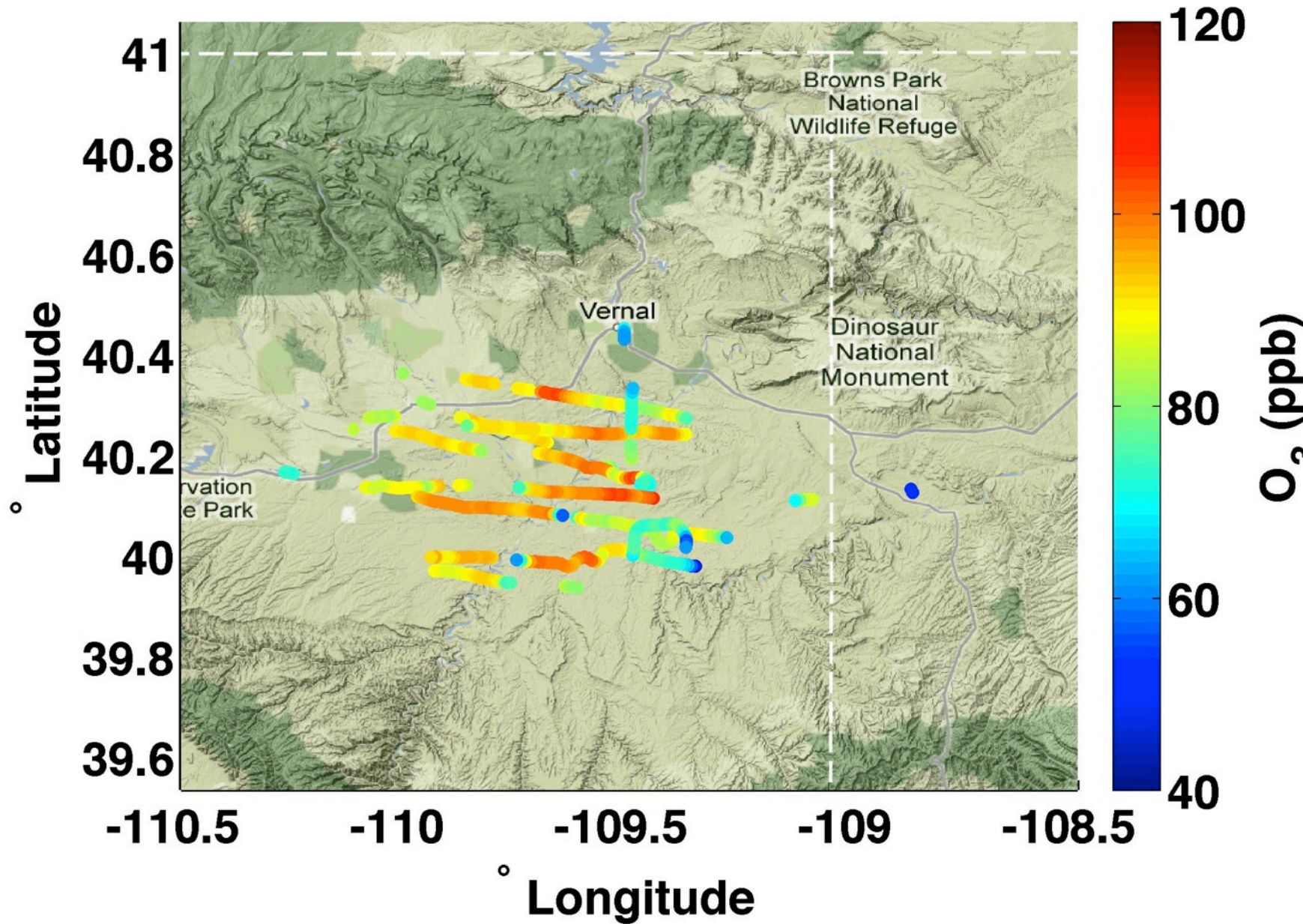
20130201



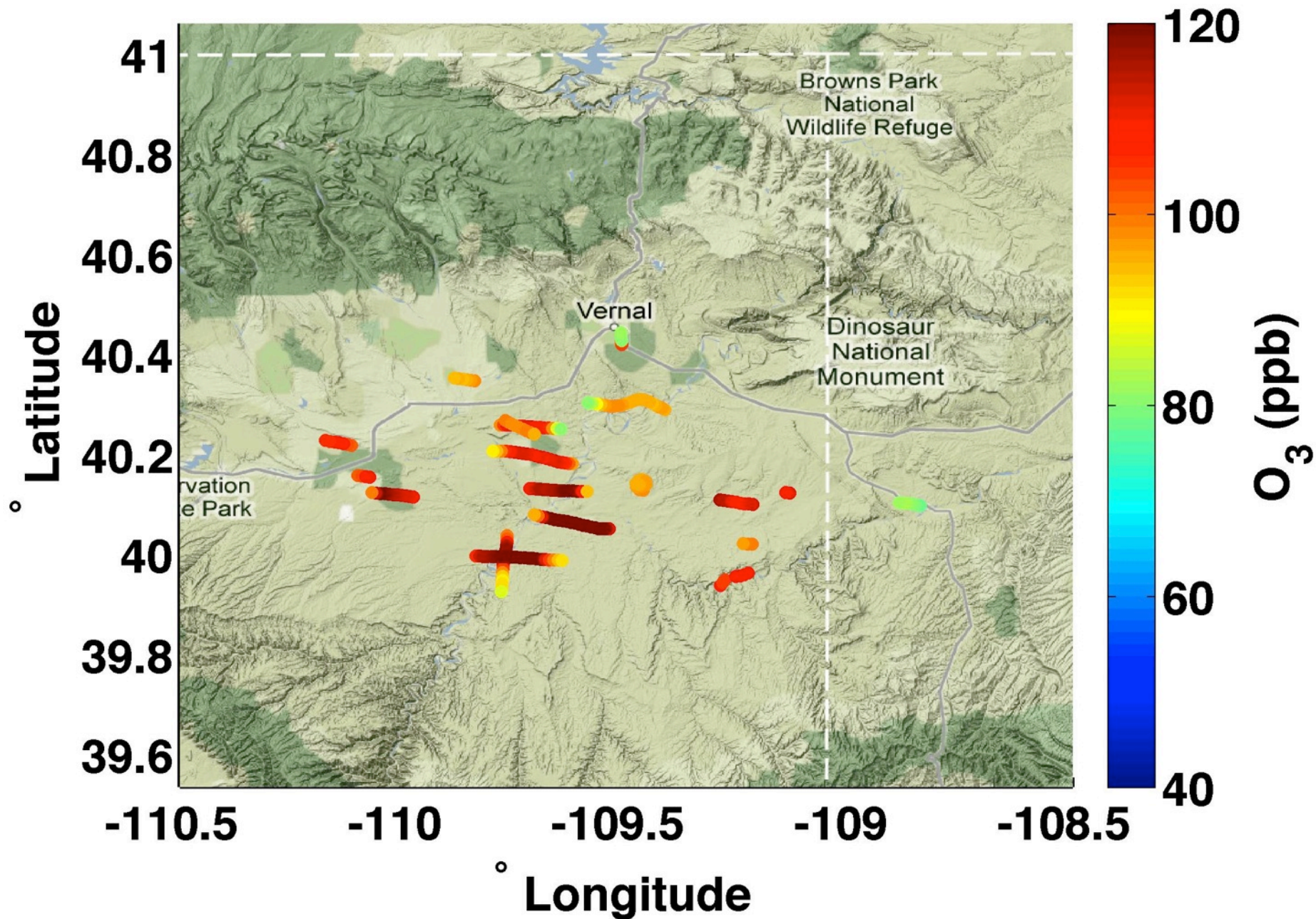
20130202



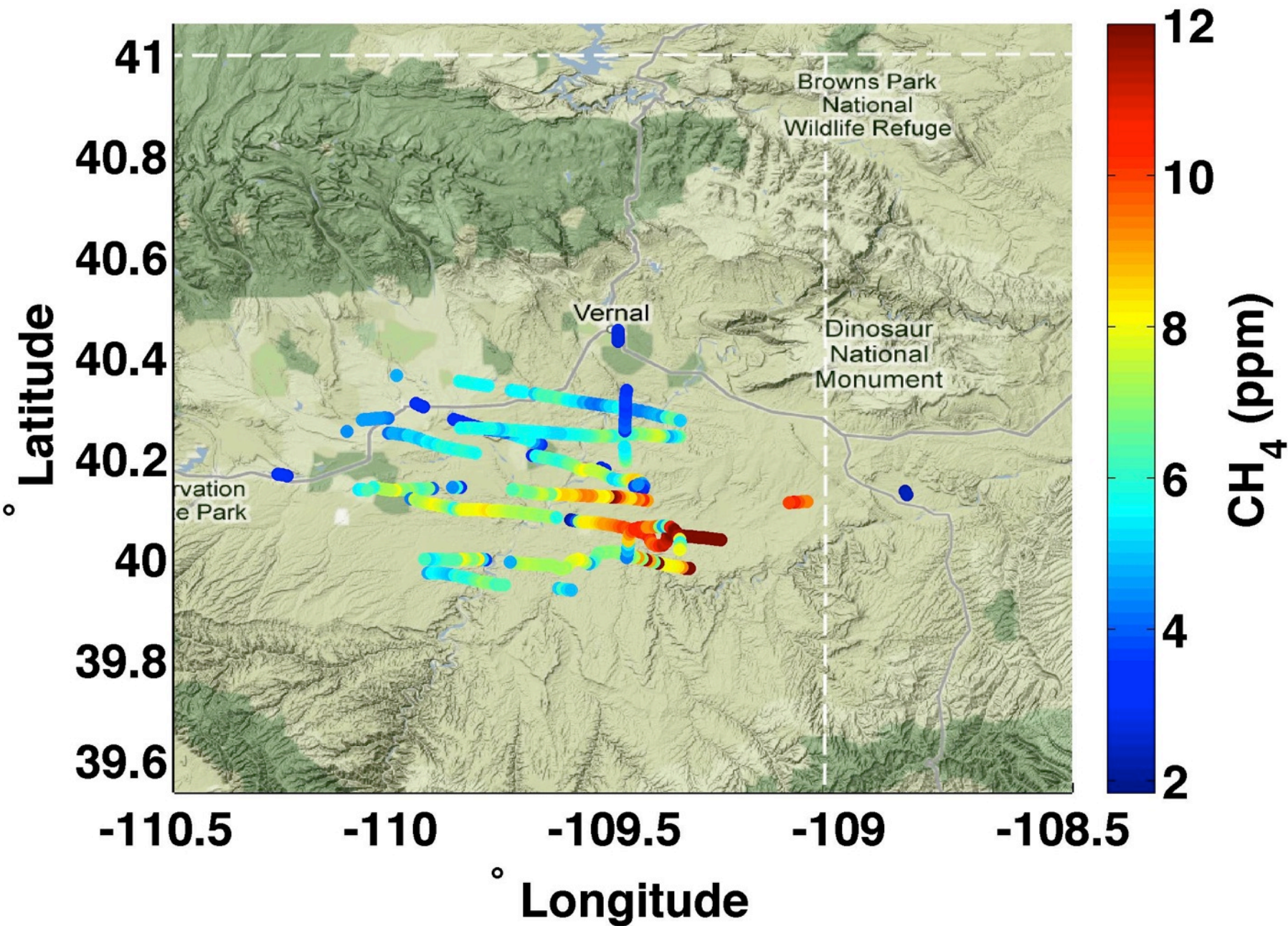
20130202



20130205



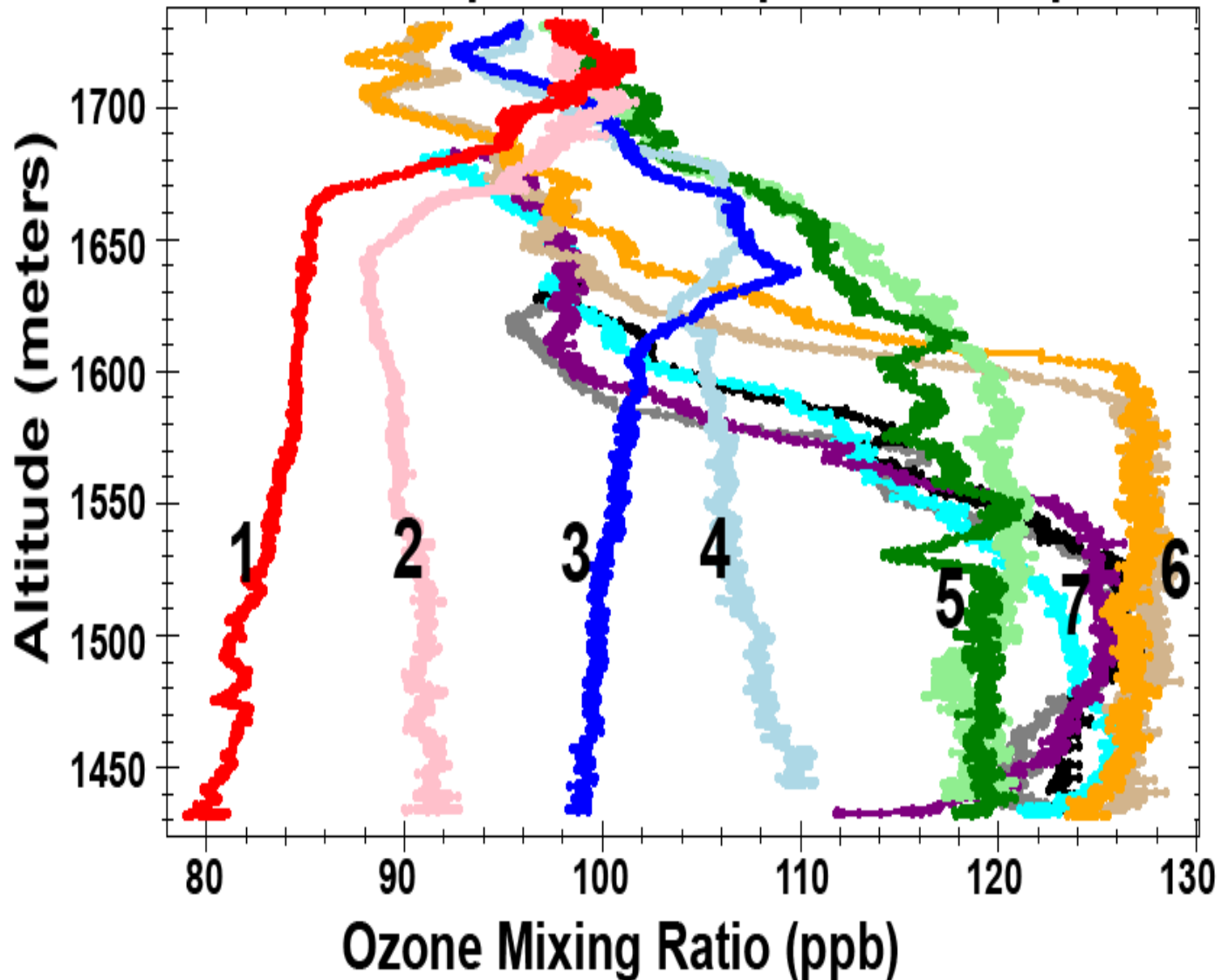
20130202



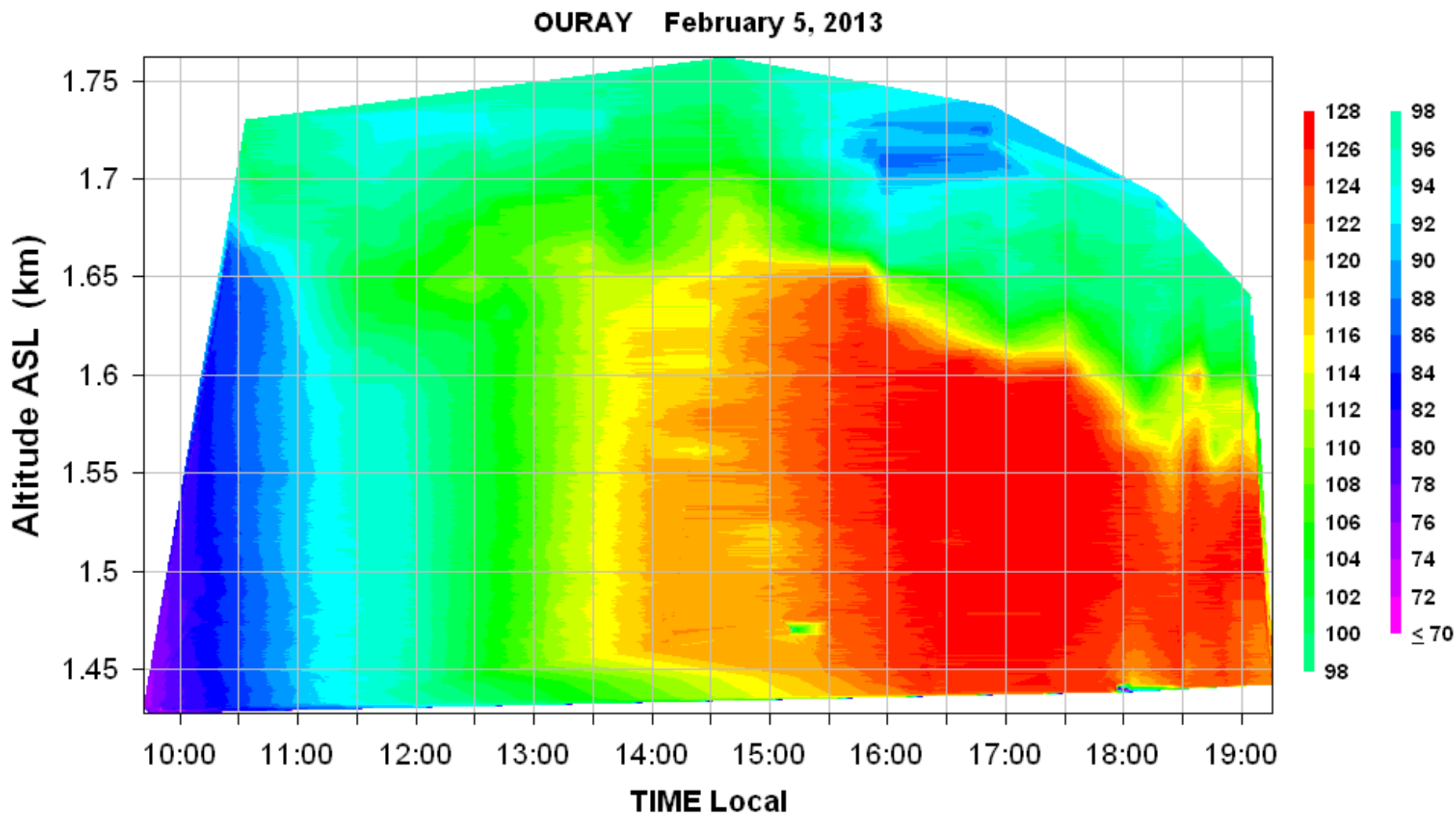
Ingredients For Fast, High Concentration Wintertime Ozone Production

- **Precursor atmospheric effluents from natural gas and oil field operations.**
- **Effluents constrained within a geographical basin that hampers mixing.**
- **Snow deep enough to cover shorter vegetation.**
- **Temperatures cold enough to maintain the snow cover.**
- **Low winds.**
- **Clear skies.**
- **Maintenance of a strong temperature inversion.**

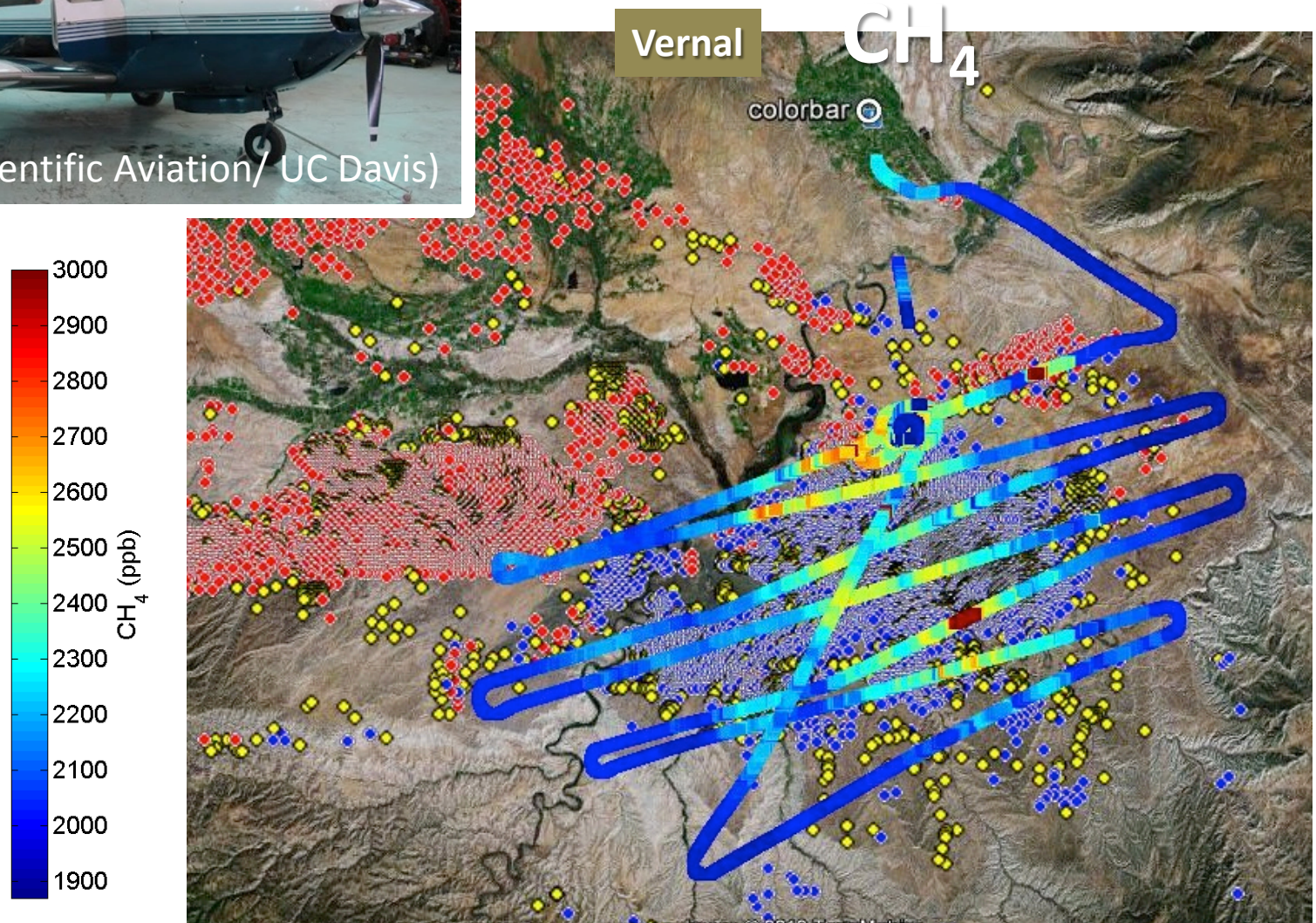
1 = 10 a.m. 2 = 11 a.m. 3 = noon 4 = 1 p.m.
5 = 2-3 p.m. 6 = 4-5 p.m. 7 = 6-8 p.m.



