

# NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A L O O K  
BACK AT

**APRIL 2026**  
WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

The month of April began cooler and unsettled, with mountain snow and below normal temperatures. Widespread freezes accompanied this period, with some orchards and vineyards across the West Slope seeing some losses. High pressure began to build in by the 5th of the month, with temperatures rebounding. By the 10th, temperatures were expected to run 10-15 degrees above normal. Mountain snow showers transitioned to mountain thunderstorms by this point in the month, which brought gusty winds but little in the way of precipitation. A strong storm approached the region by mid-month, with gusty winds of 40-50 mph ahead of it. A strong cold front brought much colder air into the region yet again, with freeze concerns returning, as well as accumulating mountain snow. Temperatures finally climbed back toward normal values by the 19th of the month, as high pressure and sunny skies returned. This period of relative quiet only lasted a few days, however, as another strong, cold system made its way into the Great Basin and created strong, gusty winds ahead of it. Winds gusted 45-55 mph across the region. This period also saw the return of widespread critical fire weather as the winds combined with dry surface levels and critical fuels. Cooler and unsettled weather returned to round out the month, with the last week seeing temperatures 5-15 degrees below normal and widespread mountain rain and snow showers. A cooler and wetter month that was a welcome change from the hot and dry March.



# APRIL 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



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

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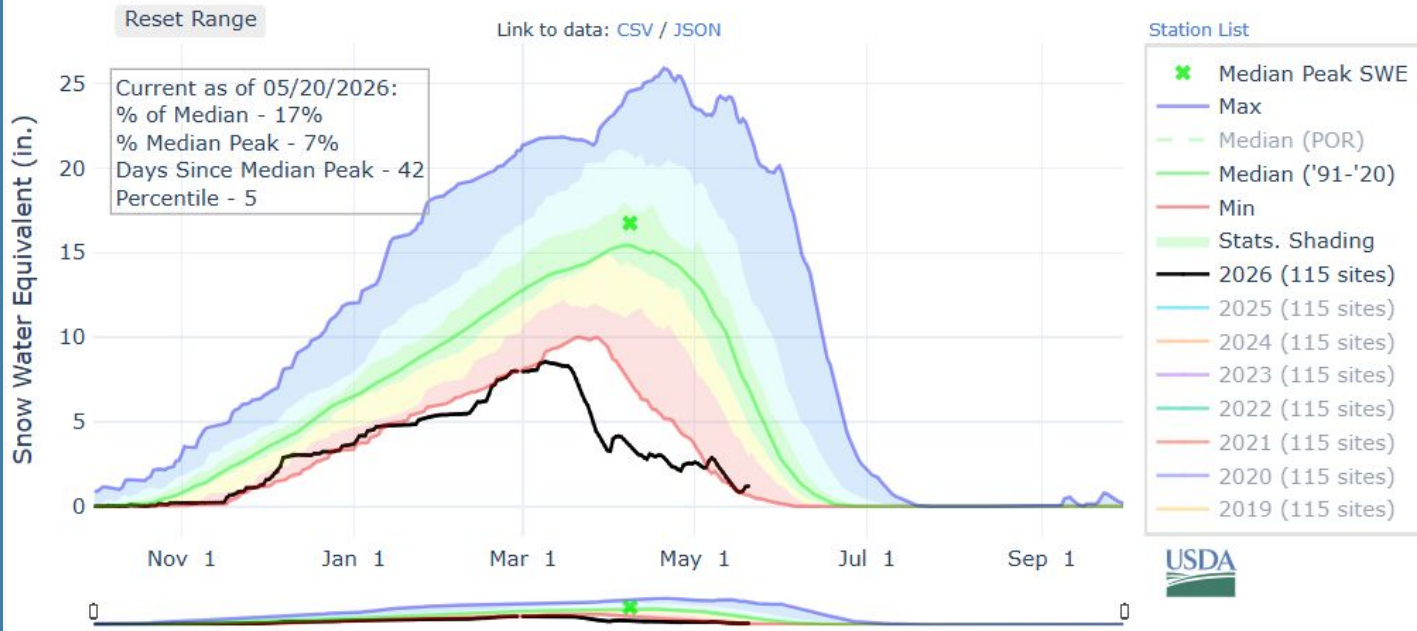


