NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO

A LOOK BACK AT

JANUARY 2026

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

January began with widespread mountain snow and valley rain, leading to some difficult post-holiday travel across the mountain passes. Thanks to the increased moisture now trapped in the lower valleys, dense fog also became an issue during the first week of the month. Throughout this period, temperatures ran close 10-15 degrees above January normals. Unsettled conditions, especially across the terrain, lasted into the second week of the month, with light to moderate accumulations. By the second Friday of the month, temperatures actually dipped below normal, but this didn't last for long. Above normal temperatures returned for the third week of the month, along with increasingly sunny and dry conditions. What little snow we managed to gain during the first half of the month would now come up against a period of above normal temperatures with little to no reinforcing snowfall. This pattern lasted all the way to the 23rd of the month, before another system finally brought a return of cooler air and snow. This time snow managed to settle down to valley floors, with even Grand Junction getting in on around an inch of snow. However, this cooler and unsettled weather only stuck around for a few days. A gradual warming trend rounded out the month, with highs climbing back to 10-15 degrees above normal, and most locations seeing mostly sunny skies. The northern Divide mountains did manage one last brief burst of snow, but with totals of less than 6 inches, it didn't help the snow drought much.

JANUARY 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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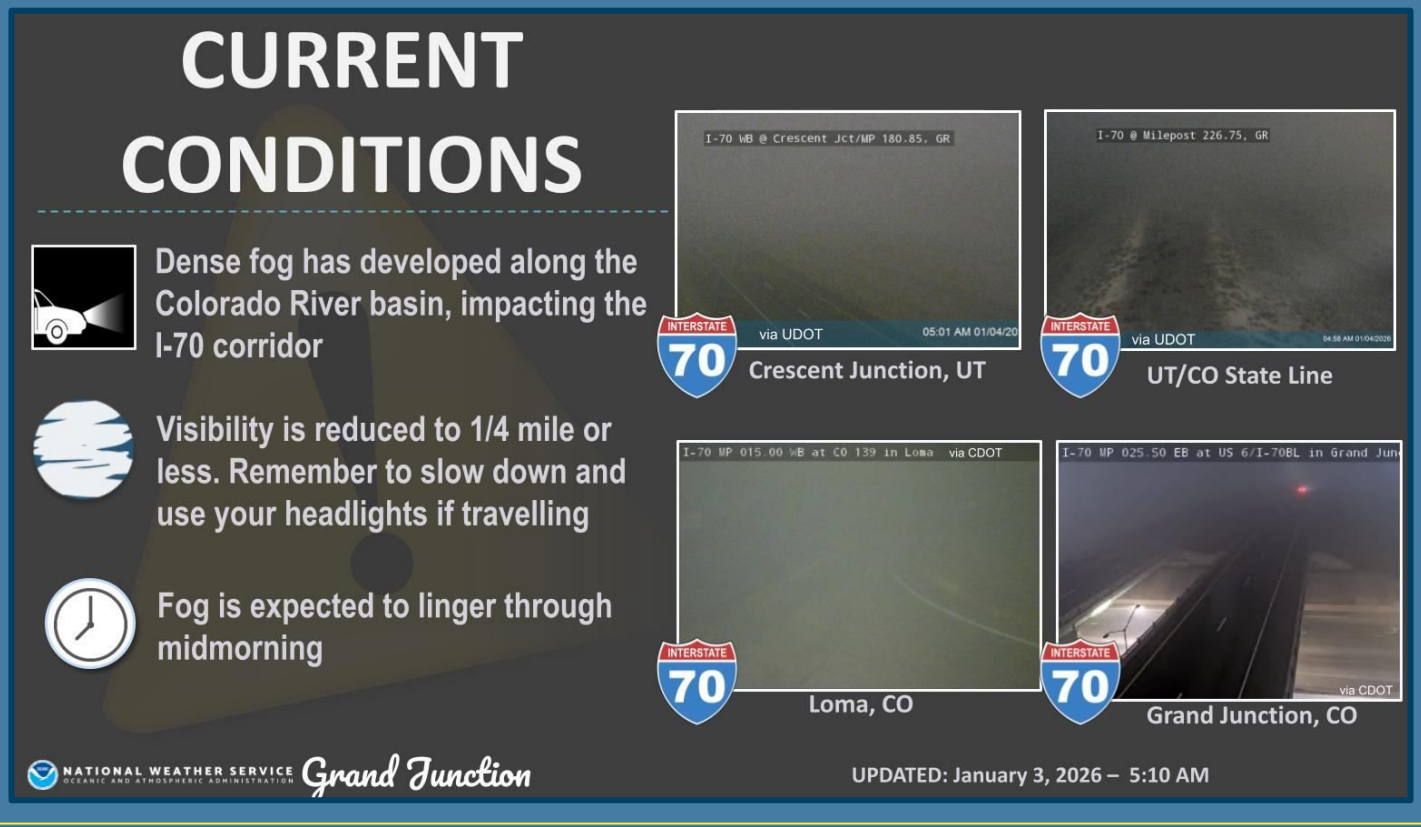
STORY OF THE MONTH

