

Cloud Seeding Internship Experience

Vivian Broughton



About me



- 4th year
- Aviation Safety Major
- Used to be Commercial Aviation with Atmospheric Sciences Minor
- Plan to be an FAA Aircraft Dispatcher
- Used career services to help prepare for interview



About The Internship

- Fly Piper Seneca II
- Need Multi-Engine add on
- Mix chemicals, get plane ready for next launch, assist PIC in flight, record keeping, talk with public
- Based in Bowman, ND
- 24/7 on call
- Lasts June 1st to August 31st, but can leave early



About The Internship

- 7 days of vacation you can use if scheduled ahead of time
- Option to live with coworkers, separate rent
- I got paid \$20 an hour
- Interns selected on ranked point system with flight hours being big factor
- Can be dicey, very different to flying at UND



Case Study

- July 20th, 2025, evening
- Two rounds of storms
- 1st storm was very good
- Initially launched as rain enhancement, but it grew into hail suppression criteria by the time we got to it
- Landed back in Bowman due to running out of chemical mix in burners
- Refueled, cleaned burners, refilled chem, reracked BIPs



Case Study

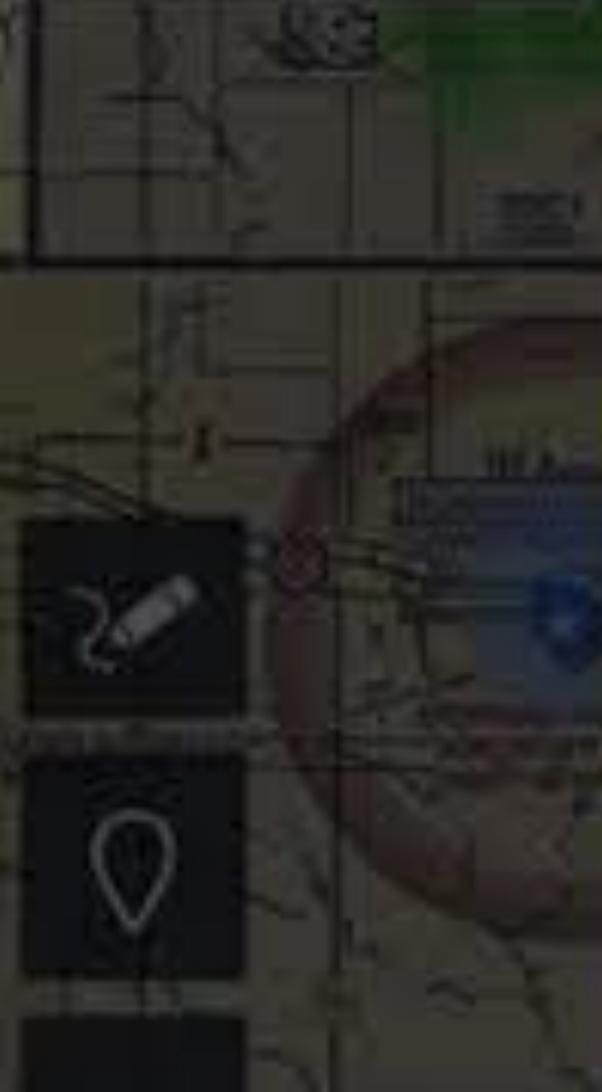
- Initially could not relaunch due to low cloud deck
- Deck cleared out after about 30 minutes, and I was comfortable going back up
- Second storm was a hail threat, but after 30 minutes of working on it, night was imminent, and low cloud deck came back
- Landed in Spearfish, ND and spent the night



- Took photo when arrived at first storm
- Shows strong tops that are not fuzzy
- Clear target with defined base



- Few minutes later
- Shows defined bases
- Notice the “fingers” below





- Low cloud deck rolled in as we prepped the plane
- We used our spare for the next flight







- Raining a little bit in this photo
- See the lower clouds
- Left is bad target
- Right is better target

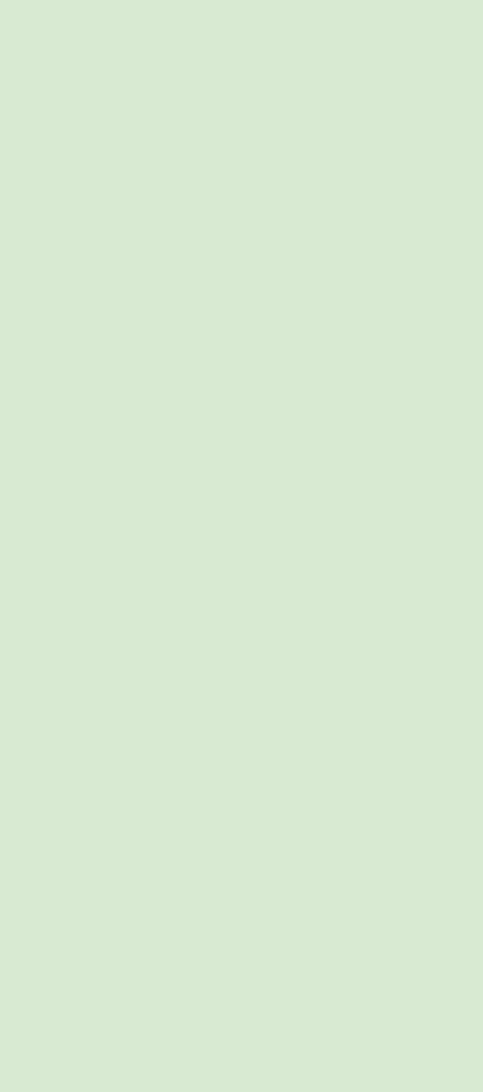
At this point, I stopped taking photos because I had slightly more important things to do.

Like escape looming IMC and night...



Coming back
from
Spearfish
the next day





Thank you :)