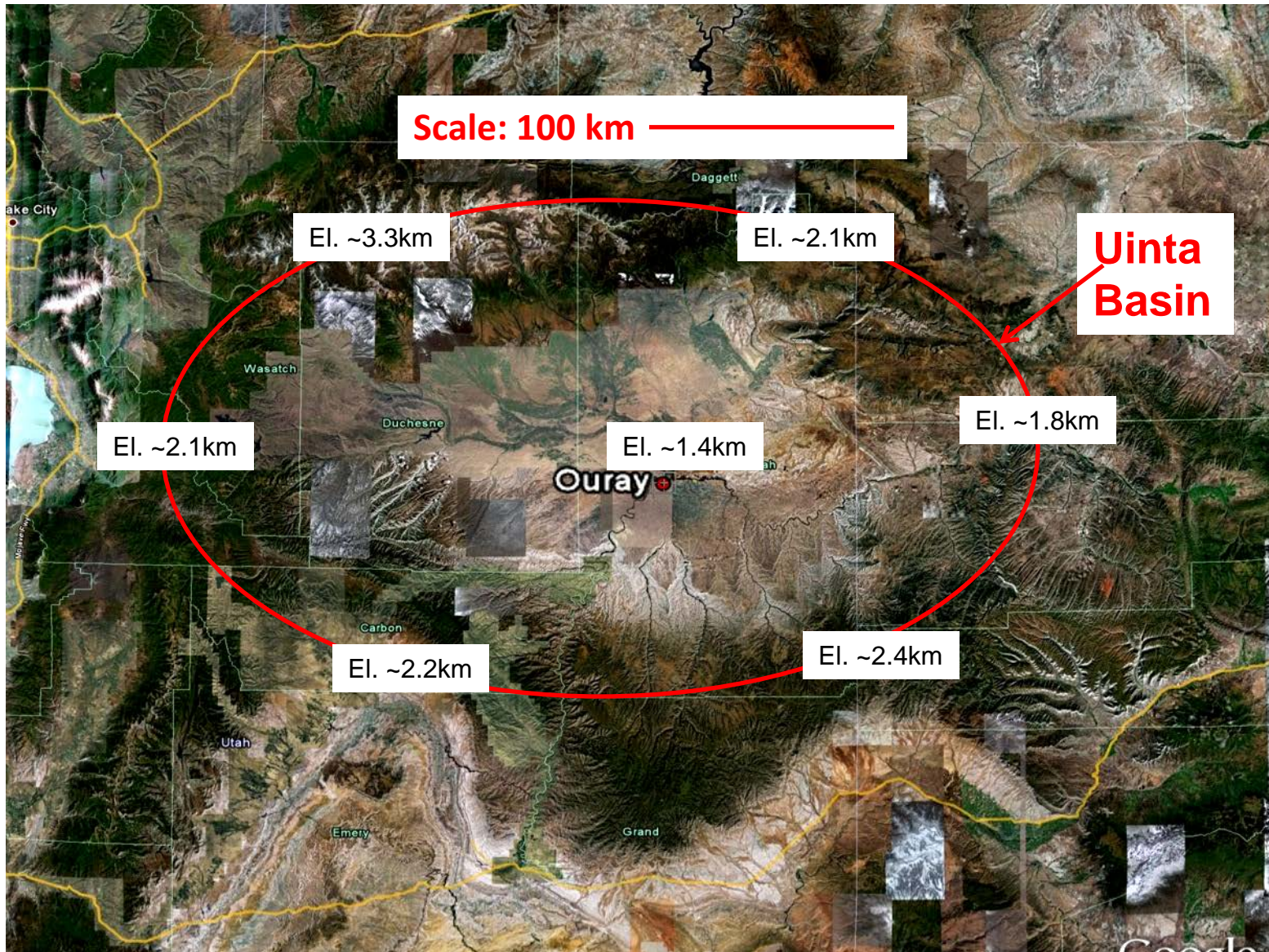
Ozone Time/Height/Concentration Plot, February 5, 2013, Ouray Site



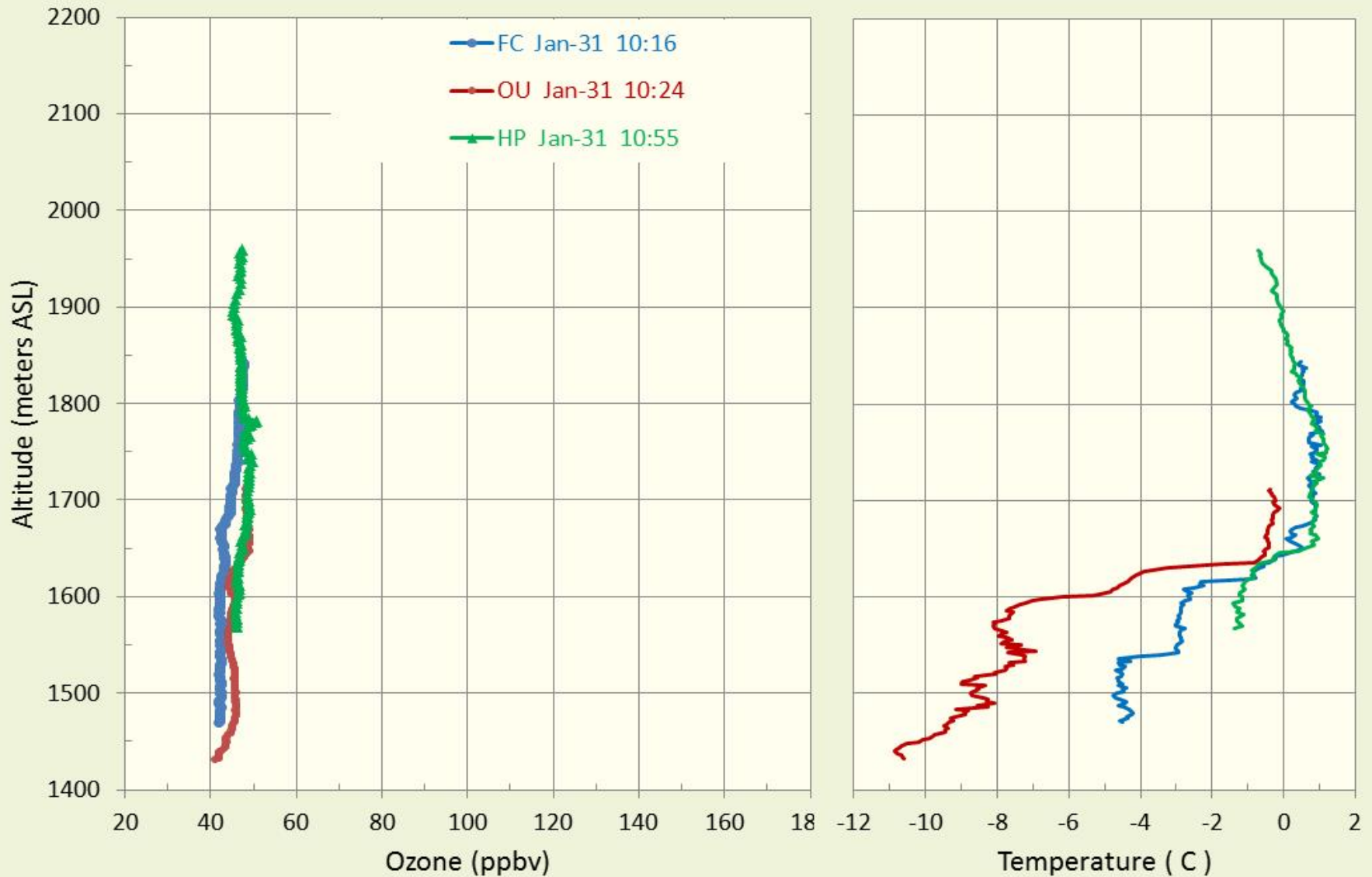
Feb 7, 2012: Low Wind Conditions



Physiography: Uinta Basin, Utah



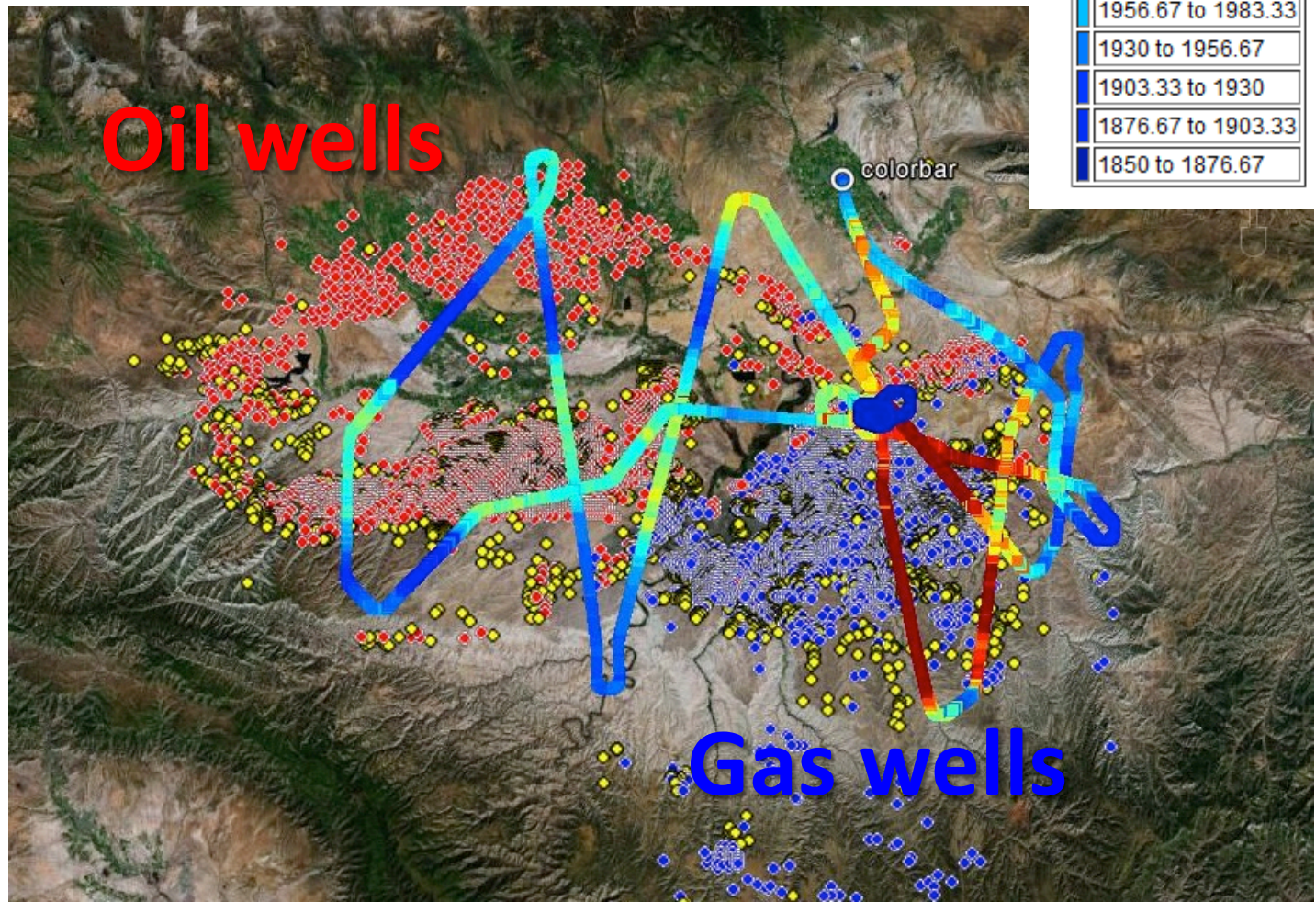
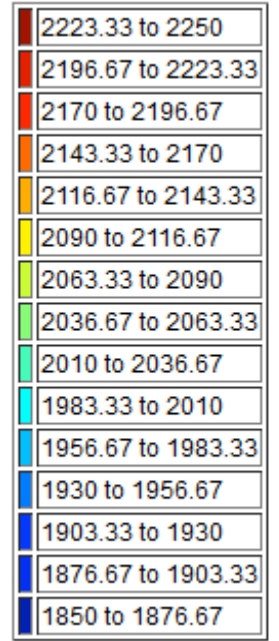
Uintah Basin, Jan 31, 2013





Feb 4, 2012

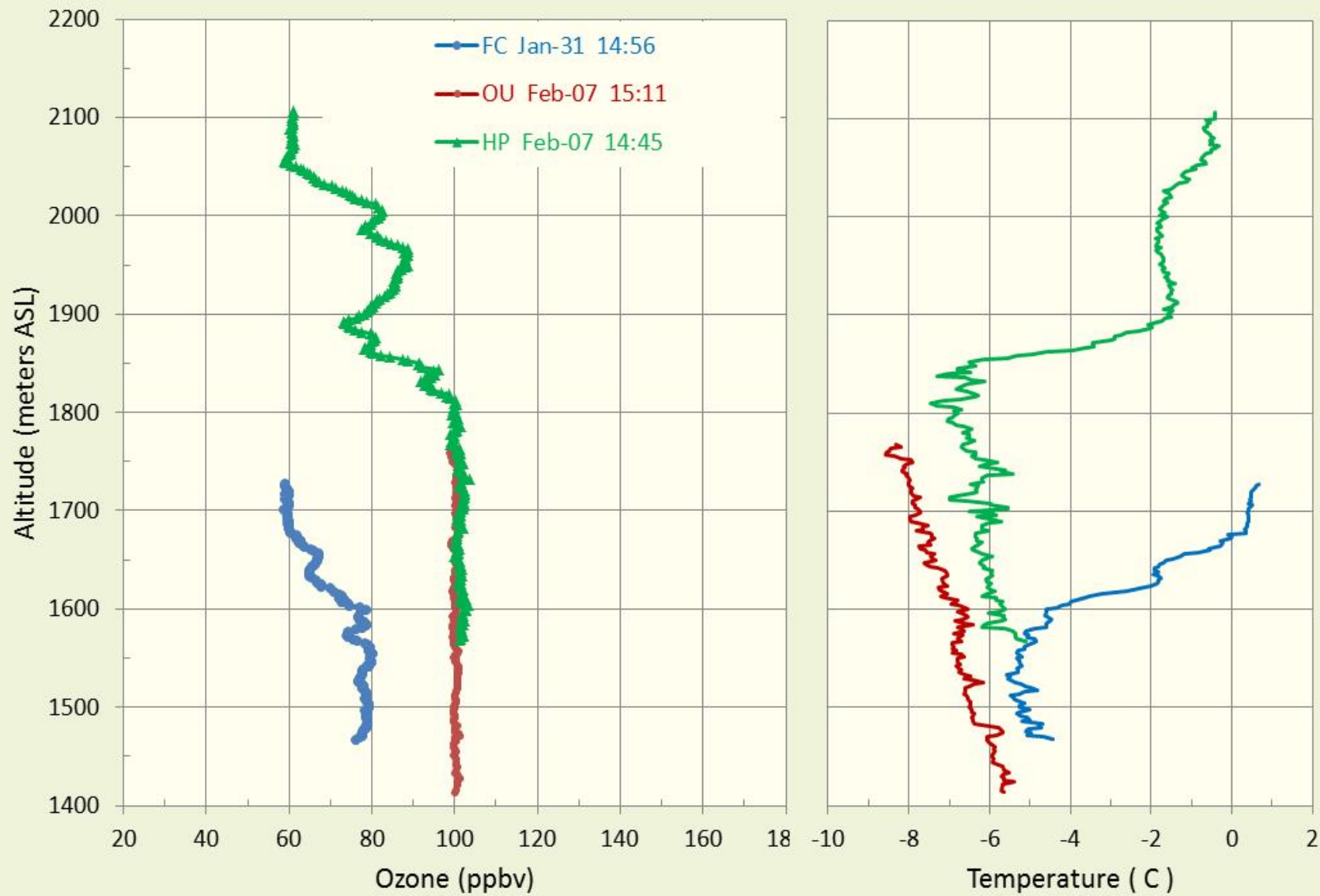
CH₄ (ppb)

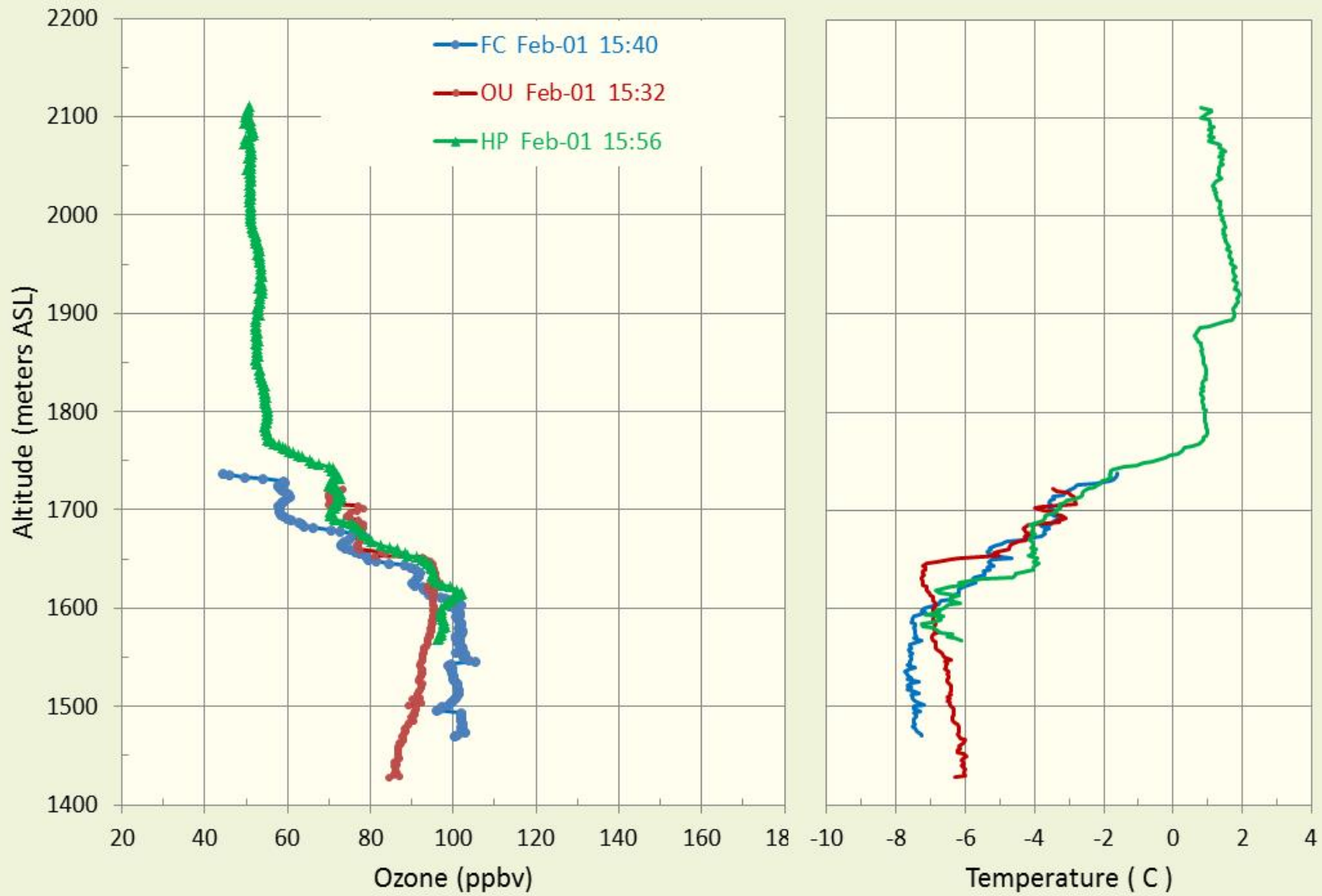


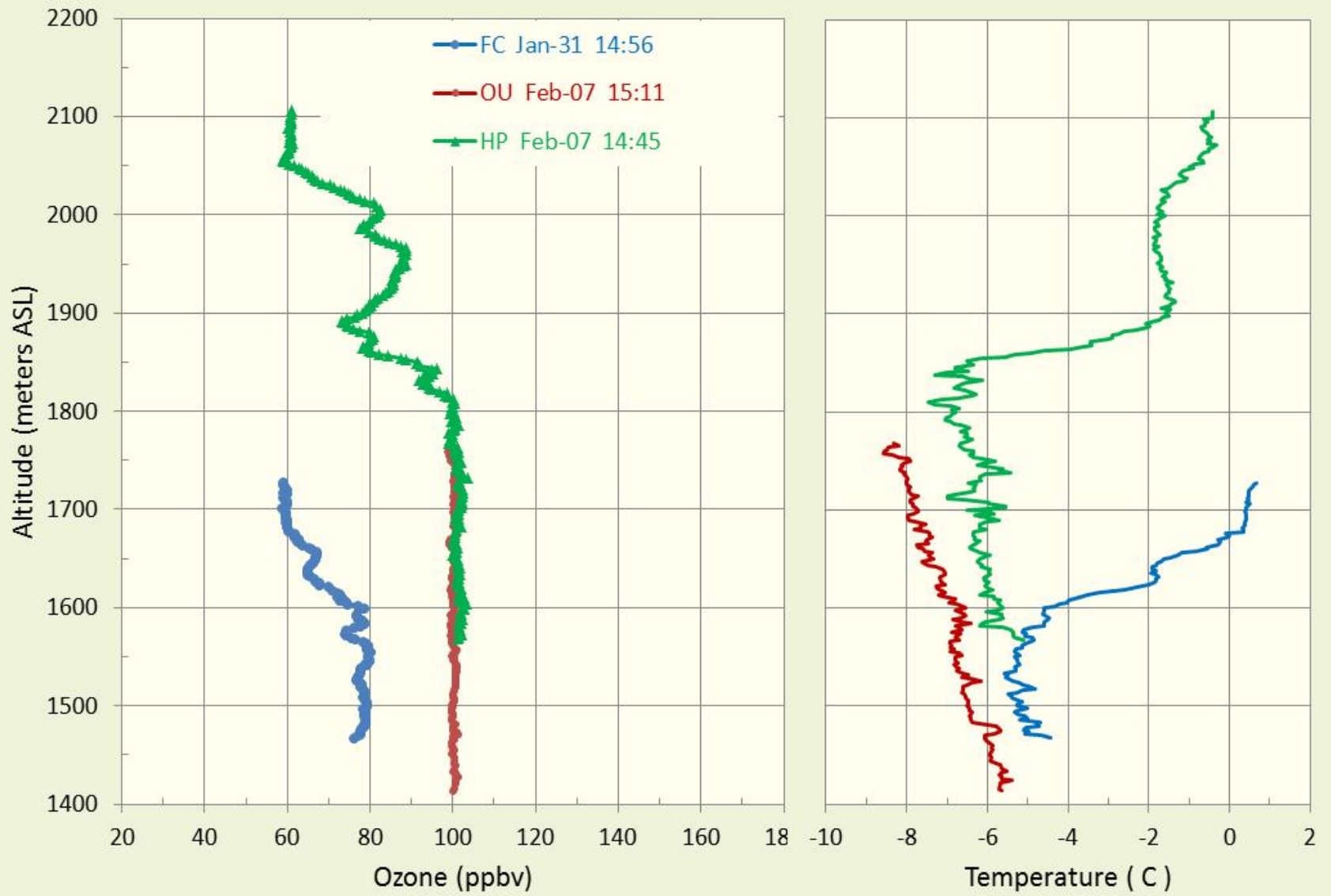
Oil wells

Gas wells

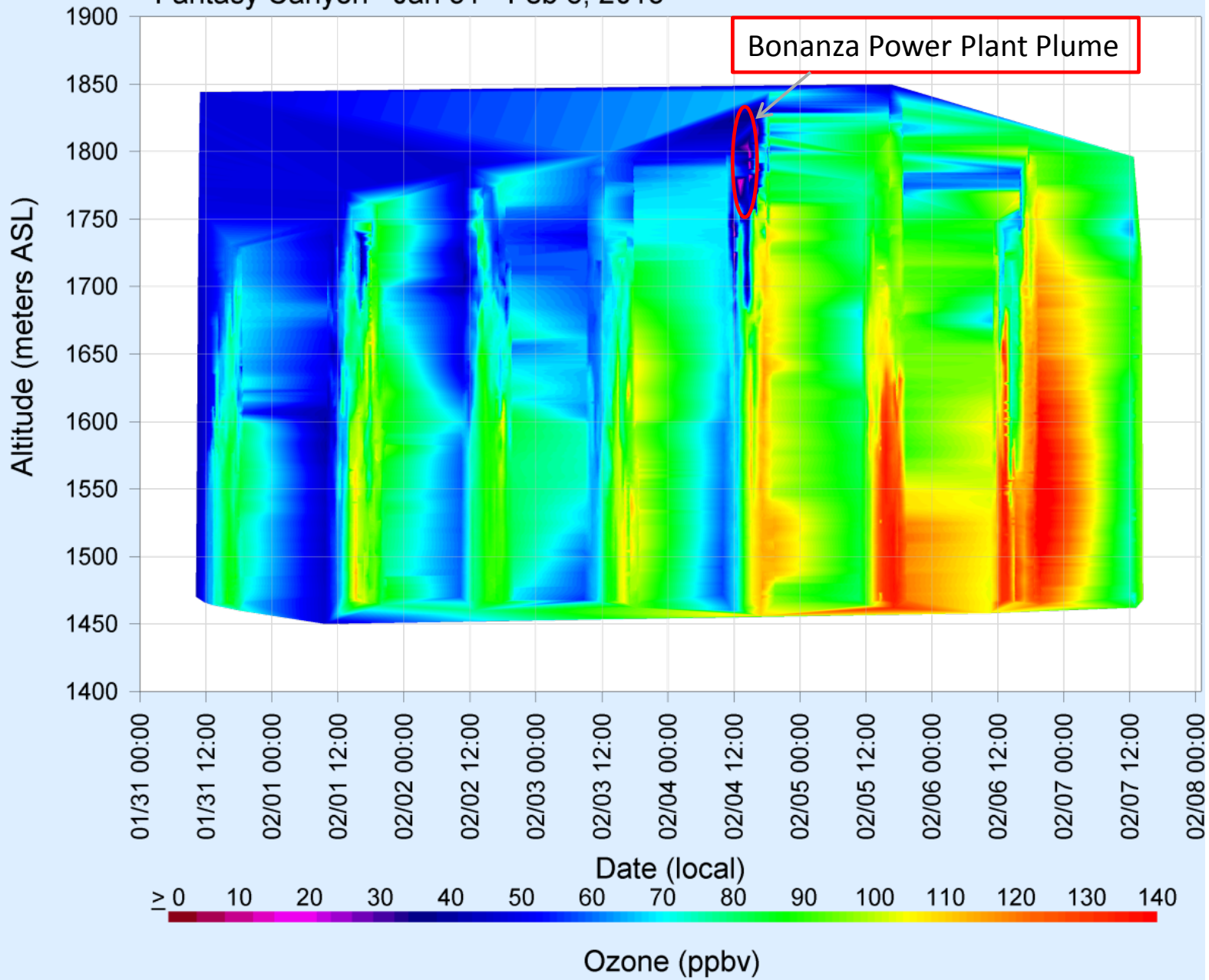
Methane
(CH₄)