FOGGY START TO THE YEAR

After a storm that brought widespread snow down to valley floors, the trapped moisture led to the development of dense fog along valley floors. This was especially noticeable along the I-70 corridor in the Grand Valley, and across the Utah border in the Grand Flat. Visibility was less than a quarter of a mile at many locations, and occasionally near-zero. This led to difficult morning commutes for many people after the New Year holiday. Luckily, the fog lifted within a few hours of daybreak.



JANUARY 2026

TEMPERATURES

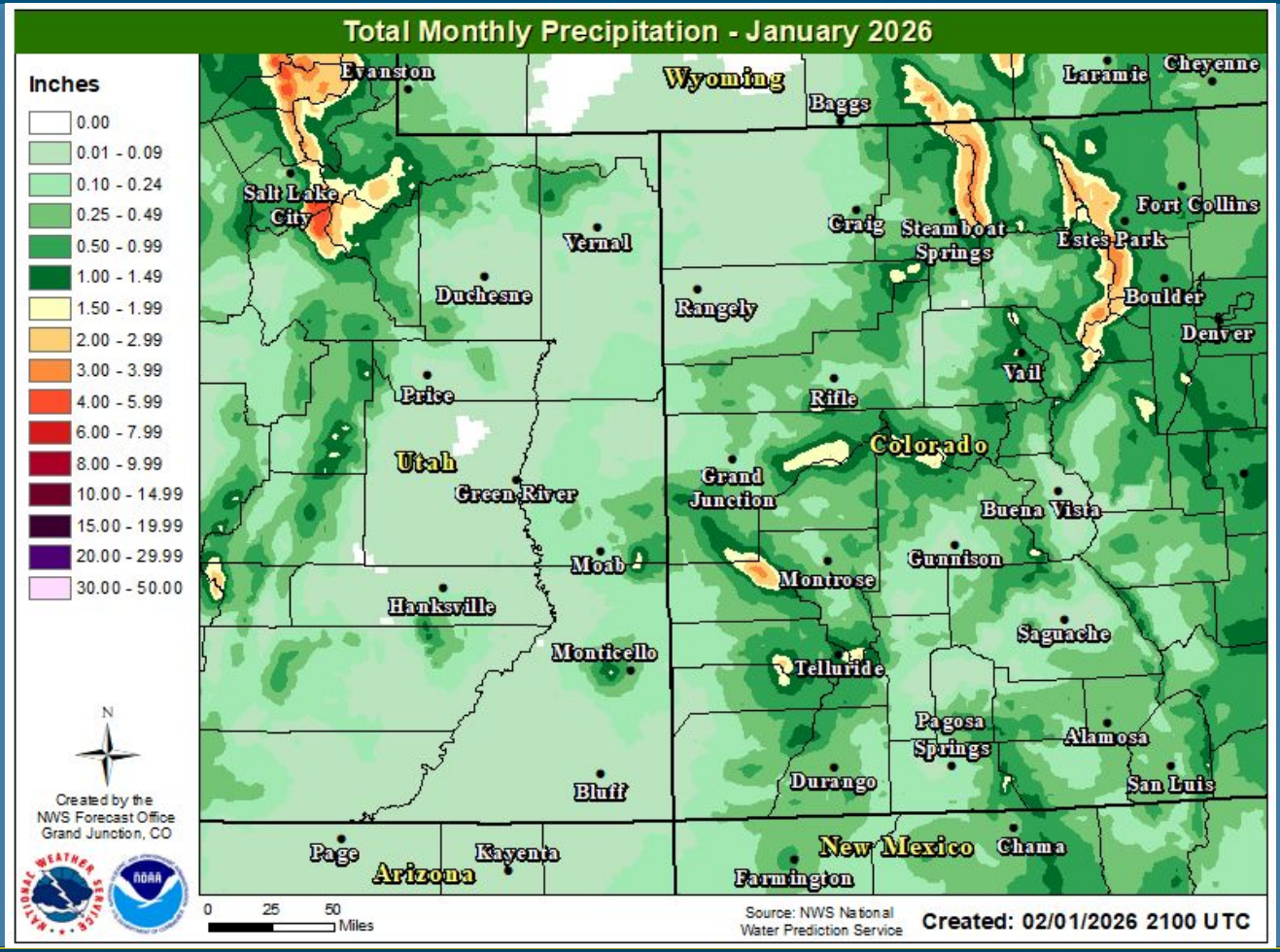
Location	AVG Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	23.7 **(+2.0)**	54 on 1/4	-15 on 1/26
Cortez, CO	31.4 **(+3.7)**	56 on 1/13	5 on 1/26
Craig, CO	25.0 **(+8.2)**	52 on 1/4	-17 on 1/26
Durango, CO	30.8 **(+7.1)**	54 on 1/4	-2 on 1/10
Grand Junction, CO	33.2 **(+5.5)**	55 on 1/14	10 on 1/26
Meeker, CO	28.0 **(+7.1)**	51 on 1/31	-8 on 1/26
Montrose, CO	29.9 **(+2.7)**	55 on 1/4	1 on 1/26
Rifle, CO	29.4 **(+4.3)**	50 on 1/14, 31	-2 on 1/26
Canyonlands Airport, UT	33.1 **(+5.1)**	54 on 1/5	14 on 1/22
Vernal, UT	28.4 **(+8.7)**	48 on 1/31	4 on 1/26

