NWS GRAND JUNCTION
COLORADO

A LOOK BACK AT

OCTOBER 2021

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

October started off with generally dry and seasonal conditions across eastern Utah and western Colorado, with unsettled weather returning for the second week of the month. This was the general pattern for the month, long stretches of unsettled weather punctuated with shorter periods of quiet and dry conditions. The first widespread snow of the month, accompanied by strong, gusty winds and well below average temperatures, hit the area on the 12th and 13th, bringing several inches of snow and treacherous travel conditions to the higher elevations of western Colorado. Several weaker systems moved through over the course of the second half of the month, with persistent northwest flow leading to lingering snow showers along the northern Divide mountains and near normal temperatures for the rest of the region. The last week of the month saw a strong cold front move through, bringing mountain rain and valley snow, along with gusty winds and below average temperatures. By Halloween, conditions had returned once more to generally quiet and seasonal, for all but along the northern Divide.

OCTOBER 2021
CLIMATE SUMMARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas OCTOBER have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

PAGE #	PAGE TITLE
1	Cover
2	Table of Contents
3	Story of the Month
4	Temperatures
5	Precipitation
6	Total Monthly Precipitation
7	Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal
8	Daily Records Report
9	Drought Conditions as of NOVEMBER 9TH
10	Snowpack Conditions as of November 15th
11	November Outlook

STORY OF THE MONTH

12th OCTOBER SNOWFALL

A strong, cold low pressure system pushed across eastern Utah and western Colorado from October 11th through the 13th, bringing widespread precipitation and temperatures 10-20 degrees below average. With such a cold system, snow levels dropped down to some valley floors. While the Grand Valley didn't get in on any snow, Blanding, Utah, which sits at an elevation of around 6000 feet, did! Across the mountains of western Colorado, this system brought a treacherous Tuesday morning commute, with snow packed roads, gusty winds, and blowing snow limiting visibility.

Photo: Utah State University

OCTOBER 2021

TEMPERATURES

Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	43.7 (-0.7)	74 on 10/25	25 on 10/15, 16, 20
Cortez, CO	48.8 (-0.2)	76 on 10/4, 5	24 on 10/20, 21, 22
Craig, CO	45.6 (+1.2)	79 on 10/5	22 on 10/20
Durango, CO	47.1 (0.0)	75 on 10/5	22 on 10/28
Grand Junction, CO	51.8 (-1.4)	80 on 10/5	31 on 10/15, 27
Meeker, CO	45.0 (-0.7)	76 on 10/5	21 on 10/15
Montrose, CO	49.6 (-1.1)	78 on 10/5	26 on 10/16
Rifle, CO	49.6 (+0.1)	79 on 10/5	26 on 10/16
Canyonlands Airport, UT	52.6 (-1.6)	80 on 10/4	30 on 10/15
Vernal, UT	47.7 (-1.1)	75 on 10/4, 5	25 on 10/15

