Drought Information Statement for Western CO & Eastern UT

Valid May 27, 2025

Issued By: WFO Grand Junction, CO

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/gjt/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

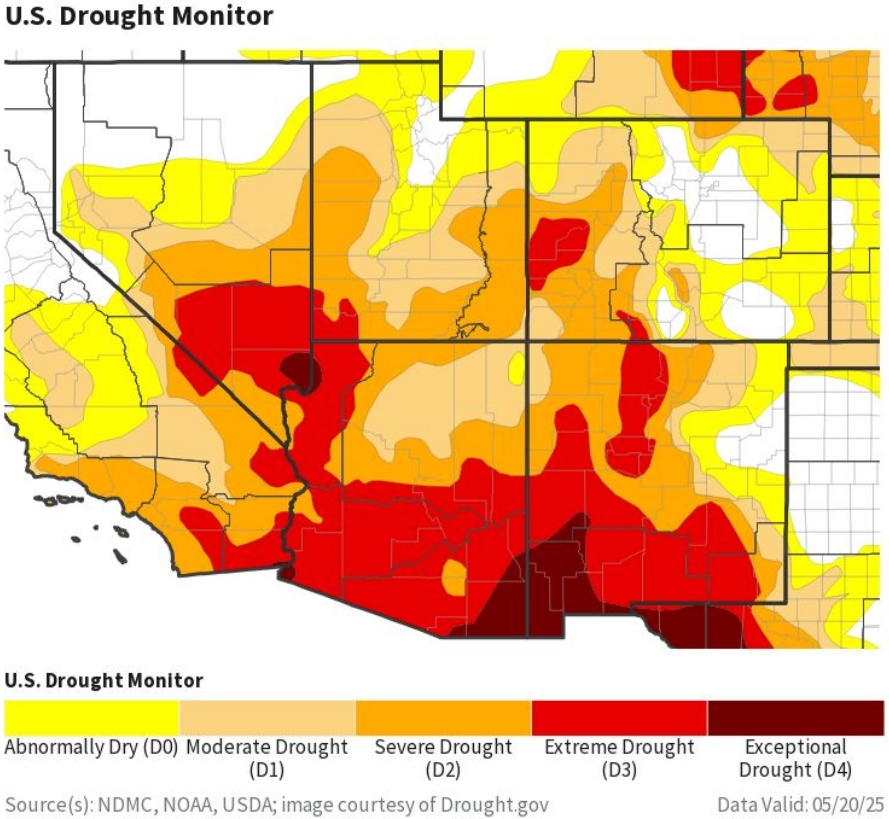
- D3 expanded across west-central Colorado
- D0 reintroduced across northwest Colorado and northeast Utah where conditions are quickly worsening due to an abnormally dry Spring

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for the Intermountain West

Drought intensity and Extent:

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Expansion across west-central CO
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Persists across much of east/southeast Utah and west to southwest Colorado and extending along the Colorado River mainstem
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Expanding across portions of northeast UT and northwest CO
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Filled in any remaining drought free areas in eastern UT and western CO



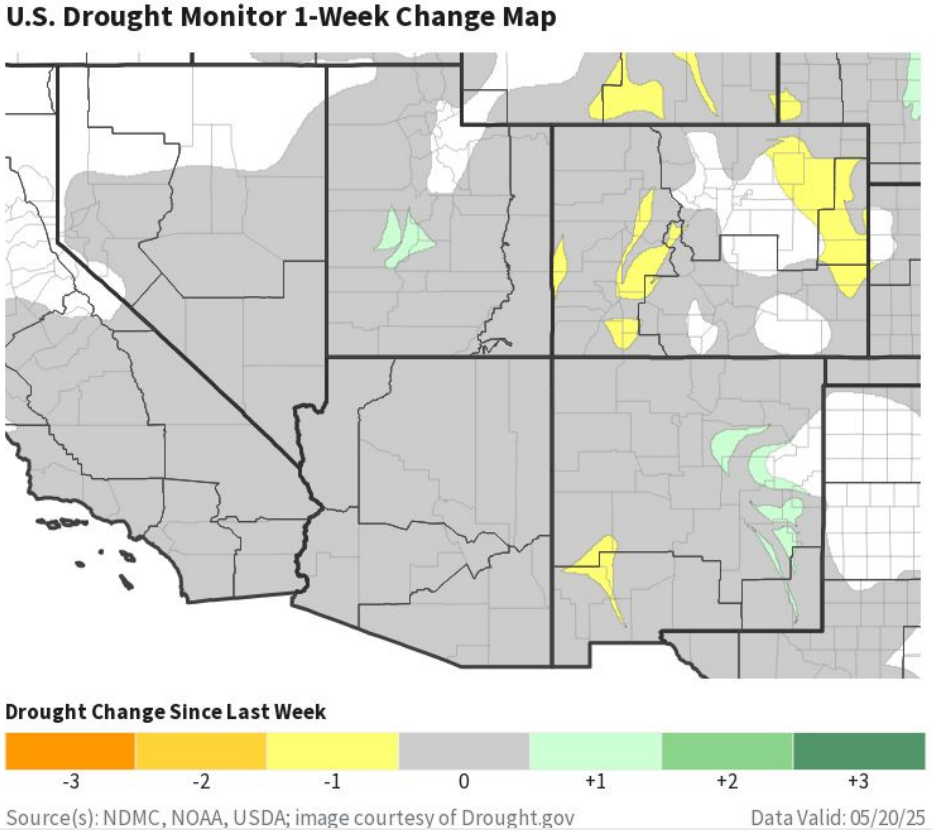
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for WFO Grand Junction, CO

