

# NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK  
BACK AT

**MARCH 2024**  
WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

March remained cooler and unsettled, with a never ending train of storms bringing valley rain and mountain snow. The month came in like a lion with a system that brought strong, gusty winds to all elevations, and significant mountain snow and valley rain. Unsettled northwest flow in the wake of this system kept mountain showers going through the rest of the first week. The next quick moving system took aim at the San Juan mountains, bringing several inches to the highest elevations. A brief period of warmer and drier weather arrived around the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month, before cooler and unsettled conditions returned once more. Mountains saw a foot to two feet out of this system, with valleys seeing a quarter to a half an inch of rain. Drier conditions returned again by the 18<sup>th</sup>, although temperatures remained on the cooler side. Cooler temperatures didn't last though, as a warming trend, and by the 22<sup>nd</sup>, temperatures in the lower valleys were flirting with 70F, and all locations saw highs 5-10 degrees above normal. And then the next storm moved in, once again bringing widespread mountain snow and valley rain. One more brief period of warmer and drier weather snuck in before the end of the month, but March went out like it came in, with a strong system bringing breezy conditions and widespread showers.



# MARCH 2024

## CLIMATE 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 MARCH have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.*

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# STORY OF THE MONTH **IN LIKE A LION**

*The month of March came in like a lion, with an intense storm system poised to bring widespread rain and snow to eastern Utah and western Colorado, along with a strong cold front bringing much cooler temperatures. Ahead of this cold front, a strong upper level jet helped to bring widespread gusty winds to the area. Valley locations did see gusts of 50-60 mph with several reports of downed trees and power lines. Higher elevations saw gusts to nearly 80 mph at times.*

## STRONG WINDS EXPECTED TODAY

MOUNTAIN SNOW/VALLEY RAIN TO FOLLOW THIS EVENING

MAX GUSTS TODAY

WIND GUSTS TODAY THROUGH  
SUNDAY AM

VALLEYS **50-65** MPH

MOUNTAINS **65-75** MPH



CROSSWINDS



FALLING TREES  
OR LIMBS



SECURE LOOSE  
OBJECTS



NUMEROUS WIND AND WINTER  
WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS IN EFFECT...  
CHECK [WEATHER.GOV/GJT](http://WEATHER.GOV/GJT)

Grand  
Junction

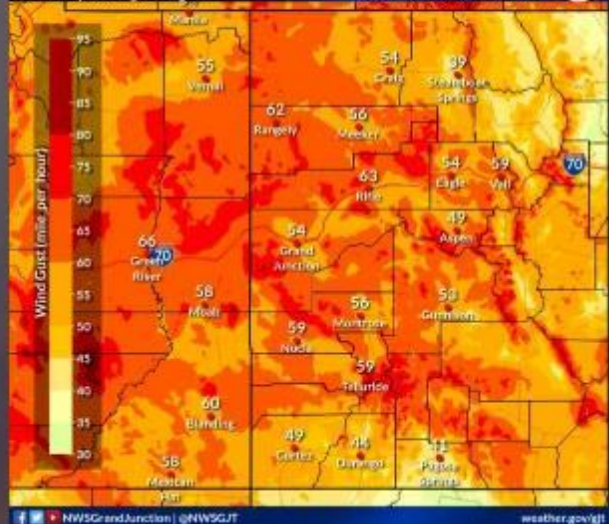


[WWW.WEATHER.GOV/GJT](http://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/GJT)  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

### Maximum Wind Gusts

Noon Today - Midnight Tonight

Weather Forecast Office  
Grand Junction, CO  
Issued Mar 02, 2024 2:03 AM MST



UPDATED @ 4:05 AM MST MAR 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2024

M A R C H  
2 0 2 4

# TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	32.8 <b>(-0.7)</b>	53 on 3/21, 22	9 on 3/9
Cortez, CO	40.0 <b>(-0.4)</b>	66 on 3/30	17 on 3/10
Craig, CO	33.4 <b>(-0.6)</b>	61 on 3/21	6 on 3/9
Durango, CO	39.2 <b>(+1.3)</b>	65 on 3/30	18 on 3/10, 27
Grand Junction, CO	46.2 <b>(+1.2)</b>	70 on 3/21	25 on 3/9
Meeker, CO	34.6 <b>(-1.9)</b>	60 on 3/21	11 on 3/9
Montrose, CO	42.5 <b>(+0.4)</b>	66 on 3/30	23 on 3/3
Rifle, CO	41.2 <b>(0.0)</b>	66 on 3/21	20 on 3/9
Canyonlands Airport, UT	45.0 <b>(-0.9)</b>	69 on 3/21, 30	21 on 3/9
Vernal, UT	40.5 <b>(+0.3)</b>	67 on 3/21	17 on 3/9



