



Drought Information Statement for Western CO & Eastern UT

Valid June 5th, 2026

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.
-
- Severe to extreme drought conditions cover the Western Slope





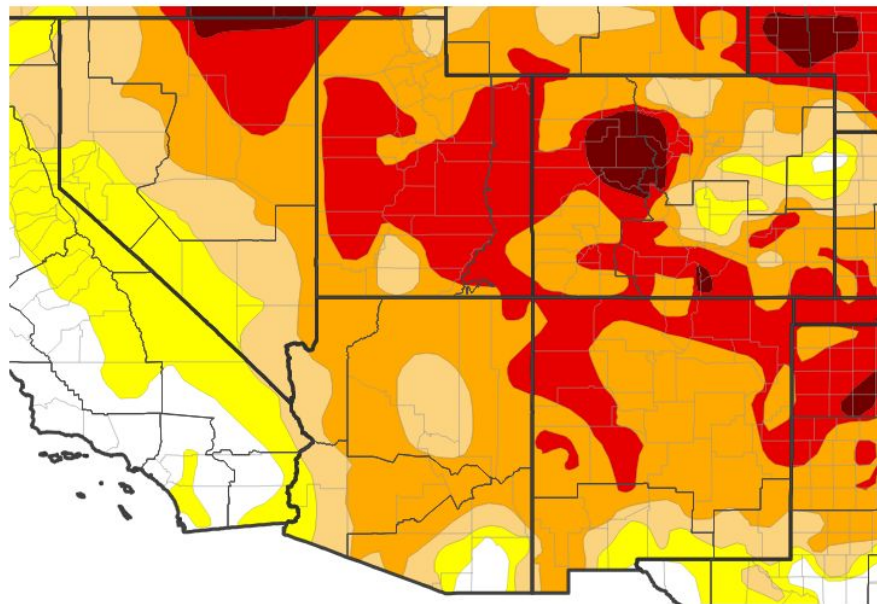
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Intermountain West

Drought intensity and Extent:

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Persists over the Colorado River, Roaring Fork and Eagle River Headwaters.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Persists across much of eastern UT and west central CO.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Encompasses much of the Yampa/White and Gunnison River Basins, and majority of San Juan Mountains in southwest CO.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 06/02/26



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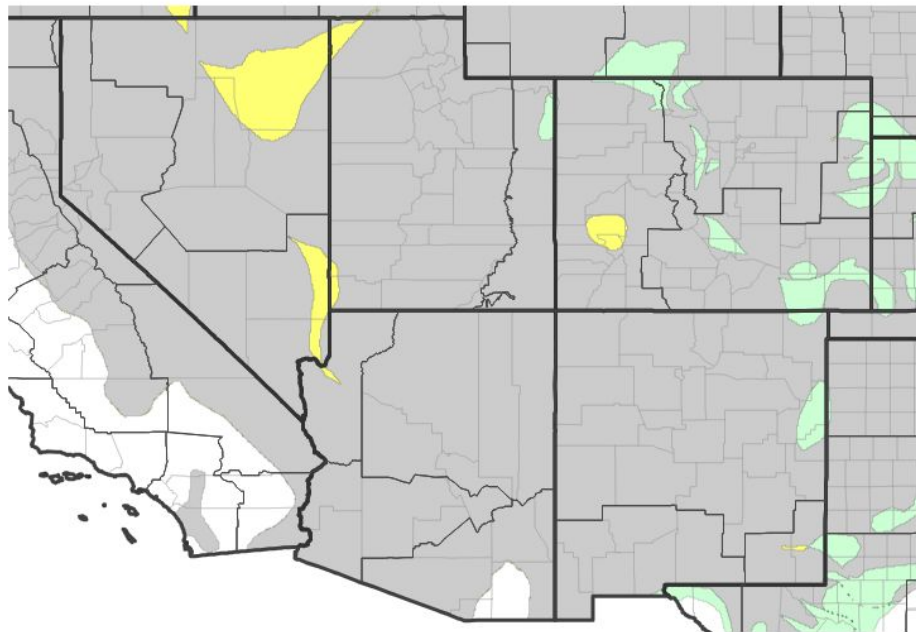
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for WFO Grand Junction, CO