One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:

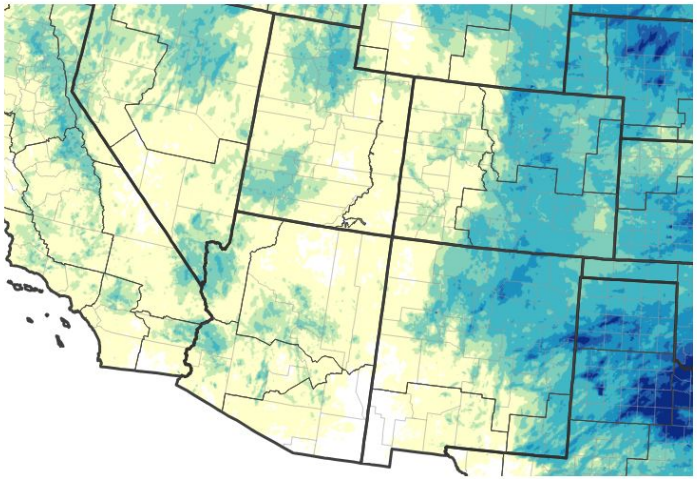
- *Drought Worsened:* One class degradation along the Colorado River mainstem, portions of the Gunnison and San Juan River Basins

- *Drought Improved:* NA



Precipitation

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

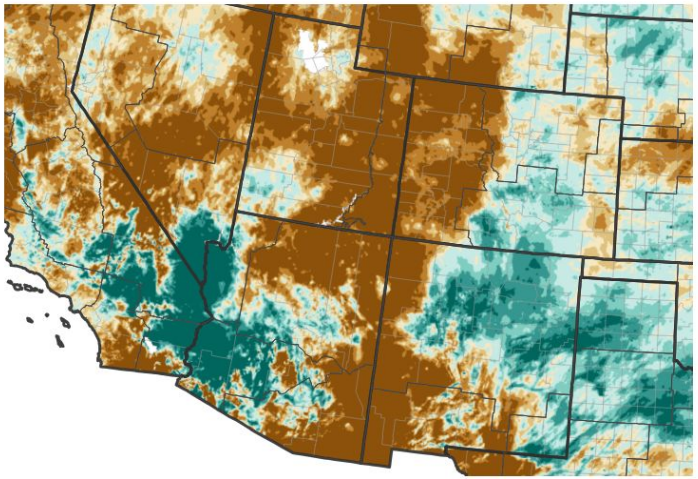
0 0.01 0.5 1 2

2 4 6 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/27/25

