NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO

A LOOK BACK AT

JULY 2025

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

While the month of July typically brings a reprieve from hot and dry summer conditions, thanks to monsoonal moisture from the south. And indeed, while the month started hot, it also started on the wetter side. There were several days of widespread shower and thunderstorm activity, along with multiple days where the Weather Prediction Center had eastern Utah and western Colorado under a marginal risk of excessive rain. However, by the second week of the month, temperatures climbed to 5-10 degrees above normal, hitting triple digits across the lower desert valleys, and rain chances dried up. A cluster of overnight convection worked across central portions of the area on the 10th, kicking off several wildfires that grew to encompass several thousand acres. Fire behavior was intense, with the Deer Creek Fire even producing a fire tornado that was ultimately assessed as an EF2. Moisture began to return during the middle of the month, bringing a dry lightning risk for the first few days. This did lead to a few more fire starts, but as moisture continued to flow north, the increased humidity and weakened winds really tamped down the fire activity and allowed firefighters to make gains on containment. Through the third week of the month, dry air gradually moved in again, confining thunderstorm activity to the higher terrain. The beginning of the last week of the month saw warm, dry, and windy conditions return, with widespread critical fire weather conditions. But, to close out the month, we saw one last surge of moisture bringing thunderstorms across the higher terrain.

JULY 2025
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.

STORY OF THE MONTH JULY WILDFIRES

While this year has been overall warm and dry, with increasing drought conditions, the Western Slope has managed to avoid widespread wildfires. At least, until July. During the early morning hours of July 10th, an area of thunderstorms that produced a prolific amount of lightning tracked across central-eastern Utah and central-western Colorado. Over subsequent days, several wildfires sparked by this lightning would burn tens of thousands of acres. These included the Deer Creek fire, burning in the eastern La Sal Mountains, the Turner Gulch Fire, burning through Unaweep Canyon, and the South Rim Fire, which burned through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. With a lack of monsoonal moisture, the fire season has only ramped up from here in the days and weeks since.

Fire Damage to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison Campground, Image from the South Rim Information Facebook Page

A fire tornado, ultimately rated at EF2, spawned by the Deer Creek Fire on July 12th, 2025.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Preliminary
Damage Survey Results

Fire-Induced Tornado - Deer Creek Wildfire UT	
Date	7/12/2025
Time (Local)	1:03 - 1:15 PM MDT
EF Rating	EF-2
Est. Peak Winds	122 mph
Path Length	Less than 200 yds
Max Width	100 yards
Injuries/Deaths	None

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TEMPERATURES

Location	AVG Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (° F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	65.3 **(+0.1)**	88 on 7/9, 13	43 on 7/7, 11
Cortez, CO	73.2 **(+1.0)**	98 on 7/9, 13	45 on 7/5
Craig, CO	68.9 **(+0.6)**	97 on 7/9	40 on 7/26, 27
Durango, CO	71.4 **(+1.9)**	97 on 7/9	44 on 7/5, 6
Grand Junction, CO	80.9 **(+1.7)**	101 on 7/8, 9, 14	59 on 7/4
Meeker, CO	69.6 **(+2.8)**	95 on 7/9, 28	43 on 7/7
Montrose, CO	75.2 **(+1.2)**	98 on 7/9	55 on 7/27,28,31
Rifle, CO	76.3 **(+2.6)**	101 on 7/9	51 on 7/28
Canyonlands Airport, UT	81.5 **(+0.4)**	104 on 7/9	56 on 7/25
Vernal, UT	75.6 **(+1.6)**	98 on 7/8,14,31	52 on 7/27