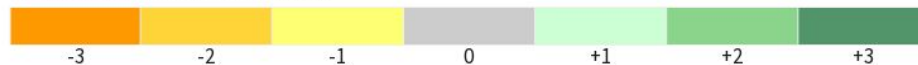
One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:

- *Drought Worsened:* One class degradation returns portions of Ouray and Montrose Counties back to D2 (Severe Drought)
- *Drought Improved:* Above normal precipitation across northeast Utah and northwest Colorado has resulted in drought improvements across Uintah, Moffat and Routt Counties

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

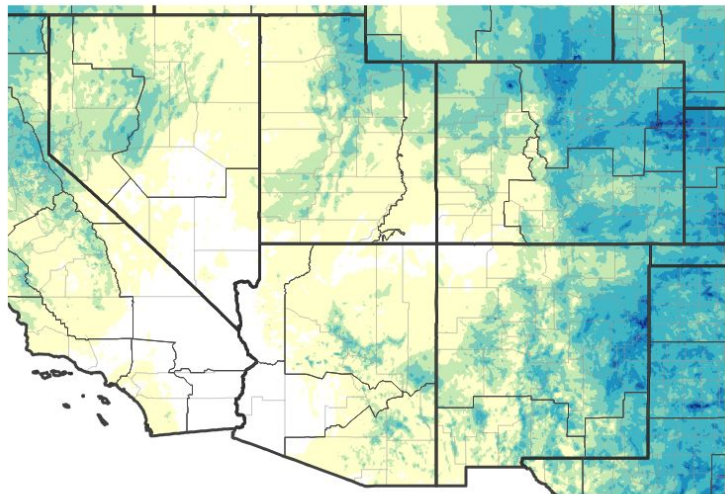
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Precipitation

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



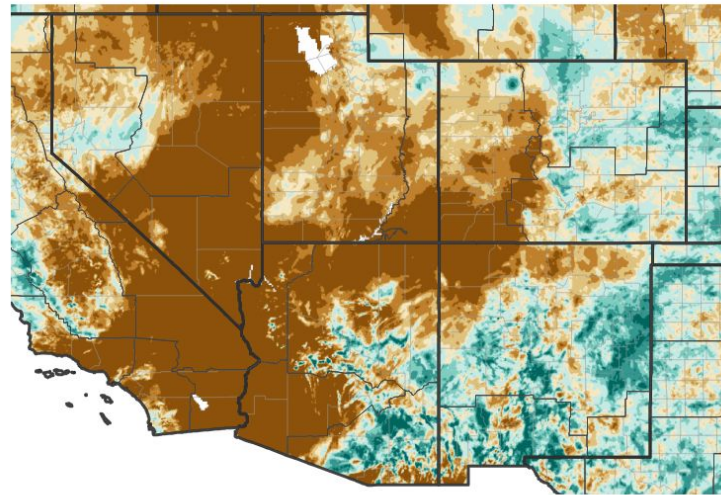
Inches of Precipitation



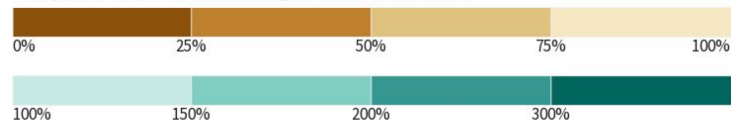
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 06/05/26

- Above normal precipitation anomalies were observed across northeast UT and northwest CO - support improved drought conditions
- Below to much below normal 30-day precipitation conditions worsen to the south