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

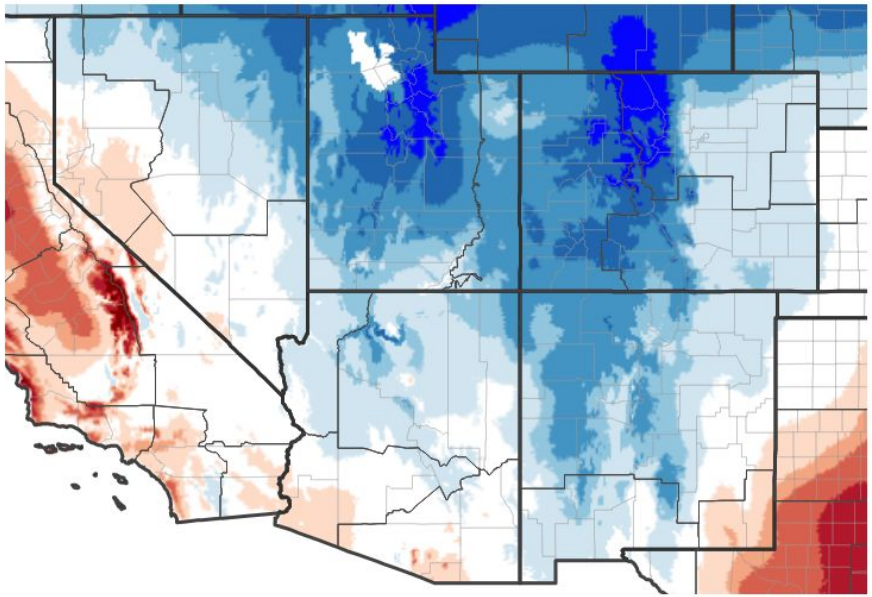
Last Updated: 05/27/25

- Below normal precipitation has been observed across all of eastern Utah and western Colorado

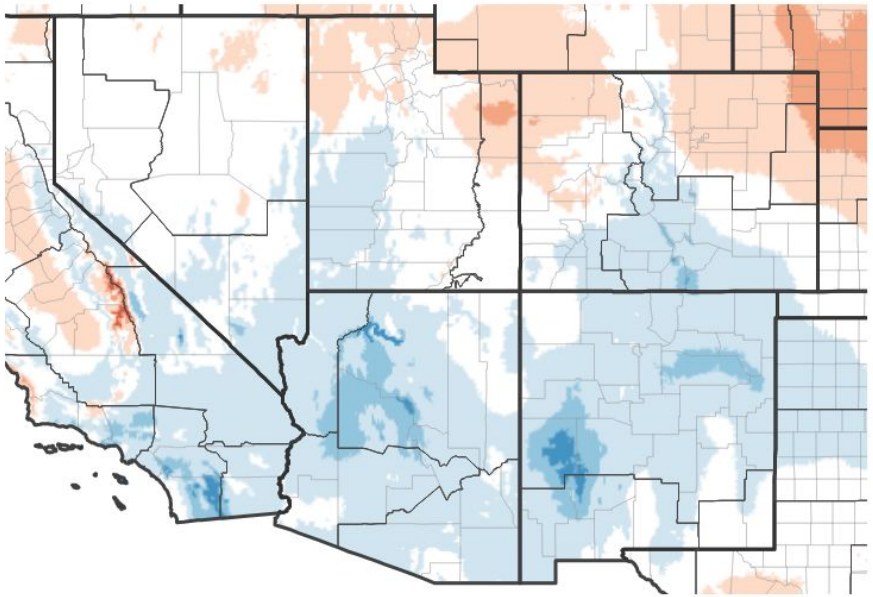
Temperature

- Overall, **abnormally warm** across eastern UT and western CO with the more notable anomalies across northeast UT and northwest CO