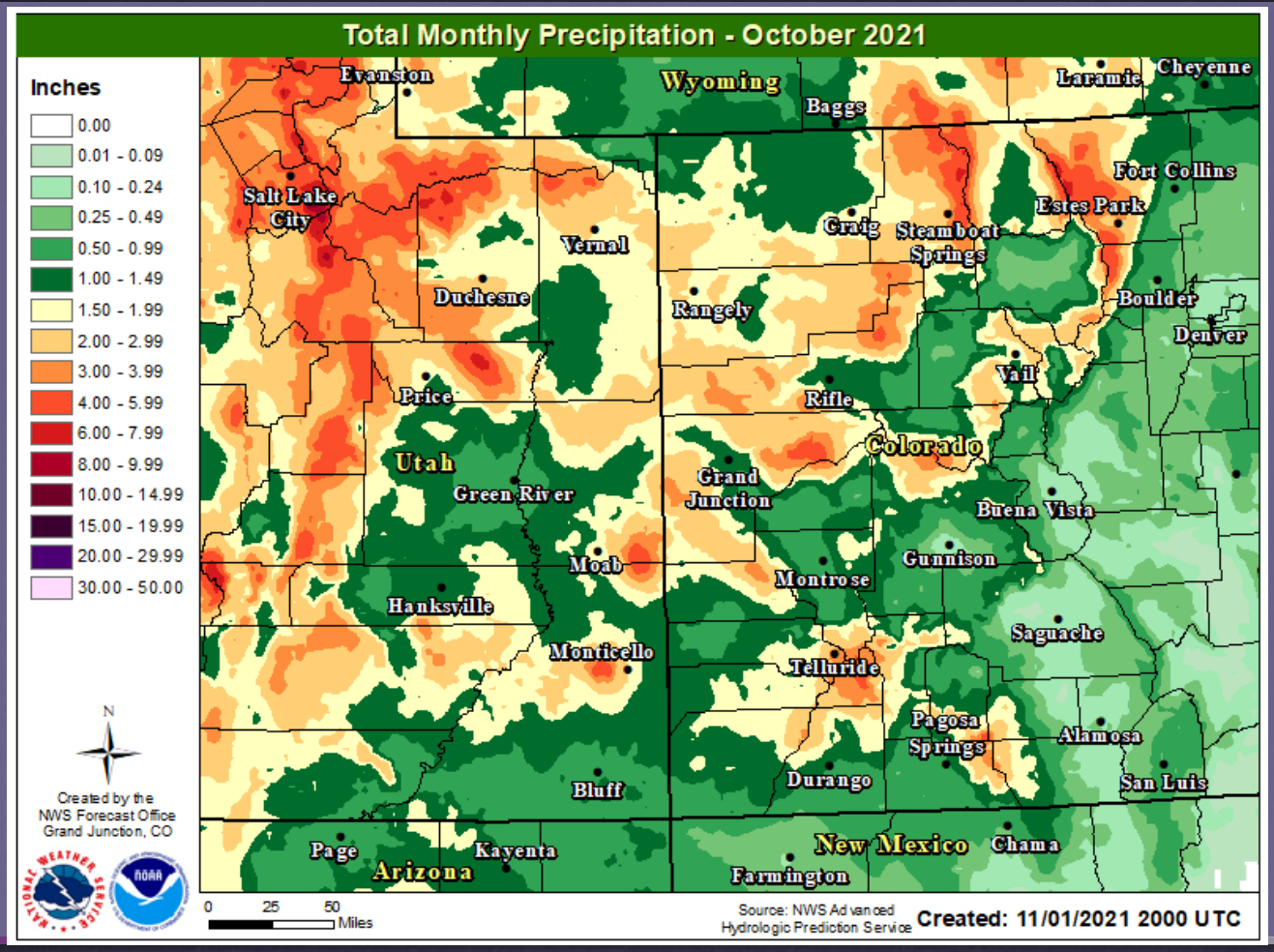
OCTOBER 2021

PRECIPITATION

Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.83	-0.50
Cortez, CO	1.17	+0.11
Craig, CO	1.87	+0.39
Durango, CO	0.74	-0.67
Grand Junction, CO	1.41	+0.42
Meeker, CO	1.92	+0.32
Montrose, CO	0.70	-0.28
Rifle, CO	1.06	-0.21
Canyonlands Airport, UT	1.46	+0.62
Vernal, UT	1.83	+0.76

