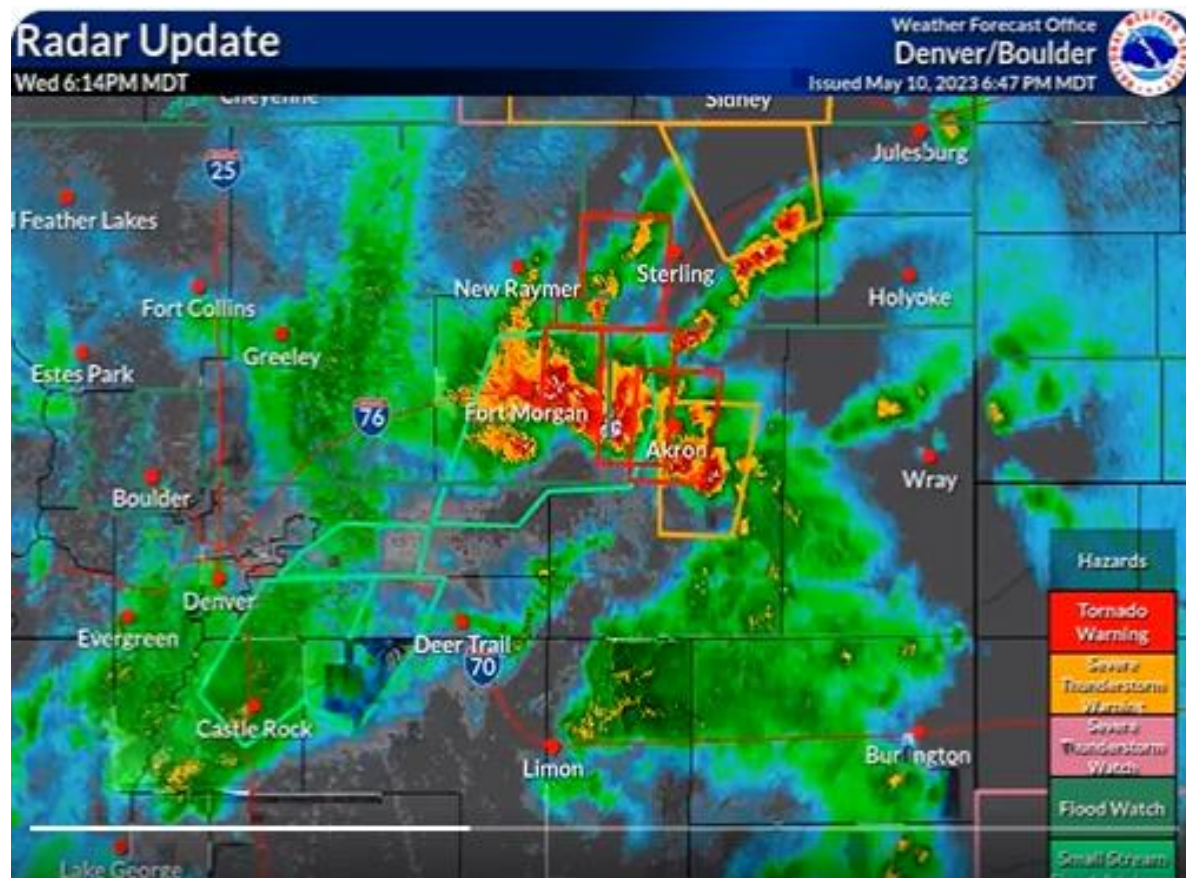


# May 2023 Climate Summary for Denver

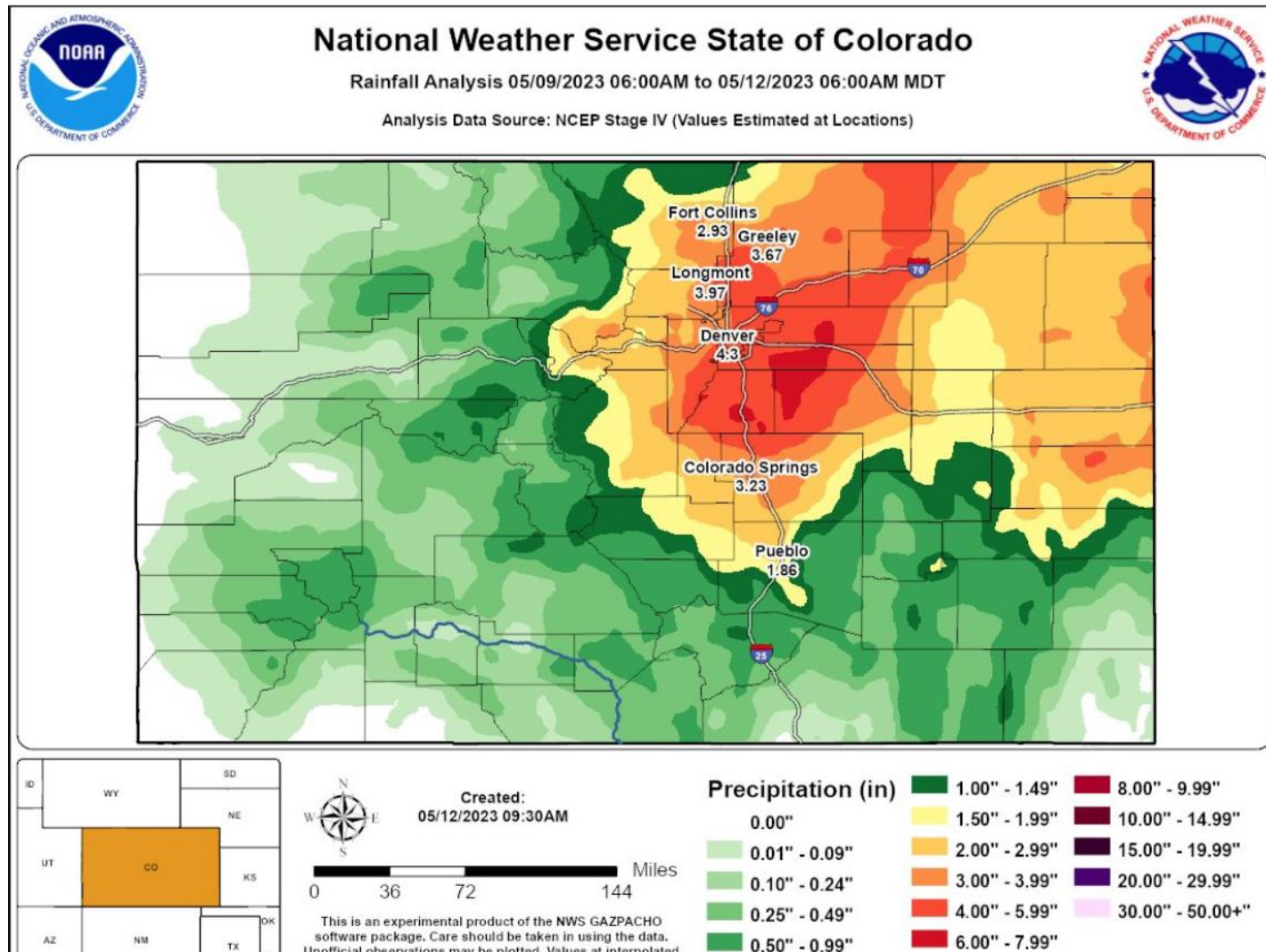


May 2023 was characterized by extremely wild and wet conditions through much of the month, or should we say moth? A drier than normal April resulted in windy and dusty conditions in the first week of May, especially on the 4-6<sup>th</sup>. Centennial Airport recorded a gust to 60 mph on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The high based thunderstorms that did develop in that time produced blowing dust, poor visibilities, and dangerous driving conditions along I-76 near Wiggins and I-70 near Bennett. Extreme fire danger was also in place south and southeast of Denver. Severe thunderstorms produced damaging hail on the evening of May 9<sup>th</sup>. The hail ranged from golfball to tennis ball size across parts of eastern Boulder, Morgan and Weld counties. Extensive property damage was reported in Erie, Firestone, Frederick, Hoyt, Johnstown and Longmont. Another round of severe thunderstorms hammered parts of