

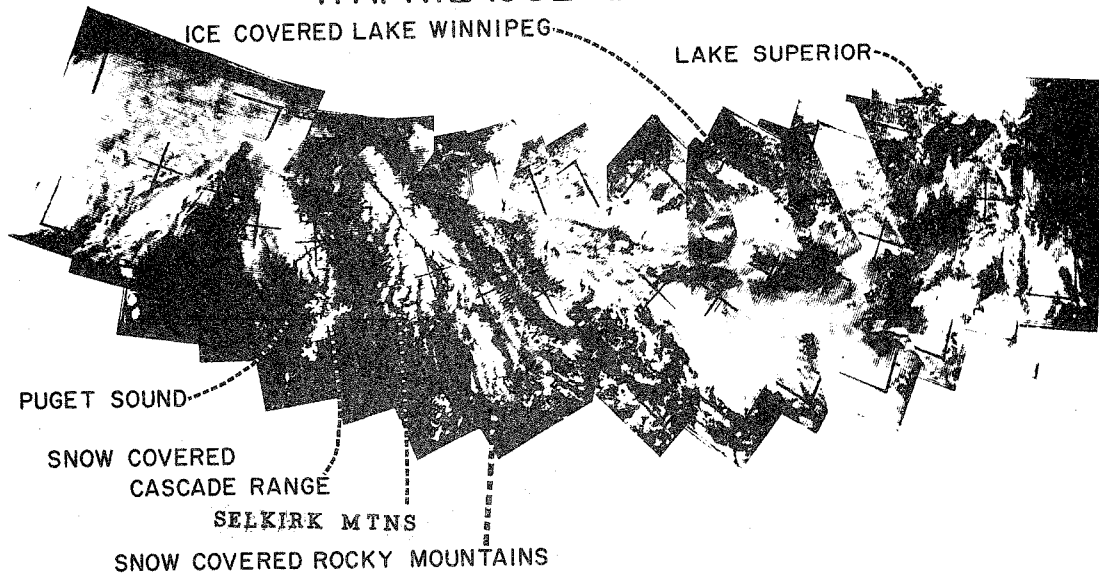
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WEATHER BUREAU
Washington

June 22, 1962

In reply, please address
CHIEF, U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
Washington 25, D. C.
And refer to

0-6.14

TIROS IV ORBIT 895 R/O 895
11 APRIL 1962 2100 GMT



The Tiros IV Weather Satellite launched early in 1962 was able to provide some excellent pictures of the snow cover in the western mountain regions of North America. Fortunately, a print of a picture of the Sierra Nevada range was obtained shortly before the Western Snow Conference convened in Cheyenne. During the course of the discussion of Miss Thoms' paper, "Application of Aerial Snow Cover Observations to Forecasting Flathead Lake Inflow", this picture as well as shots of the Alps, Andes and Himalaya Mountains taken from Tiros I were shown. Though very preliminary in nature, the potential for using satellite pictures operationally for snow cover estimations was clearly indicated.

The U. S. Weather Bureau plans to investigate further the use of satellite pictures in making aerial estimates of snow cover. Current plans are to launch a polar orbiting satellite in the near future. This should allow for more frequent as well as more complete observations of the snow fields particularly during the snowmelt period.

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