# STORY OF THE MONTH

# SNOWPACK CONDITIONS UPDATE

*There's no way around it, the snowpack in the West is still in very bad shape. But the month of April did give us enough of a boost that, at least in Utah and Colorado, the snow hasn't completely melted out. Much cooler temperatures during the month of April significantly slowed the melting of the snowpack. Additionally, a more active and wetter pattern helped to actual boost the snowpack at times, or at least make up for what snow was lost during warmer periods during the month. As a result, both Utah and Colorado's statewide SWE values have crawled back onto the graph- albeit just barely.*

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF COLORADO



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# TEMPERATURES



Location	AVG Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (° F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	42.5 <b>(+1.2)</b>	71 on 4/21	17 on 4/3
Cortez, CO	48.9 <b>(+2.0)</b>	78 on 4/21	17 on 4/18
Craig, CO	43.1 <b>(+0.2)</b>	77 on 4/21	10 on 4/3
Durango, CO	46.8 <b>(+2.1)</b>	75 on 4/21	14 on 4/18
Grand Junction, CO	54.7 <b>(+2.8)</b>	81 on 4/9, 21	27 on 4/18
Meeker, CO	44.2 <b>(+0.4)</b>	77 on 4/21	9 on 4/3
Montrose, CO	51.7 <b>(+2.5)</b>	77 on 4/9	22 on 4/18
Rifle, CO	49.6 <b>(+1.9)</b>	80 on 4/21	19 on 4/3
Canyonlands Airport, UT	54.7 <b>(+1.6)</b>	83 on 4/21	27 on 4/18
Vernal, UT	48.5 <b>(+0.5)</b>	79 on 4/21	23 on 4/18



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# PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.64	-0.16
Cortez, CO	1.11	+0.36
Craig, CO	2.46	+0.79
Durango, CO	1.14	+0.08
Grand Junction, CO	0.83	-0.15
Meeker, CO	2.13	+0.28
Montrose, CO	0.54	-0.24
Rifle, CO	1.62	+0.61
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.75	+0.24
Vernal, UT	0.55	-0.19