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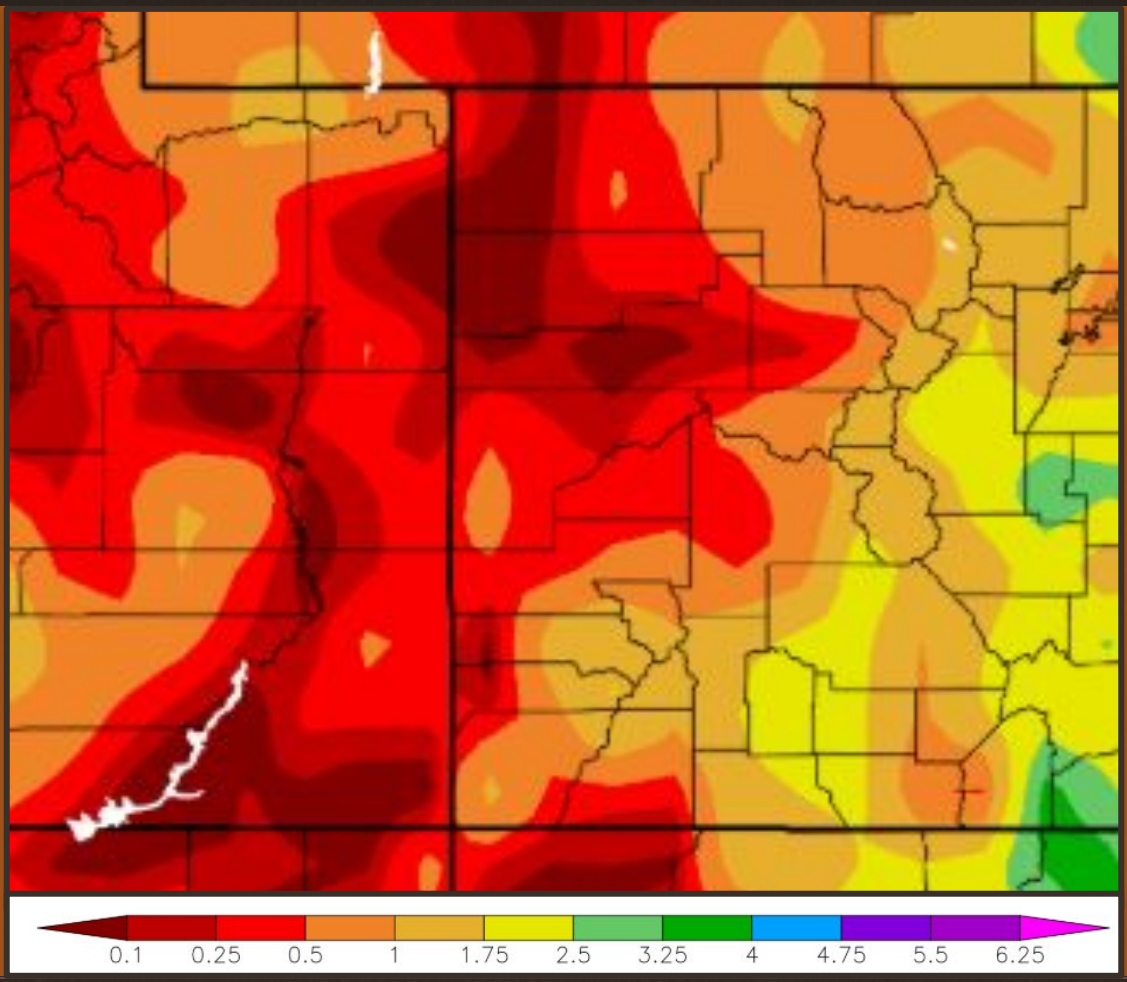
PRECIPITATION

Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.40	-0.24
Cortez, CO	0.33	-0.81
Craig, CO	0.44	-0.49
Durango, CO	0.15	-1.08
Grand Junction, CO	0.17	-0.42
Meeker, CO	0.48	-0.58
Montrose, CO	0.43	-0.37
Rifle, CO	0.12	-0.84
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.03	-0.50
Vernal, UT	0.08	-0.45