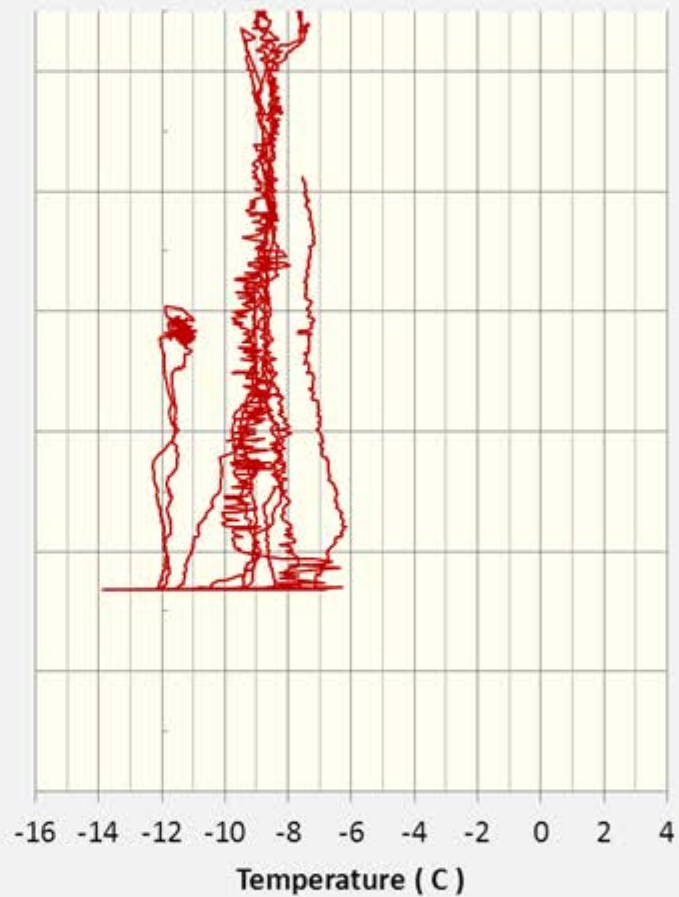
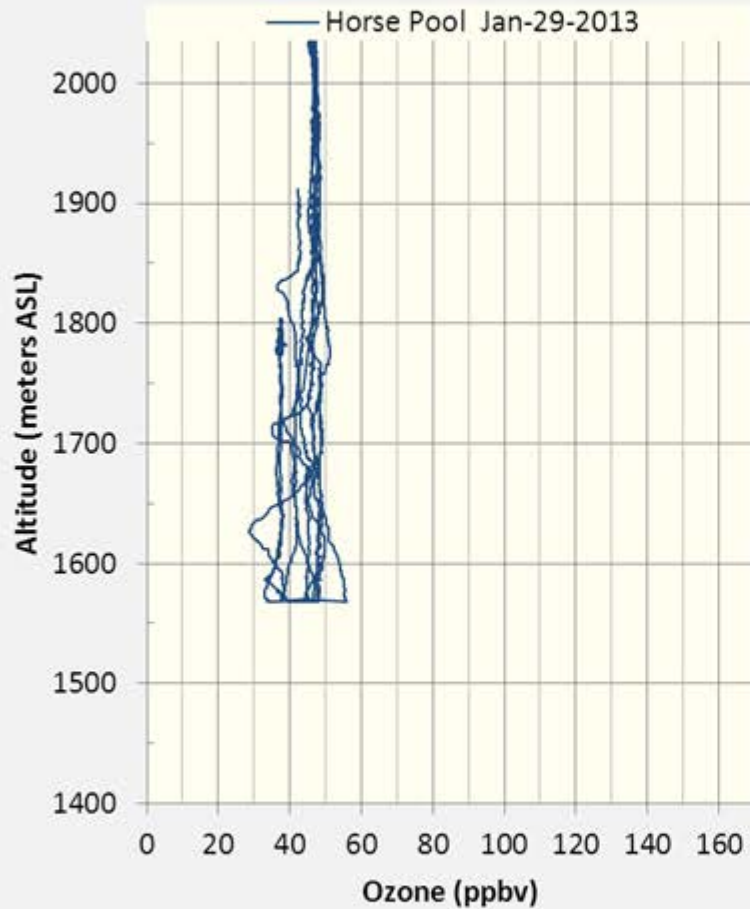


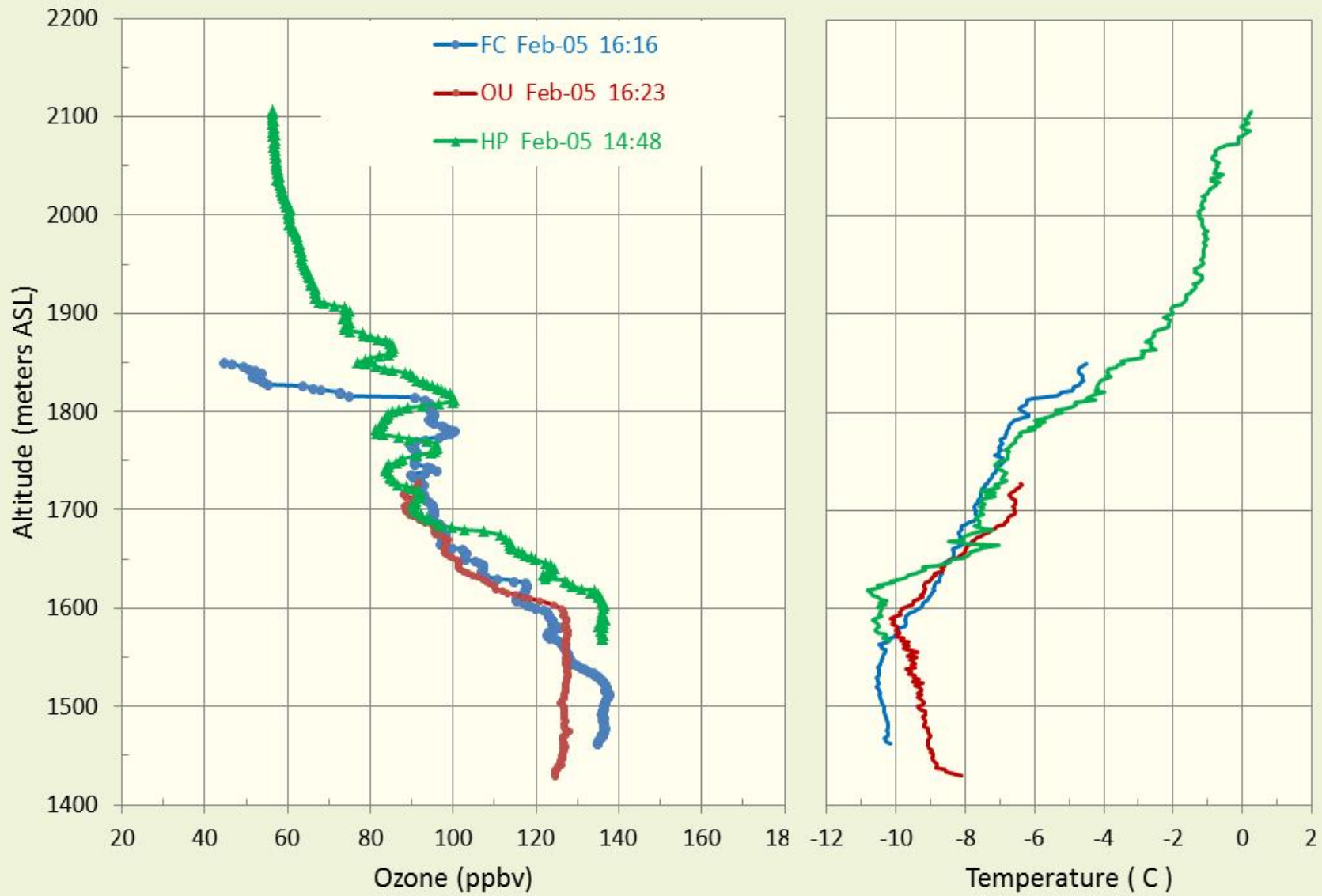




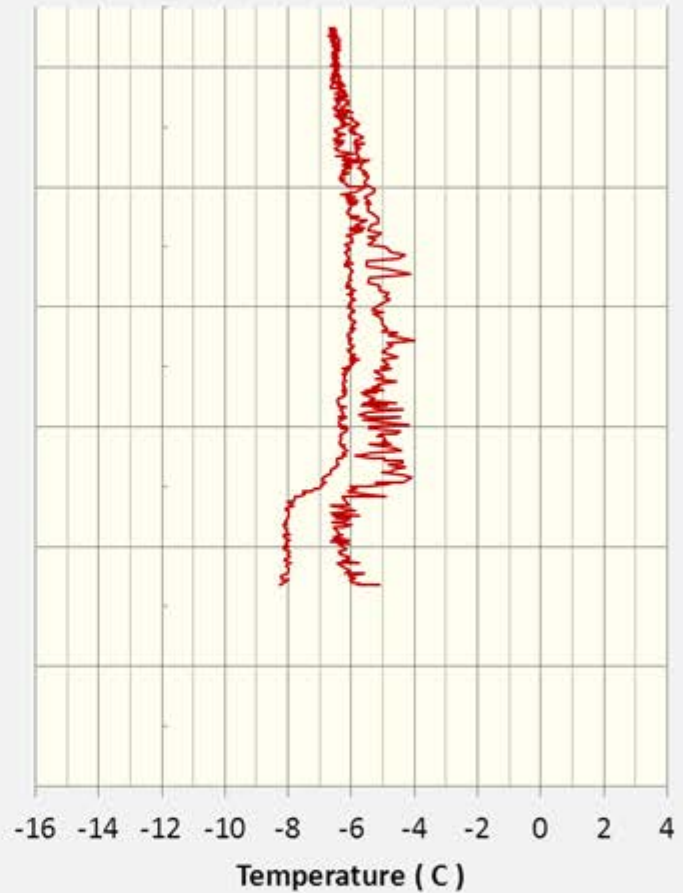
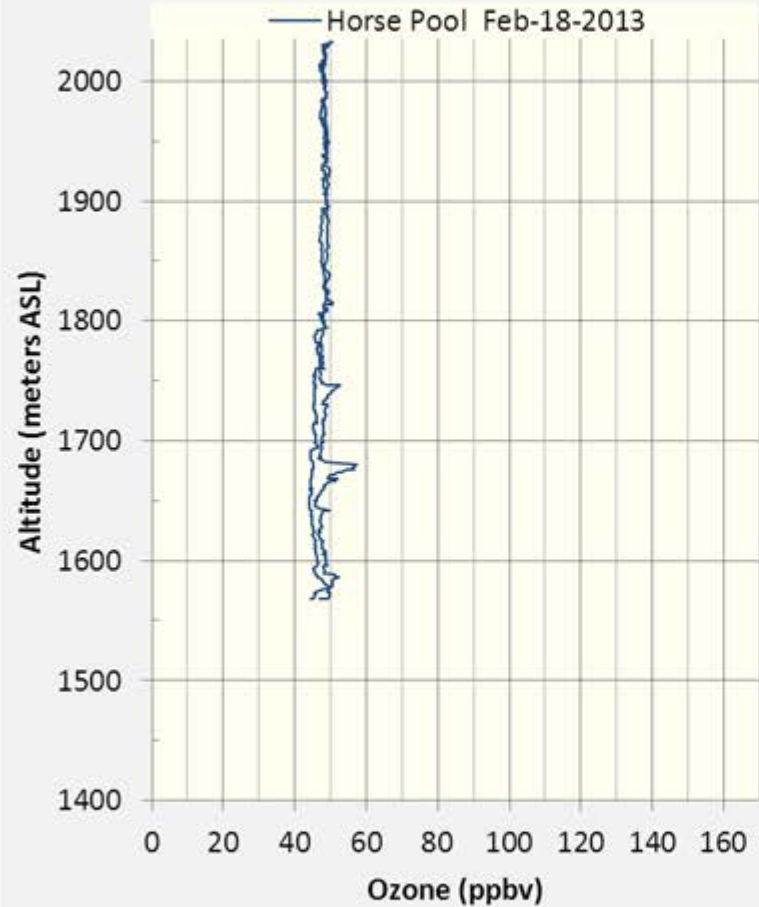
Fantasy Canyon Jan 31 - Feb 8, 2013