7-Day Temperature Anomaly

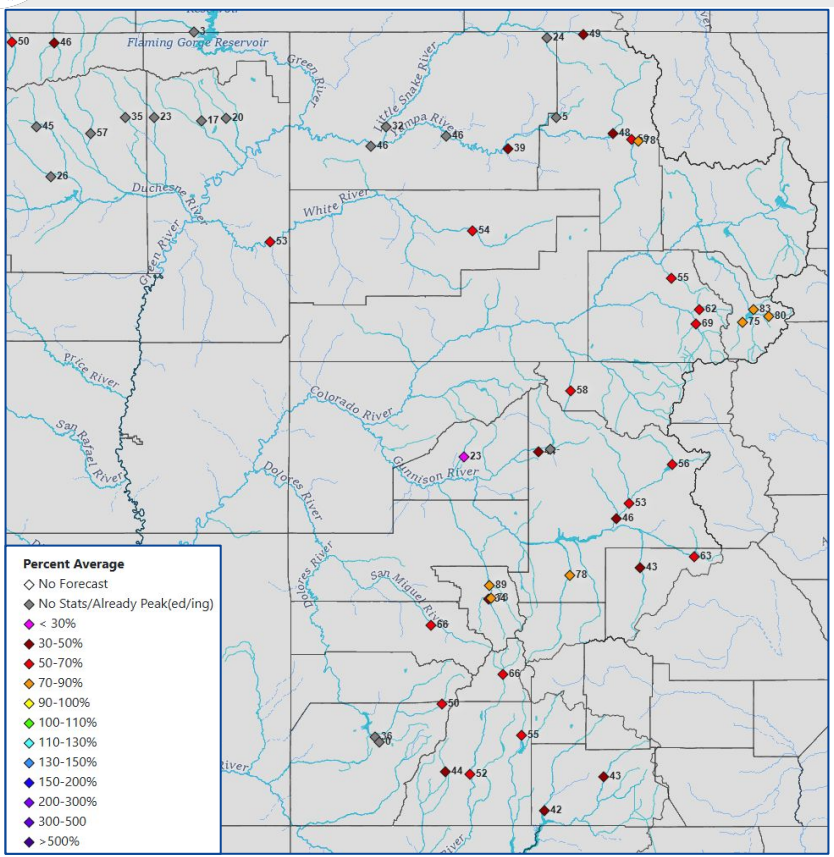


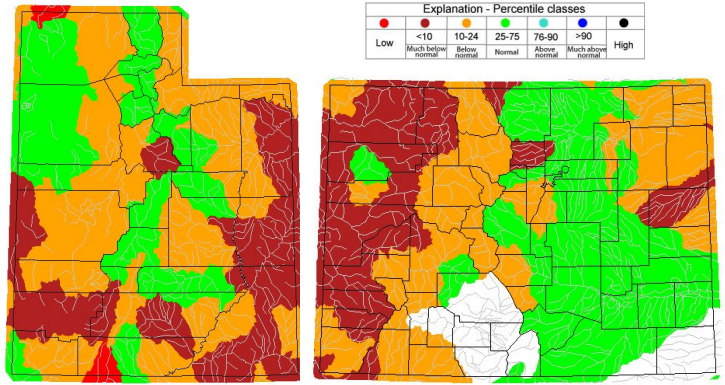
30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

CBRFC Peak Flow Forecast: Valid 05 27 2025



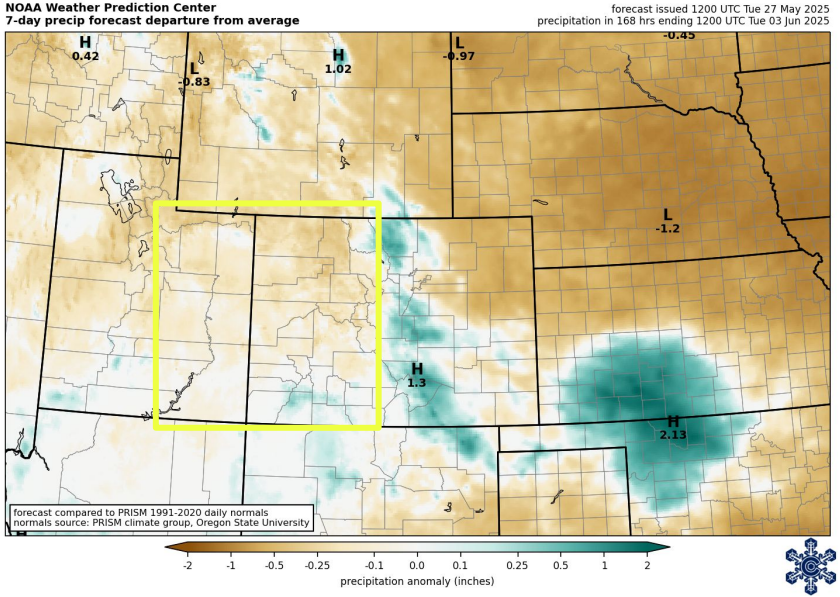


USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid for the State of CO & UT
Data Valid: **05 25 2025**