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 06/05/26

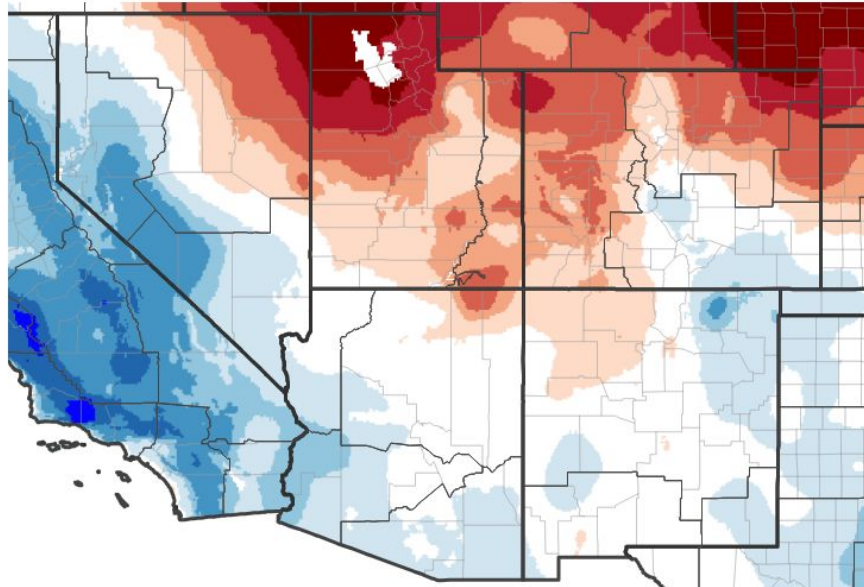




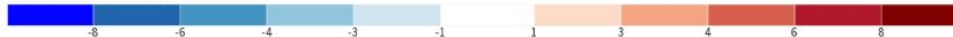
Temperature

- The month of May provided some relief to anomalously high temperatures
 - Departures hovered closer to normal over the 30-Day average
- Hot, dry and windy conditions over the last week have resulted in temperature anomalies ranging from 3 to 8 degrees above normal

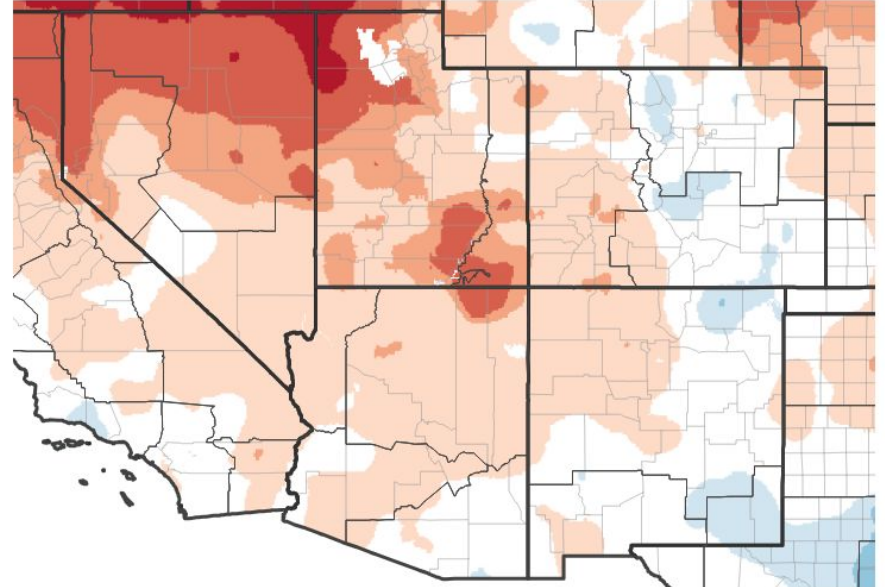
7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



30-Day Temperature Anomaly



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Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 6/01/2026



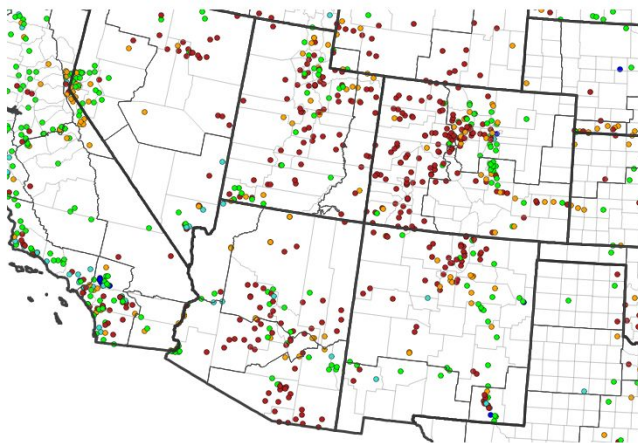
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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Early peaks recorded from spring runoff
 - As early as March
- Minimal snow left
 - Record low flow for this time of year at many locations