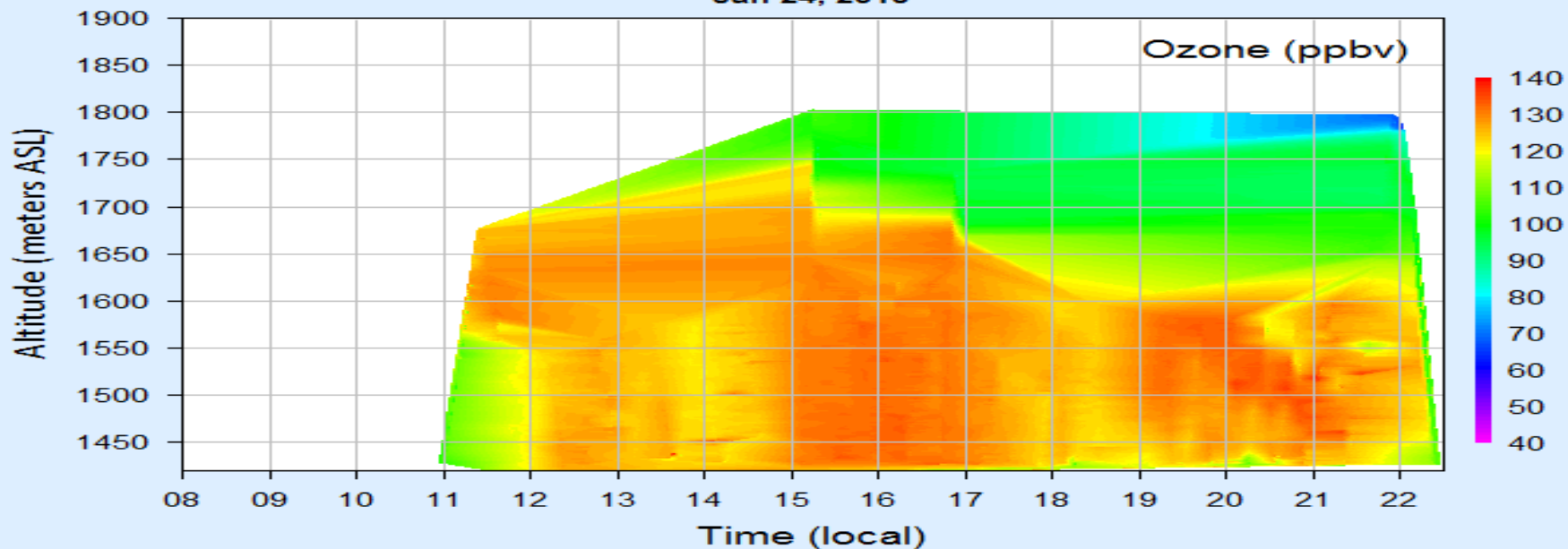




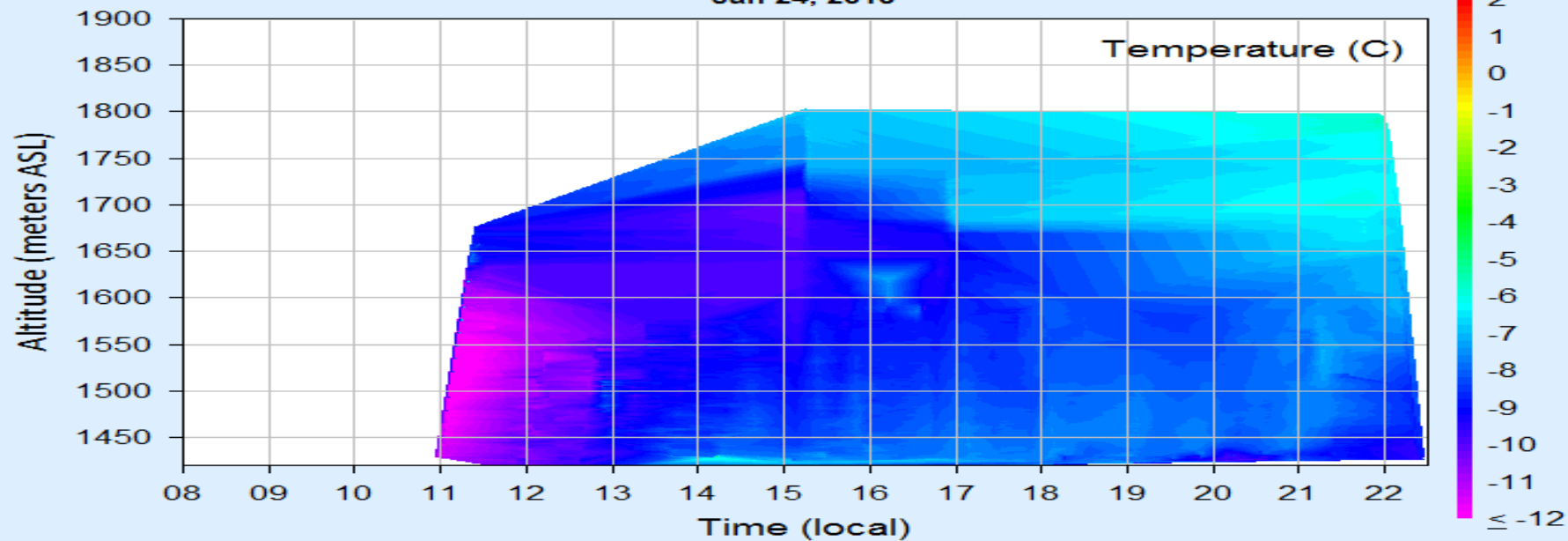




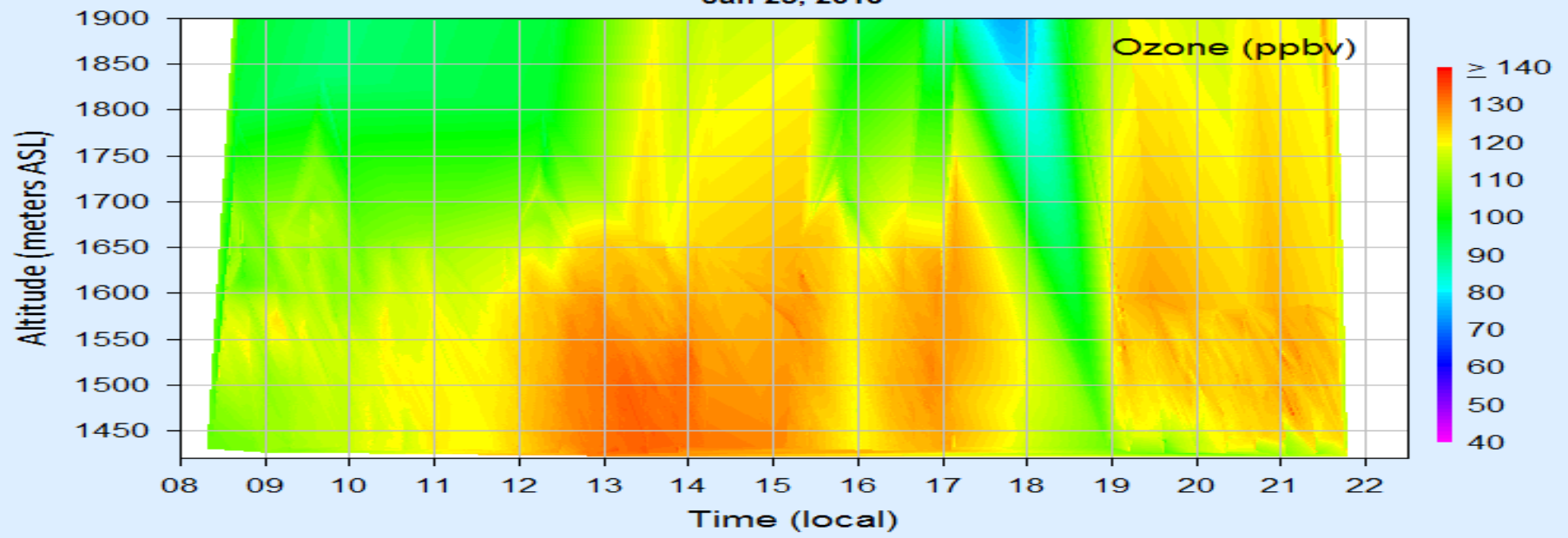
Ouray
Jan 24, 2013



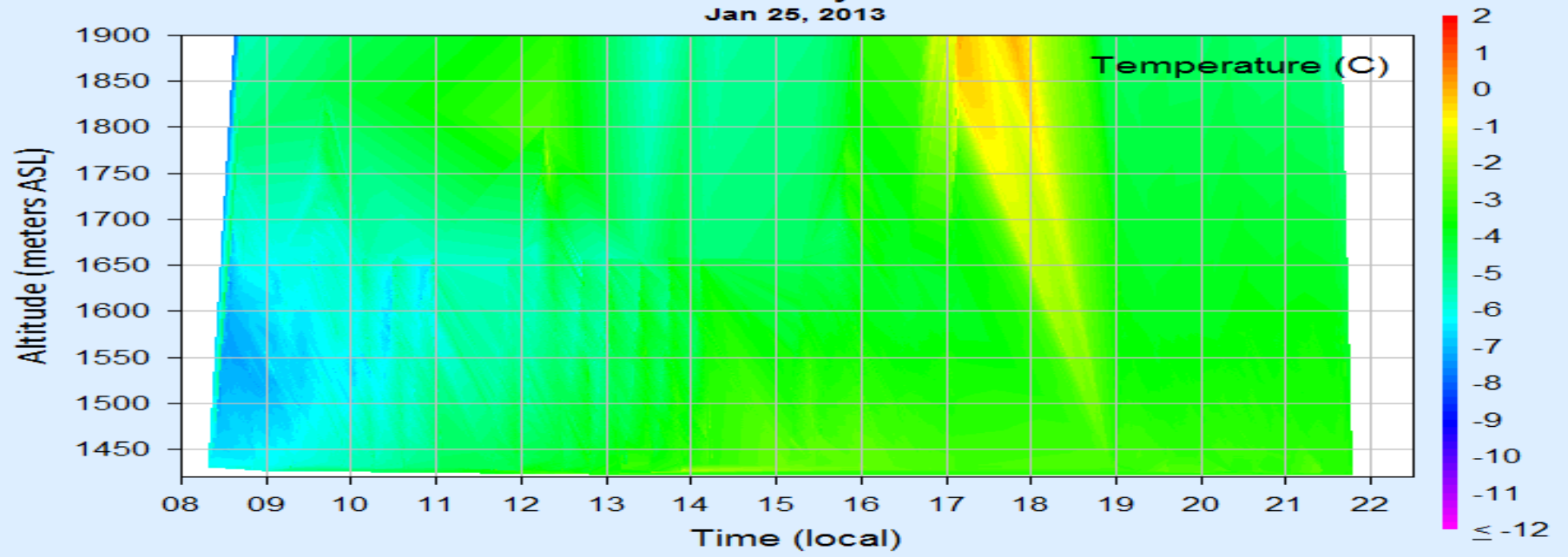
Ouray
Jan 24, 2013



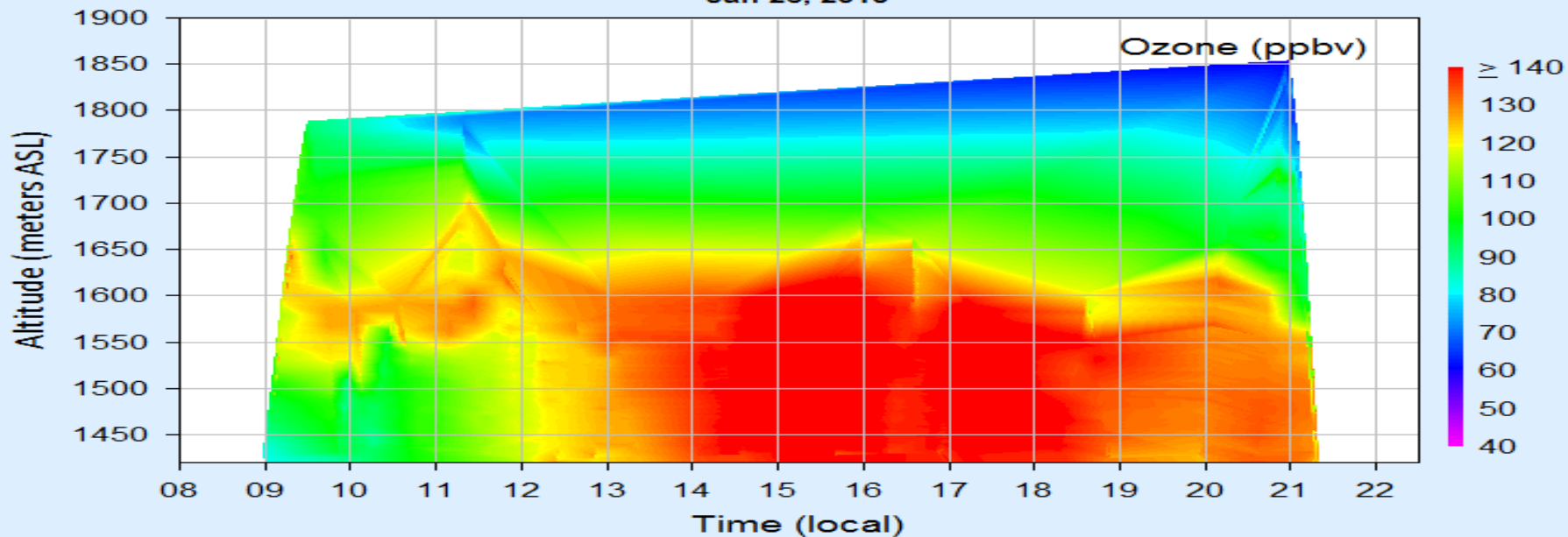
Ouray
Jan 25, 2013



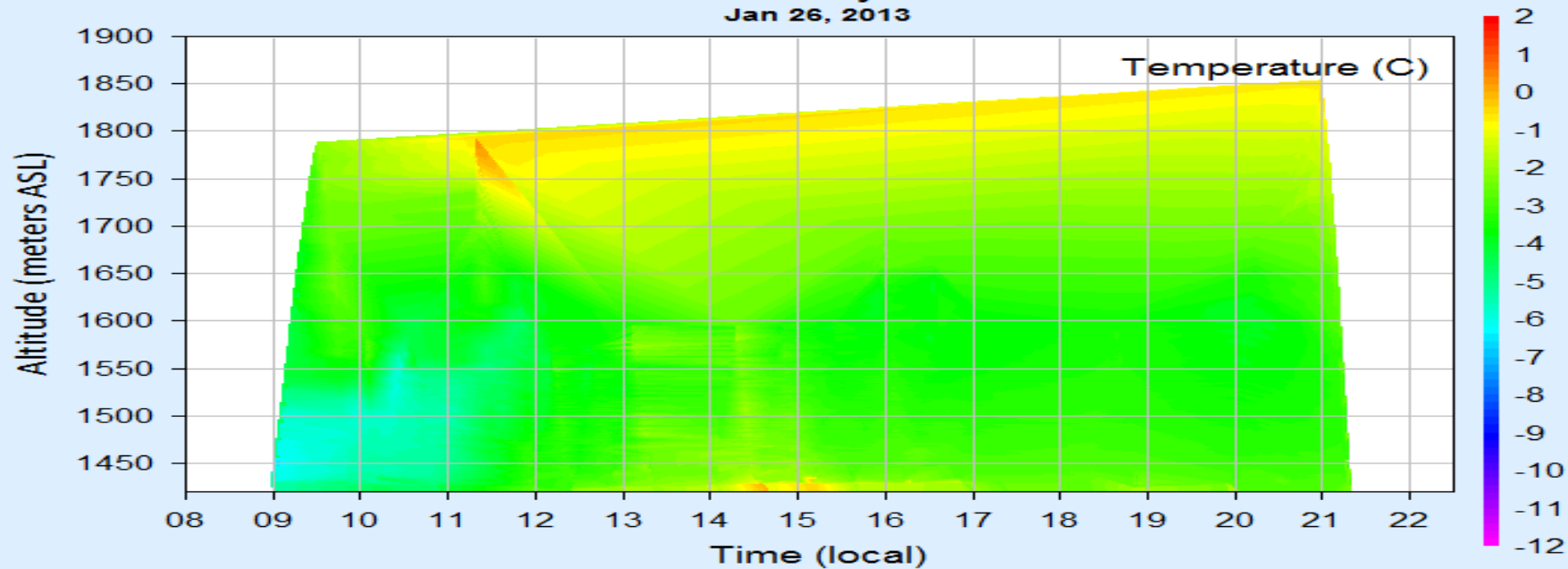
Ouray
Jan 25, 2013



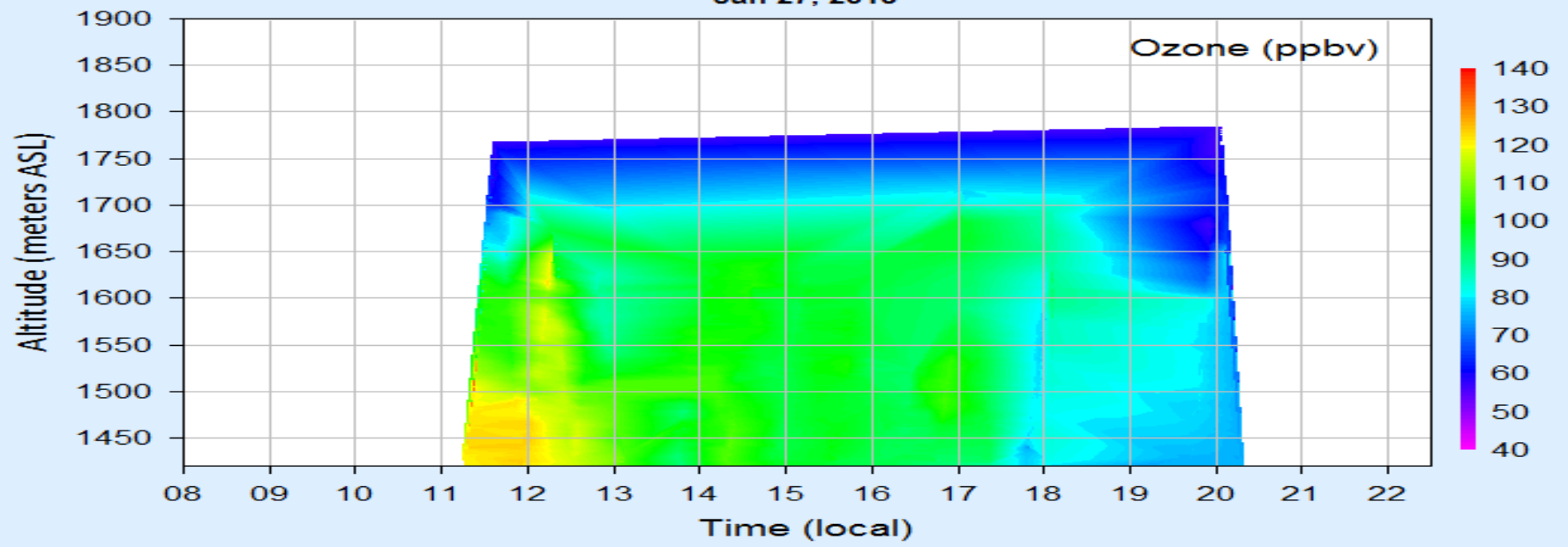
Ouray
Jan 26, 2013



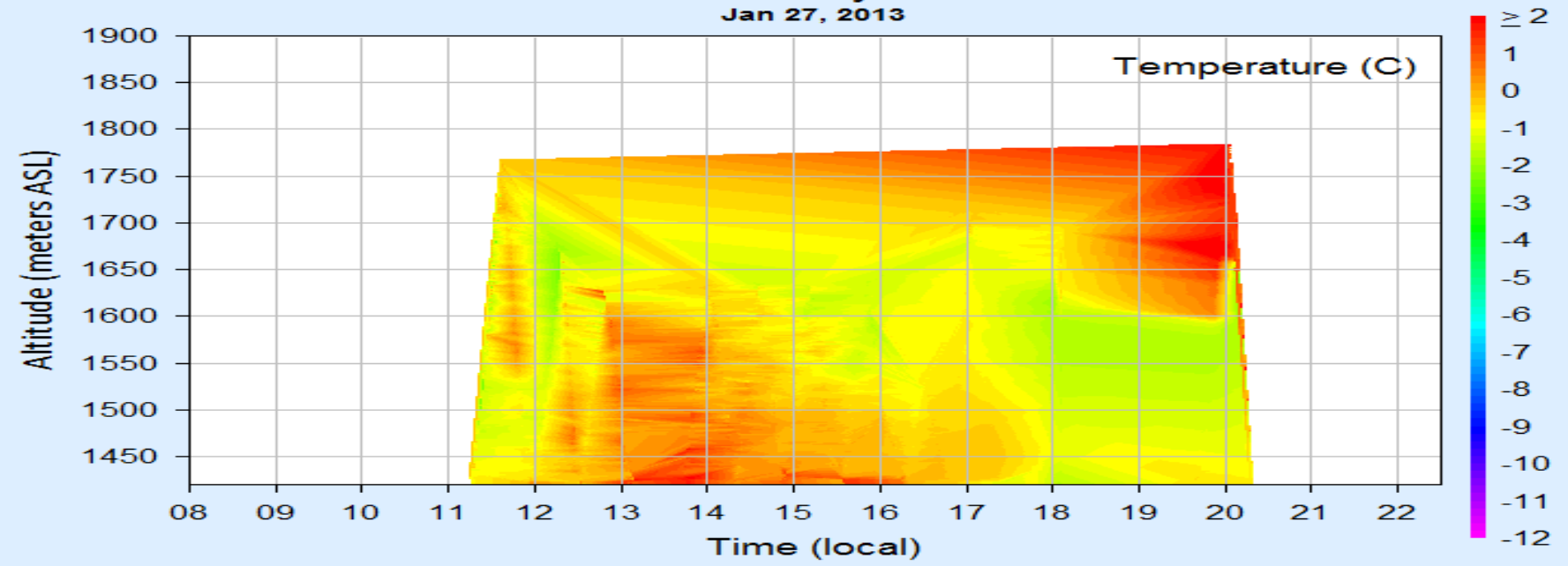
Ouray
Jan 26, 2013



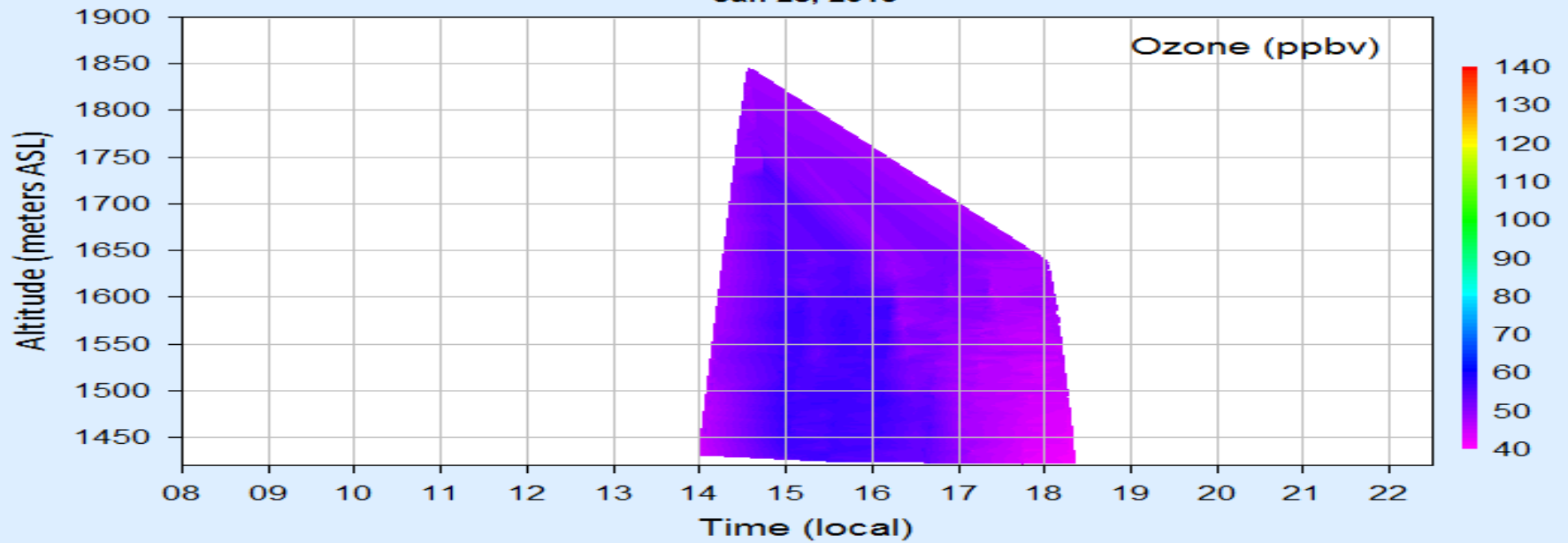
Ouray
Jan 27, 2013



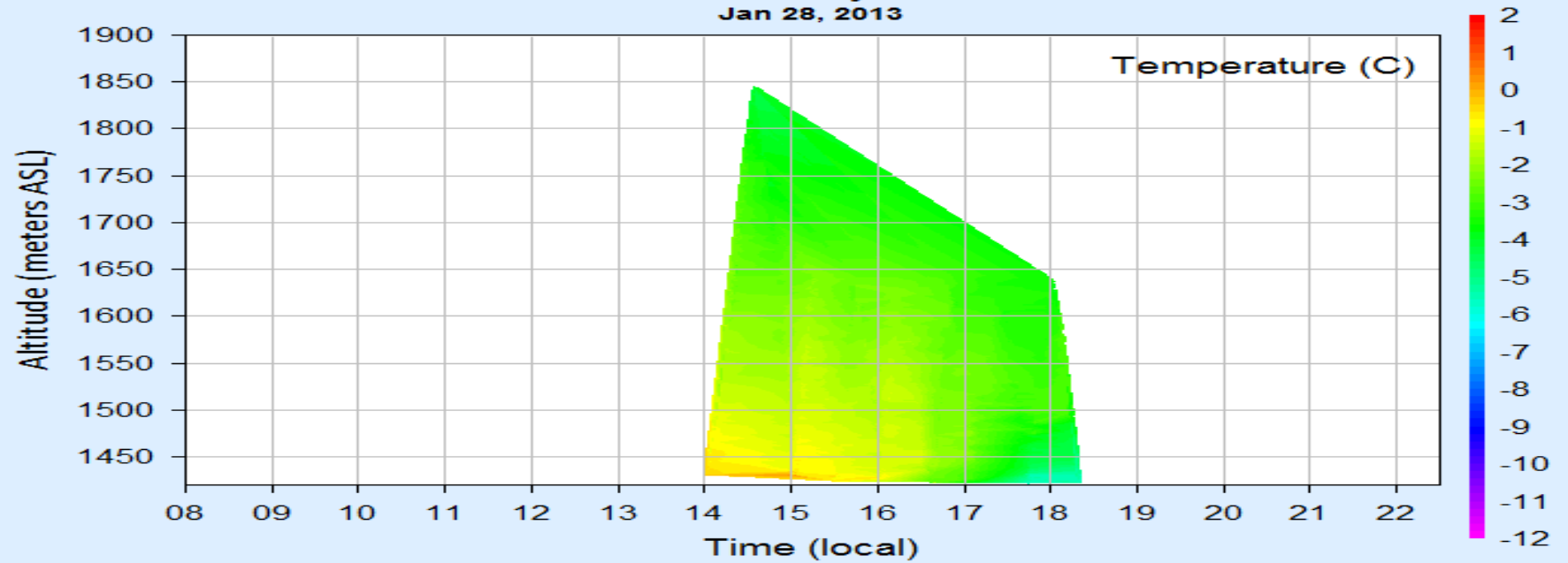
Ouray
Jan 27, 2013



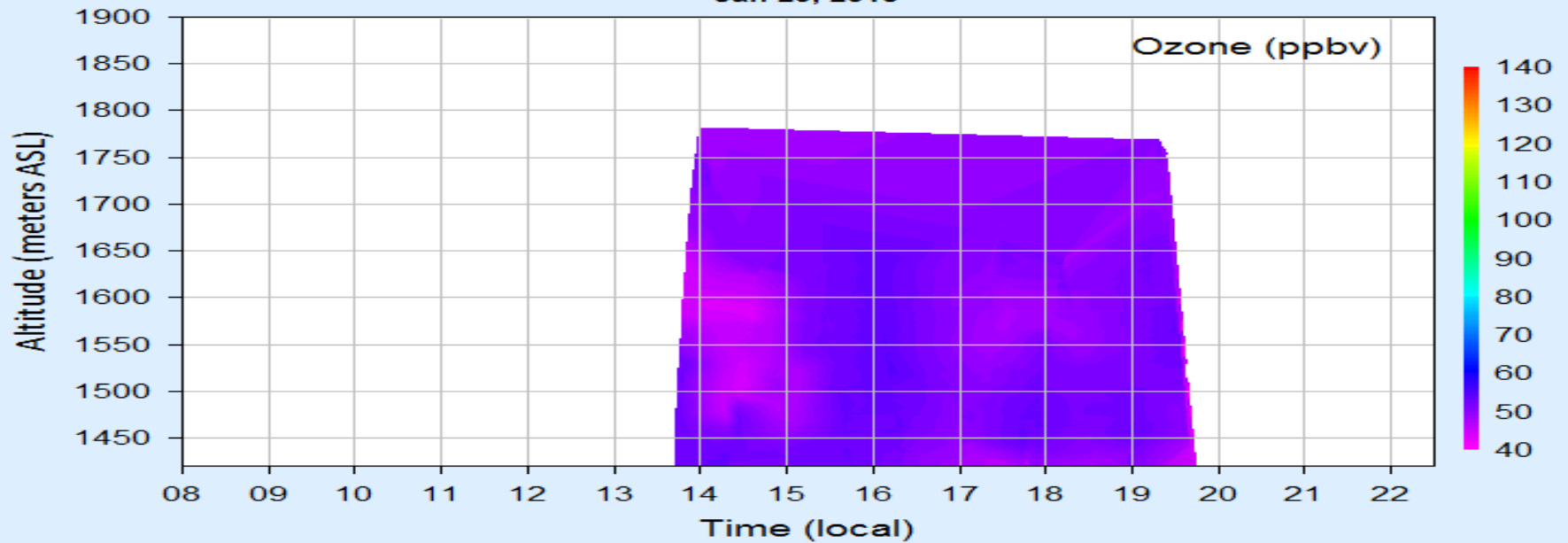
Ouray
Jan 28, 2013



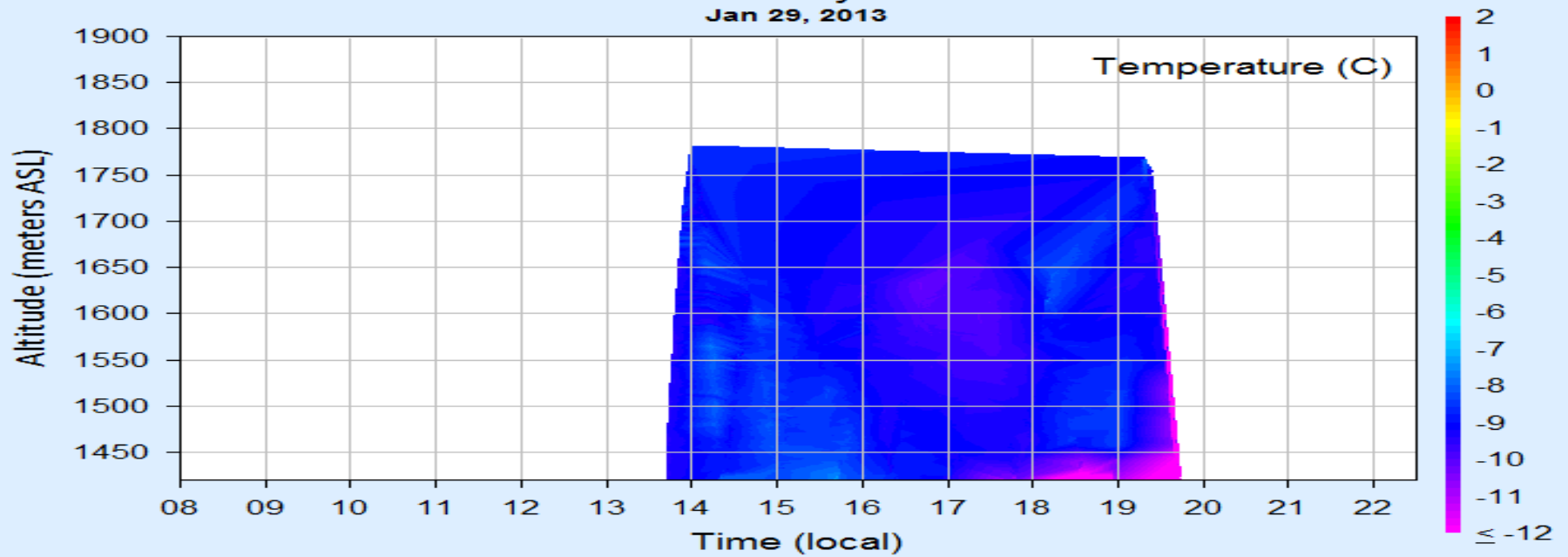
Ouray
Jan 28, 2013



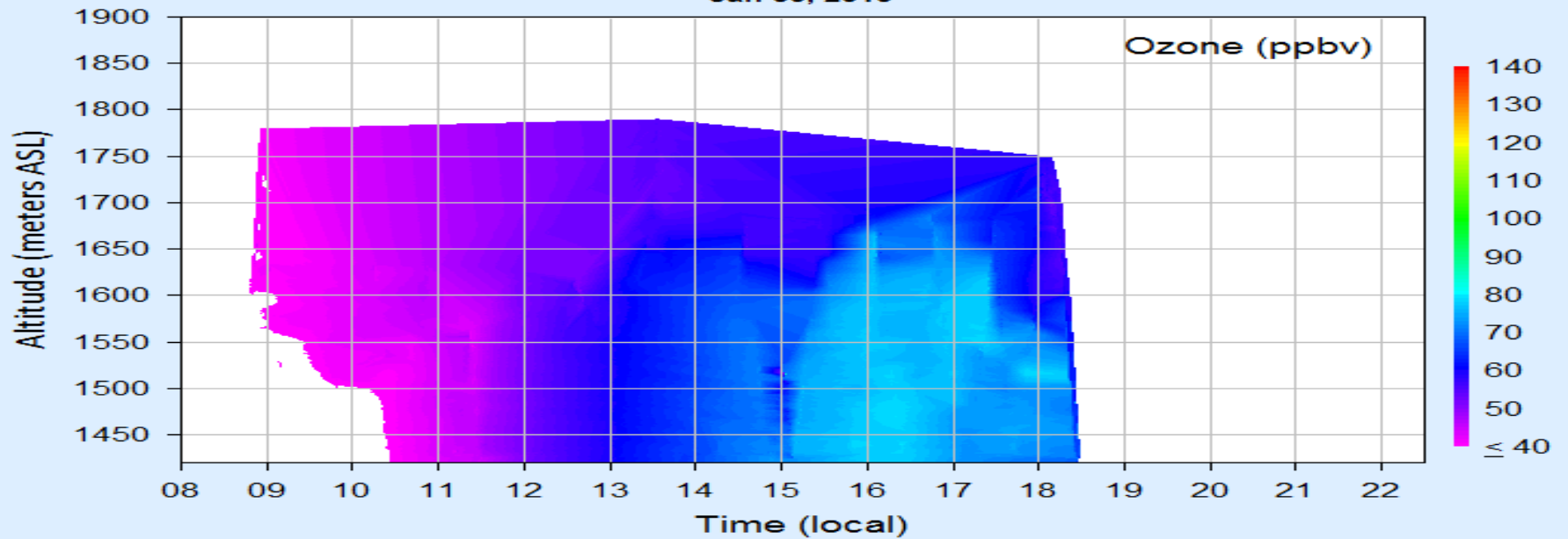
Ouray