OCTOBER 2021
CLIMATE SUMMARY

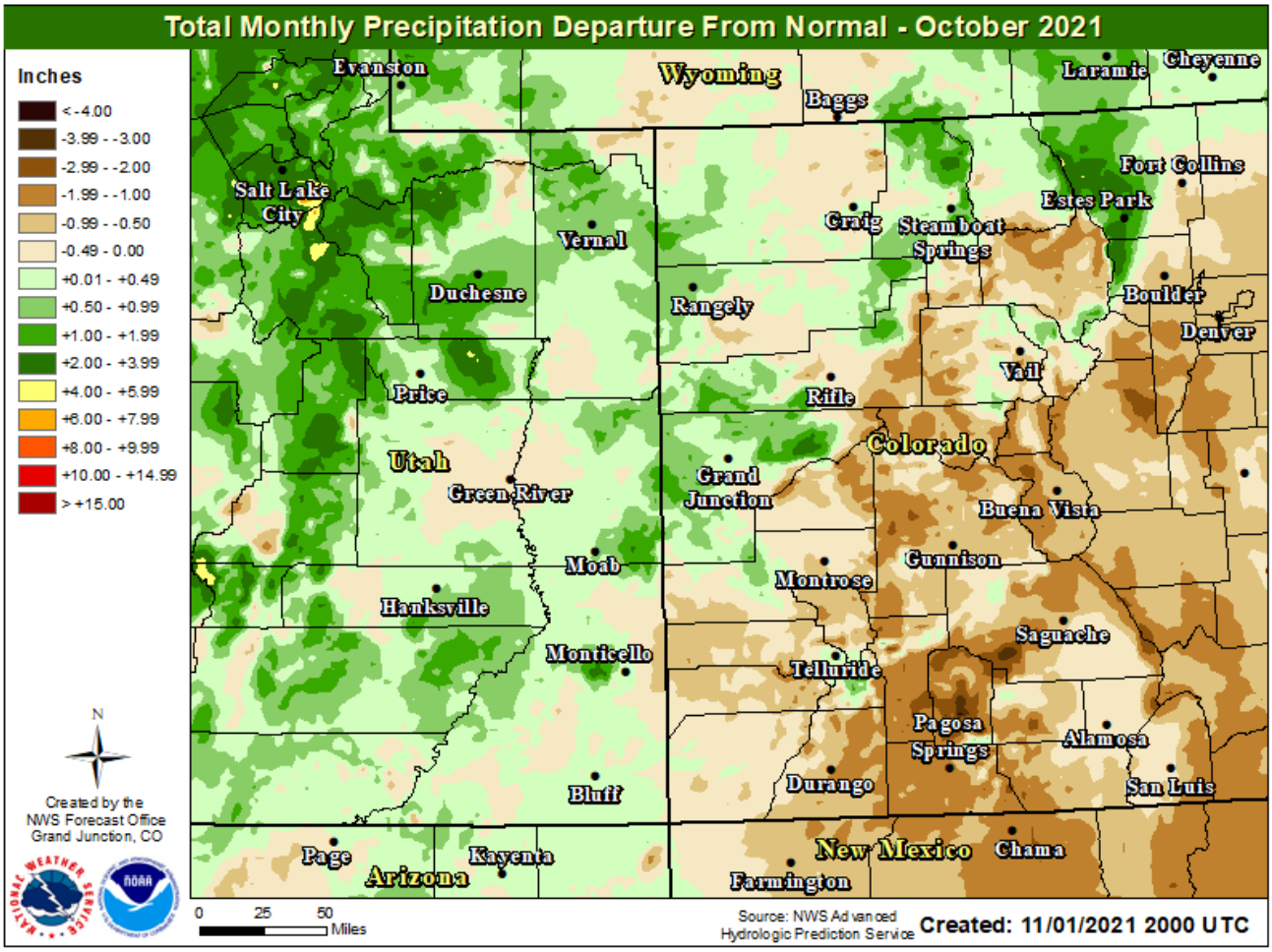
TOTAL MONTHLY
PRECIPITATION



OCTOBER 2021
CLIMATE SUMMARY

TOTAL MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION
DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