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



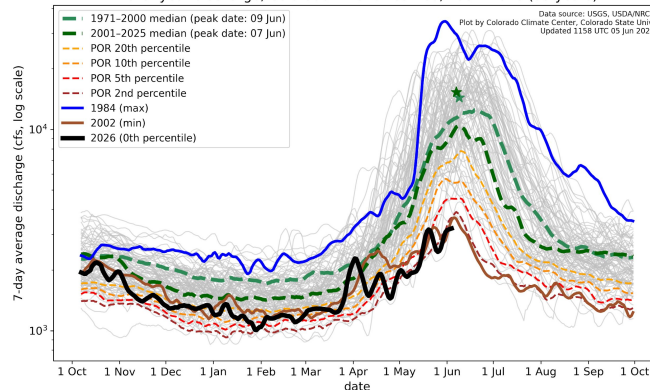
Streamflow Conditions



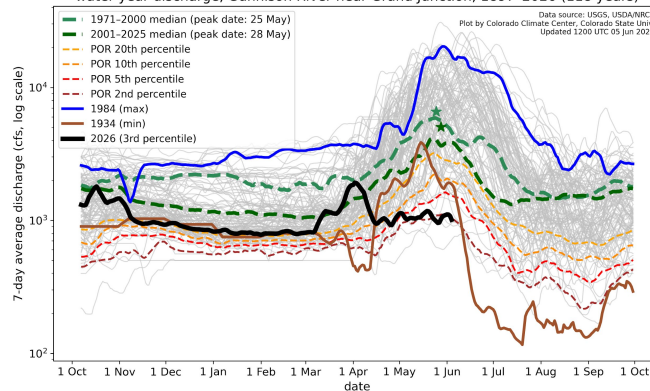
Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 06/04/26

water year discharge, Colorado River at Cameo, 1934-2026 (93 years)



water year discharge, Gunnison River near Grand Junction, 1897-2026 (118 years)



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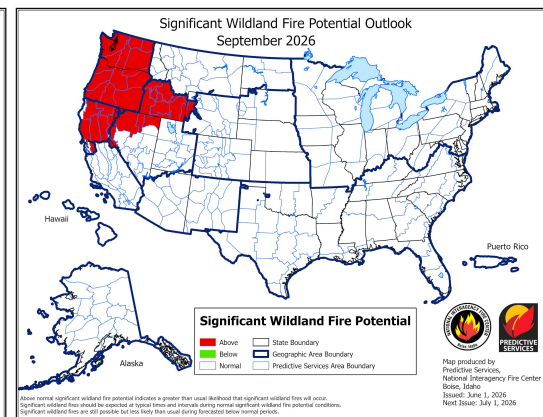
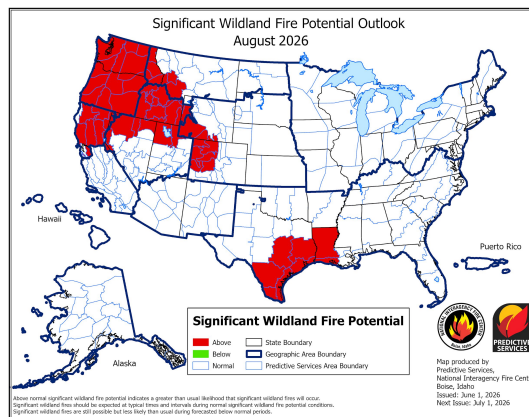
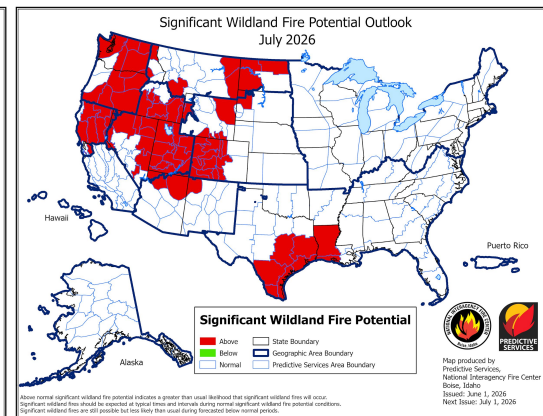
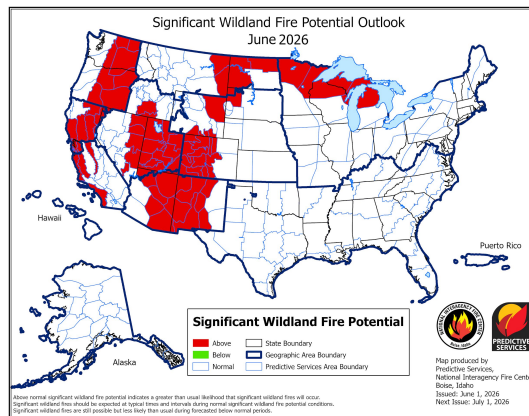
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Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- Minimal winter snowpack, record warm temperatures, below normal streamflow support above normal **significant wildland fire potential this Summer**