JANUARY 2026 PRECIPITATION

Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.24	-0.81
Cortez, CO	0.59	-0.48
Craig, CO	0.82	-0.09
Durango, CO	0.99	-0.29
Grand Junction, CO	0.34	-0.27
Meeker, CO	0.35	-0.72
Montrose, CO	0.49	+0.08
Rifle, CO	0.47	-0.23
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.49	+0.04
Vernal, UT	0.10	-0.49

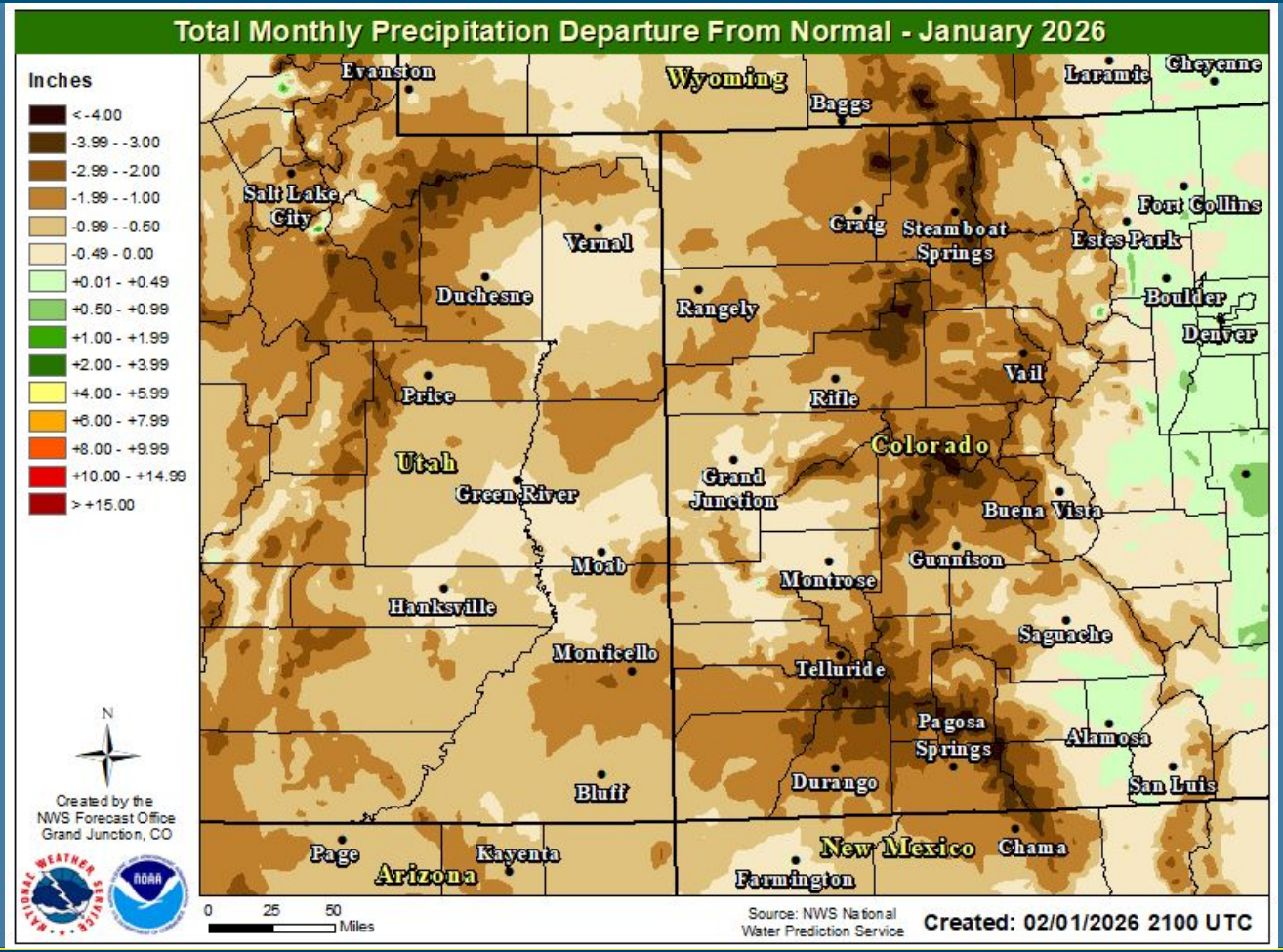
JANUARY 2026
MONTHLY SUMMARY

TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



JANUARY 2026
MONTHLY SUMMARY

TOTAL MONTHLY
PRECIPITATION
DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



JANUARY 2026
MONTHLY SUMMARY

DAILY RECORDS REPORT

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

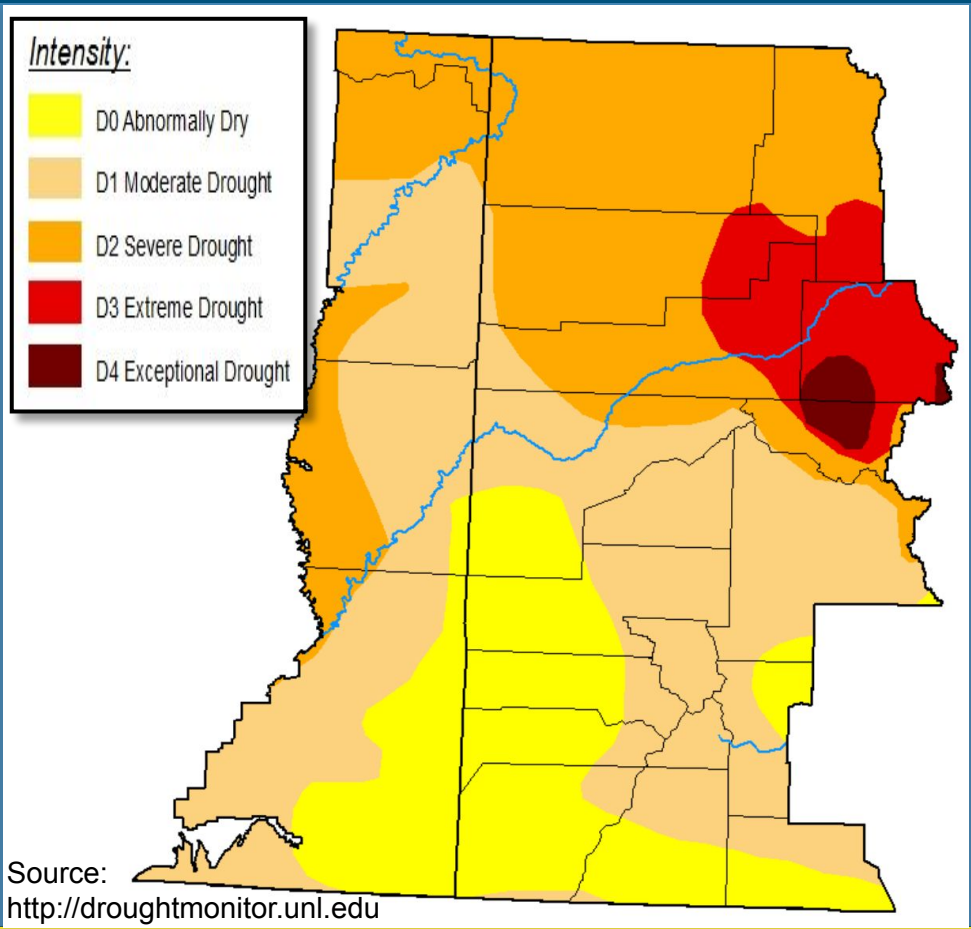
Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	**January 5th**	**High Min Temperature**	**35F**	**34F in 1981**