OCTOBER 2021
CLIMATE SUMMARY

DAILY RECORDS REPORT

A total of 1 daily record was set across the primary climate sites

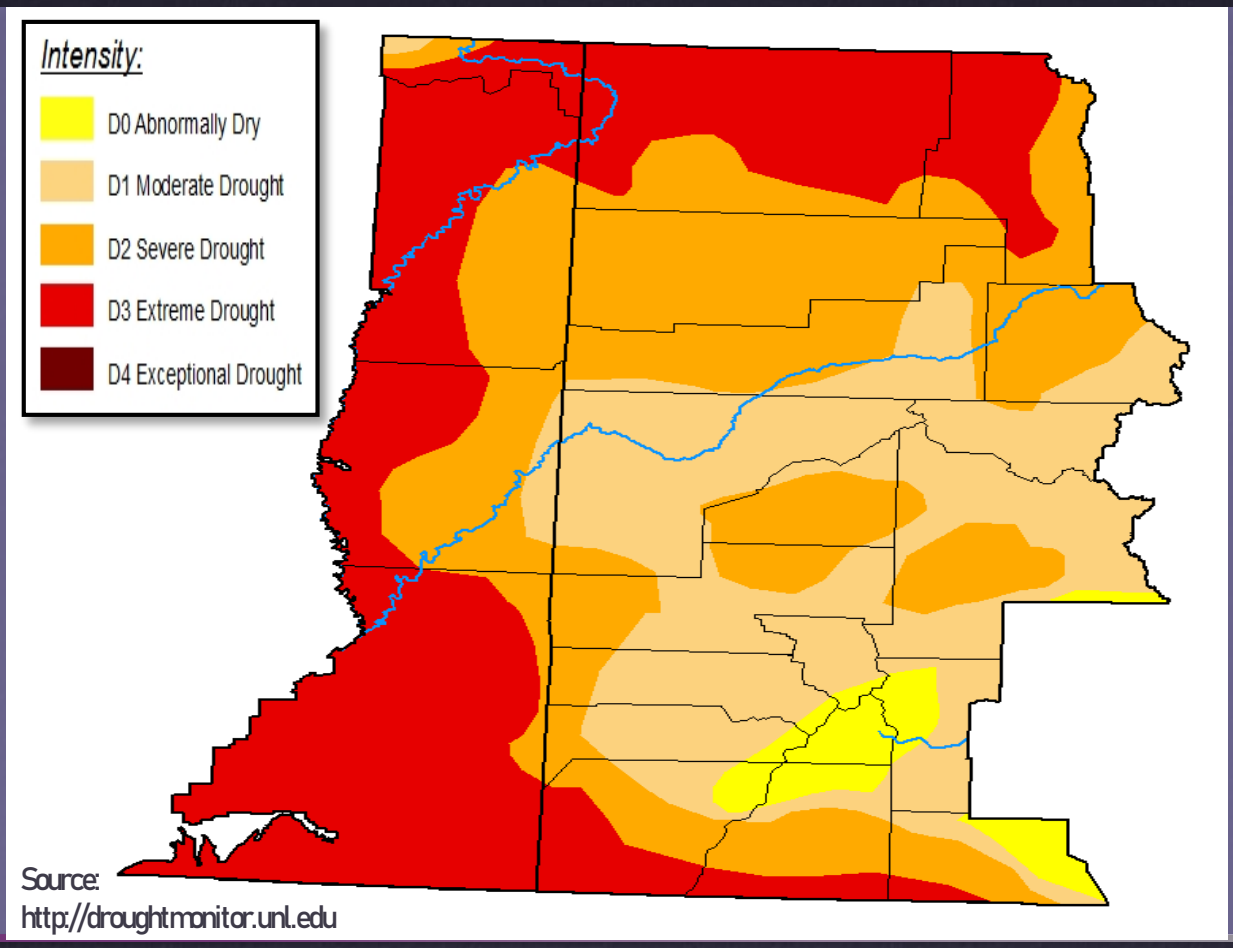
Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	OCTOBER 25th	High Max Temperature	77° (Tied)	77° in 2014