M A R C H  
2 0 2 4

# PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	1.54	+0.51
Cortez, CO	1.34	+0.50
Craig, CO	1.63	+0.64
Durango, CO	1.12	+0.25
Grand Junction, CO	0.94	+0.14
Meeker, CO	1.89	+0.82
Montrose, CO	0.85	+0.23
Rifle, CO	1.29	+0.53
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.45	-0.09
Vernal, UT	0.20	-0.52

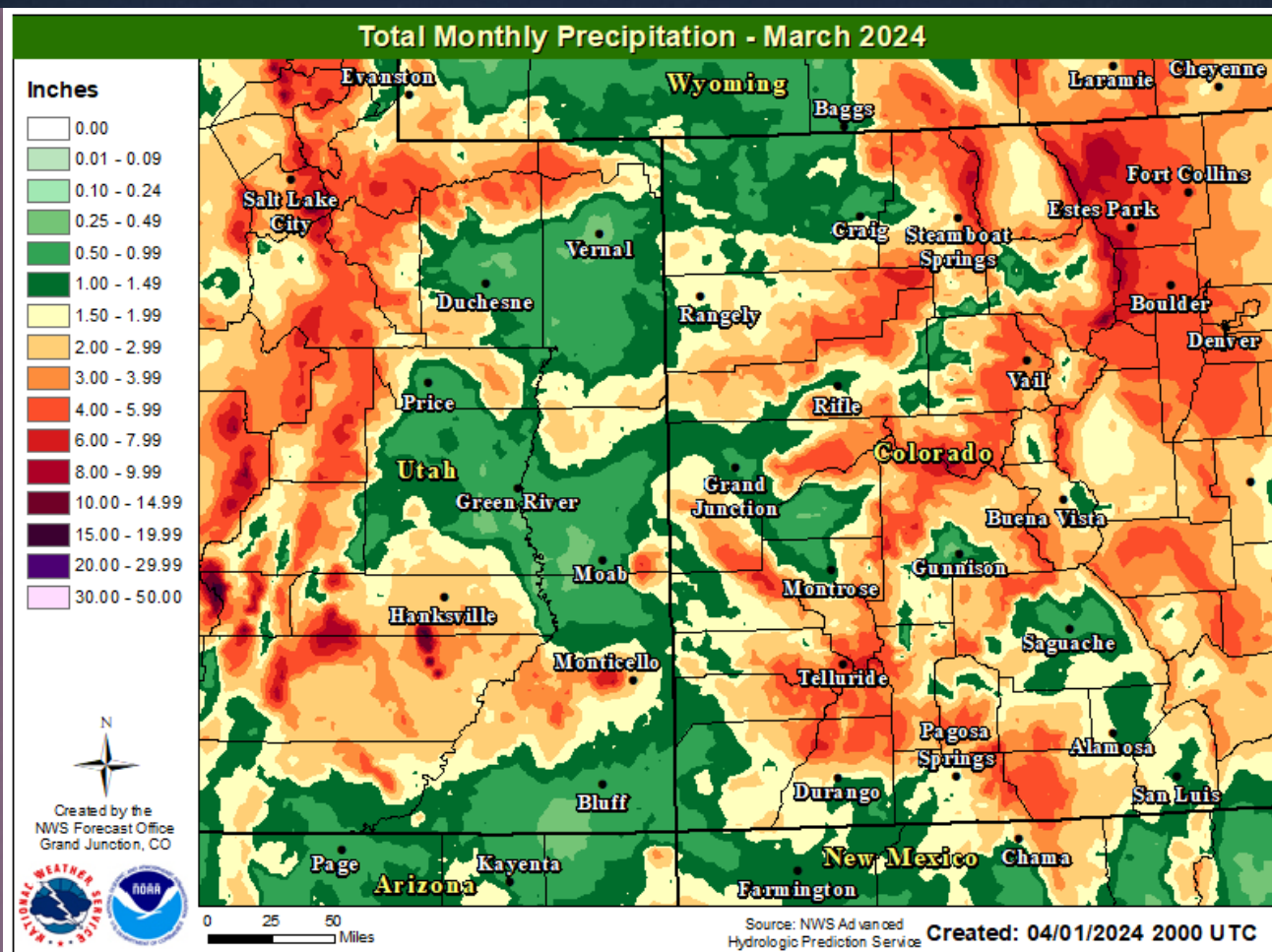
# MARCH 2024

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL  
MONTHLY

# PRECIPITATION





# MARCH 2024

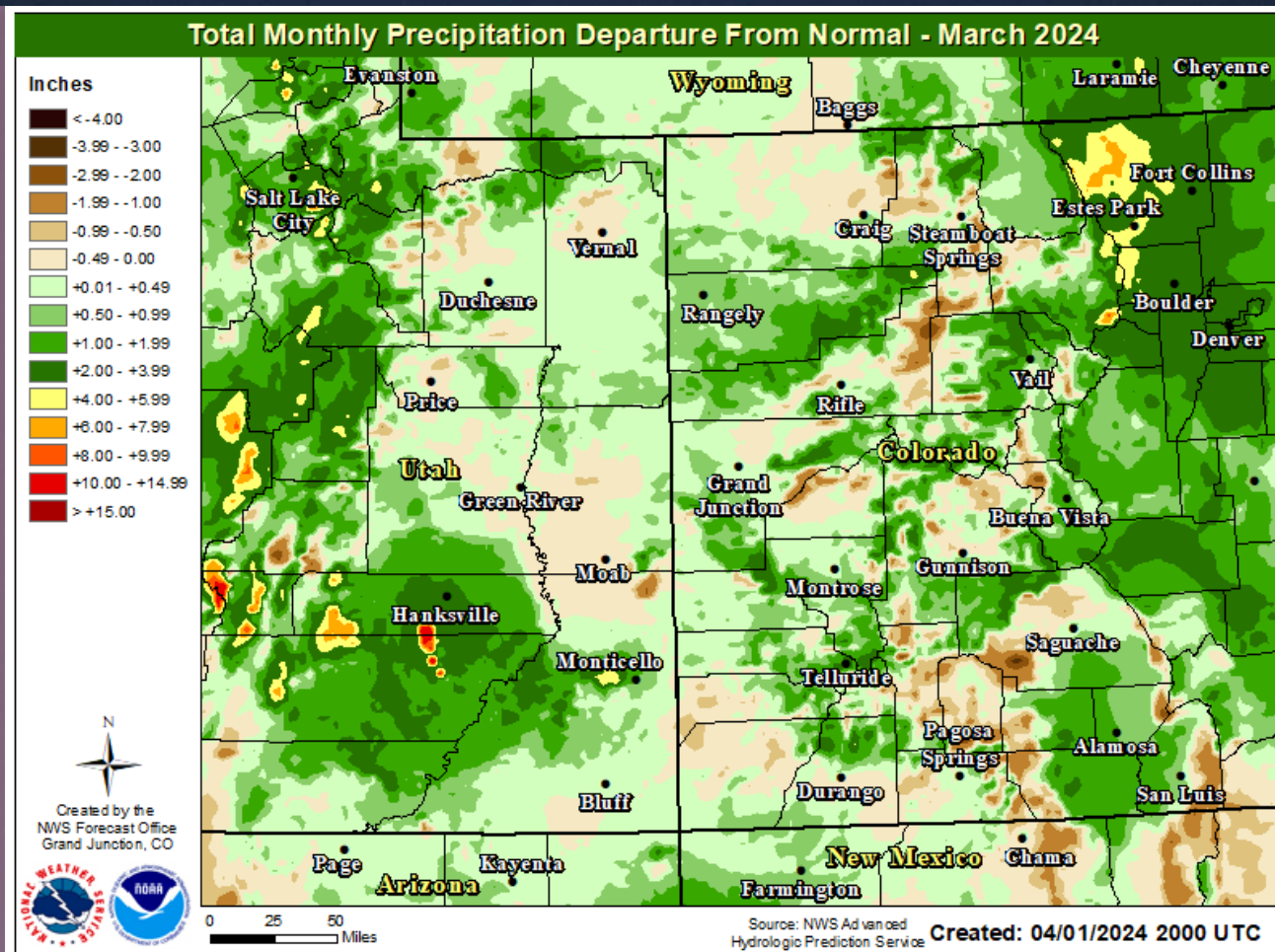
## CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL  
MONTHLY