High Max **Low Max** **Precip** **High Min** **Low Min**

DROUGHT CONDITION UPDATE

AS OF FEBRUARY 3rd

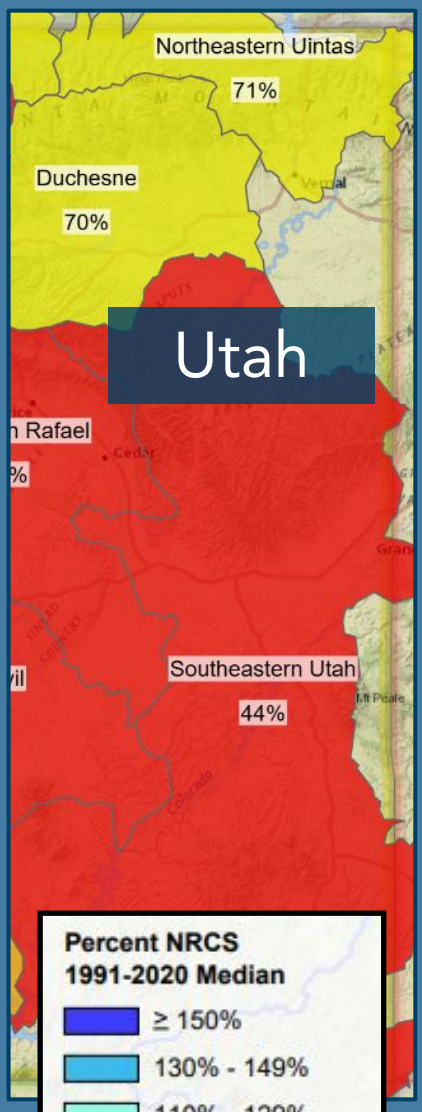
Drought across southeast Utah and southwest Colorado has stayed fairly consistent, with pockets of minor improvement and minor degradation. Northeast Utah did see some slight improvement, as Extreme (D3) Drought was removed, with the remainder staying unchanged. Northwest Colorado, however, has seen some degradation, with central portions worsening from Moderate (D1) to Severe (D2) Drought, and areas of Extreme (D3) Drought expanding over the central and into the northern Divide mountains.