High Max | Low Max | Precip | High Min | Low Min

DROUGHT CONDITIONS UPDATE

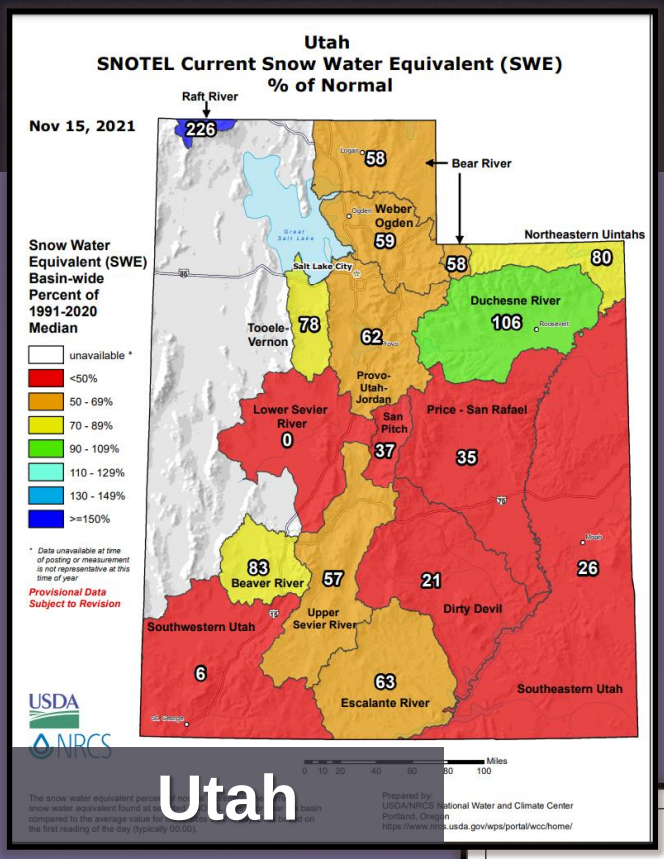
AS OF NOVEMBER 9TH

Extreme (D3) to exceptional (D4) drought conditions persisted across the majority of eastern Utah and northwest Colorado throughout OCTOBER. Across southwest Colorado, while drought conditions continued, they remained less severe compared to the rest of the region, ranging from the severe (D2) to abnormally dry (D0) category.



SNOWPACK CONDITIONS UPDATE

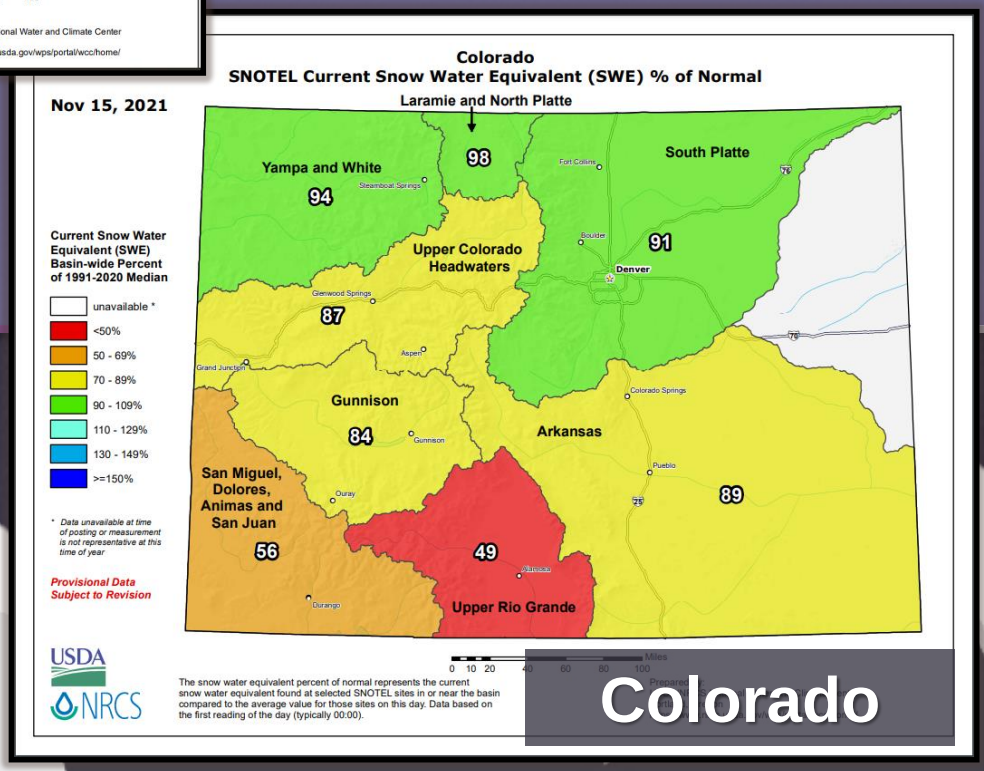
AS OF NOVEMBER 15TH



Utah

For Utah…The snowpack for most of the eastern Utah basins are below 50% of normal. The Northeastern Uintas are at 80% of normal.

