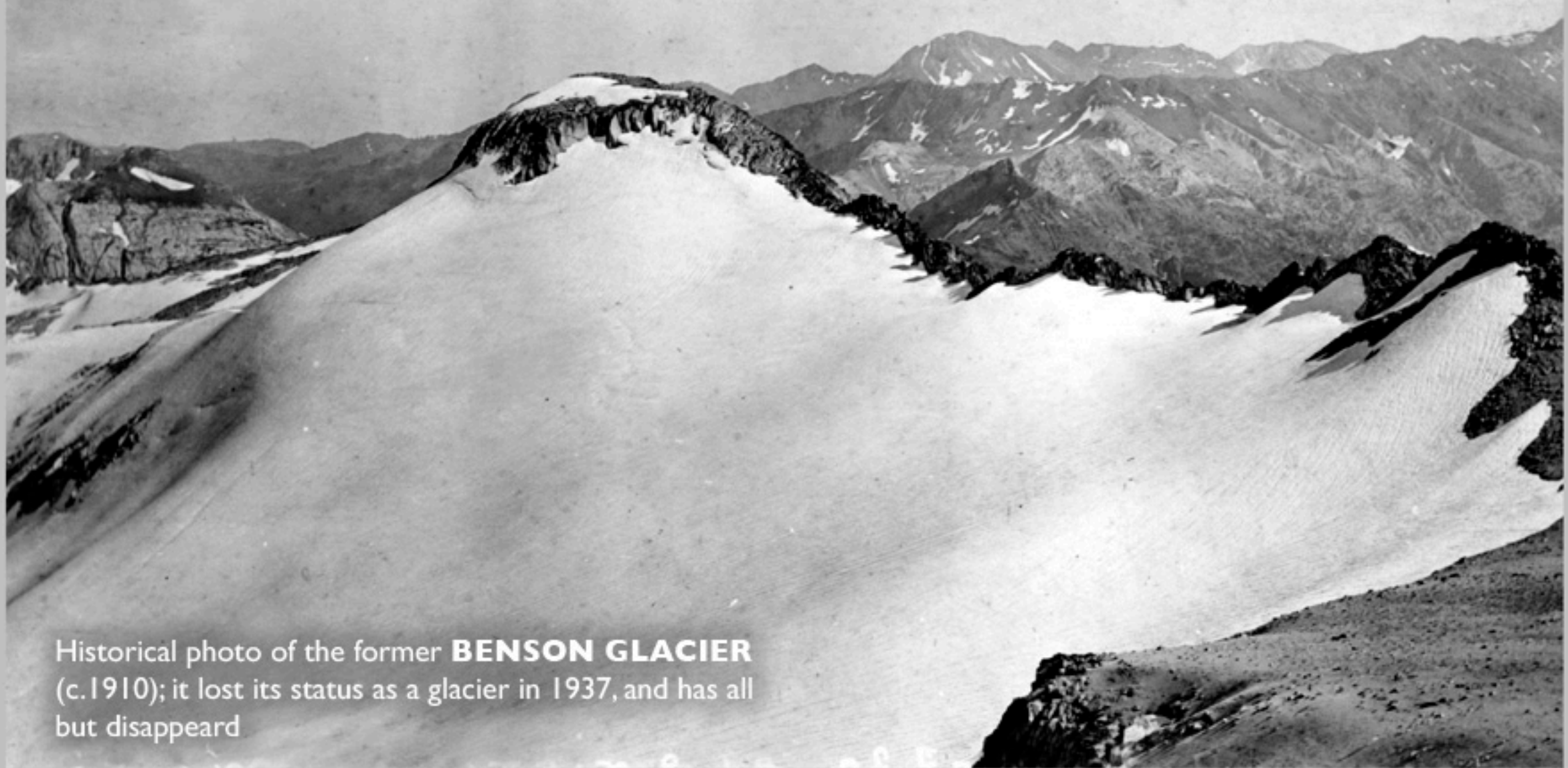


## KNOW YOUR MOUNTAIN CLIMATE FACTS



Historical photo of the former **BENSON GLACIER** (c.1910); it lost its status as a glacier in 1937, and has all but disappeared

**W**ith the *Climate Crisis*, ice world-wide is disappearing at an ever-accelerating rate. If *Lewis & Clark* would have entered the Wallowas just 200 years ago, they would have seen small, vestigial glaciers and ice fields in many of the high cirques and hanging valleys. Since the end the Little Ice Age (c. 1850), these ice fields have all but vanished. Over the same period: (1) the average temperature has increased by, in round numbers, 1 C [1.8 F.]; (2) snowpack has decreased by 50%, begins to build about three weeks later, and melts three weeks earlier; (3) and most importantly, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has risen by 30% from 250 to over 395 ppmv. Increase of CO<sub>2</sub>, because it holds warmth, is like adding more and more layers of insulation to a down blanket. The other important fact that should be remembered is that the effects of climate change increase greatly with both altitude and latitude, largely because of loss of snow reflectivity.