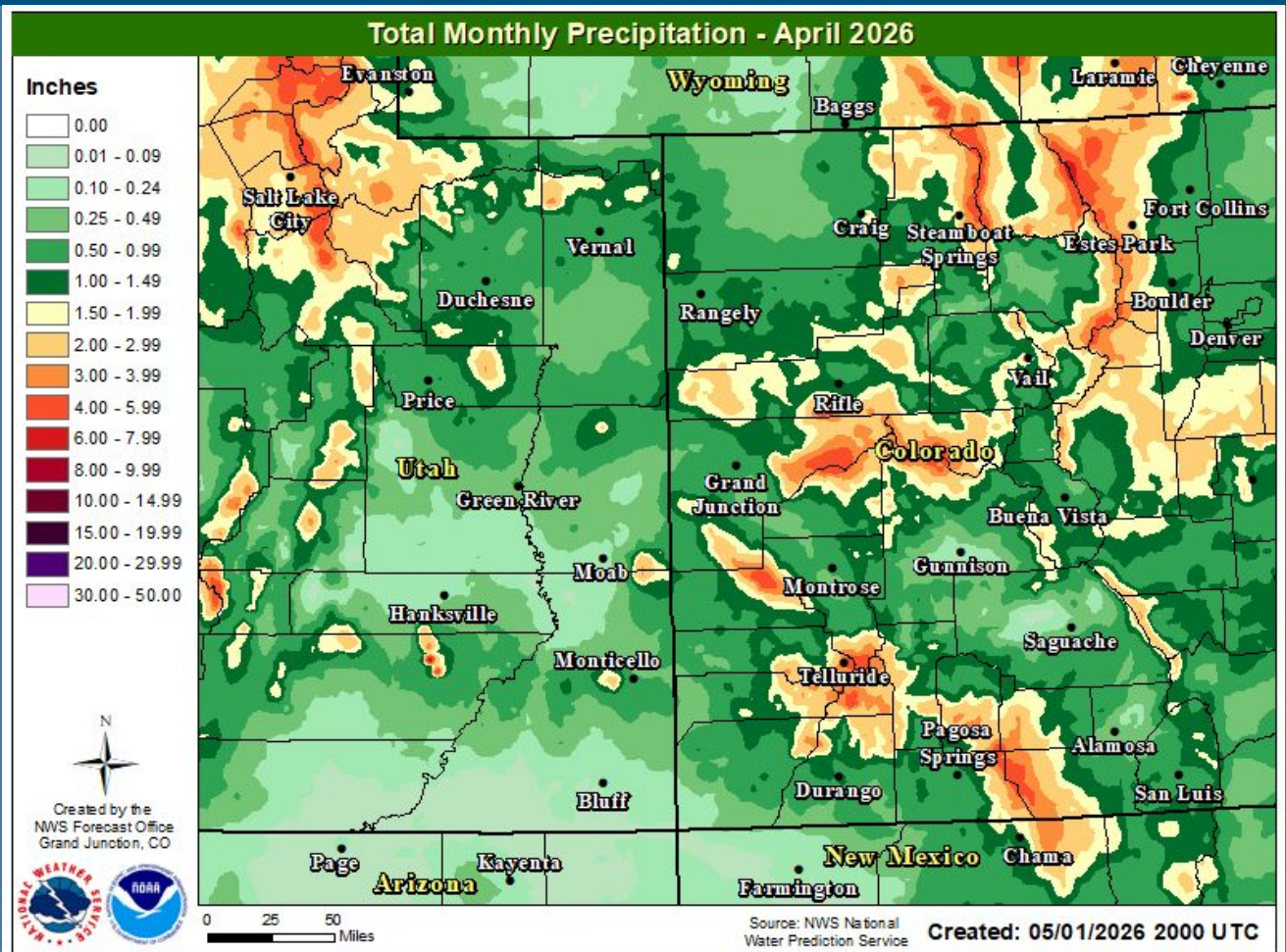


# APRIL 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



# TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



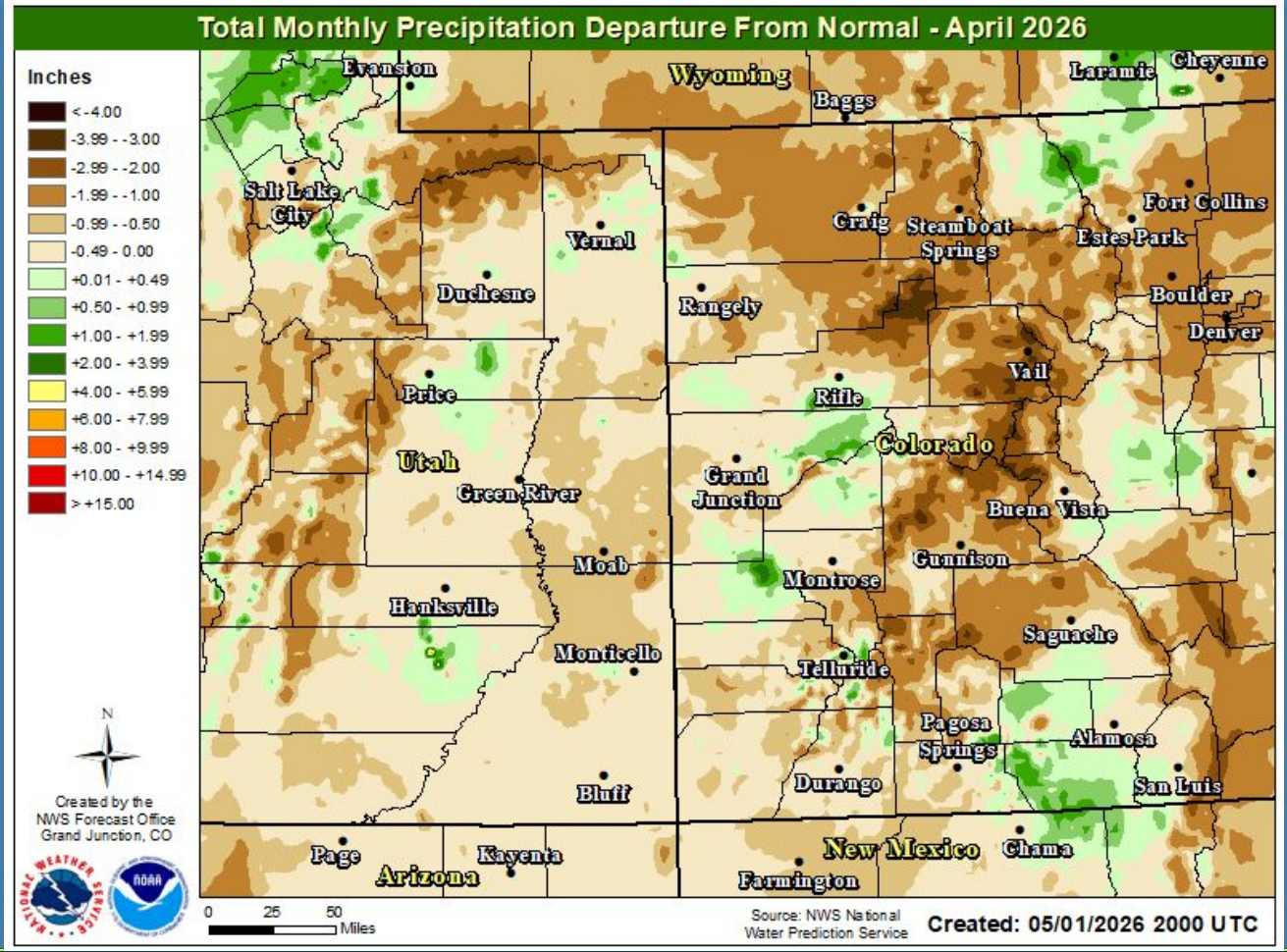
# APRIL 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



# TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

## DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



# APRIL 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



### DAILY RECORDS

# REPORT

*A total of 0 daily records were set across the primary climate sites*

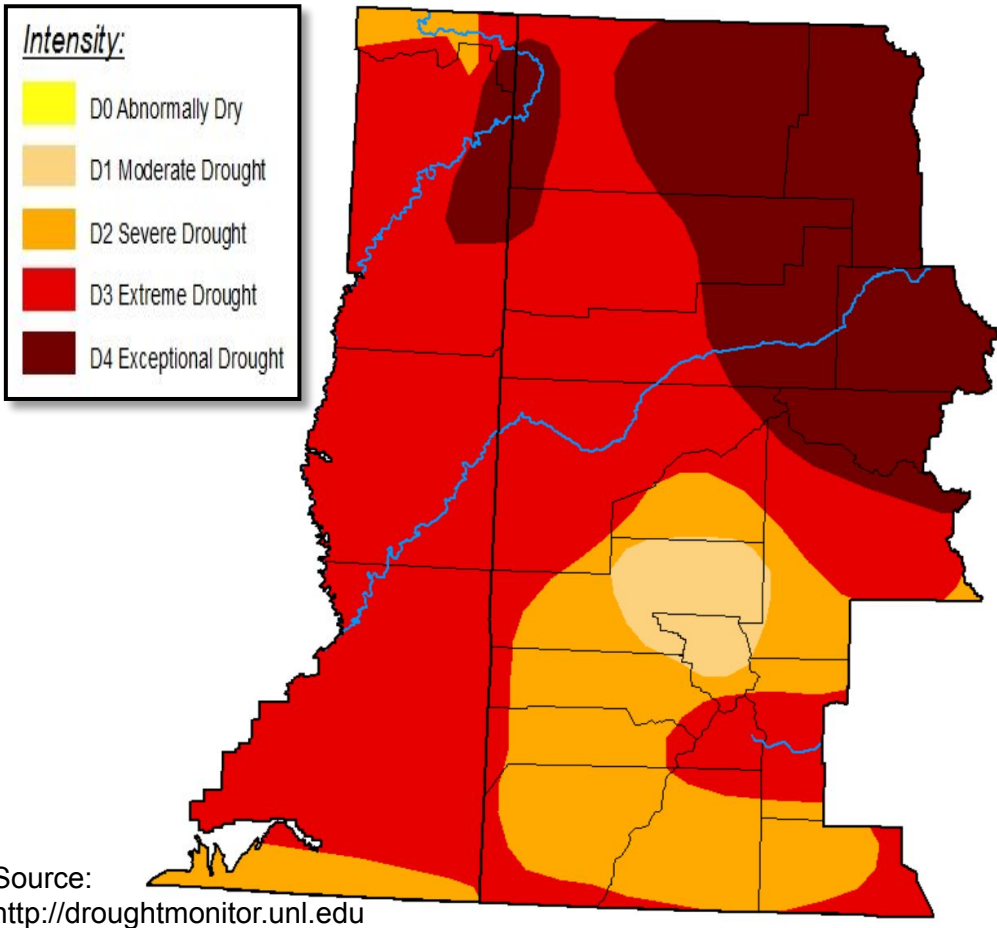
Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
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- High Max
- Low Max
- Precip
- High Min
- Low Min



