Graphical Representation of Cold Land Processes Experiment Snow Pit Data

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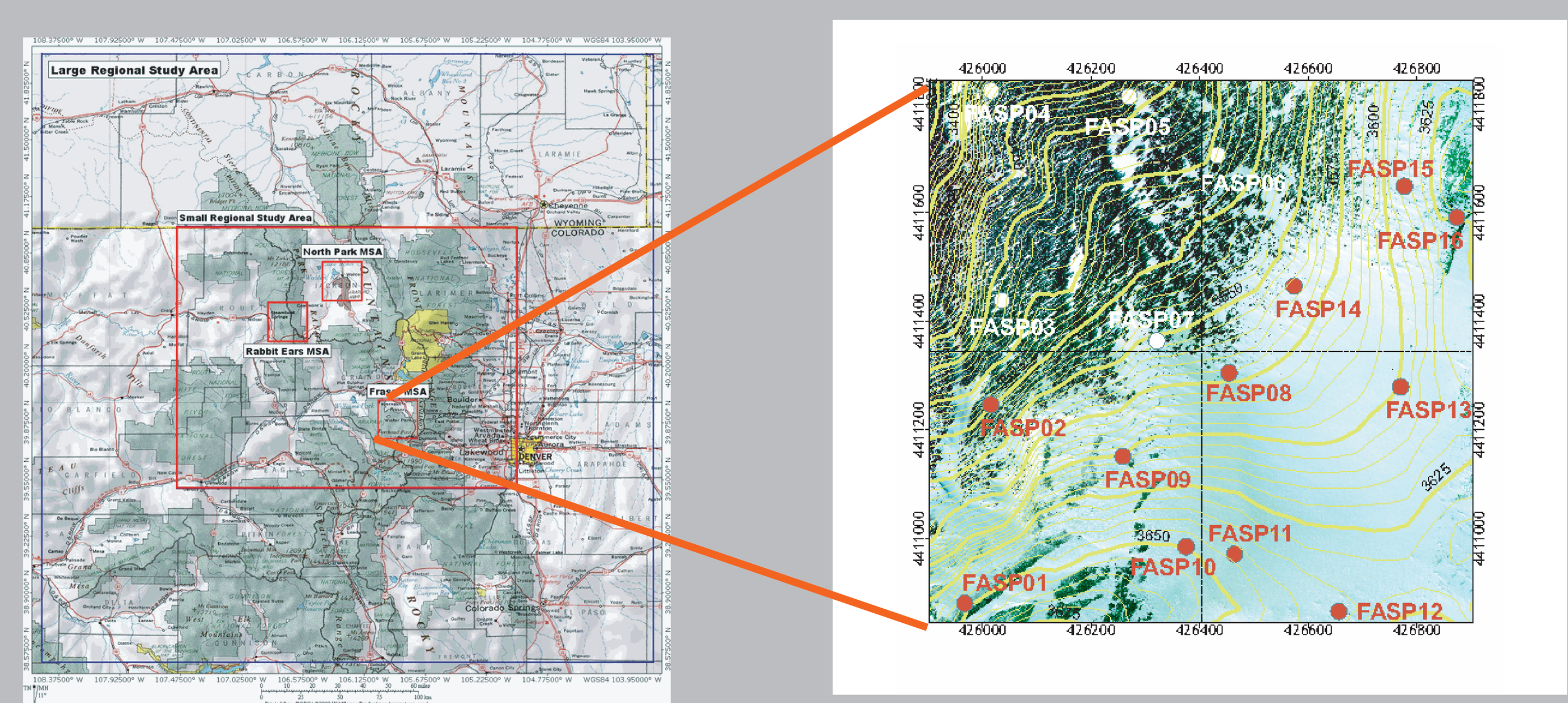
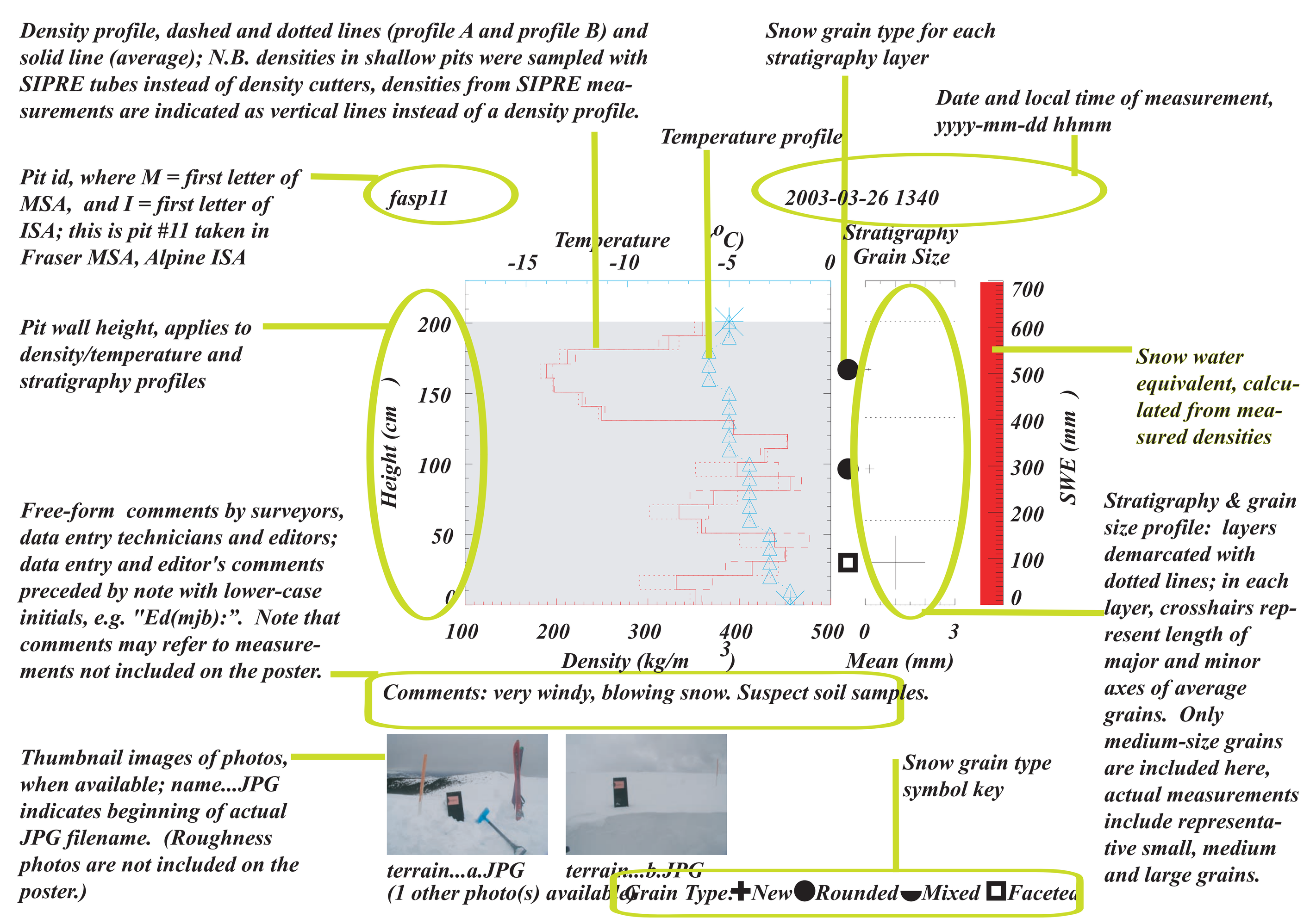
Researchers have gathered data from snow pits for well over a century, yet no common or consistent manner for presenting this information has been devised. In the Cold Land Processes Experiment (CLPX), data were collected from nearly 2,000 snow pits as part of several different data collection efforts. To facilitate intercomparison and to effectively display the large amount of data collected, we have developed a graphical method for presenting data from each snow pit. Sets of these snow-pit graphics can help users identify potential trends, anomalies, and appropriate data for their application. In early 2006, we plan to publish an electronic document with all CLPX IOP snow pit graphics. To request a copy, please contact *nsidc@nsidc.org*. All CLPX data are publicly available. For further information about CLPX data sets, see *http://nsidc.org/data/clpx*.