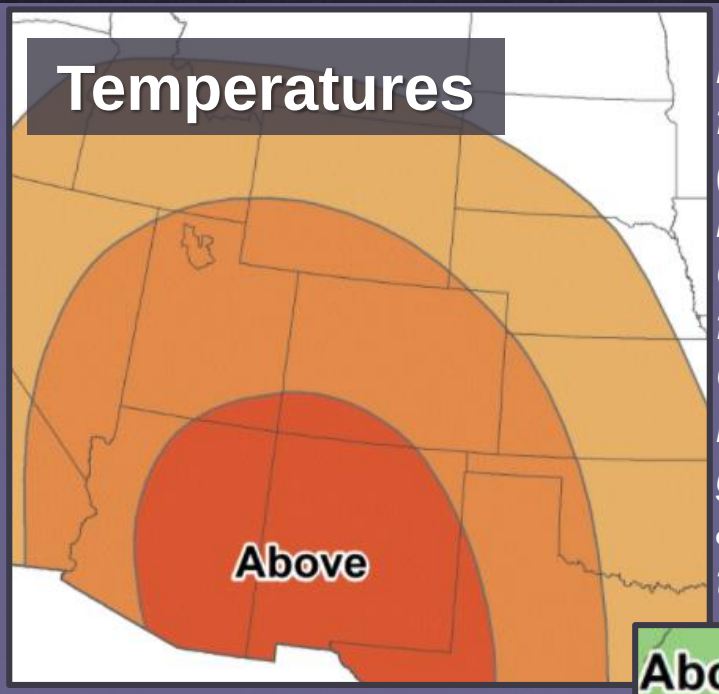
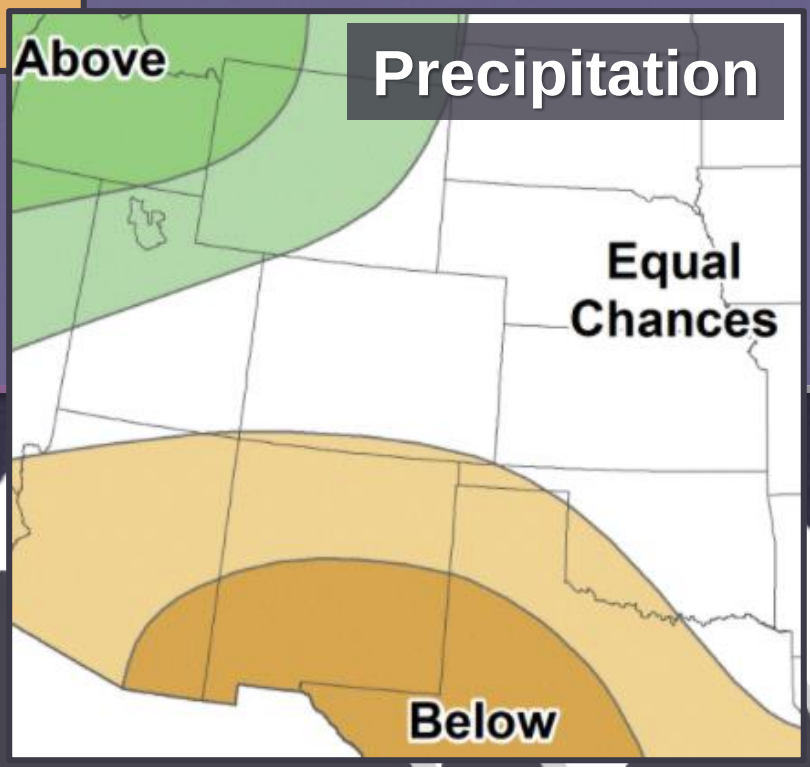
For Colorado…The snowpack for the western Colorado basins is 85-95% of normal, except for southwest Colorado, which is at 56% of normal.



Colorado

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



For October, the latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) shows odds favoring above normal temperatures for western Colorado and eastern Utah, except for southeast Utah and southwest Colorado, where confidence is less. With regards to precipitation, guidance does not favor either above or below average at this time.