# PRECIPITATION

## DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



# MARCH 2024

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY  
RECORDS

# R E P O R T

*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

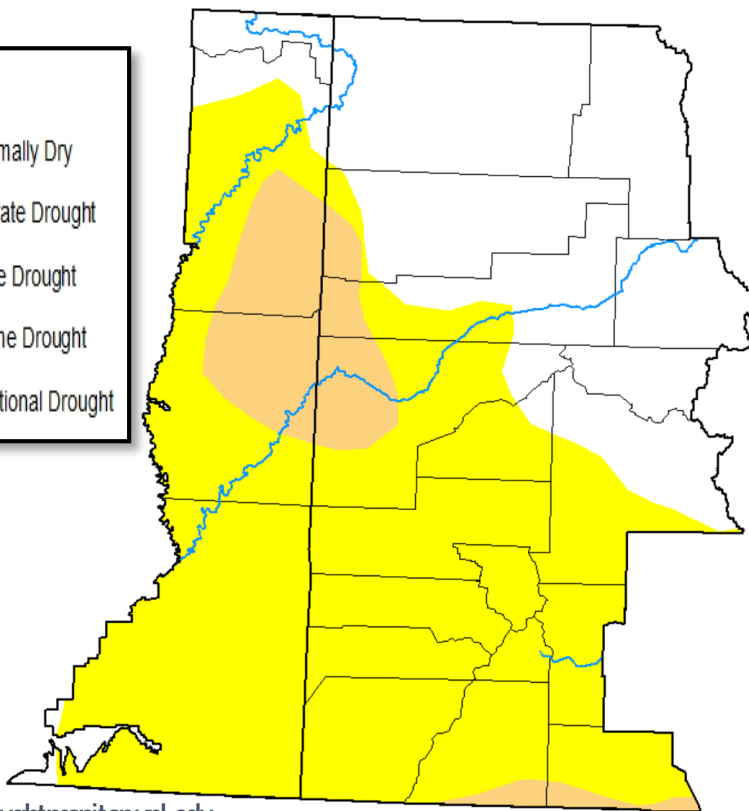
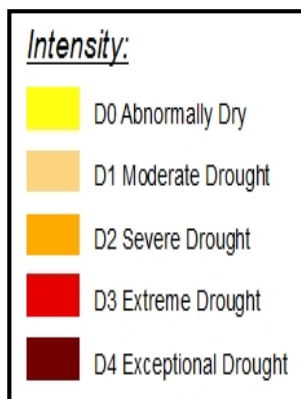
High Min

Low Min





*March was yet another wet and unsettled month across eastern Utah and western Colorado, leading to continued chipping away at the drought across the area. Far northeastern Utah, including the eastern Uintas, northwest Colorado, and the northern and central Colorado mountains are now drought free. The remainder of the region remains under Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, with a patch of Moderate (D1) Drought in central eastern Utah and central western Colorado, as well as along the southwestern Colorado border.*