CLP Experiment Location

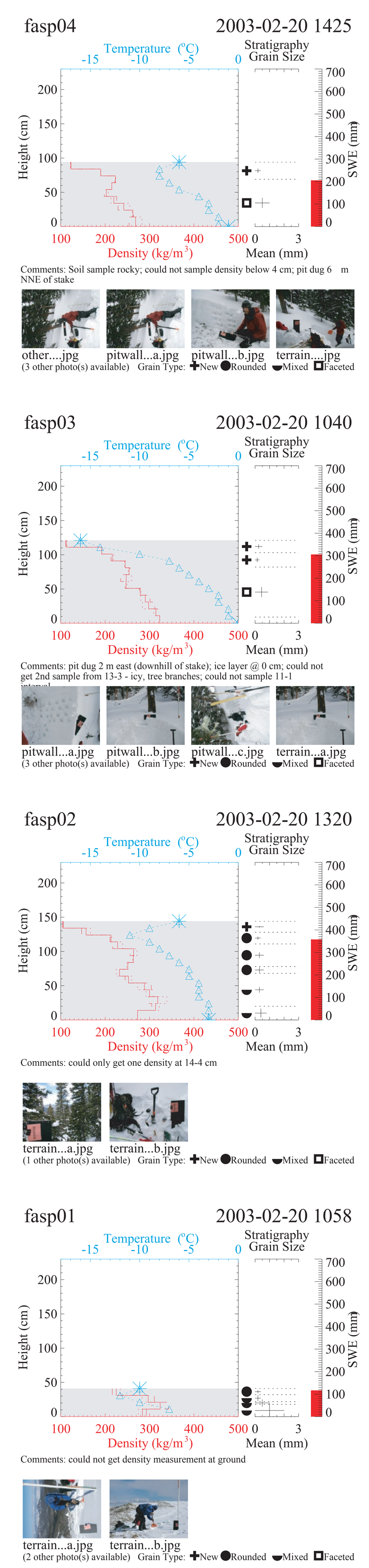


Map of Cold Land Processes Experiment area in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. The experiment included four Intensive Observation Period (IOP) field campaigns during the winters and springs of 2002 and 2003. Inset of Fraser Alpine Intensive Study Area (ISA) indicates snow pit locations and elevation contours, superimposed on an airborne lidar image dated April, 2003. Snow pit data for February and March 2003 are displayed in the poster main panel, ordered by relative location in the ISA.