Jan 29, 2013



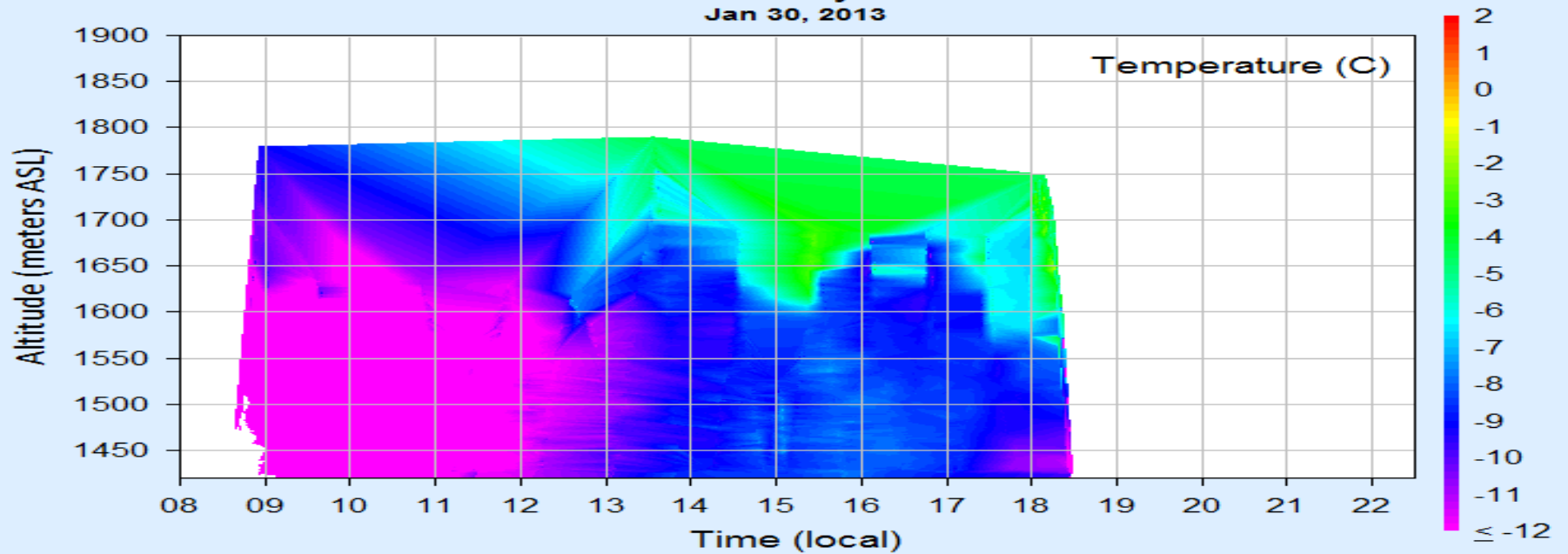
Ouray
Jan 29, 2013



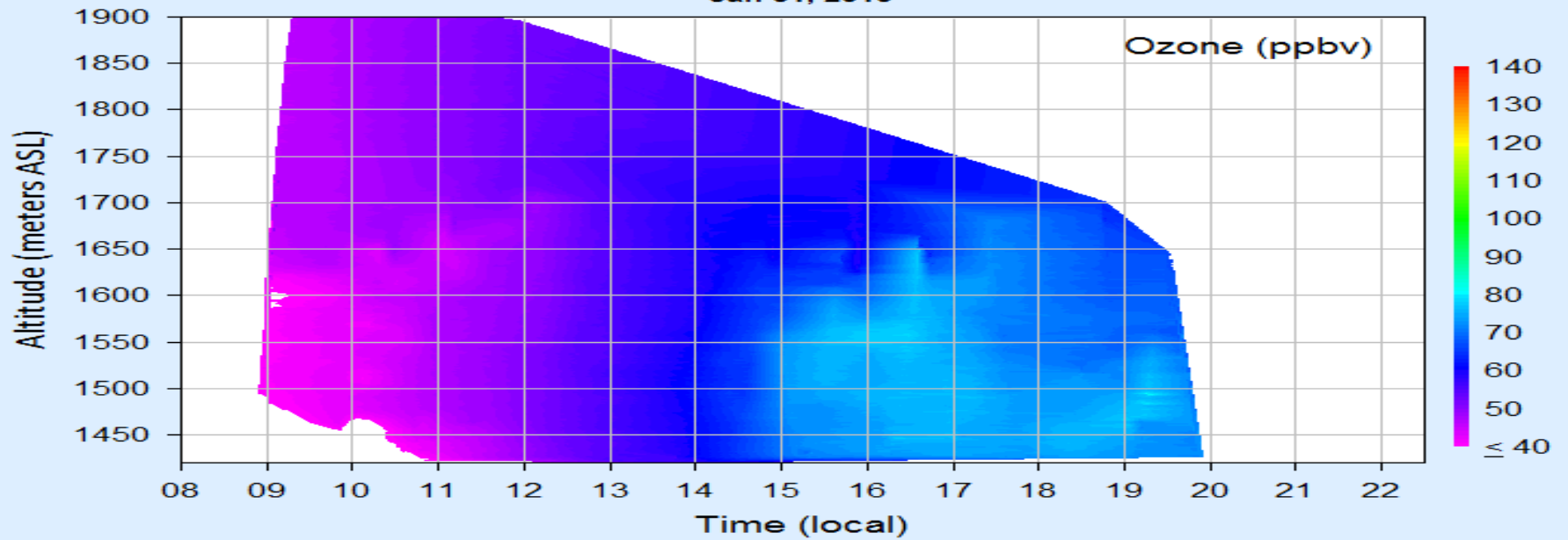
Ouray
Jan 30, 2013



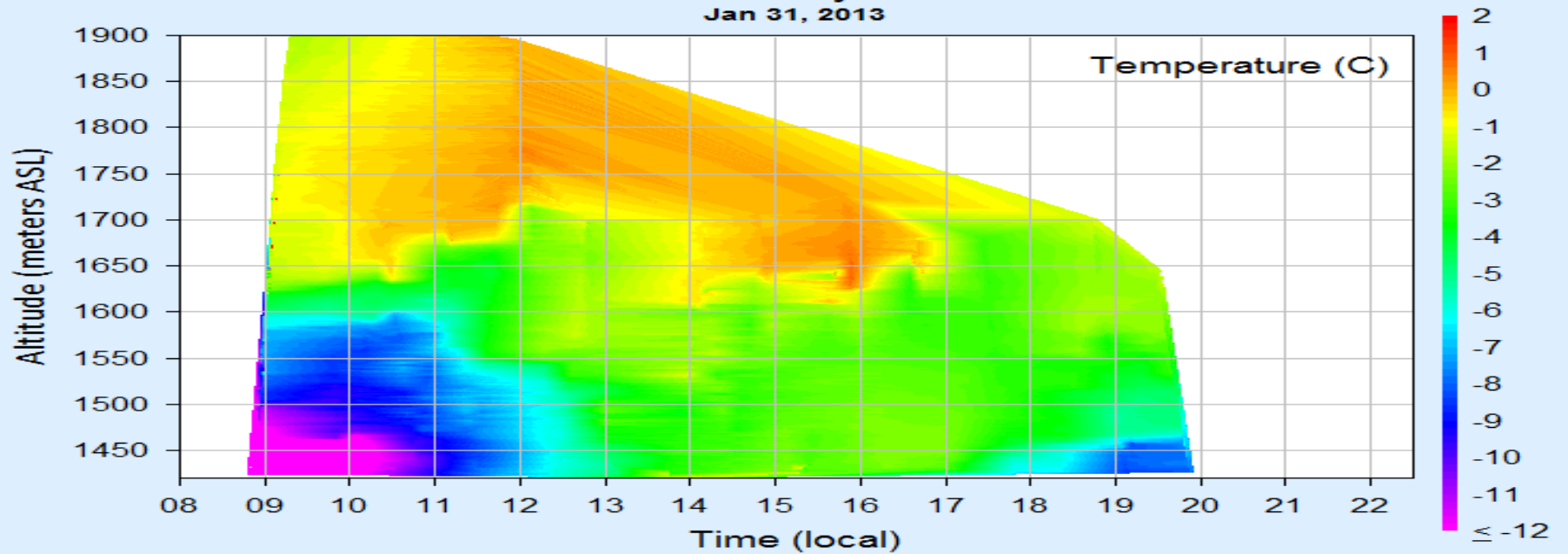
Ouray
Jan 30, 2013



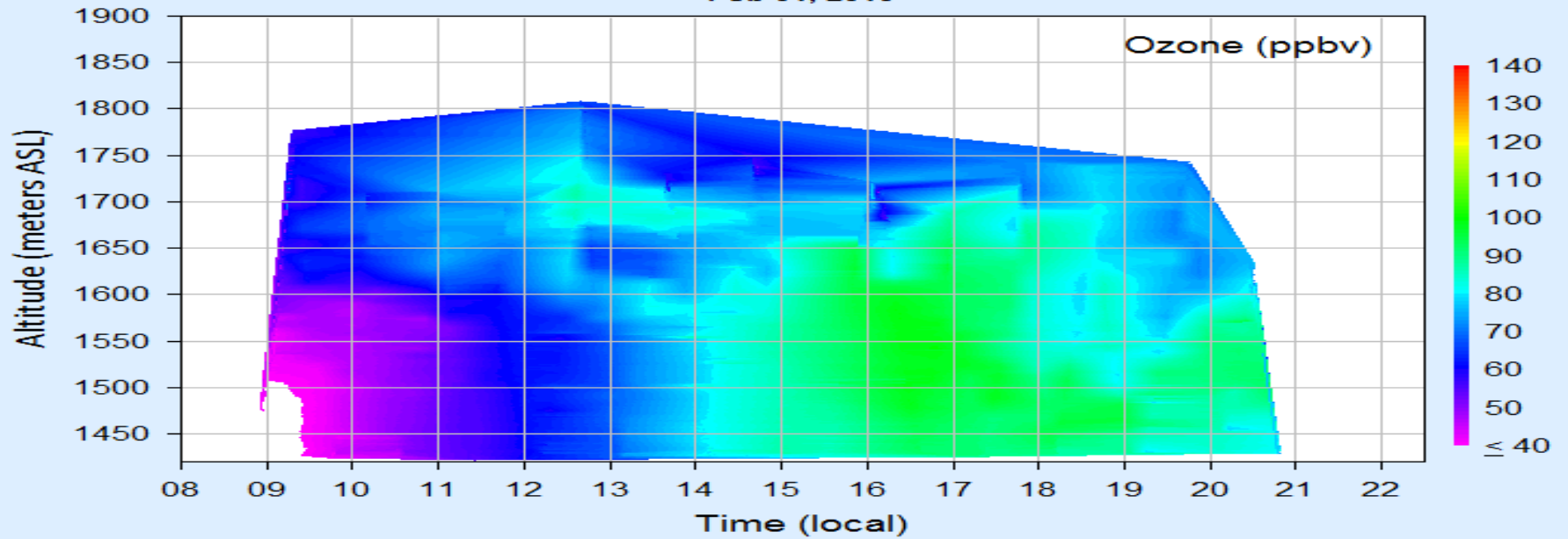
Ouray
Jan 31, 2013



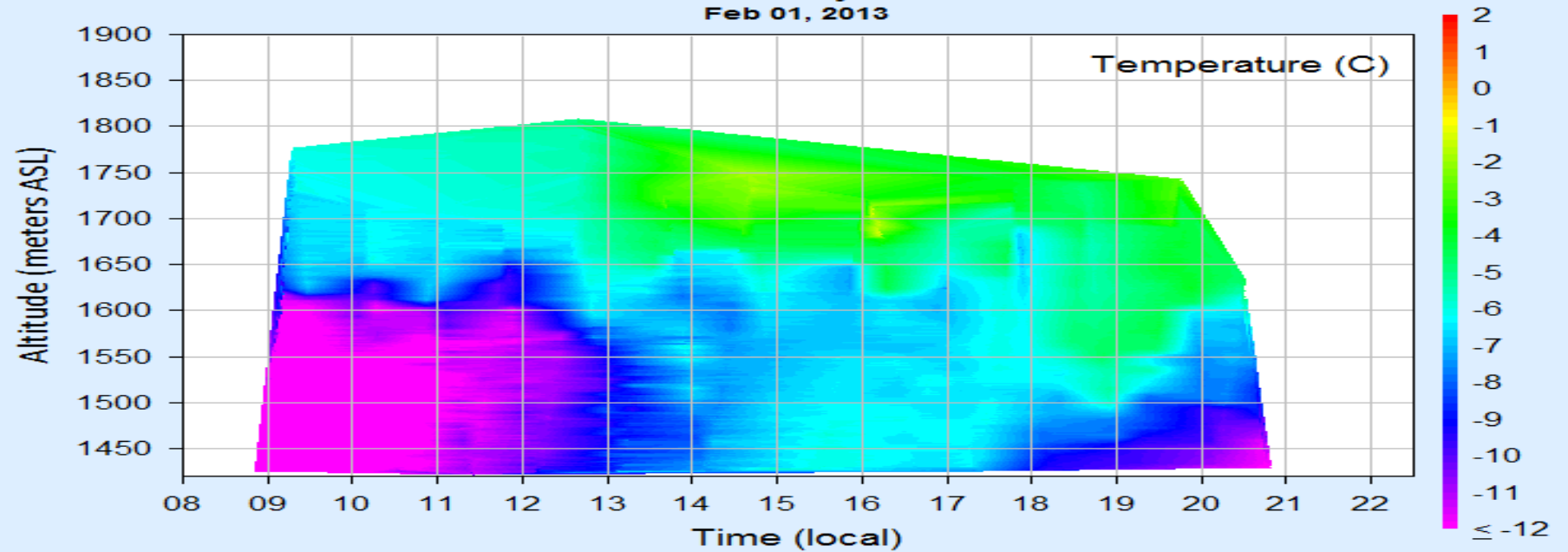
Ouray
Jan 31, 2013



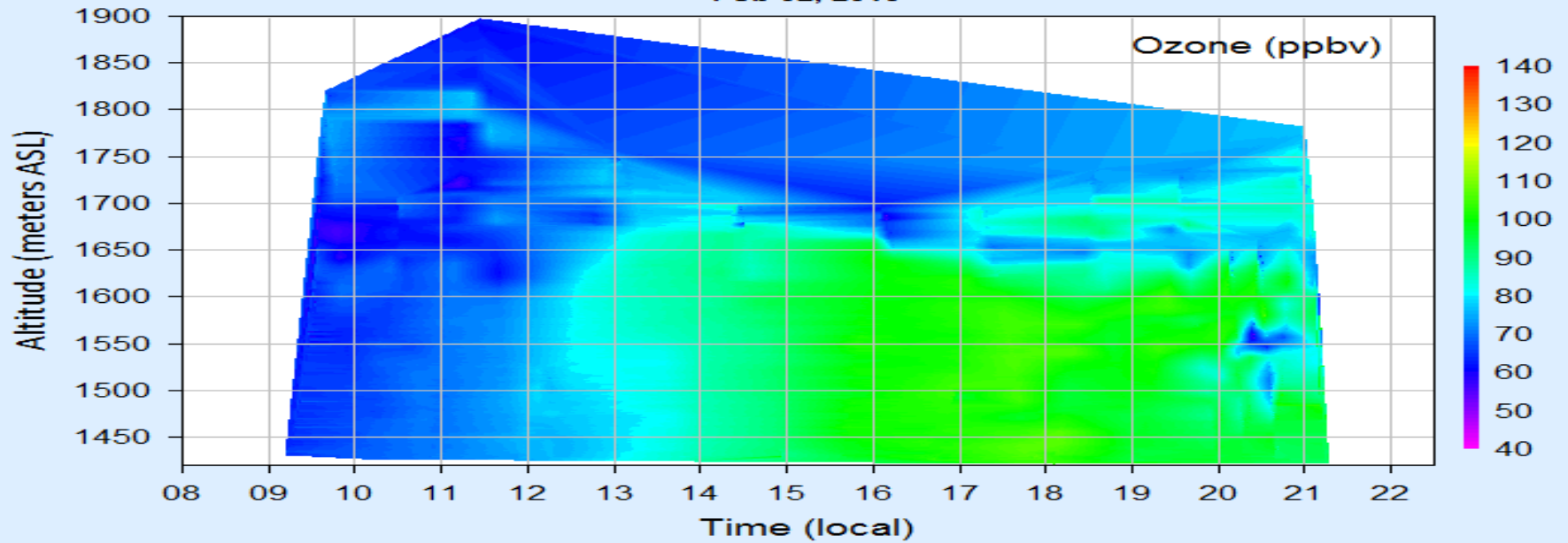
Ouray
Feb 01, 2013



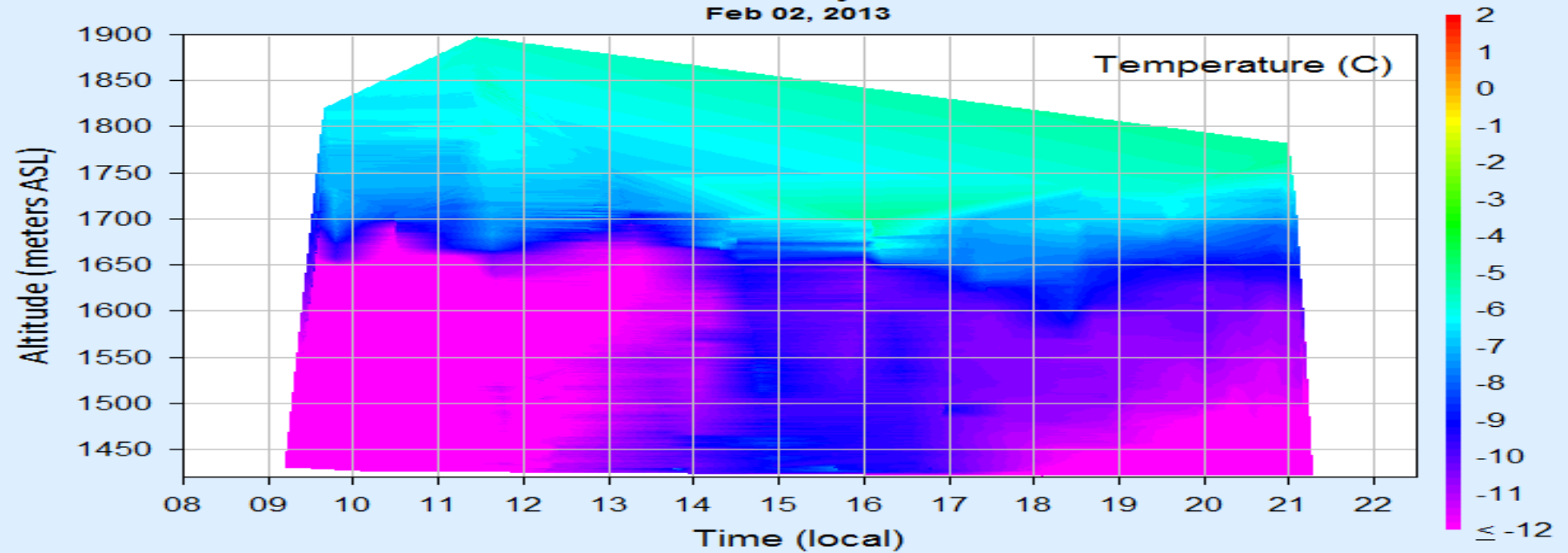
Ouray
Feb 01, 2013



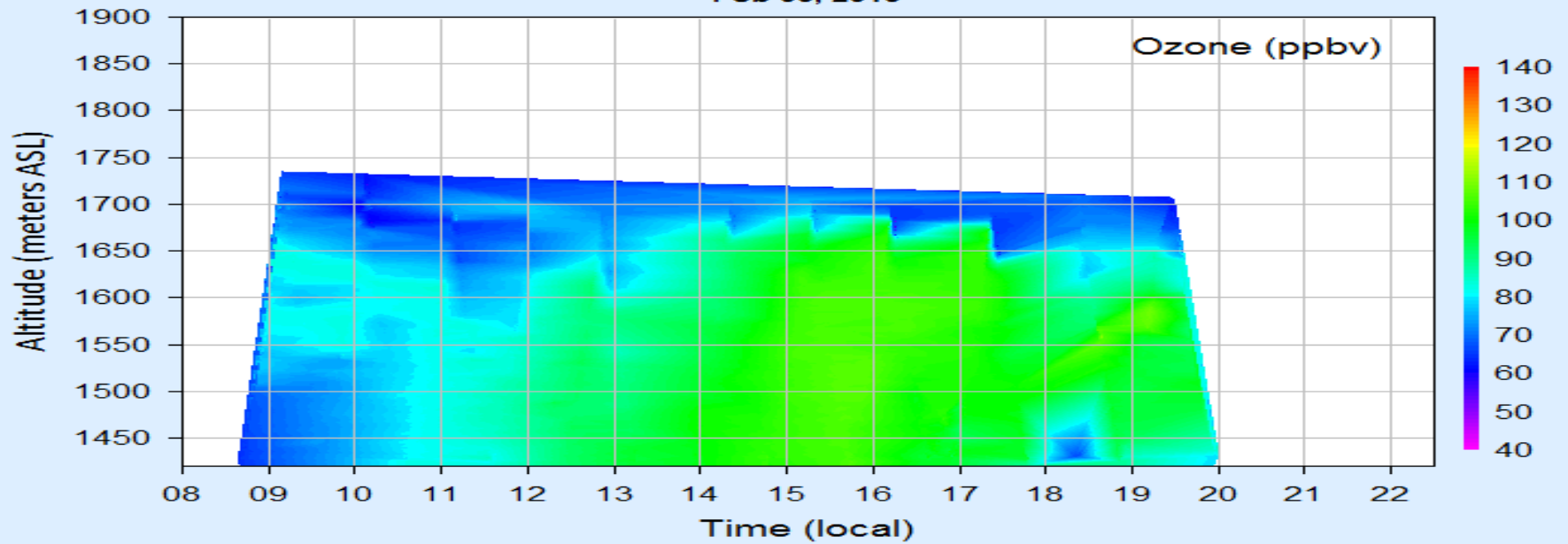
Ouray
Feb 02, 2013



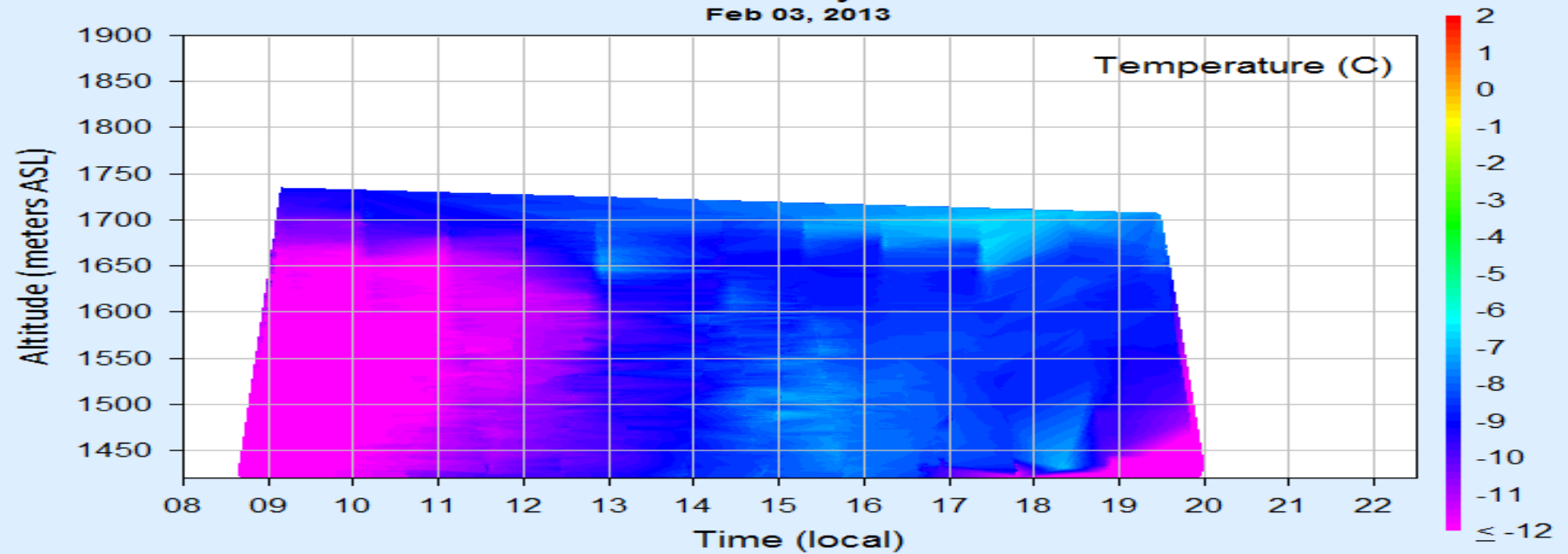
Ouray
Feb 02, 2013



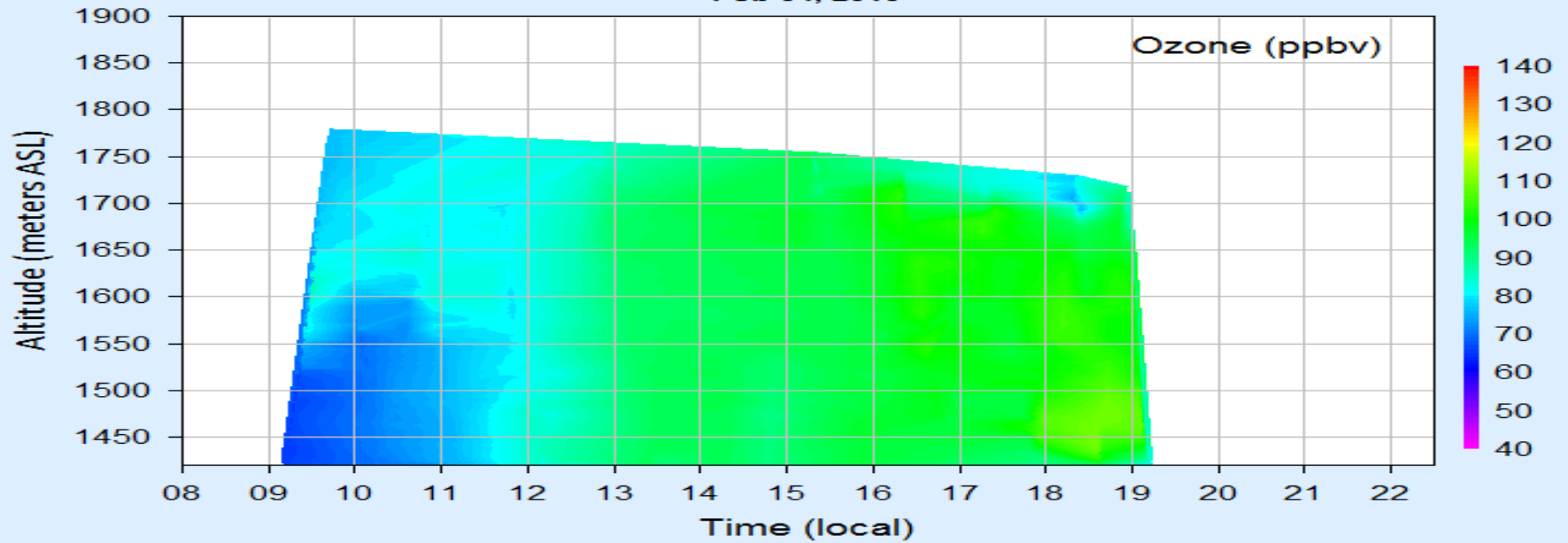
Ouray
Feb 03, 2013



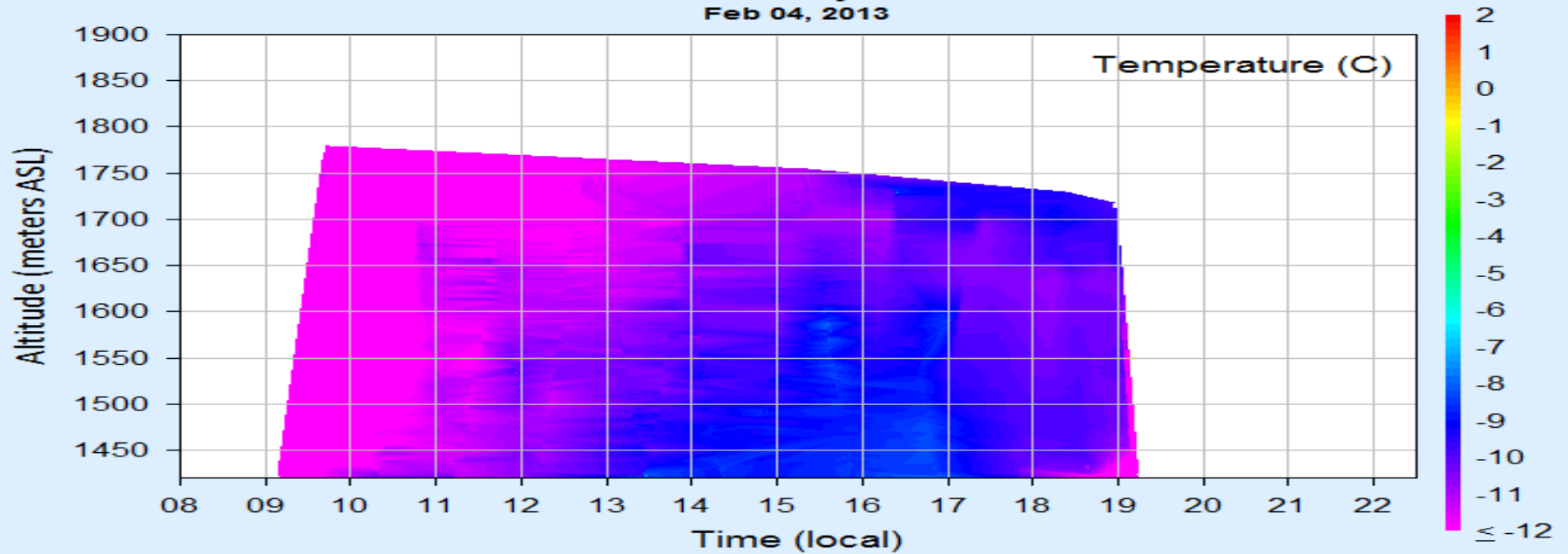
Ouray
Feb 03, 2013



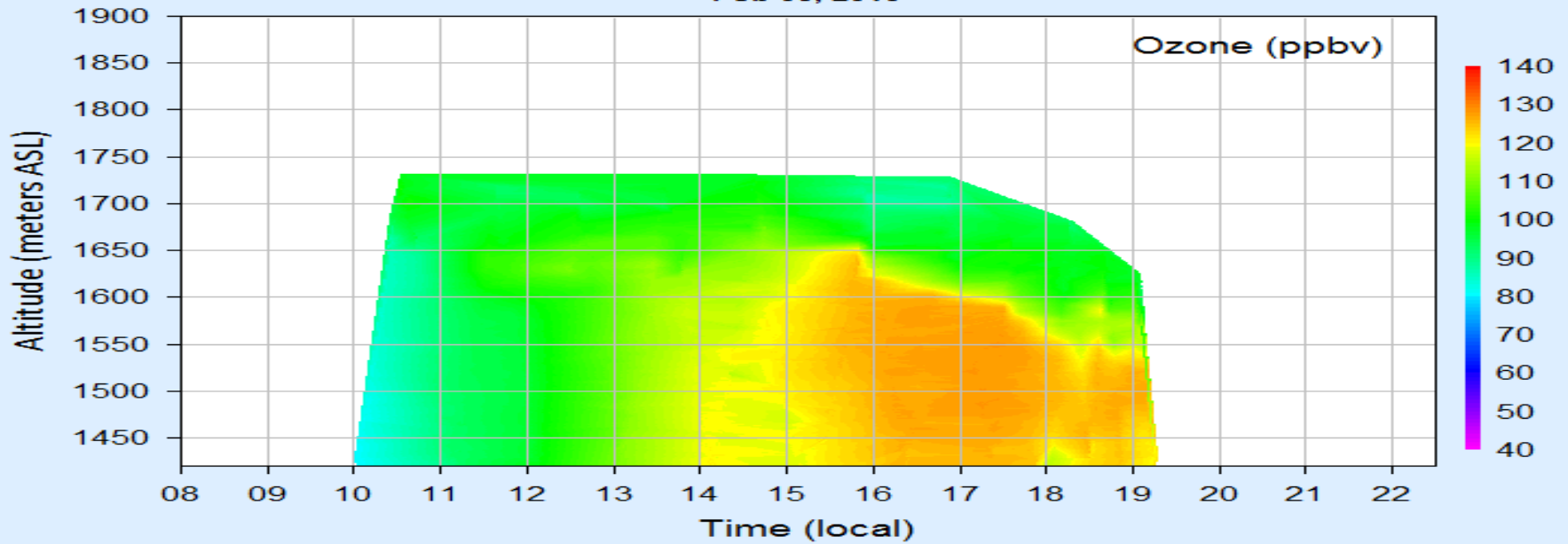
Ouray
Feb 04, 2013