JULY 2025
MONTHLY SUMMARY

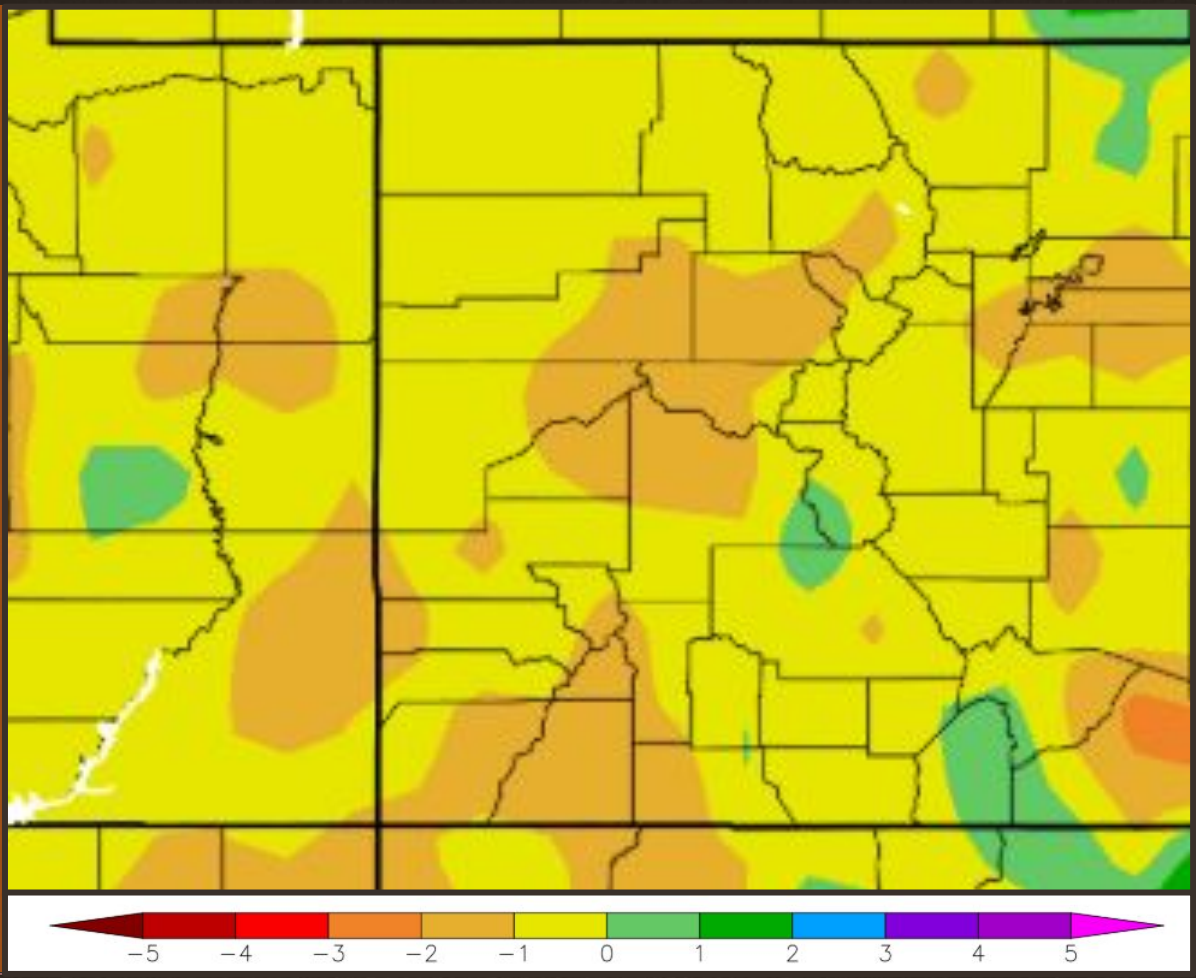
TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



JULY 2025
MONTHLY SUMMARY

TOTAL MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION
DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



