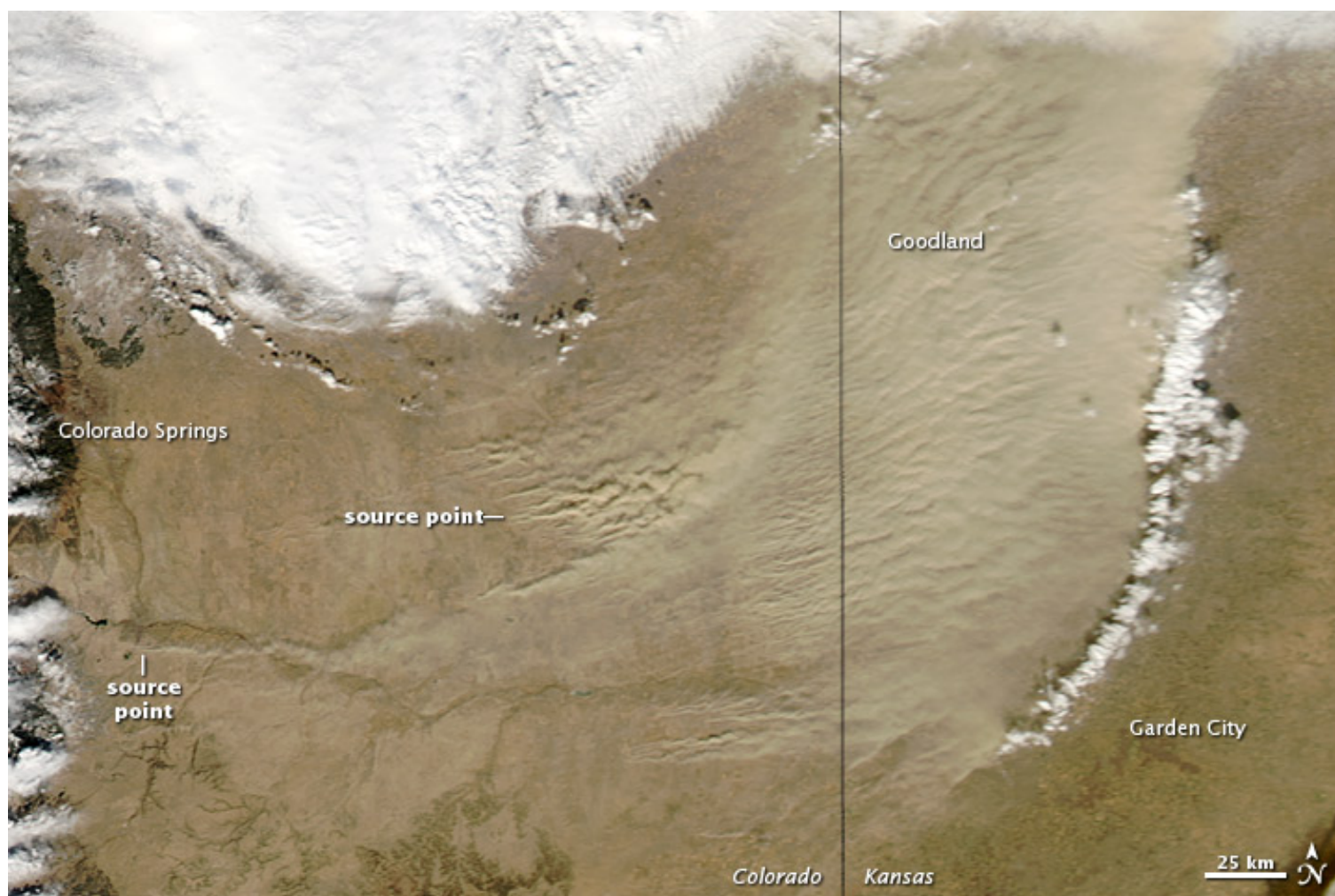




# Dust Storm in Colorado and Kansas

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January 11, 2013

**JPEG**

January 11, 2013

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A cold front pushed eastward across the continental United States in early 2013, passing through

Colorado on January 11. Ahead of the cold front, a dust storm arose along the Colorado-Kansas border. The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Aqua satellite captured this natural-color image on January 11, 2013.

Although the dust was thickest in western Kansas, many of the source points for the storm were in Colorado. One dust plume arose roughly 70 kilometers (40 miles) south of Colorado Springs. In Kansas, the eastern edge of the dust storm spanned 240 kilometers (150 miles) and the dust was thick enough to completely hide the land surface below, especially east of Goodland. Salina.com reported that the blowing dust reduced visibility to a quarter of a mile (0.4 kilometers).

Dust storms in this region have occurred in the midst of severe, lingering drought. As of January 8, 2013, the U.S. Drought Monitor described drought conditions in western Kansas and southeastern Colorado as "exceptional." A smaller dust storm struck the same region in November 2012.

*NASA image courtesy Jeff Schmaltz, LANCE MODIS Rapid Response. Caption by Michon Scott.*

Image of the Day   Atmosphere   Land   Dust and Haze



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**Severe, lingering drought is loosening up soil and sand to be picked up by wind storms.**

Image of the Day for January 17, 2013

**Instrument:**

Aqua — MODIS

**Appears in this Collection:**

MODIS Rapid Response

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Jan 16, 2013

Jan 18, 2013

## References & Resources

Demuth, G. (2013, January 11) Dust storm reduces visibility in northwest Kansas. Salina.com. Accessed January 14, 2013.

U.S. Drought Monitor. (2012, November 13) Current conditions. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Accessed January 14, 2013.