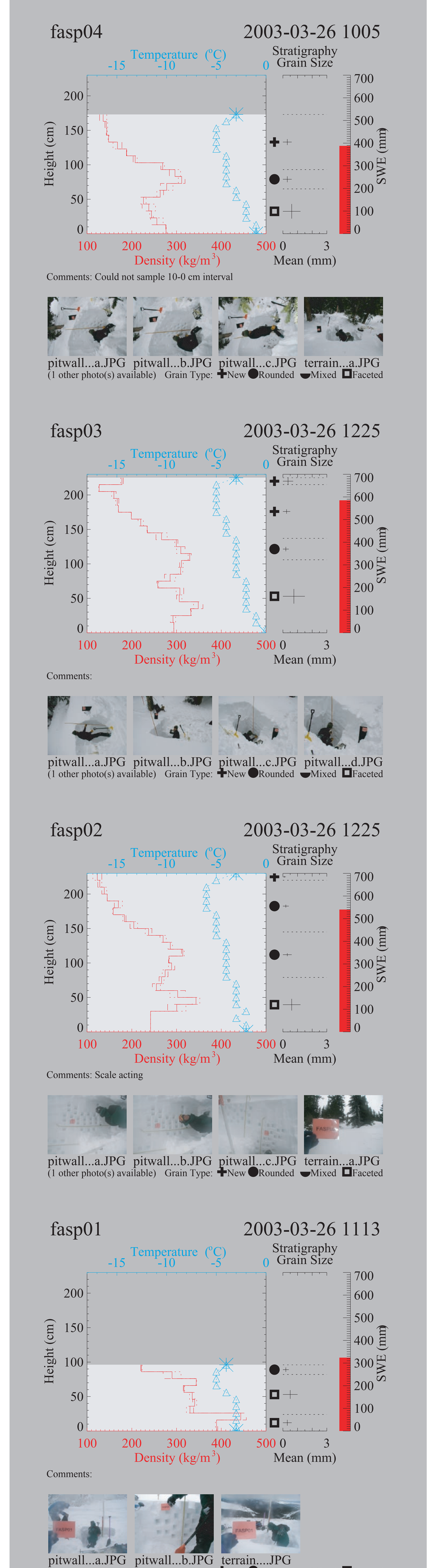
Snow-Pit Graphic Key



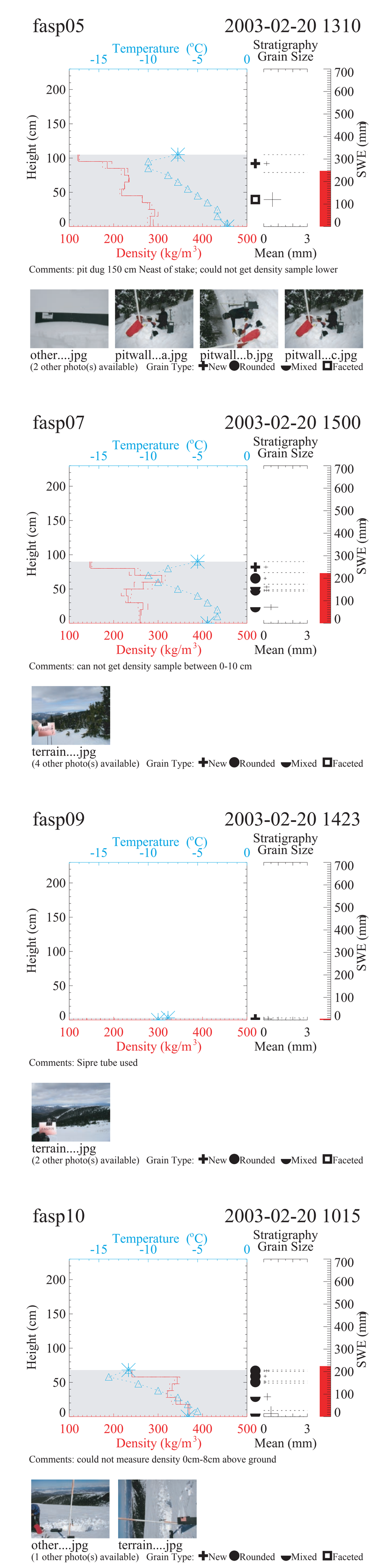
February 2003



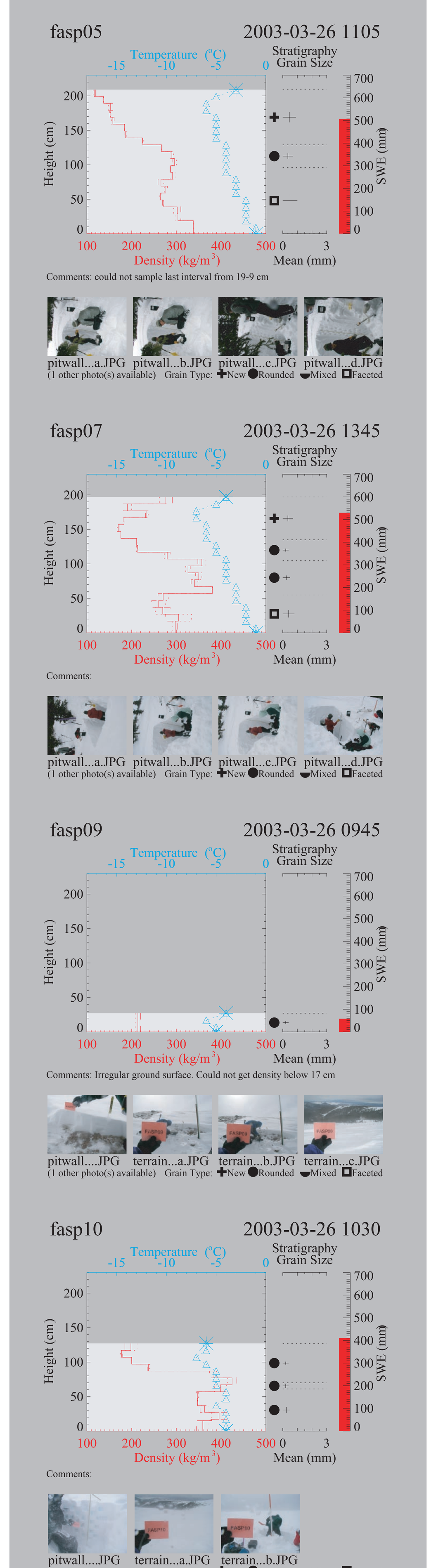
March 2003



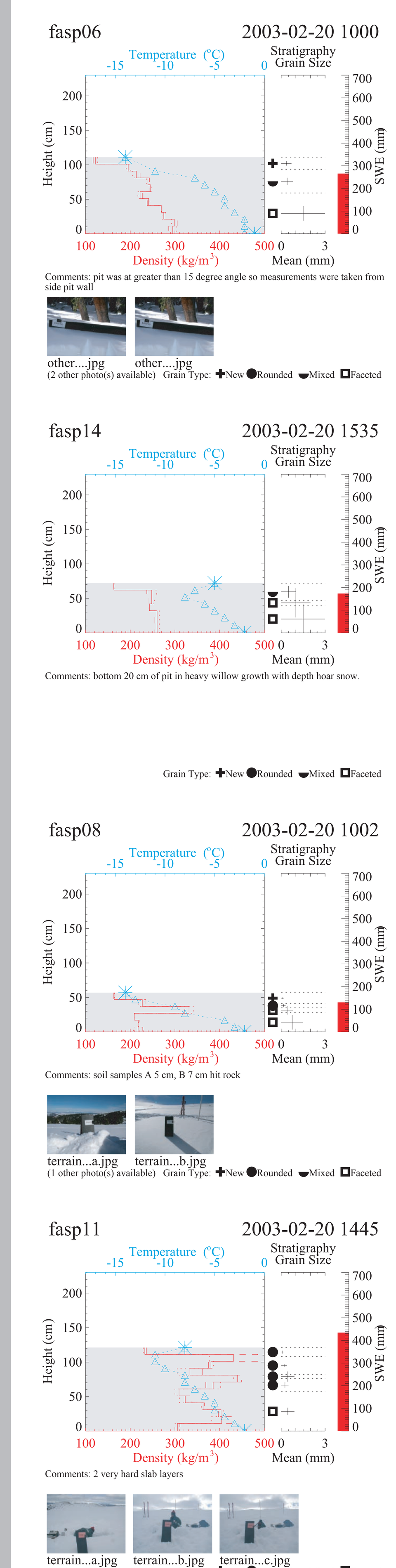
February 2003



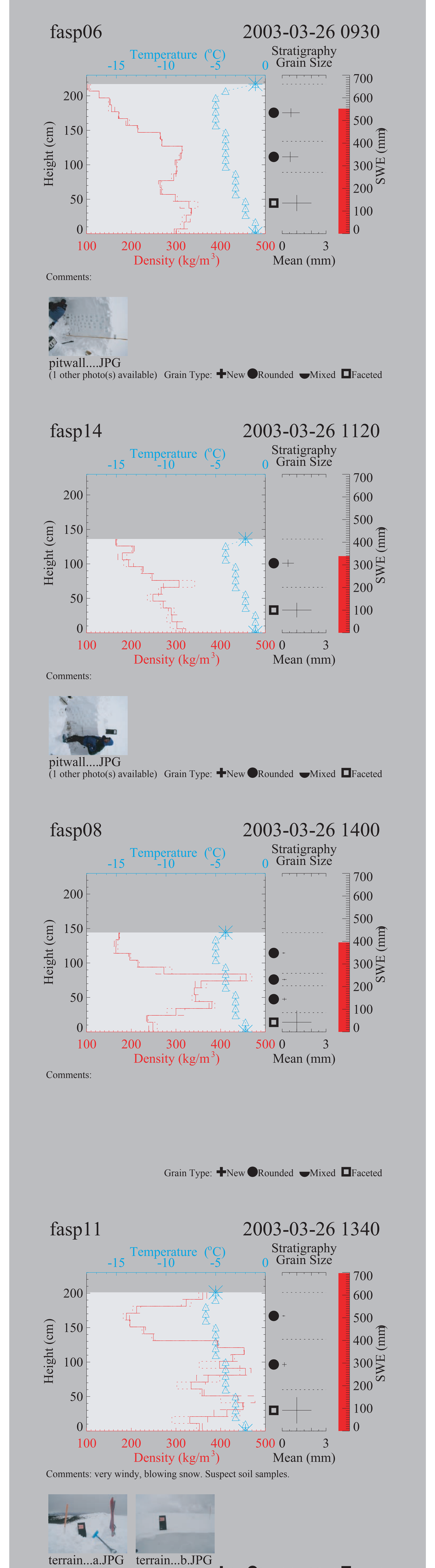