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DAILY RECORDS REPORT

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

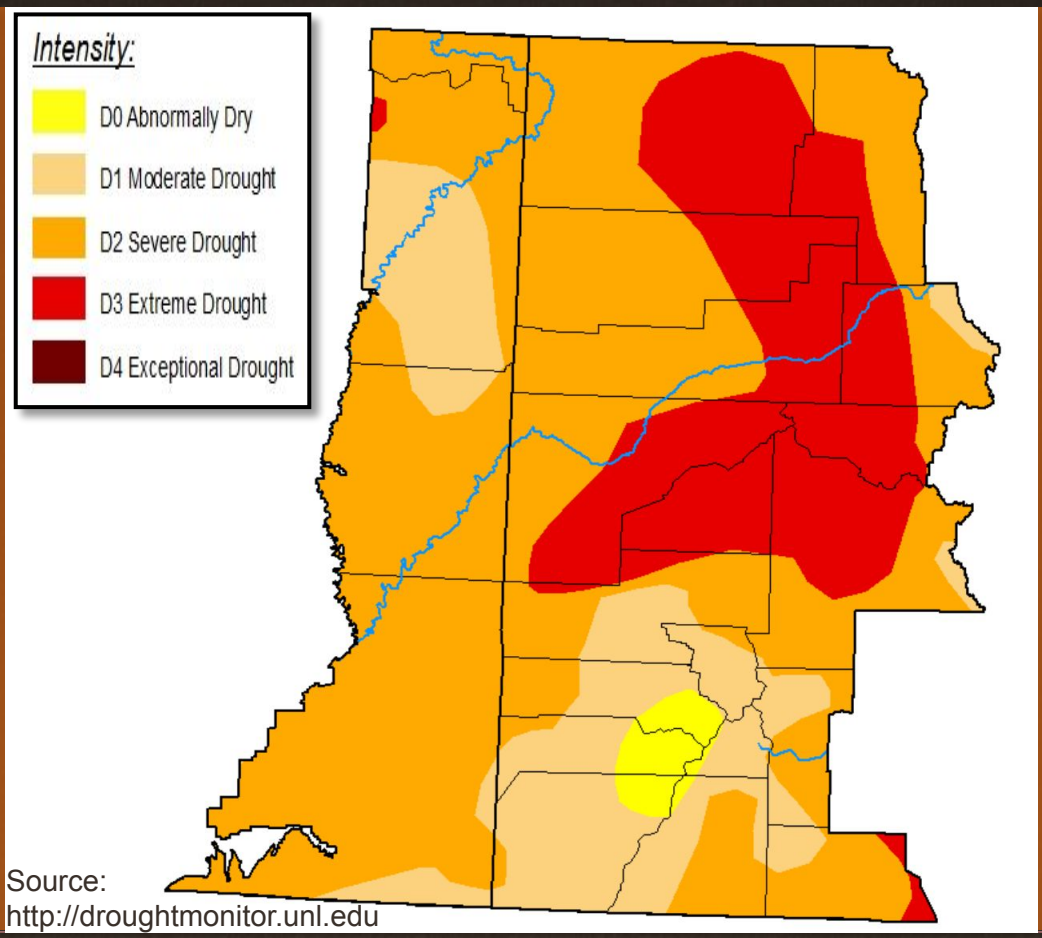
Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record

High Max | Low Max | Precip | High Min | Low Min

DROUGHT CONDITIONS UPDATE

AS OF JULY 29TH

Extreme (D3) Drought expanded across portions of northwest and west-central Colorado, with a pocket appearing in the far western portion of the Uinta Basin in eastern Utah. Severe (D2) Drought has filled in across much of the remaining area of northwest Colorado and northeast Utah, as well as the lower elevations of southwest Colorado and southeast Utah. However, interestingly, enough daily monsoonal showers have allowed improvement to Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions over the central San Juan mountains.



Source:
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

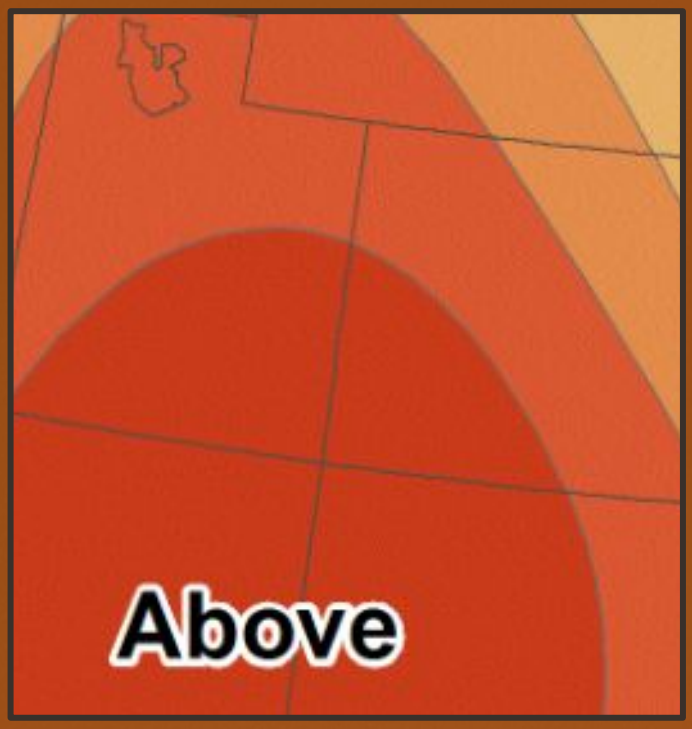
AUGUST 2025

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION

The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is highlighting a strong probability of above normal temperatures for eastern Utah and western Colorado. There's a 60-70% chance of above normal temperatures for the southern half of the area, with a 50-60% chance across the remainder of the region. All of eastern Utah and western Colorado is favored to see below normal precipitation. The majority is looking at a 40-50% probability of below normal precipitation, with the remainder seeing a 33-40% probability

Temperatures



Precipitation