Denver on the 10<sup>th</sup> and areas south and east of Denver. In eastern Arapahoe, Morgan and Washington counties, the hail ranged from baseball to softball size! A tornado struck a home near Brush and caused extensive damage. Part of the roof was blown off and several trees on the property were downed. Heavy rain and flooding occurred around Mother's Day on the 12<sup>th</sup>, where record rainfall occurred over much of northeast Colorado. A 24-hr daily record of 2.92 inches of rain occurred on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a 2-day total of 3.75 inches on the 11-12<sup>th</sup>, and 3-day total of 4.40 inches from the 10-12<sup>th</sup> in Denver. The prolonged period of moderate to heavy rainfall resulted in flooding, flash flooding and washed out roads in Denver and surrounding areas, including Cherry Creek State Park and the National Wildlife Refuge at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal. The slow moving storm system produced 3-day storm total rainfall from 4 to 7 inches across the urban corridor and northeast plains, with 1 to 2 feet of heavy wet snowfall in the Front Range Mountains above 10 thousand feet. Three men in the foothills of Douglas County had to be rescued when their vehicle got stuck in snow along Rampart Range Road in Pike National Forest. The heavy snow toppled trees which blocked the road; rescuers had to use chainsaws to cut the trees to reach the stranded men. The rescue took nearly 21 hours. Smoke and haze from wildfires in Canada significantly impacted air quality and visibility from the 18-26<sup>th</sup>. By the end of the month, 5.53 inches of rainfall was observed at Denver International Airport, making it the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest May on record.

A tornado touched down on May 10<sup>th</sup>, southwest to Akron near Woodrow.



A maximum daily record rainfall of 2.92" was set in Denver for May 11th, which smashed the previous record of 1.55" set back in 2011!





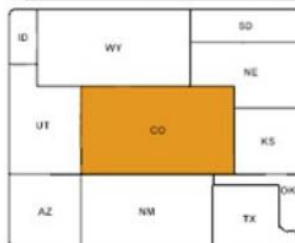
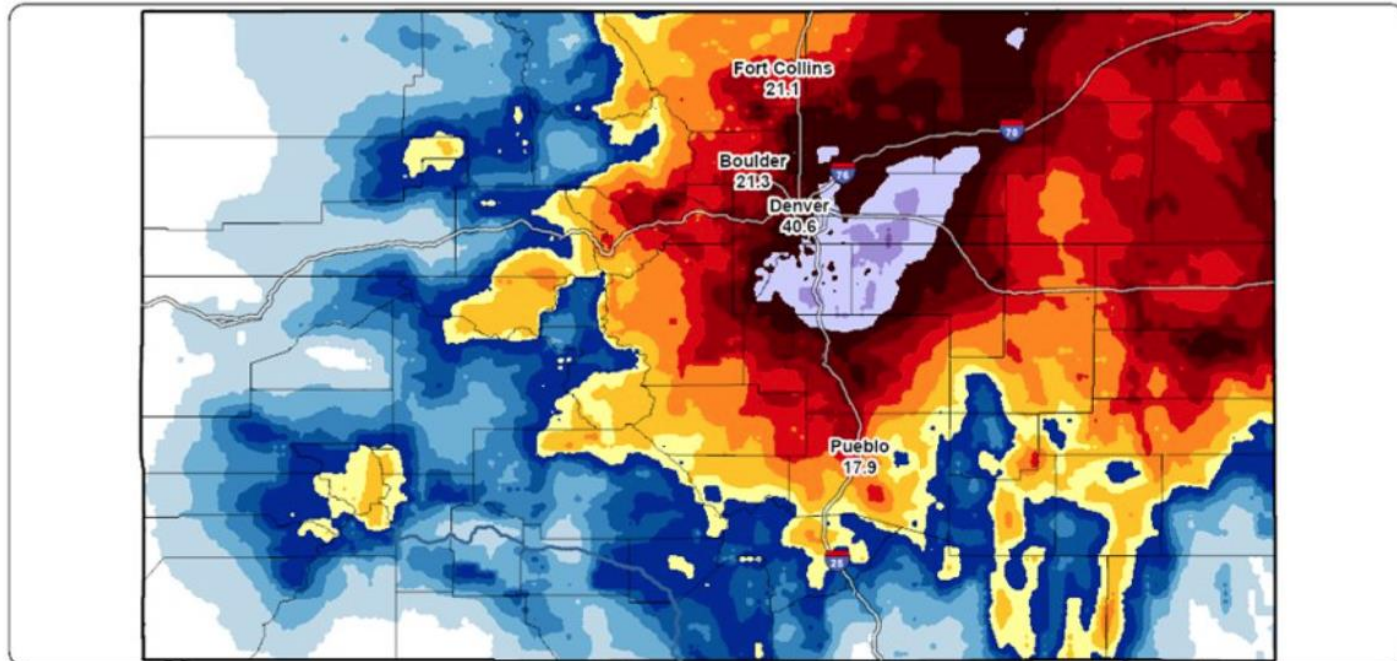
# What IF it had been all snow vs rain?