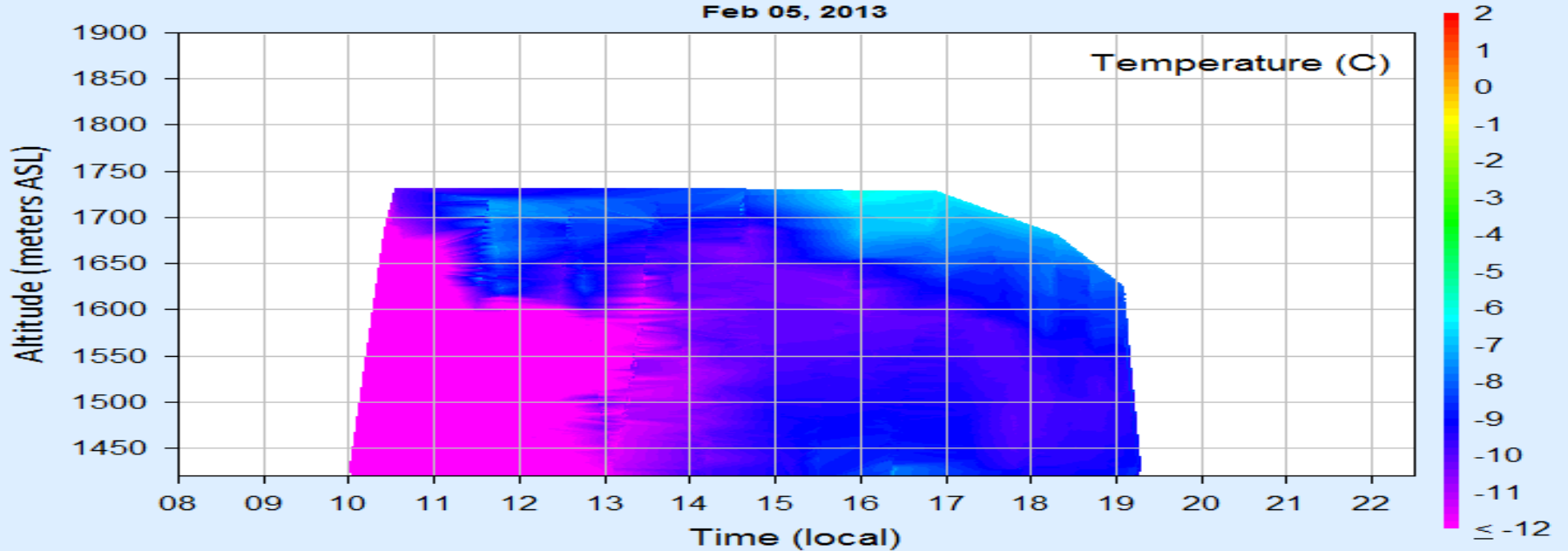
Ouray
Feb 04, 2013



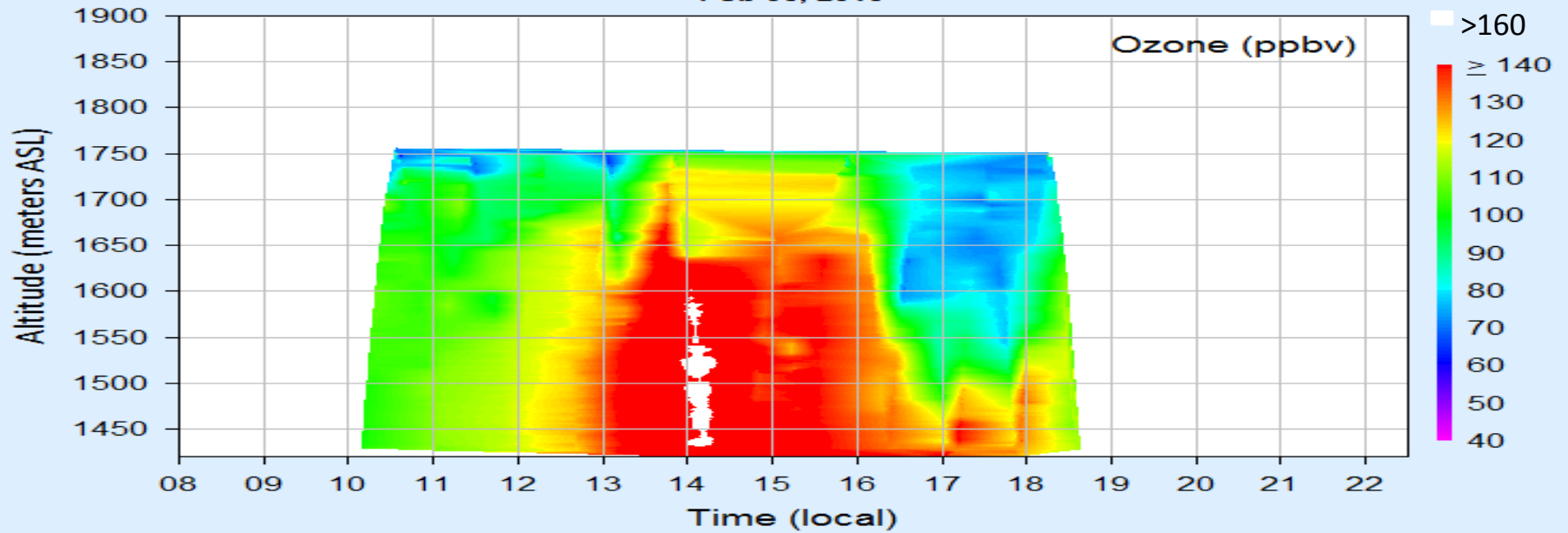
Ouray
Feb 05, 2013



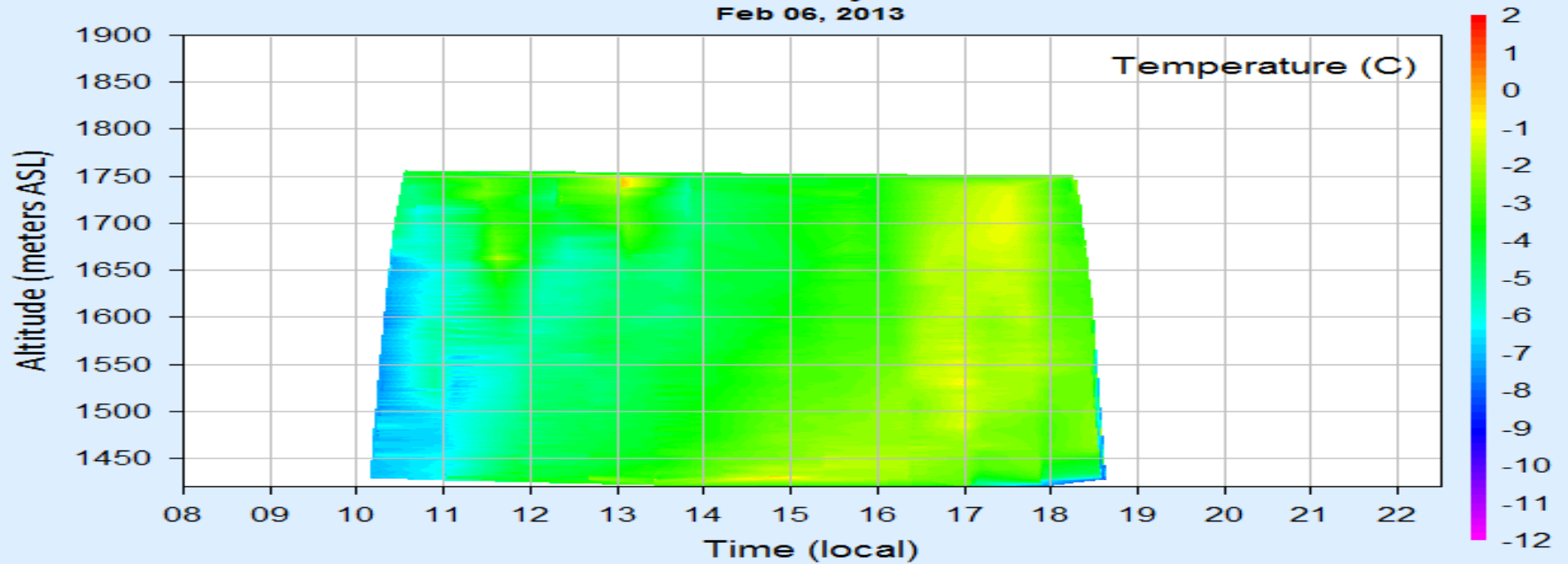
Ouray
Feb 05, 2013



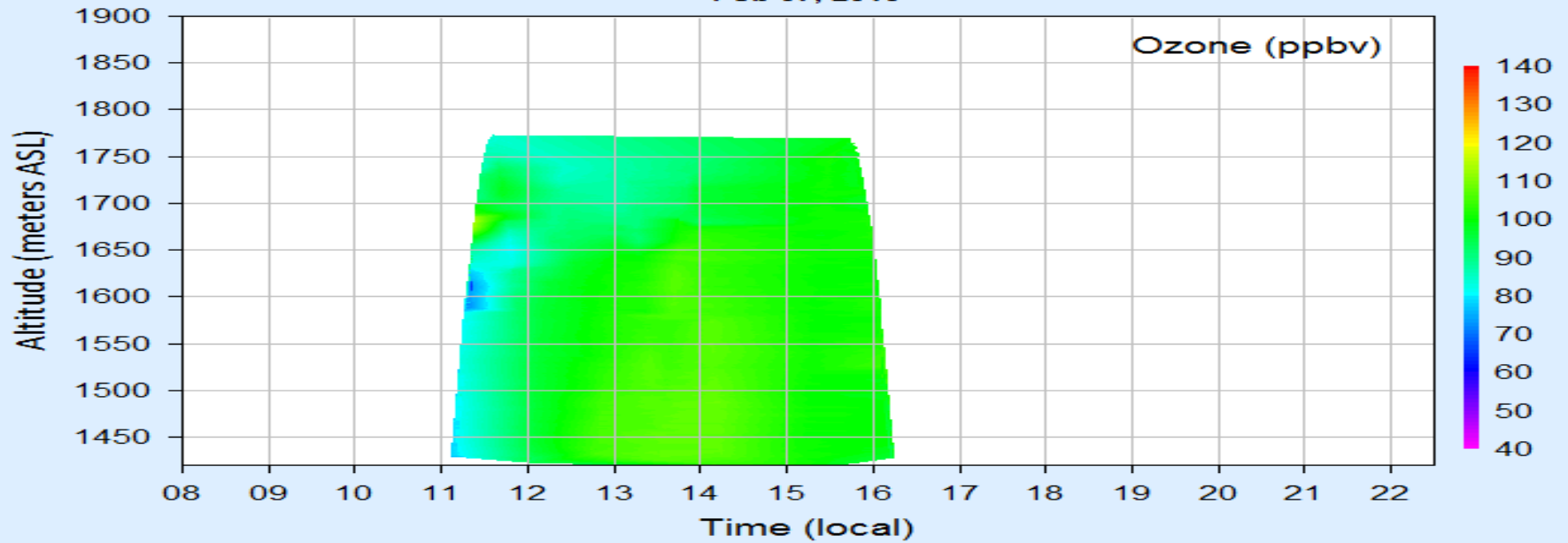
Ouray
Feb 06, 2013



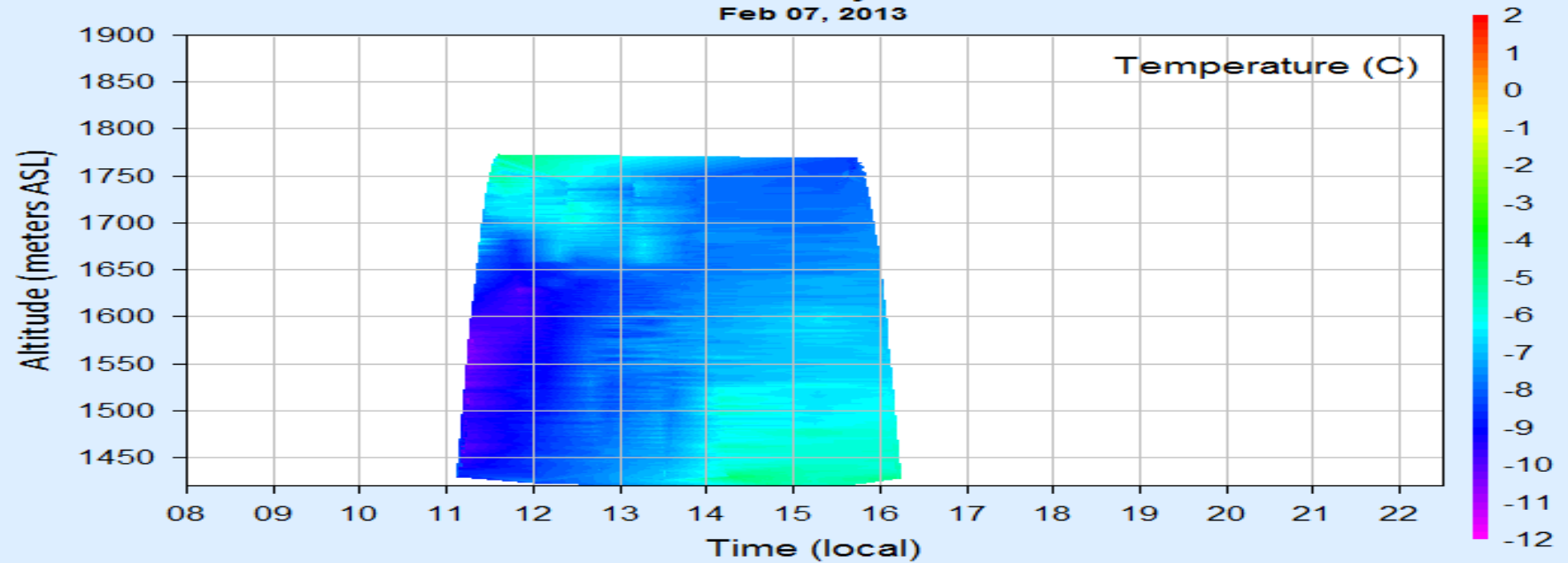
Ouray
Feb 06, 2013



Ouray
Feb 07, 2013



Ouray
Feb 07, 2013

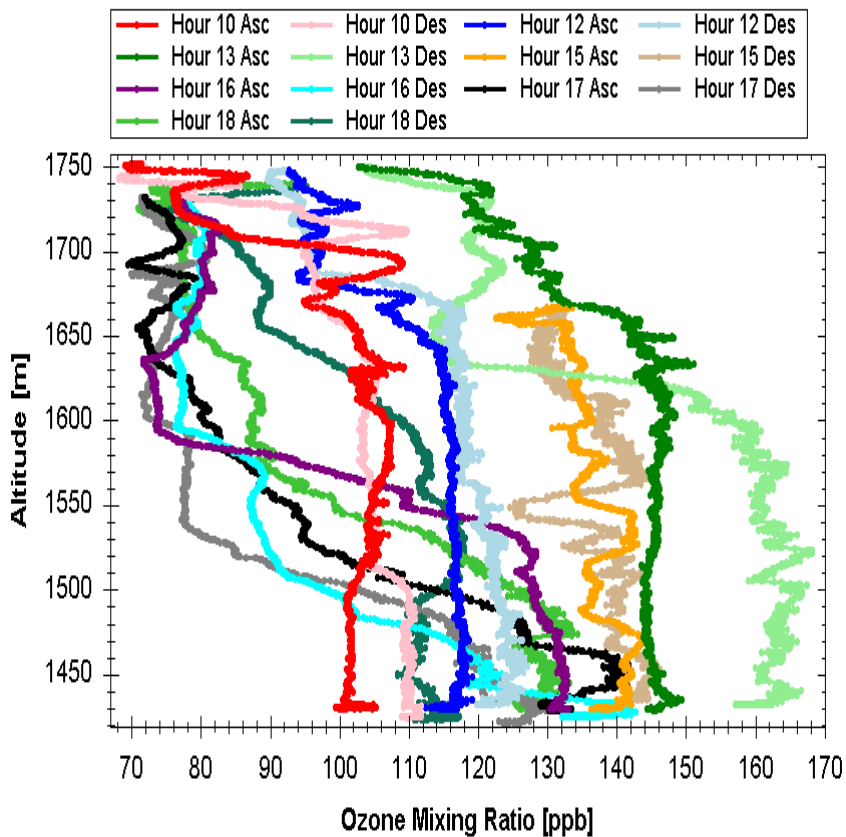


Uintah Basin, UT

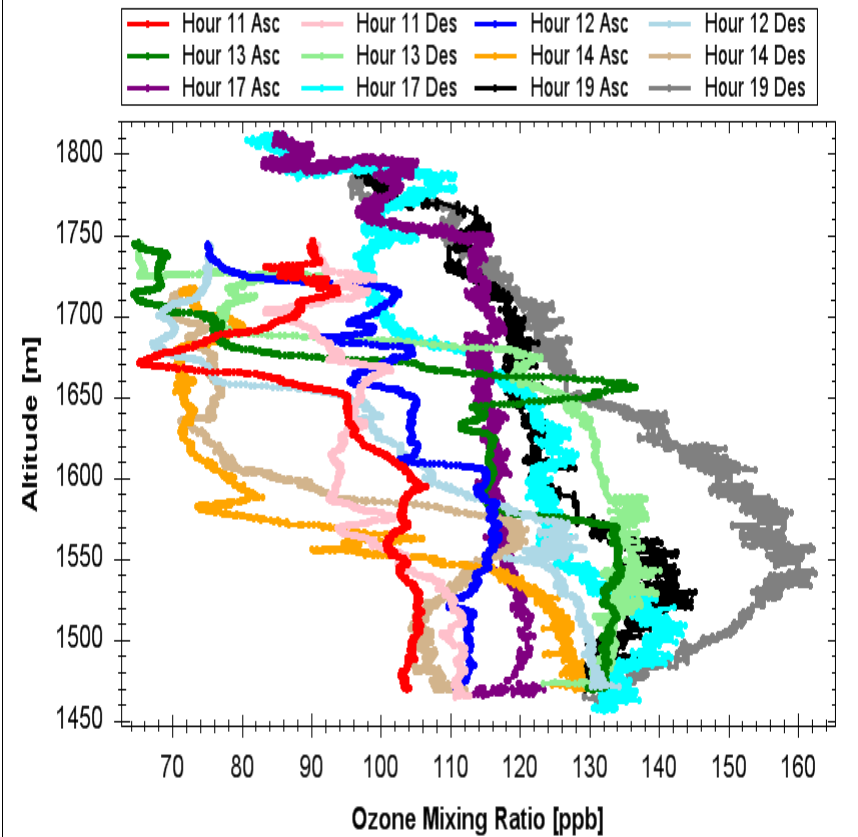
Ouray

Fantasy Canyon

Ozone Mixing Ratio at Ouray, 2/6/2013

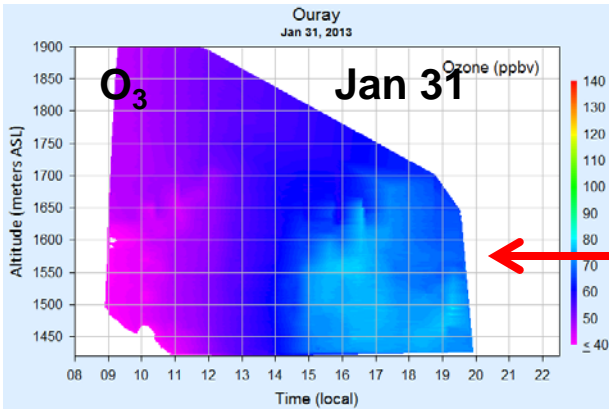
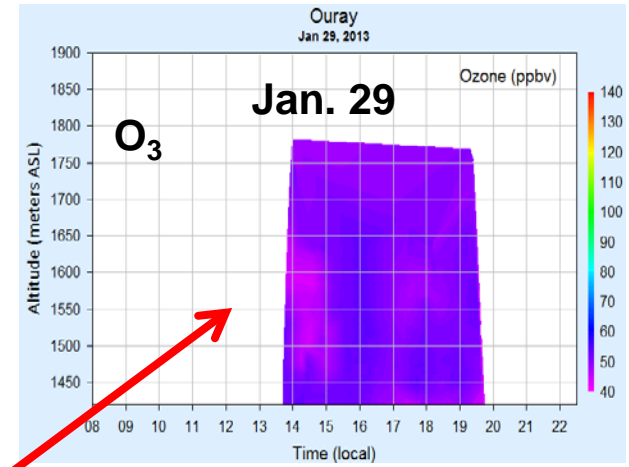
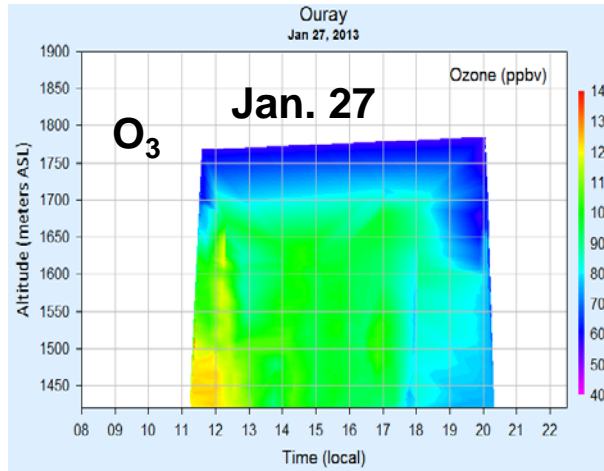
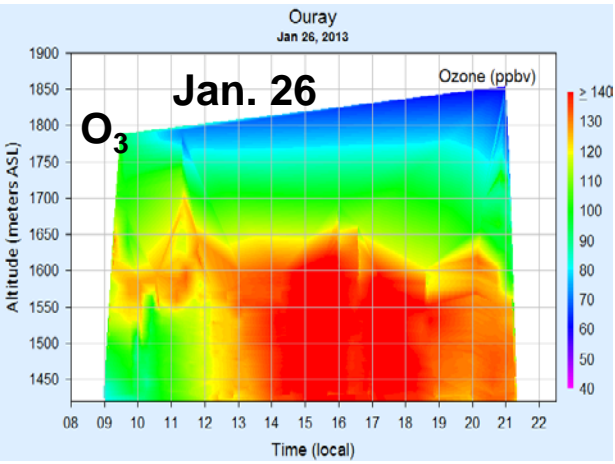


Ozone Mixing Ratio at Fantasy Canyon, 2/6/2013

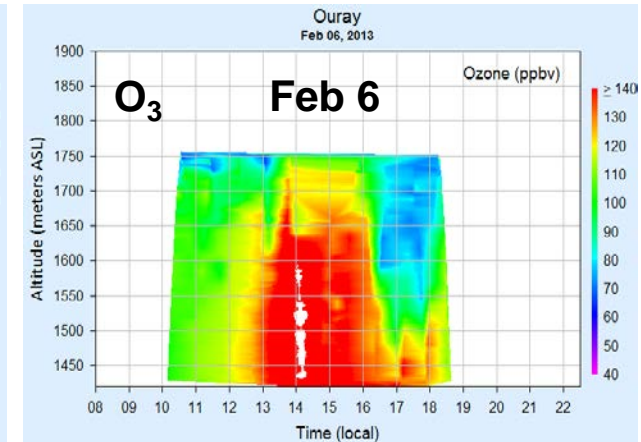