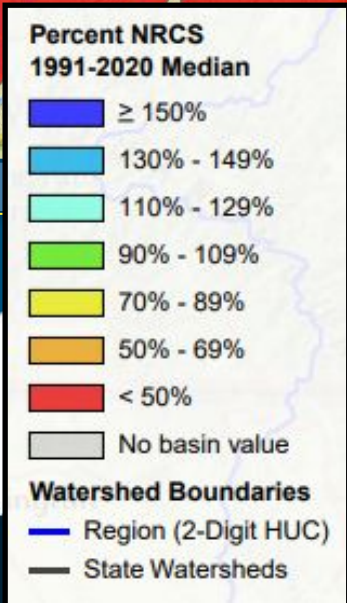
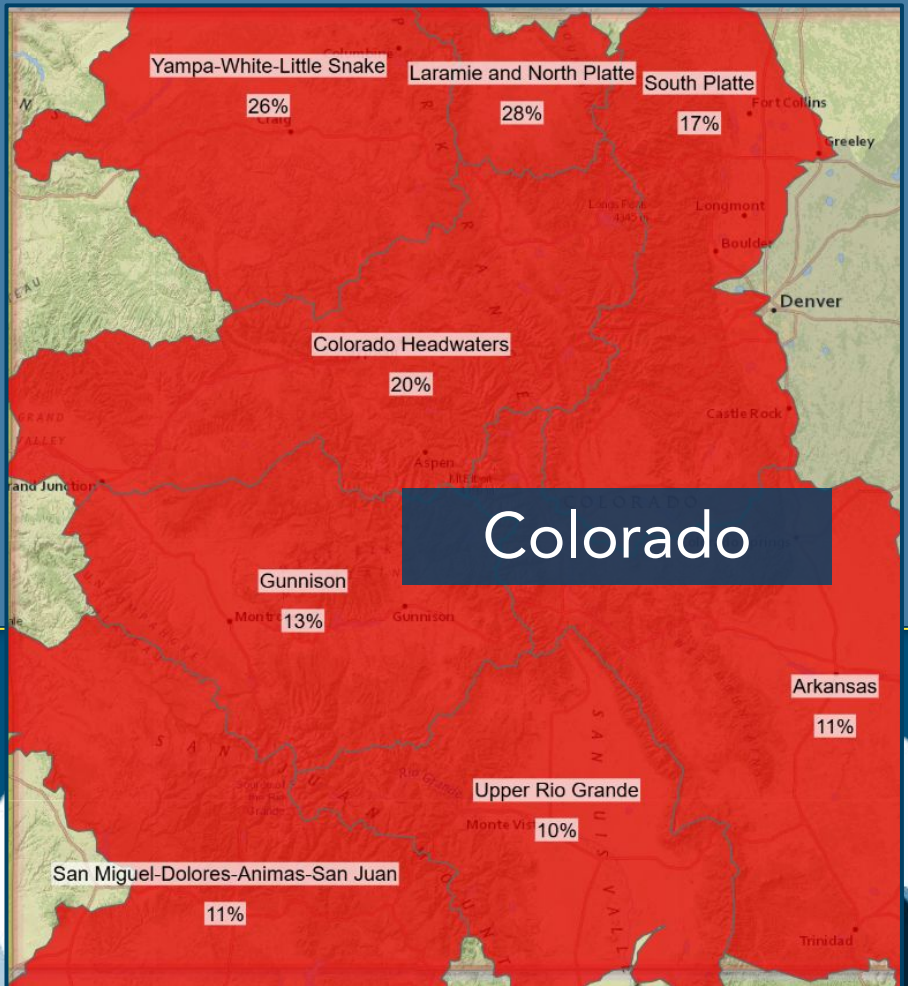
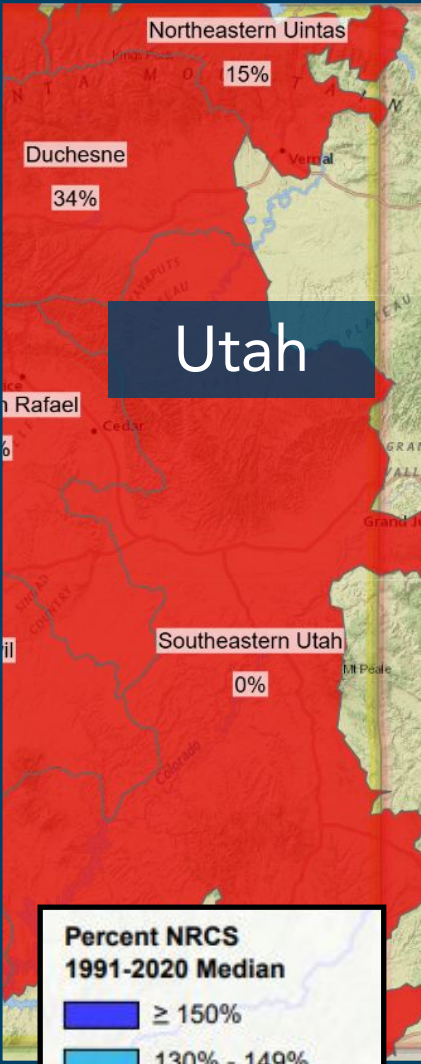


