

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK
BACK AT

MARCH 2025

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

The month of March picked up where February left off, with unusually warm and pleasant weather. This wouldn't last, however, as unsettled weather returned swiftly, with valley rain and mountain snow, along with periodic gusty winds and cooler temperatures. One of the more impressive storms of the month began on the 5th and lasted through the 8th, with wind gusts in excess of 50 mph and mountain snow totals in the 1-2 feet range. Even the lower elevation valleys saw some snow with this system. Warmer and drier weather returned for the second week of the month, with temperatures running 5-10 degrees above normal. Another round of below normal temperatures and widespread snow moved in for the 13th to 15th, bringing difficult travel conditions. Convective snow showers on the tail end of the system also brought along the first rumbles of thunder for the year, showing that even though winter is holding on, spring is nosing in. Another short break of near to above normal temperatures, before yet another winter storm brought widespread precipitation, gusty winds, and more difficult travel to the area. And even on the first day of Spring, another winter storm brought an additional 6-12 inches of snow to the northern and central mountains. High pressure finally built in for the 24th-28th, with sunny skies and high temperatures 10-20 degrees above normal, with the first 80 degree day of the year in the Grand Valley. But March wouldn't be March if we didn't end with one last round of mountain snow and a substantial cool off to below normal temperatures.



MARCH 2025

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 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

LATE SEASON SNOW

The Western Slope is certainly no stranger to late season snow storms, but it definitely felt a bit odd to have snow sticking to the roads across lower elevations of eastern Utah and western Colorado this month. With several strong and cold winter storms working their way through, there were several days of messy travel along important routes, such as I-70 and US Highway 40. A little reminder for everyone from Mother Nature that, after the very warm temperatures in February, winter isn't over just yet.



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TEMPERATURES



Location	AVG Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (° F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	35.0 (+1.5)	66 on 3/26	10 on 3/8
Cortez, CO	40.9 (+0.5)	76 on 3/26	14 on 3/19, 20
Craig, CO	38.5 (+4.5)	71 on 3/26, 27	13 on 3/20
Durango, CO	39.5 (+1.6)	76 on 3/26	10 on 3/20
Grand Junction, CO	48.6 (+3.6)	80 on 3/26, 27	26 on 3/8
Meeker, CO	38.8 (+2.3)	71 on 3/26, 27	14 on 3/16, 20
Montrose, CO	43.6 (+1.5)	76 on 3/26	18 on 3/20
Rifle, CO	43.7 (+2.5)	76 on 3/26, 27	20 on 3/20
Canyonlands Airport, UT	47.3 (+1.4)	81 on 3/27	22 on 3/9, 19
Vernal, UT	43.1 (+2.9)	76 on 3/27	21 on 3/1, 16



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PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.57	-0.46
Cortez, CO	0.27	-0.57
Craig, CO	1.38	+0.39
Durango, CO	0.59	-0.28
Grand Junction, CO	0.28	-0.52
Meekeer, CO	1.17	+0.10
Montrose, CO	0.11	-0.51
Rifle, CO	0.37	-0.39
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.34	-0.20
Vernal, UT	0.47	-0.25