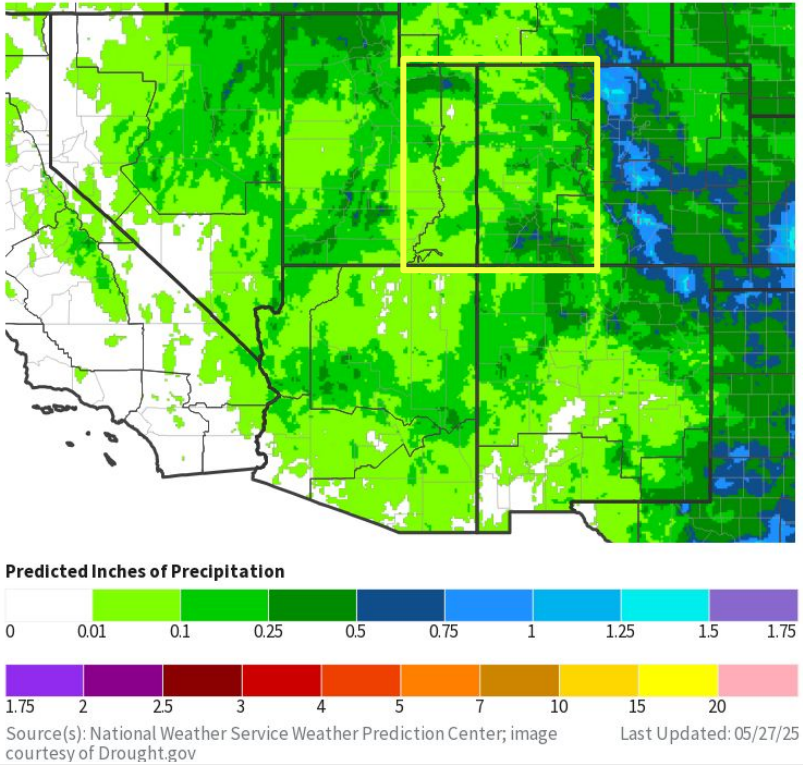
- Several rivers and streams within the Upper and Lower Green River basins and the Yampa River Basin have already seen their seasonal peak
  - Remaining peak forecasts have dropped to ~**50 to 70% of Average** across the region
- Streamflow has continued to run below normal for most of the Upper Colorado River Basin

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- 7-Day precipitation forecasts are anomalously dry
- Despite a ridge of high pressure building overhead, lingering moisture will trigger daily showers across high terrain through the end of the week
- Near-stationary pattern should give way early next week, returning the potential for widespread precipitation



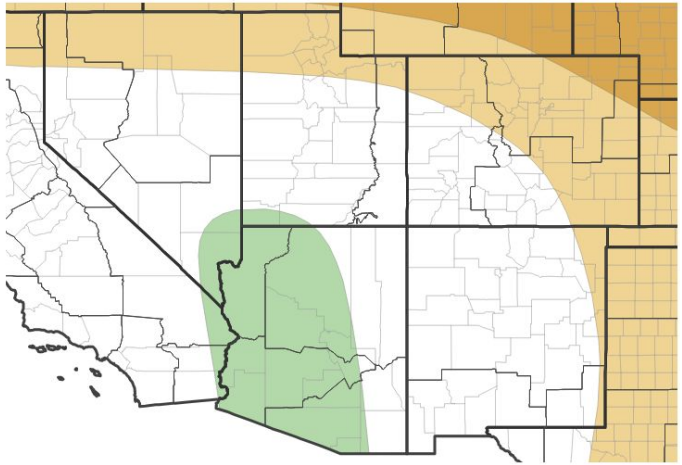
7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 27, 2025–June 3, 2025



Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2025–August 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

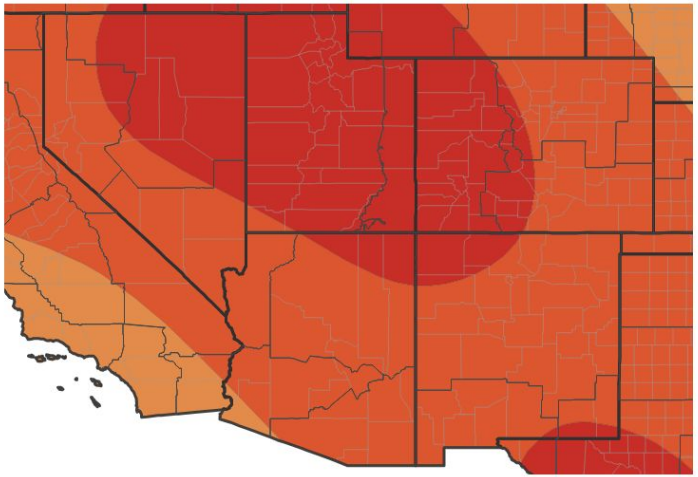
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/15/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2025–August 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

- Recent updates from CPC showed a shift of “Above Normal” precipitation probabilities westward
  - Leaving the CWA under “equal chances” to up to 40% chance of “Below Normal”
  - With high pressure (warm bubble) centered over the Great Basin, western CO and eastern UT do not typically fall under the main Monsoon plume of moisture

Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Gov. Spencer Cox (Utah) issued an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency due to drought conditions combined with **low streamflow forecasts and increased water demands** with warmer temperatures for San Juan, Grand and Uintah counties

Agricultural Impacts

- Reduced water supply in southwest Colorado (estimated users to expect to receive 30-35% of their full allotment due to low snowpack)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Other Impacts

- Colorado fisheries closed to fishing along the Yampa River below Stagecoach Dam due to low flow and prevent overfishing

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.