*Having a cooler and wetter month for April has helped with drought conditions slightly. Exceptional (D4) Drought across northwest Colorado has been reduced slightly, although the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado remain under Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought. Only south-central to southwestern Colorado is holding onto Moderate (D1) to Severe (D2) Drought conditions.*





A cooler and wetter pattern in April has benefited the snowpack across eastern Utah and western Colorado in the sense that most basins have not yet completely melted out. Aside from that fact, conditions remain bad. The Gunnison, San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan, Eastern Uintas, and Colorado Headwaters basins are all sitting at 10-20% of normal for the end of April. The Duchesne and Yampa-White-Little Snake have fared a bit better, at 25-35% of normal. Meanwhile, the Southeastern Utah basin has melted out.



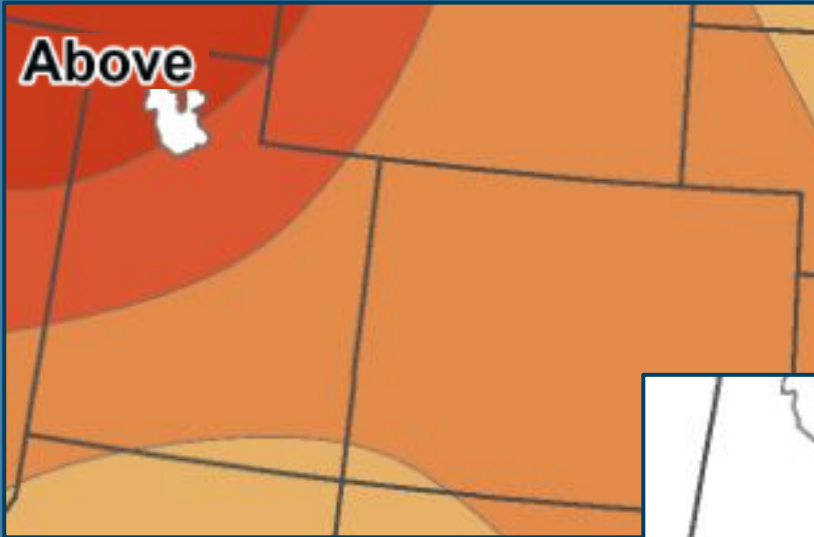
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# OUTLOOK

## TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



*The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is leaning toward above normal temperatures for all of eastern Utah and western Colorado. Portions of Northeast Utah are most favored, with a 50-60% probability of above normal temperatures. The Four Corners area is less favored, with a 33-40% probability. The remainder of the region is looking at a 40-50% probability of above normal temperatures. Meanwhile, all of eastern Utah and western Colorado is looking at equal chances of above or below normal precipitation during the month of May.*



Temperatures

Precipitation