## Let's just say, we're glad it wasn't!



### National Weather Service Denver/Boulder

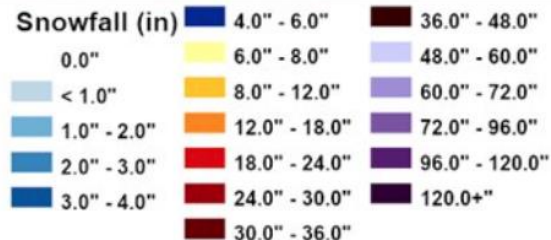
Estimated Snowfall if Rain had been all Snow from 5/9 to 5/12  
Snowfall Ratio 10:1



Created:  
05/12/2023 10:15AM

0 36 72 144 Miles

This is an experimental product of the NWS GAZPACHO software package. Care should be taken in using the data. Unofficial observations may be plotted. Values at interpolated locations may not represent actual reports at that location.



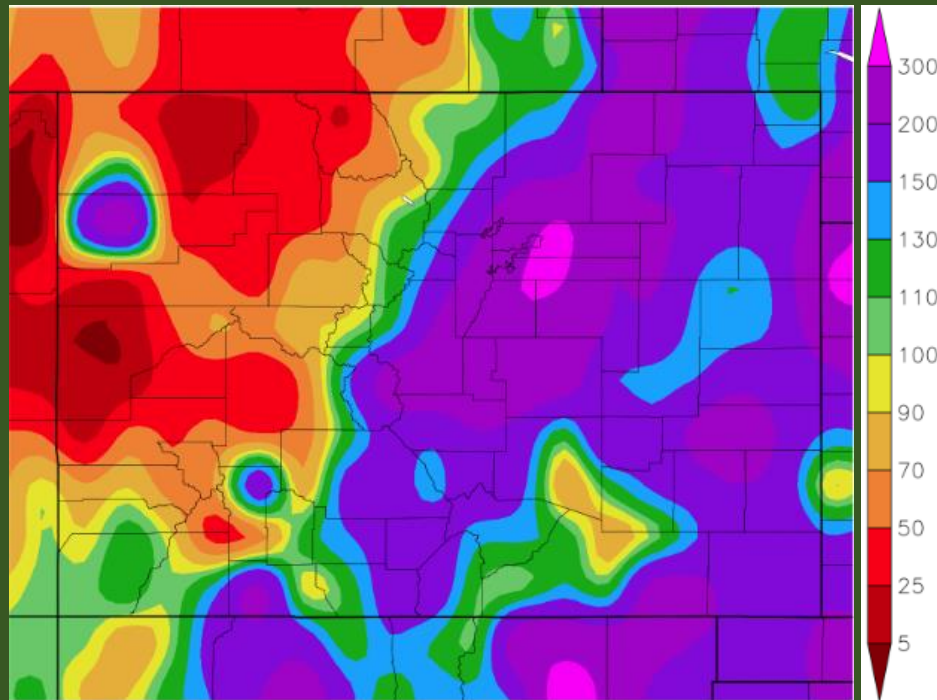
Heavy rainfall produced extensive flooding in some areas May 10-12<sup>th</sup> , which included The Wildlife Drive at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.