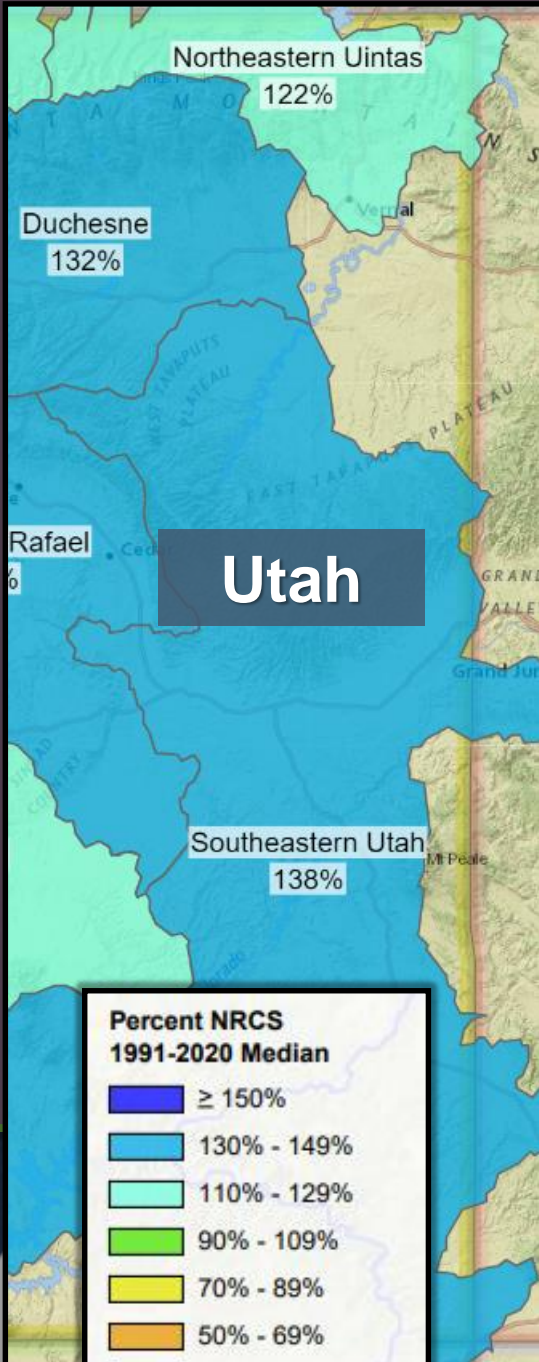


Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

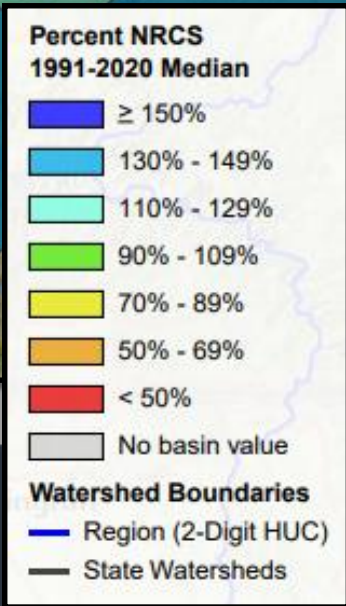
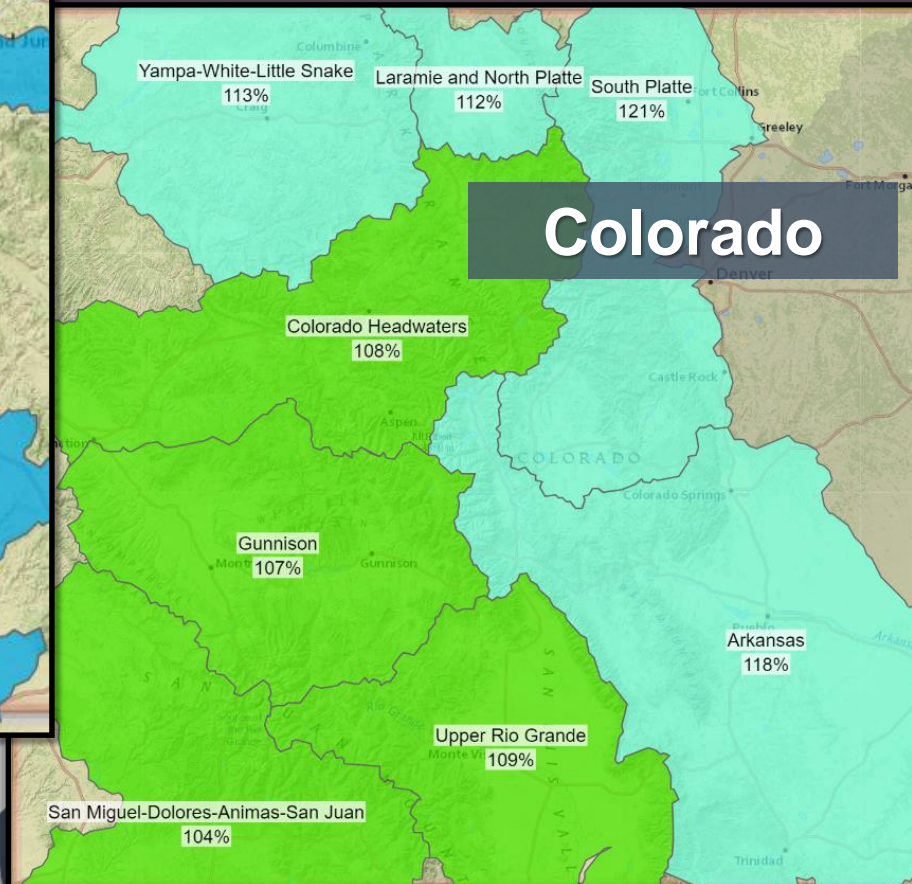
# SNOWPACK CONDITIONS

# UPDATE

AS OF APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>



Several wet storms during the month of March gave Colorado and Utah basins a boost to their snowpack totals. The Colorado Headwaters, Gunnison, and San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basins ended the month with 100-110% of normal snowpack. The Yampa-White-Little Snake Basin did a bit better, with a month end snowpack of 110-120% of normal. In eastern Utah, the Northeastern Uintas' month-end snowpack was 120-130% of normal, while the Duchesne and Southeast Utah basins finished the month with snowpacks of 130-140% of normal.





A P R I L  
2 0 2 4

# OUTLOOK

## TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



*The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) continues to favor equal chances of above or below normal temperatures for all of Utah and Colorado, including the Grand Junction CWA. In addition, CPC is slightly favoring (33-40%) above normal precipitation for most of eastern Utah and western Colorado. Areas along the Divide are on the border between that slight favoring of above normal precipitation and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.*



Temperatures