March 2003



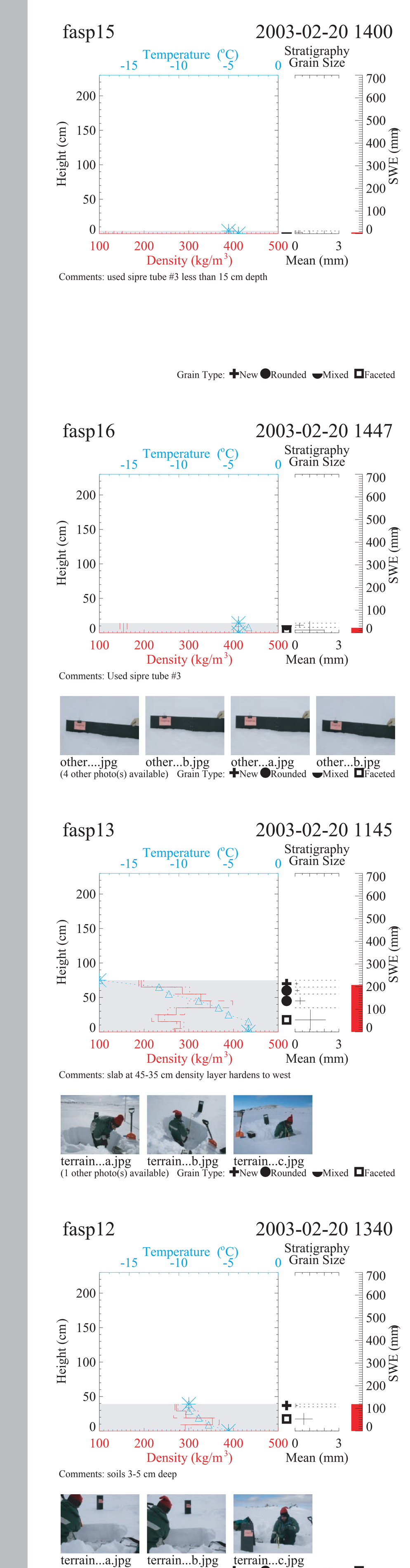
February 2003



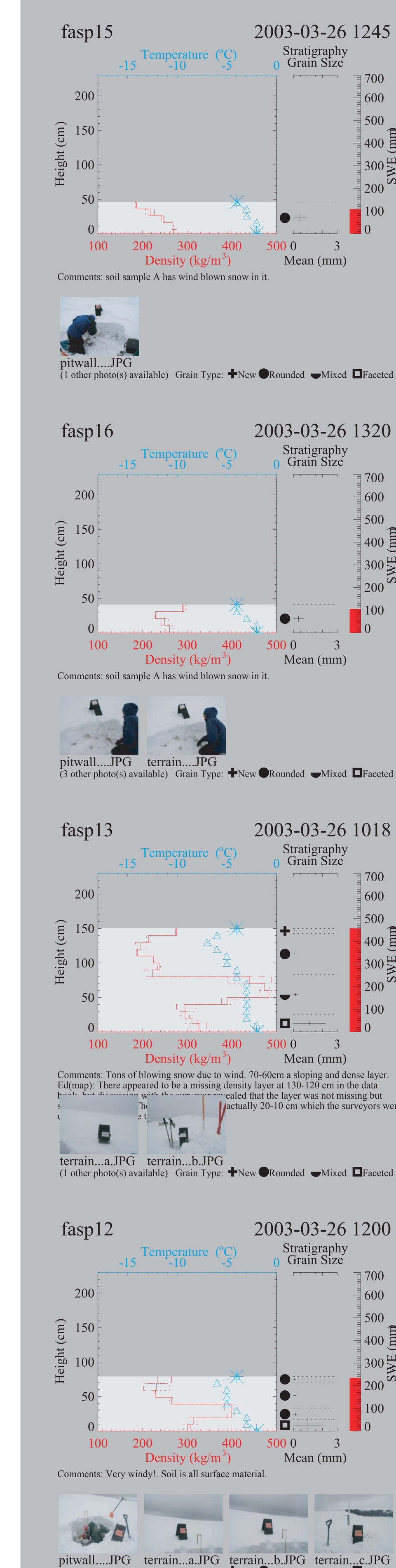
March 2003



February 2003



March 2003



For other examples of snow pit data graphics, see:

Ferguson, S. A. "The Role of Snowpack Structure in Avalanching." Ph.D. dissertation, University of Washington, 1984.
Snow Pilot Project, *http://www.snowpilot.org*.

The use of small multiples in graphic presentation is described in:

Tufte, E. R. *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, 2nd Ed. Cheshire, CT: Graphics Press, 2001.