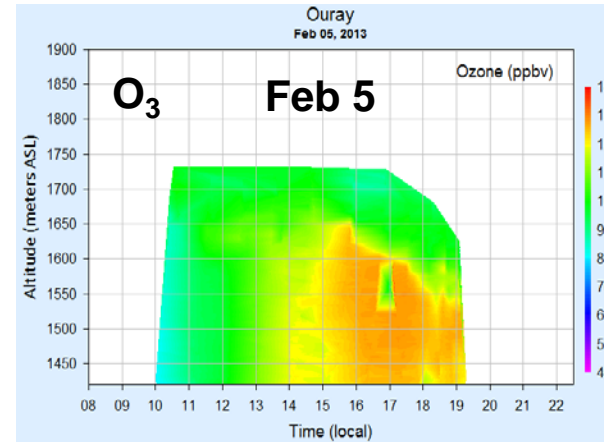
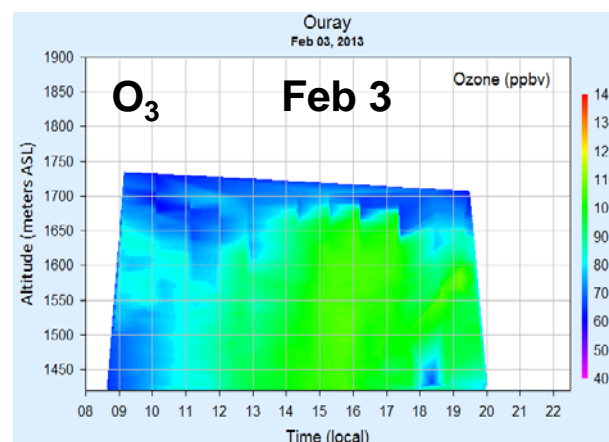
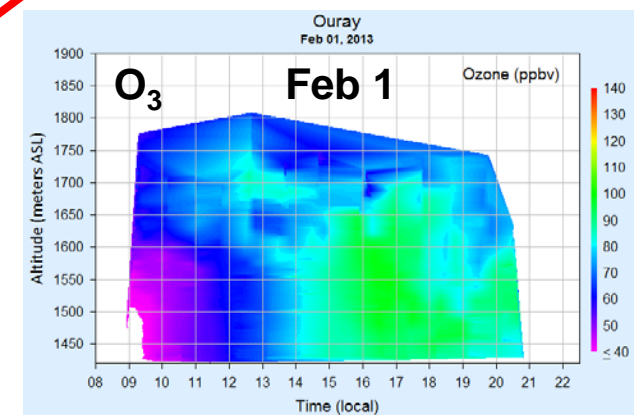


February 6, 2013

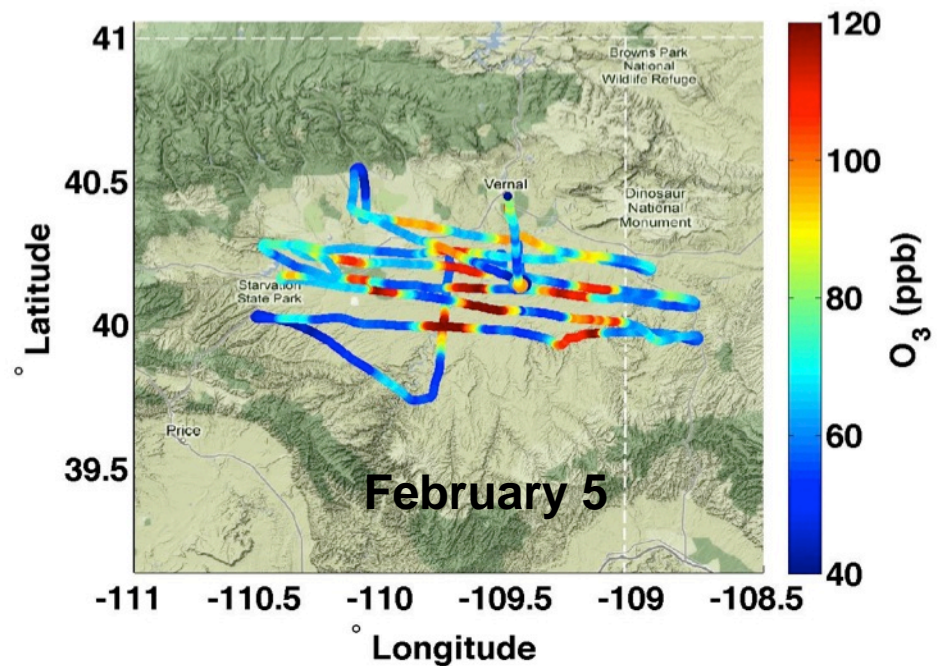
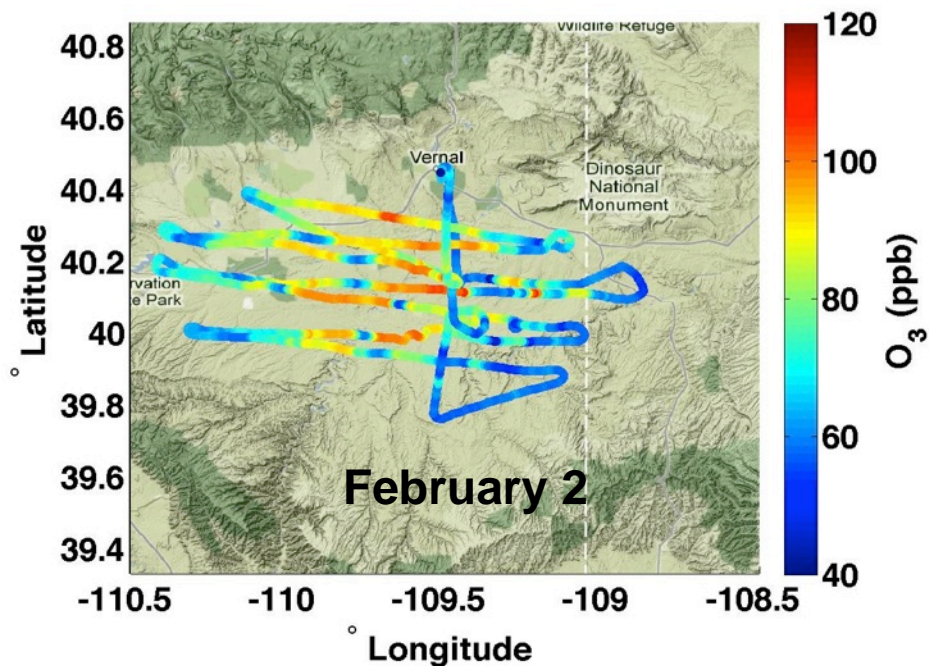
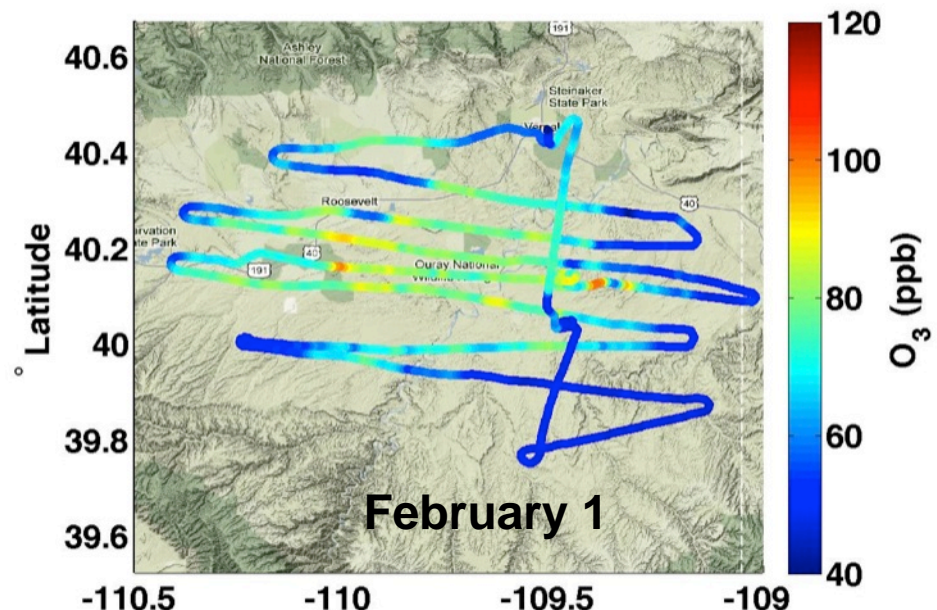
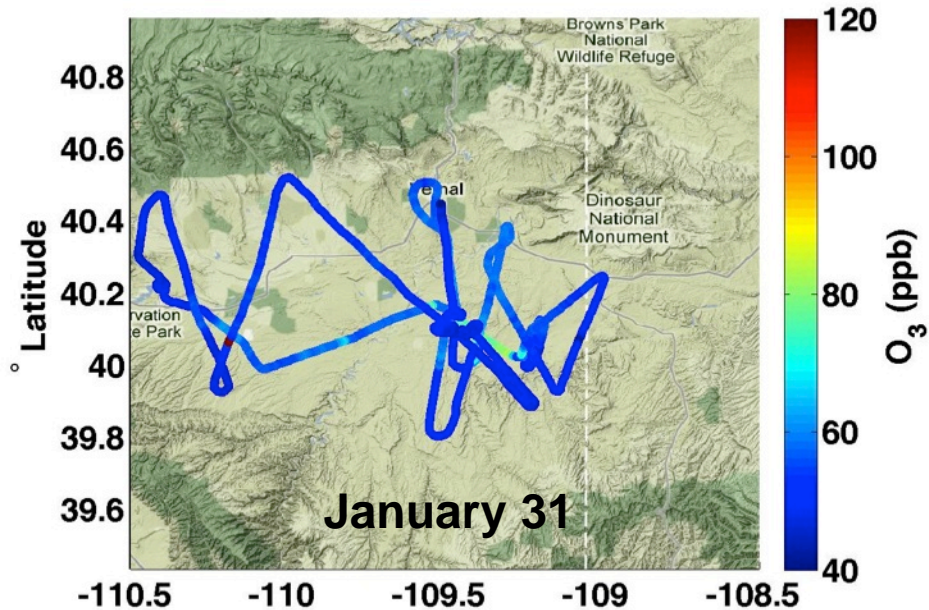
Tethered Balloon Profiles at Ouray



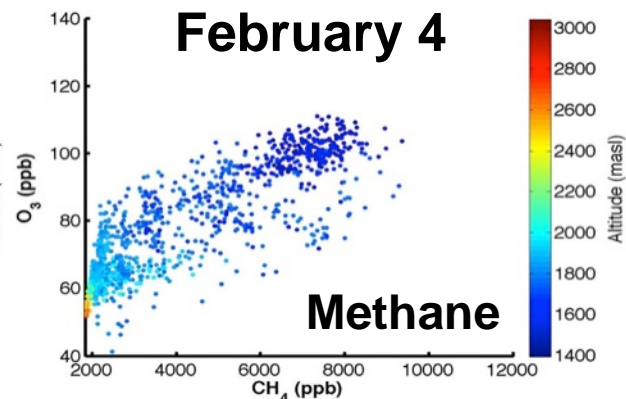
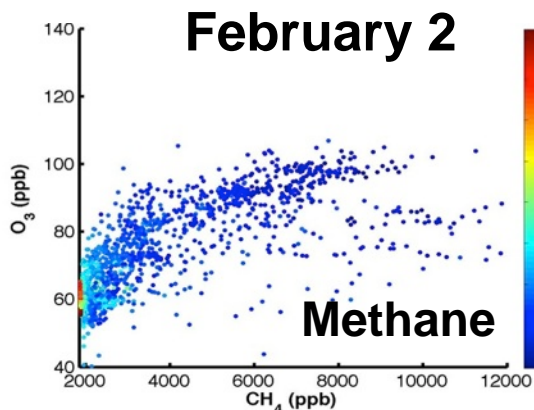
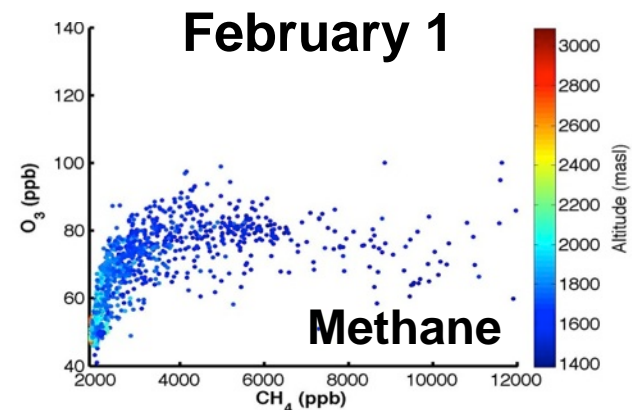
End of an event (Jan. 29).
Beginning of the
next event (Jan. 31))



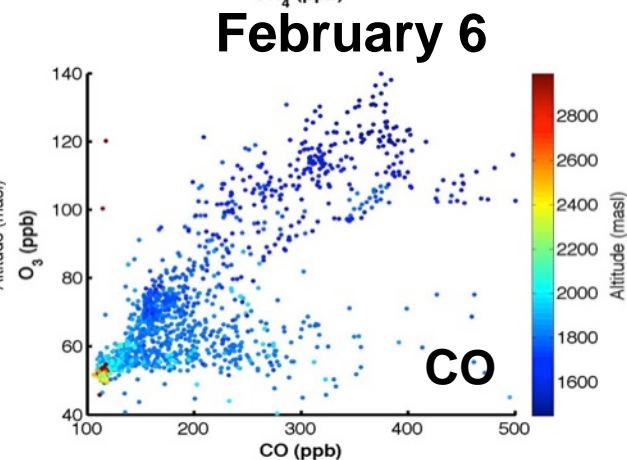
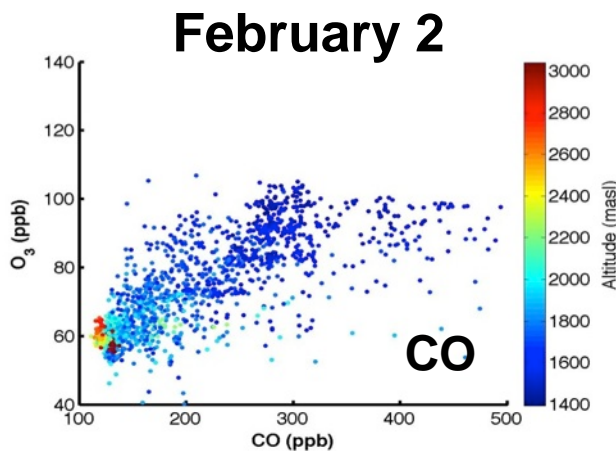
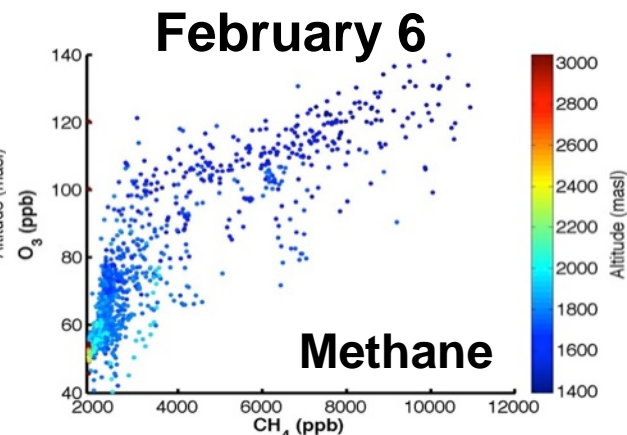
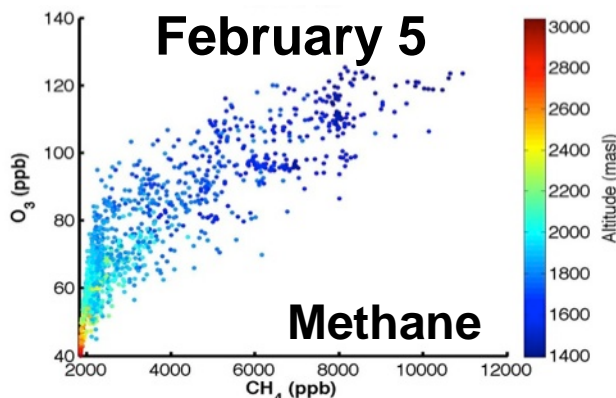
Ozone across the basin on Jan. 31, Feb. 1, 2, and 5