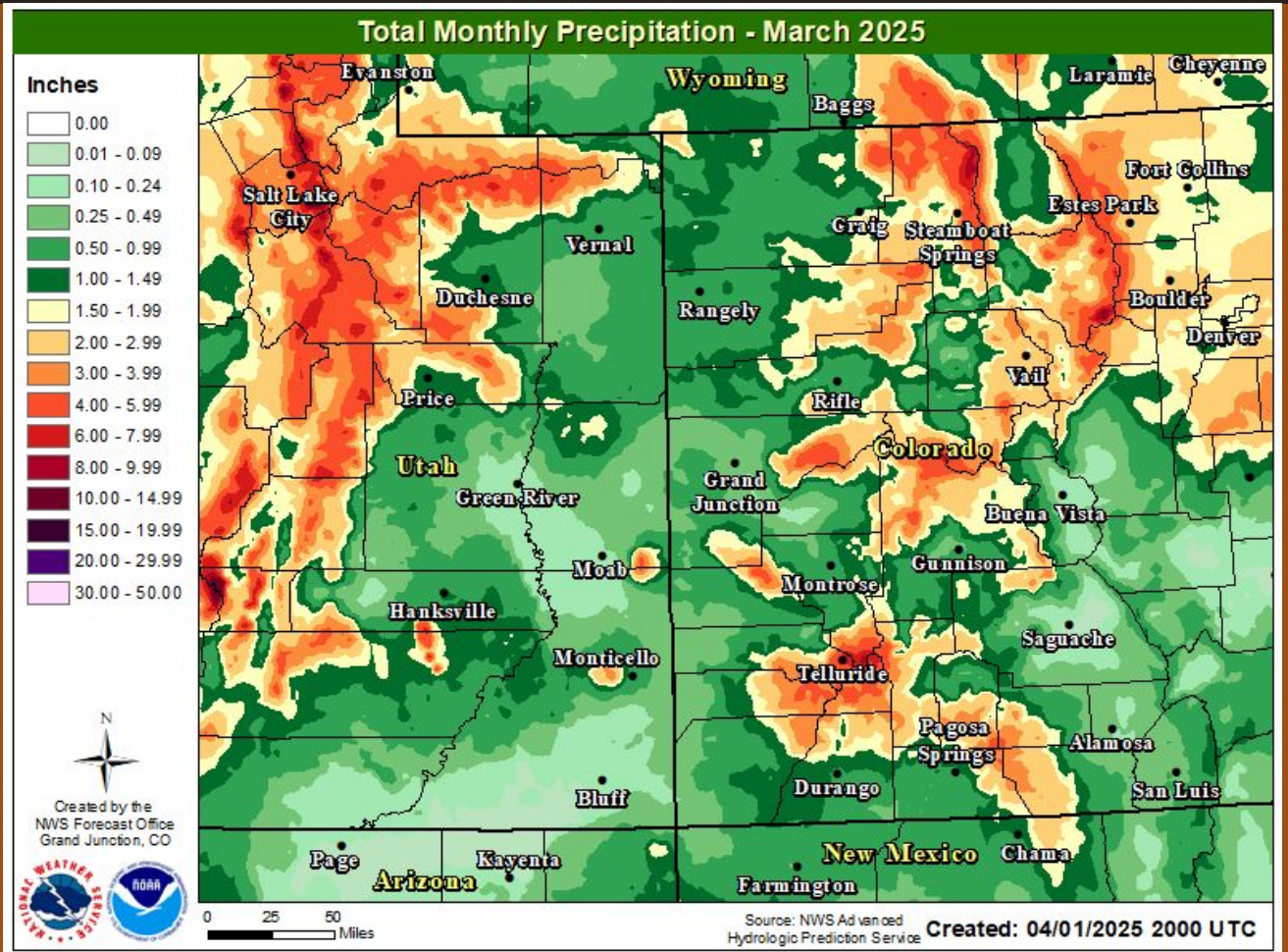
MARCH 2025

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL
MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION



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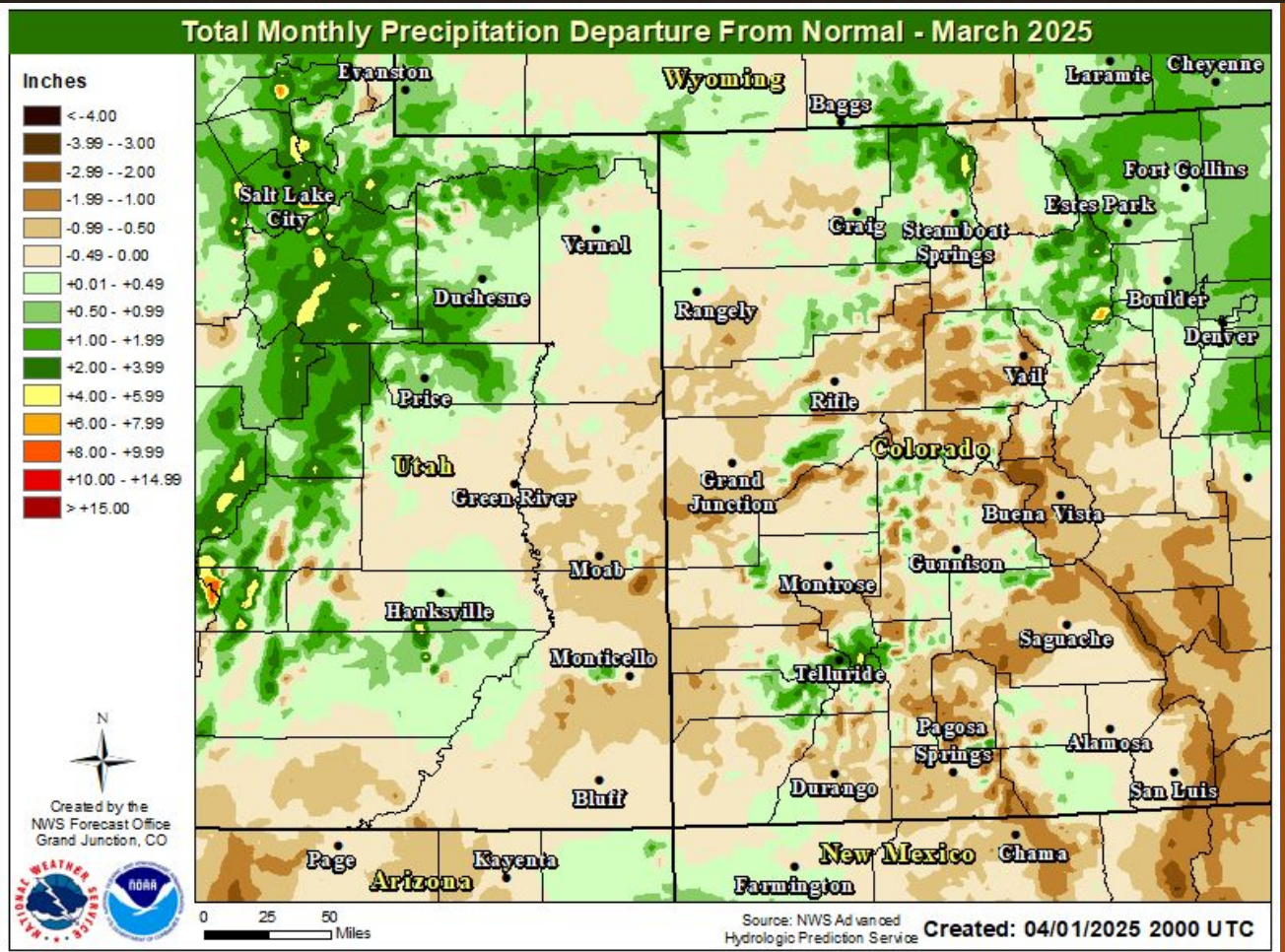
CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL
MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