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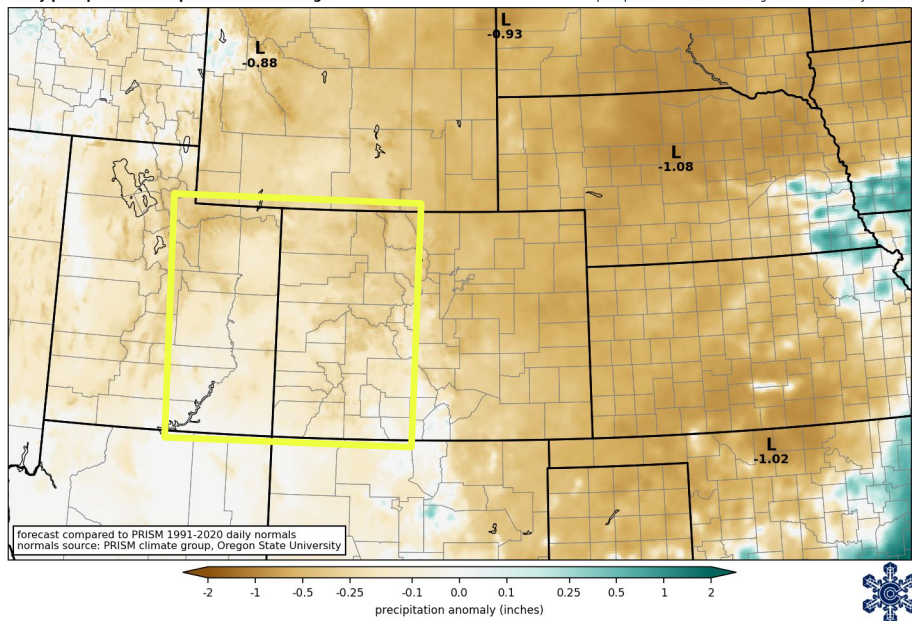


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

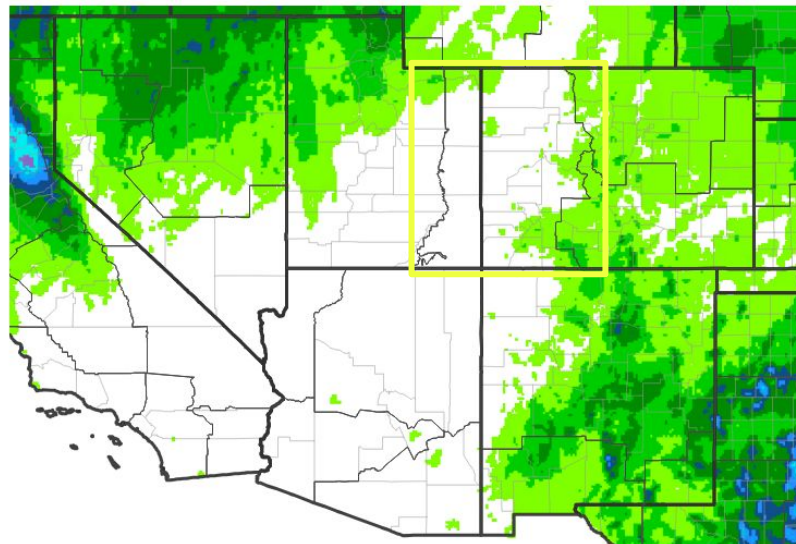
- Minimal precipitation is forecast for the next 7 days
- Hot, dry and windy conditions may result in 4 to 5 consecutive days of critical fire weather conditions across the Western Slope