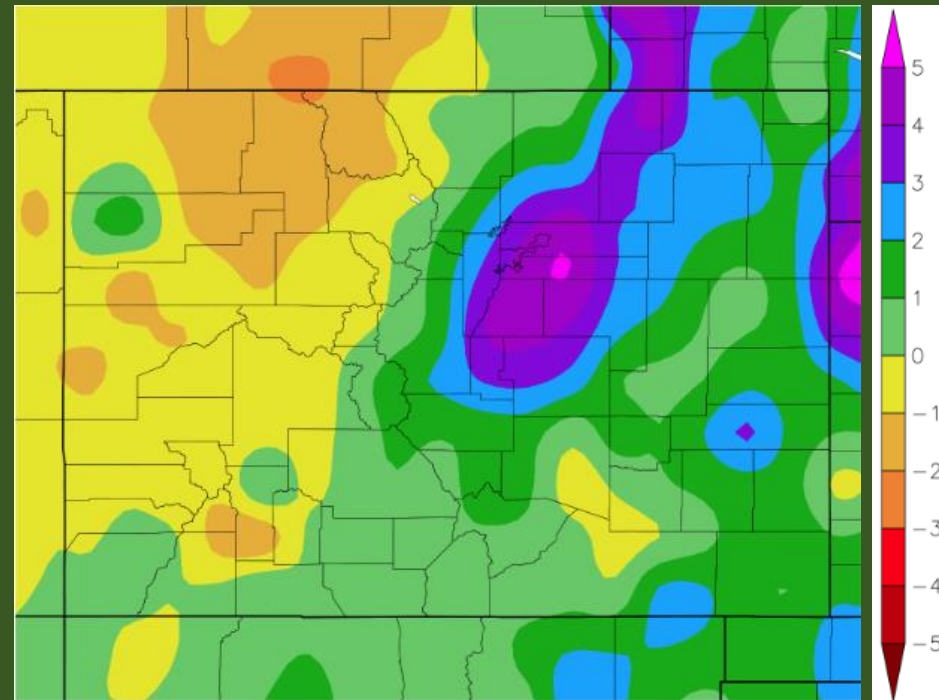
Photo courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

# May 2023

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Departure from Normal Precipitation



Graphics generated by HPRCC using provisional data

# TEMPERATURES:

The average temperature at Denver International Airport for the month of May was 59.4 degrees F which is 2.0 degrees above the normal of 57.4 degrees. There were 0 days in the month in which the temperature reached or exceeded the 90 degree mark. The warmest temperature of the month was 82 degrees on the 29<sup>th</sup> , while the coldest temperature 38 degrees occurred on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup>. No new temperatures records were established in the month.

## Ten Warmest May Average Temperature in Denver Weather History SINCE 1872: DEGREES F

64.7 - 1934  
63.2 - 1994  
62.0 - 1886  
61.7 - 1958  
61.6 - 1974, 1879  
61.5 - 1939  
61.4 - 2018  
61.3 - 1936  
61.1 - 1875

## Ten Coldest May Average Temperature in Denver Weather History SINCE 1872: DEGREES F

48.7 - 1917  
50.0 - 1995  
50.1 - 1935  
50.3 - 1907  
51.4 - 1983  
51.5 - 1892  
51.6 - 2019  
52.0 - 1946  
52.6 - 1967  
52.7 - 1924

# PRECIPITATION:

Denver received 5.53 inches of precipitation during May of 2023. This is 3.37 inches above the monthly average of 2.16 inches. The highest daily precipitation amount of The highest daily precipitation amount of 2.92 on the 12th.

## TEN WETTEST MAY TOTALS IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY SINCE 1872:

### INCHES

8.57 - 1876  
7.31 - 1857  
6.12 - 1969  
5.53 - 2023  
5.06 - 1973  
4.95 - 1935  
4.88 - 1938, 1898  
4.79 - 2011  
4.77 - 1967

## TEN DRIEST MAY TOTALS IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY SINCE 1872:

### INCHES

0.06 - 1974  
0.09 - 1886  
0.15 - 1899  
0.22 - 1919  
0.34 - 1977, 1966  
0.43 - 1925  
0.49 - 1972  
0.52 - 1911  
0.53 - 1900



# SNOWFALL

May is Denver's least snowiest month of the snow season with a monthly average of 1.4 inches (NCEI 1991-2020). No snow fell during May of 2023 which is 1.4 inches below normal.

## TEN HIGHEST SNOW TOTALS FOR MAY IN DENVER WEATHER HISTORY

### INCHES

15.5	-	1898
13.7	-	1950
13.5	-	1978
13.2	-	1912
12.0	-	1917
10.0	-	1908
9.0	-	1907
8.9	-	1893
8.8	-	1957
8.3	-	1944

## Least snowiest May's in Denver weather history

There have been numerous times in which Denver received no snowfall during the month of May.