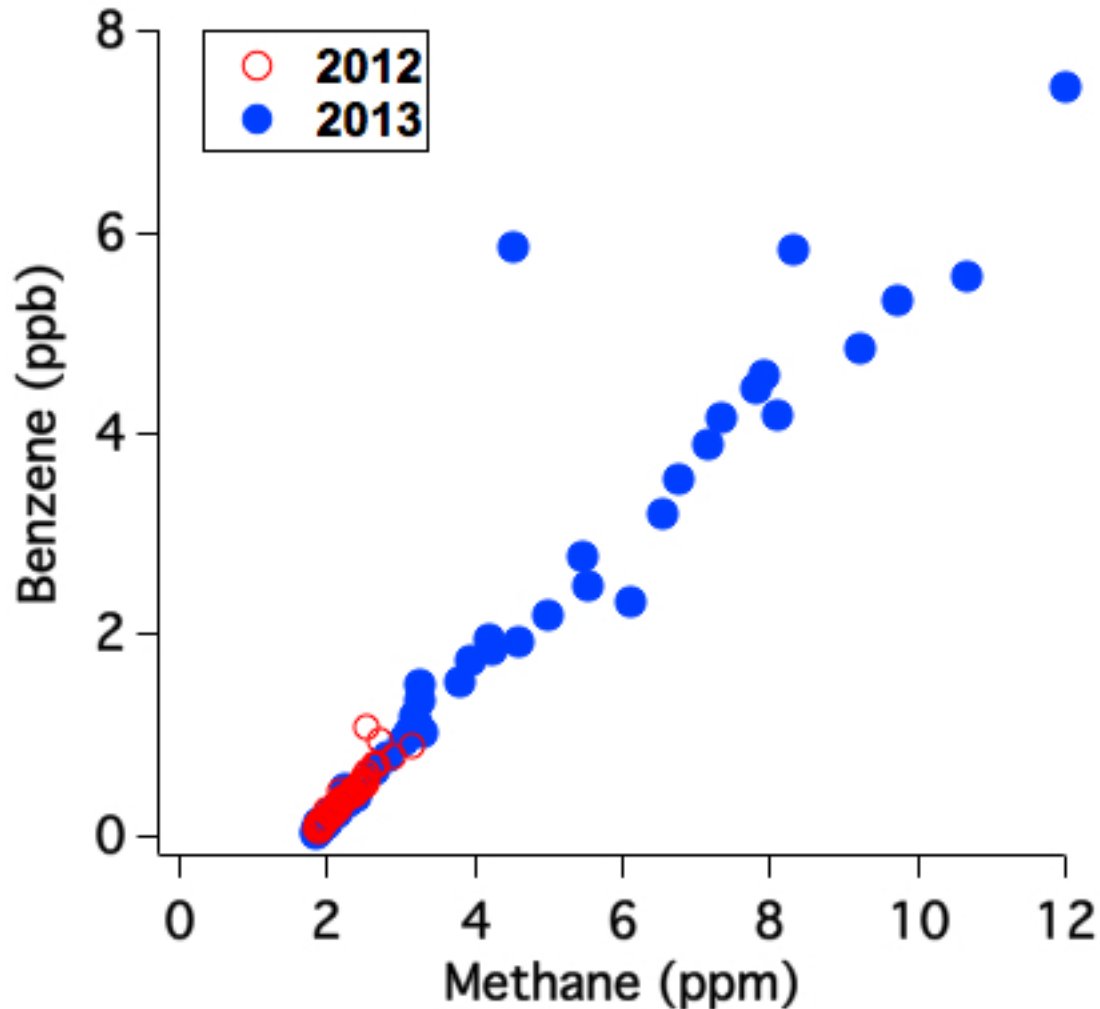
Correlation of O₃ with CH₄ and with CO, Feb. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6



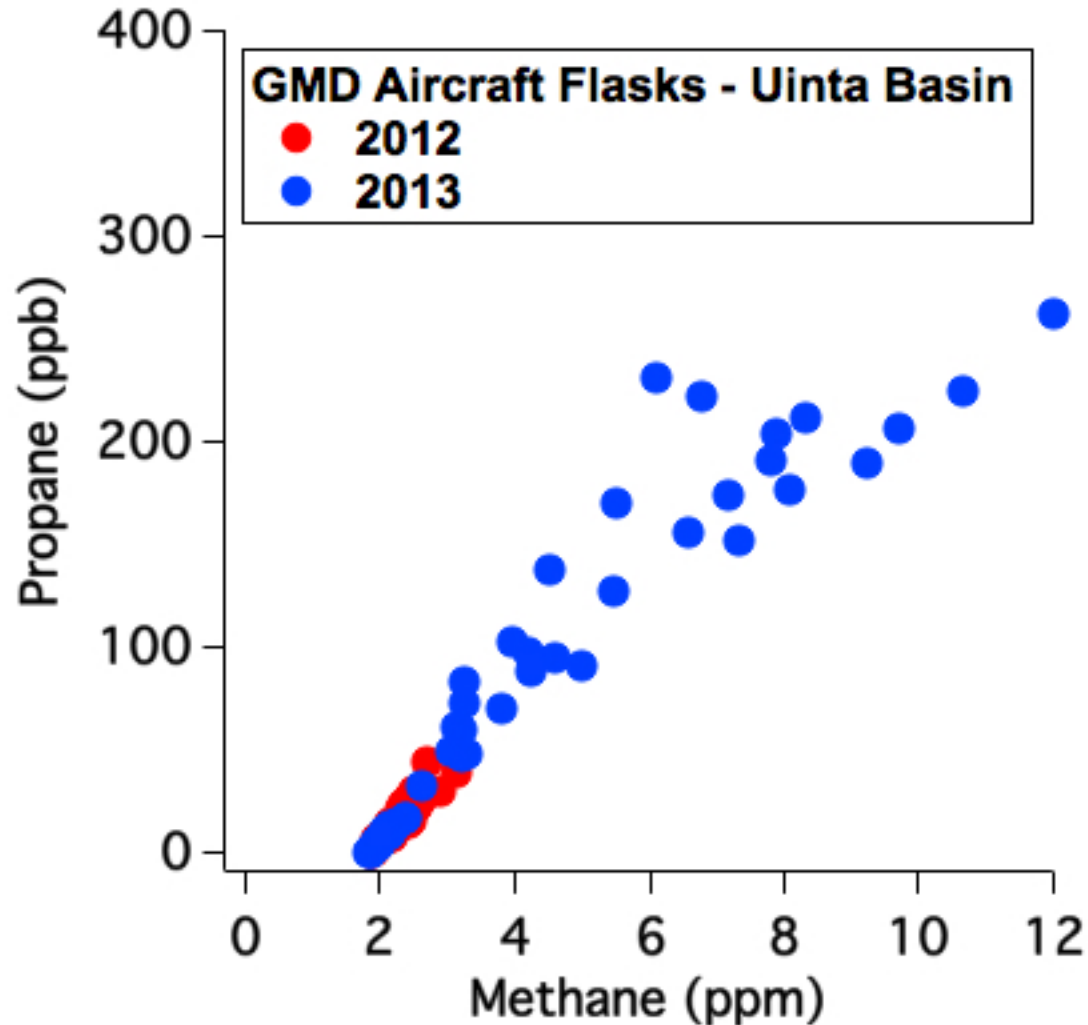
Aircraft continuous measurements both below and above the inversion.



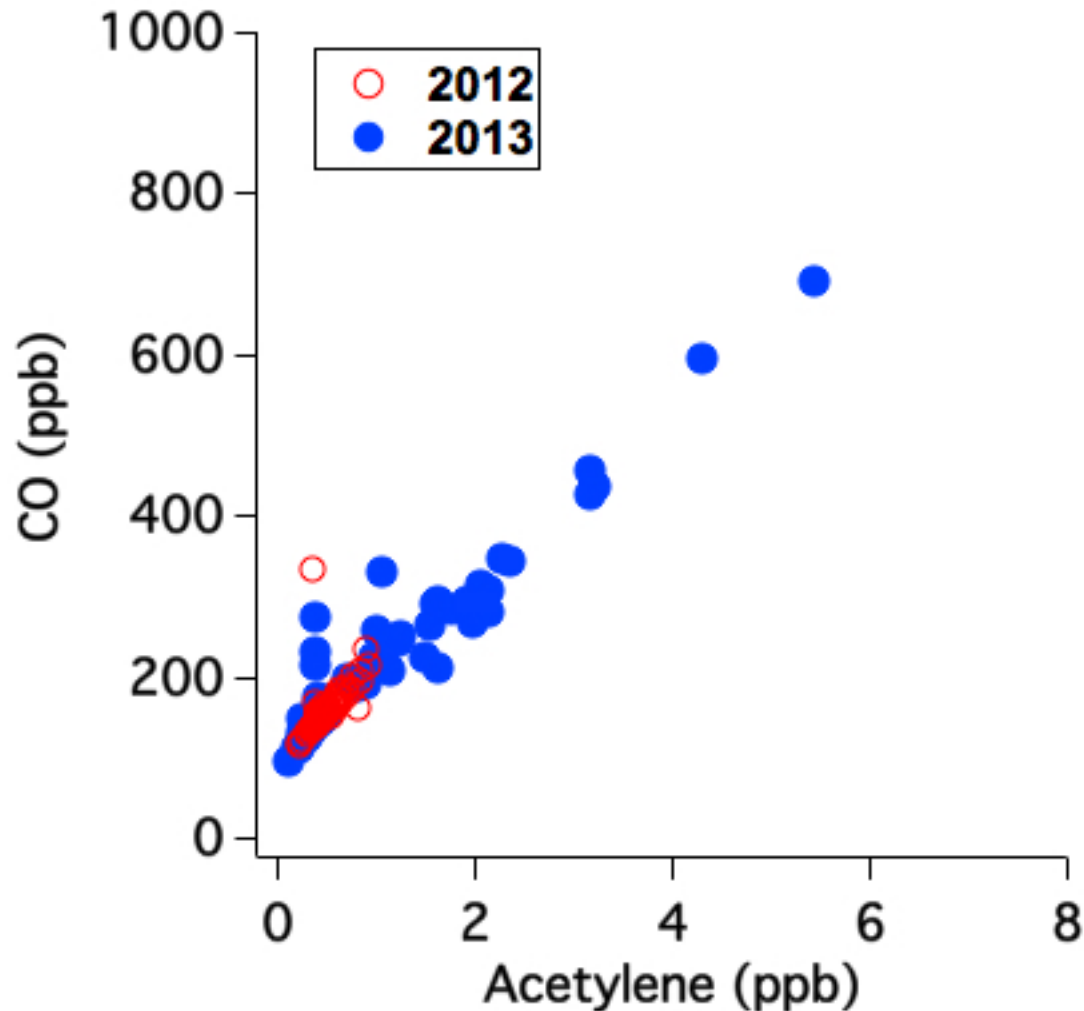
Airborne flask samples, Uintah Basin, Above and below Inversion 2012 and 2013



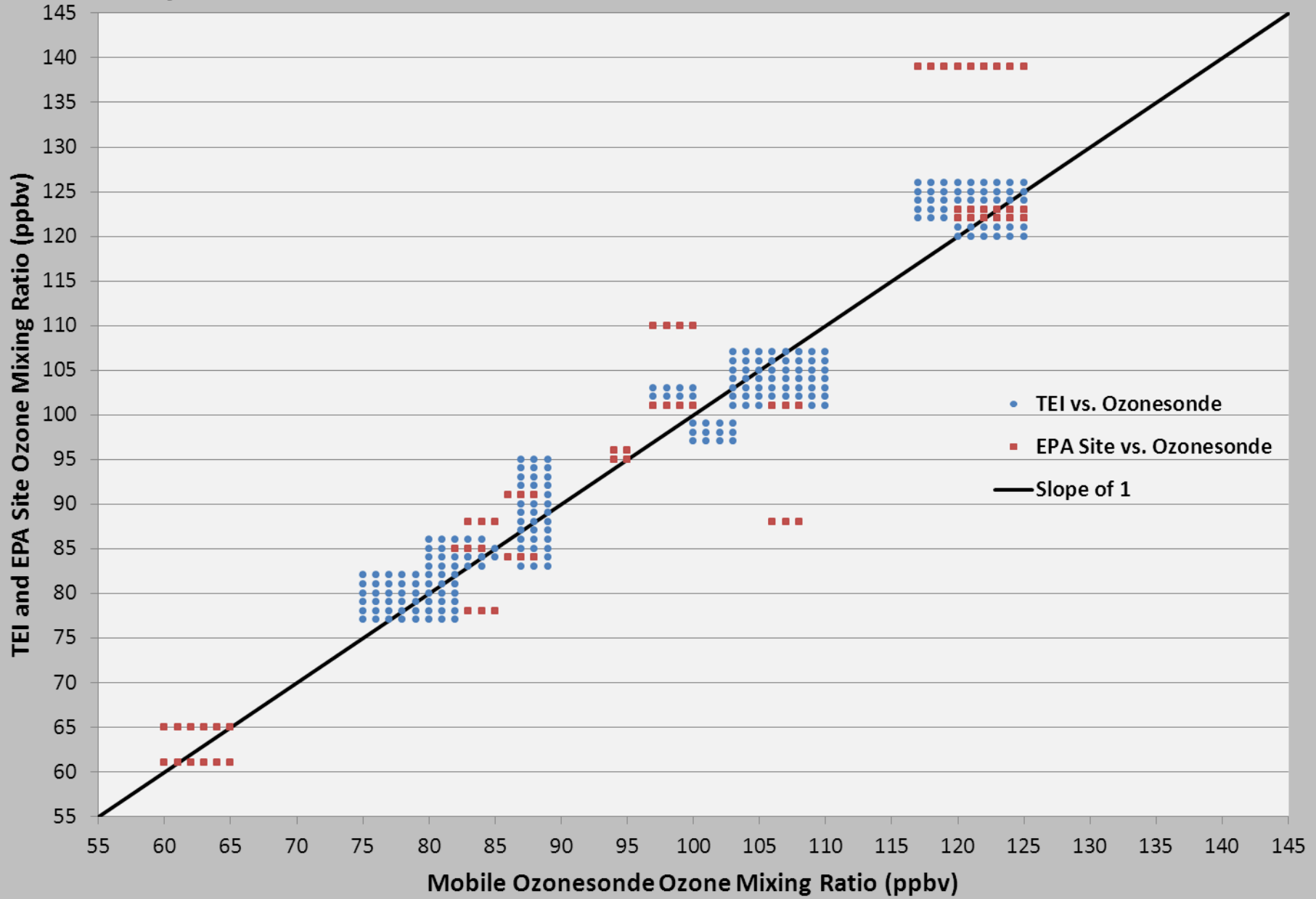
Airborne flask samples, Uintah Basin, Above and below Inversion 2012 and 2013



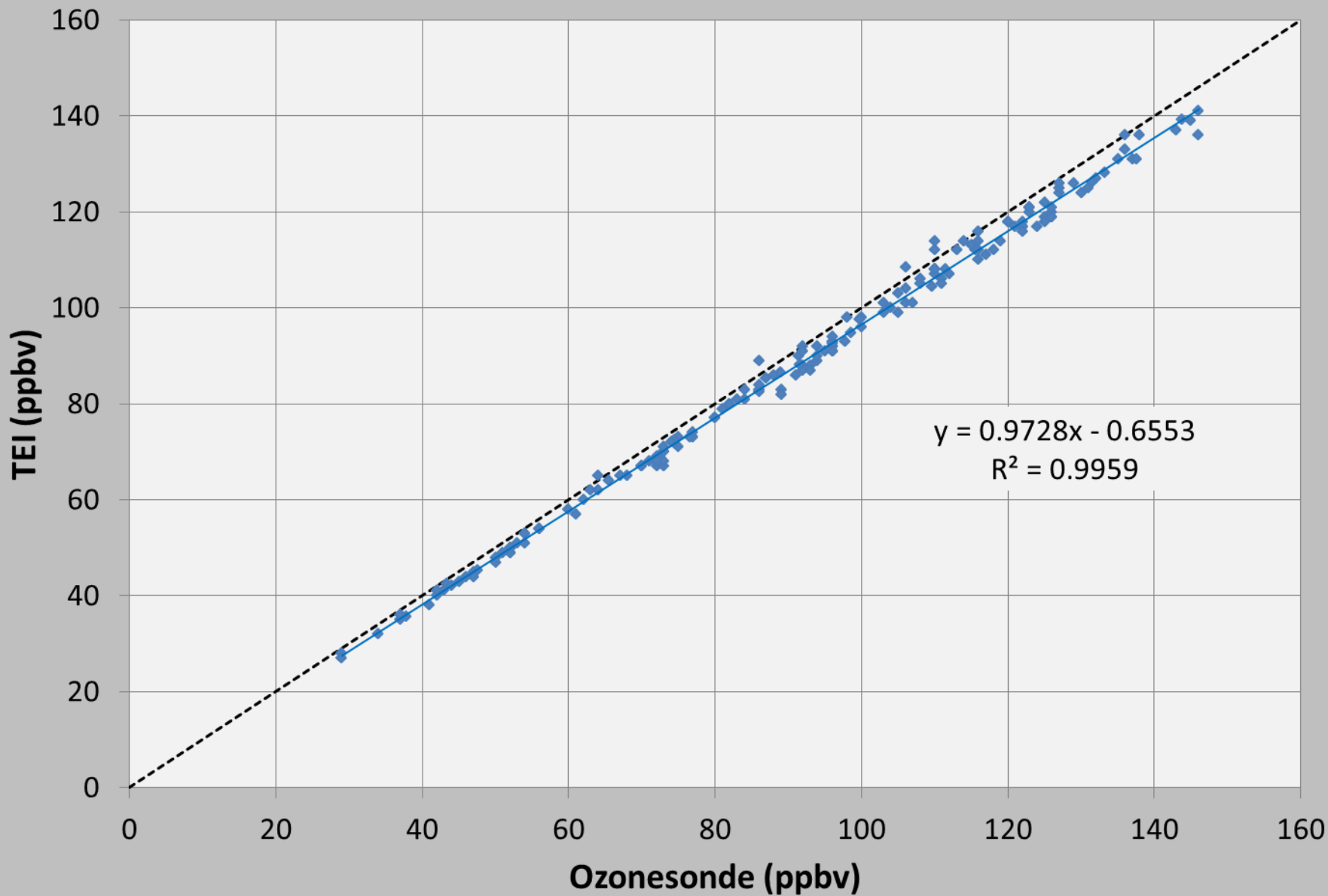
Airborne flask samples, Uintah Basin, Above and below Inversion 2012 and 2013



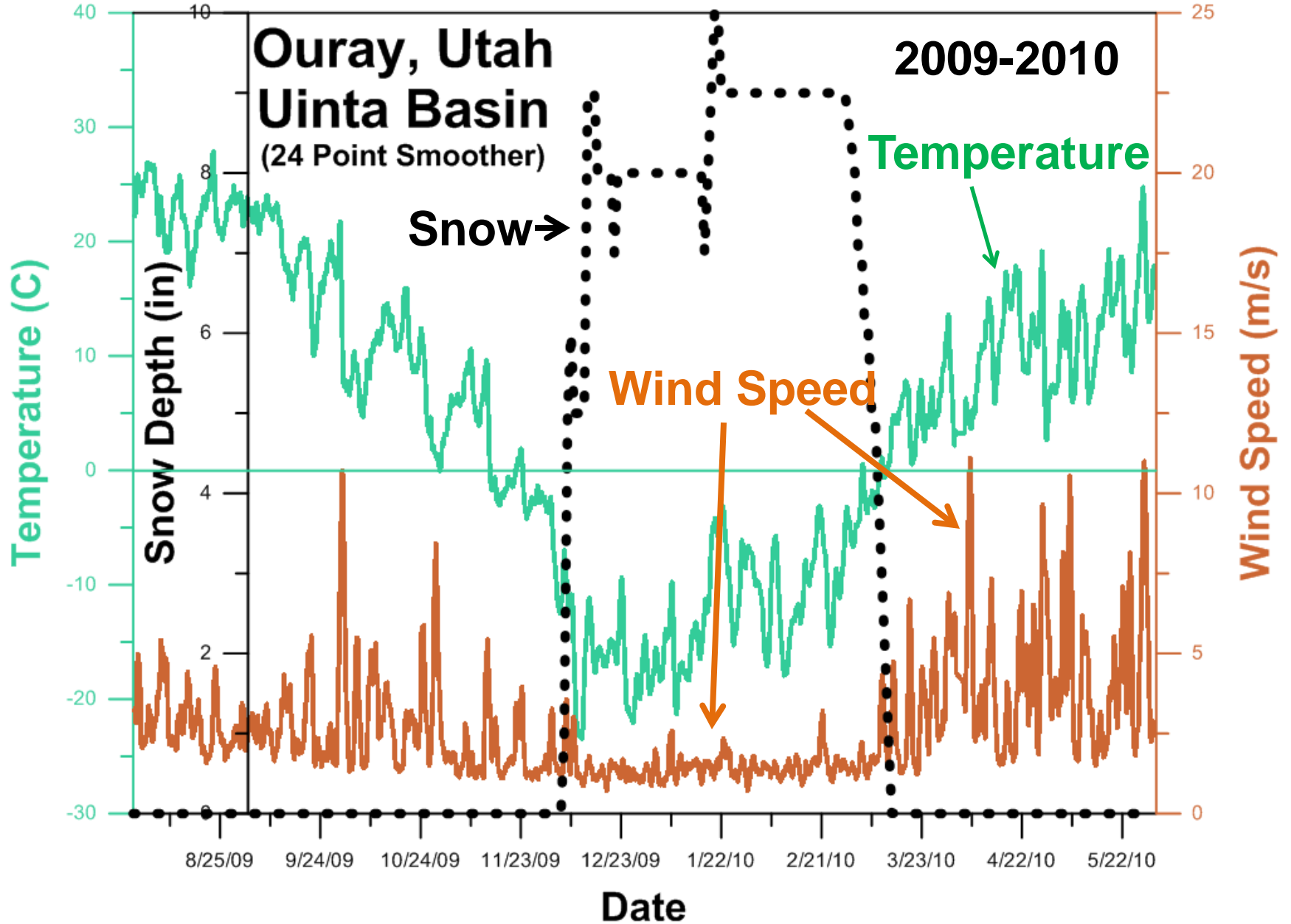
Ouray NOAA TEI and EPA, Blue Feather NOAA TEI, and Redwash EPA vs. Mobile



TEI versus Ozonesonde: Ouray Surface Checks



Temperature, Snow Depth and Wind



Surface O₃ 1/15/2013 - 2/15/2013