NOAA Weather Prediction Center
7-day precip forecast departure from average

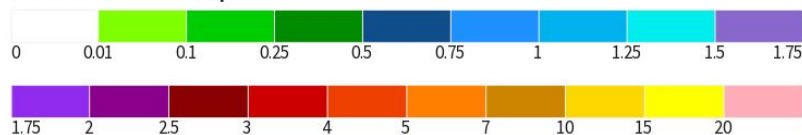
forecast issued 1200 UTC Fri 05 Jun 2026
precipitation in 168 hrs ending 1200 UTC Fri 12 Jun 2026



7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for June 5, 2026–June 12, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 06/05/26



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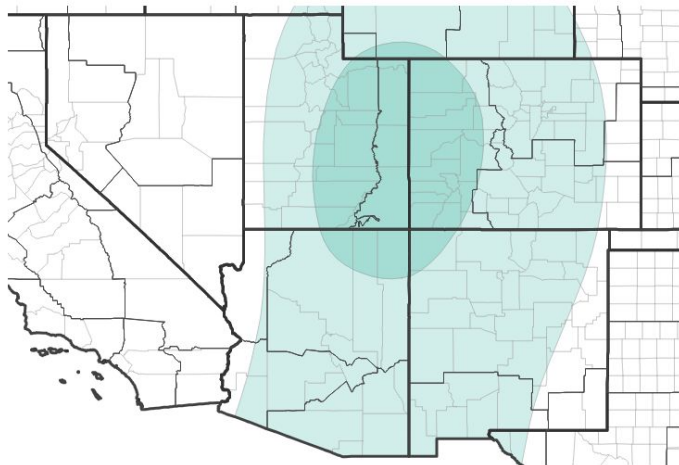
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Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



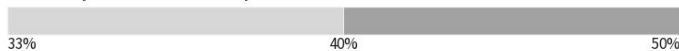
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



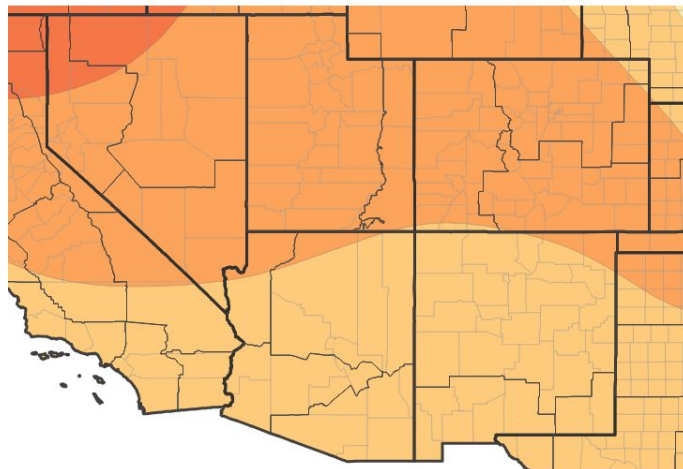
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



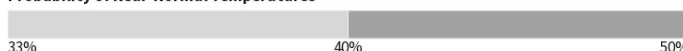
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

- The emerging El Niño patterns favor a more active Hurricane season in the eastern to central Pacific.
 - May favor a more robust monsoon June–August
- Latest guidance shows a **30–50%** chance of wetter than normal precipitation over the Western Slope.
- Warmer than normal temperatures are expected to persist (June–August).



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Governor Polis activated Phase 3 of Colorado's Drought Task Force due to record-breaking warm temperatures, low snowpack, & limited water supply
 - Declared Statewide Drought Emergency
- Reduced water usage at state facilities and Polis encouraged every Coloradan to use water wisely

Agricultural Impacts

- Reduced water for irrigation - plant stress
- Pastures are in Poor to Very Poor conditions - providing very little to no feed to livestock (supplemental feeding is required)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Significant wildland fire potential across the Western Slope is above normal June through August

Other Impacts

- Local economy losses expected
- Planning for how drought, smoke, fire restrictions, road closures, or reduced customer traffic could affect operations, staffing, cash flow, inventory and suppliers

Mitigation Actions

- Colorado State agencies will reduce water usage at all state facilities
- Local county officials provided drought resources for agriculture and local businesses in southwest Colorado
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information