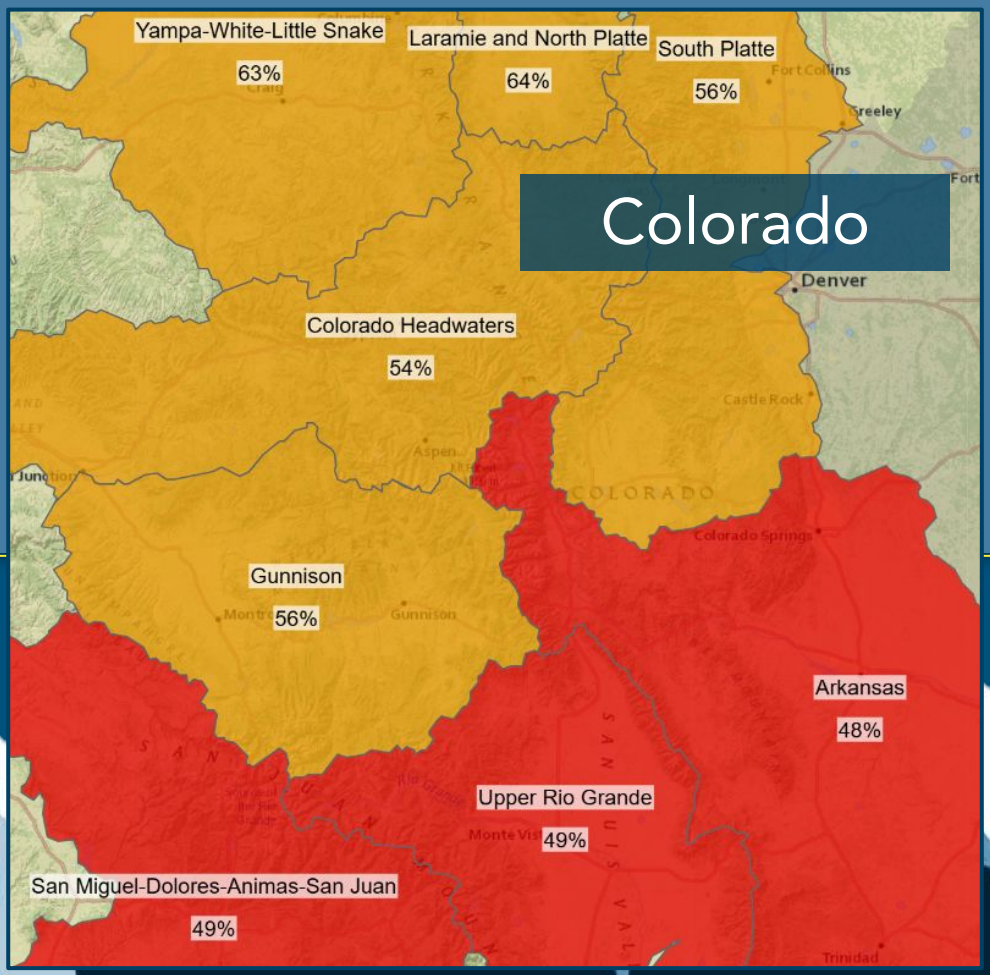
Source:
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

SNOWPACK CONDITIONS UPDATE

AS OF FEBRUARY 1st



While January did see some cooler temperatures and a few snow storms, it was still an underperforming month in an underperforming winter. The northeastern Utah basins did the best, with 65-75% of normal snowpack at the end of the month. The Yampa-White-Little Snake basin did the next best, with a snowpack sitting at 60-70% of normal. Then the Colorado Headwaters and Gunnison basins, at 50-60% of normal. Lastly, the Southeastern Utah and San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basins are currently in the worst shape, with the snowpack sitting at 40-50% of normal.



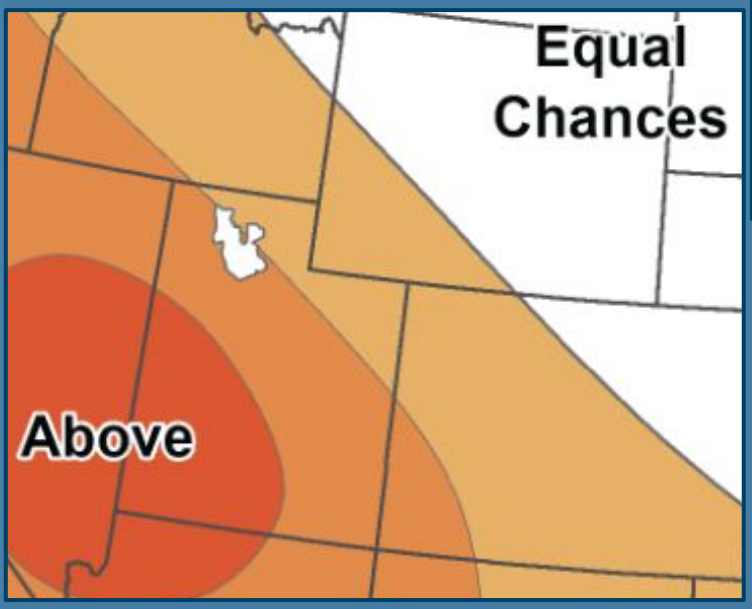
FEBRUARY 2026

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION

The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is leaning toward above normal temperatures for all of eastern Utah and most of western Colorado, with a 40-50% likelihood across southwest Colorado and much of eastern Utah, with a 33-40% likelihood for the remainder of the region. For precipitation, CPC is favoring below normal precipitation for the entirety of eastern Utah and western Colorado, with all areas seeing a 33-40% likelihood of below normal precipitation in February.

Temperatures



Precipitation