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CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY
RECORDS

R E P O R T

A total of 3 daily records were set across the primary climate sites

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	March 1st	High Max Temperature	69F	66F in 2008
Grand Junction, CO	March 27th	High Max Temperature	80F	78F in 2022
Grand Junction, CO	March 28th	High Min Temperature	51F	50F in 1895

High Max

Low Max

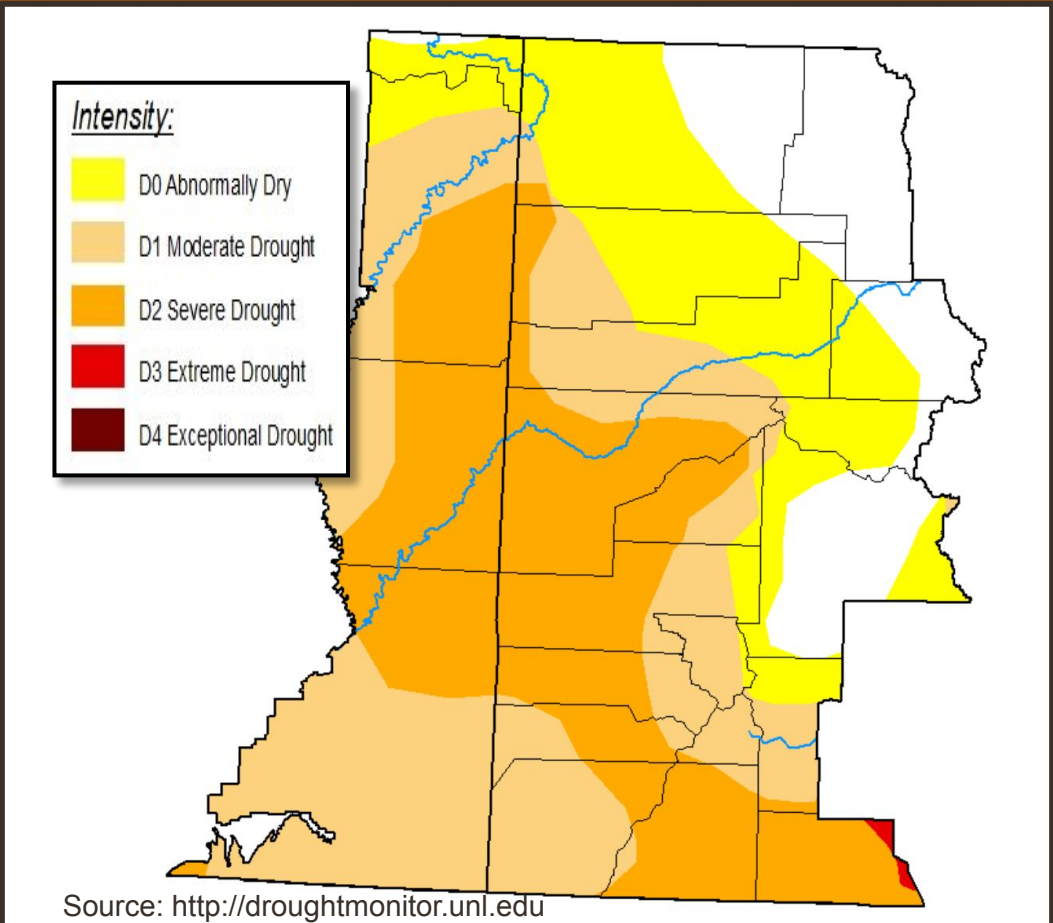
Precip

High Min

Low Min

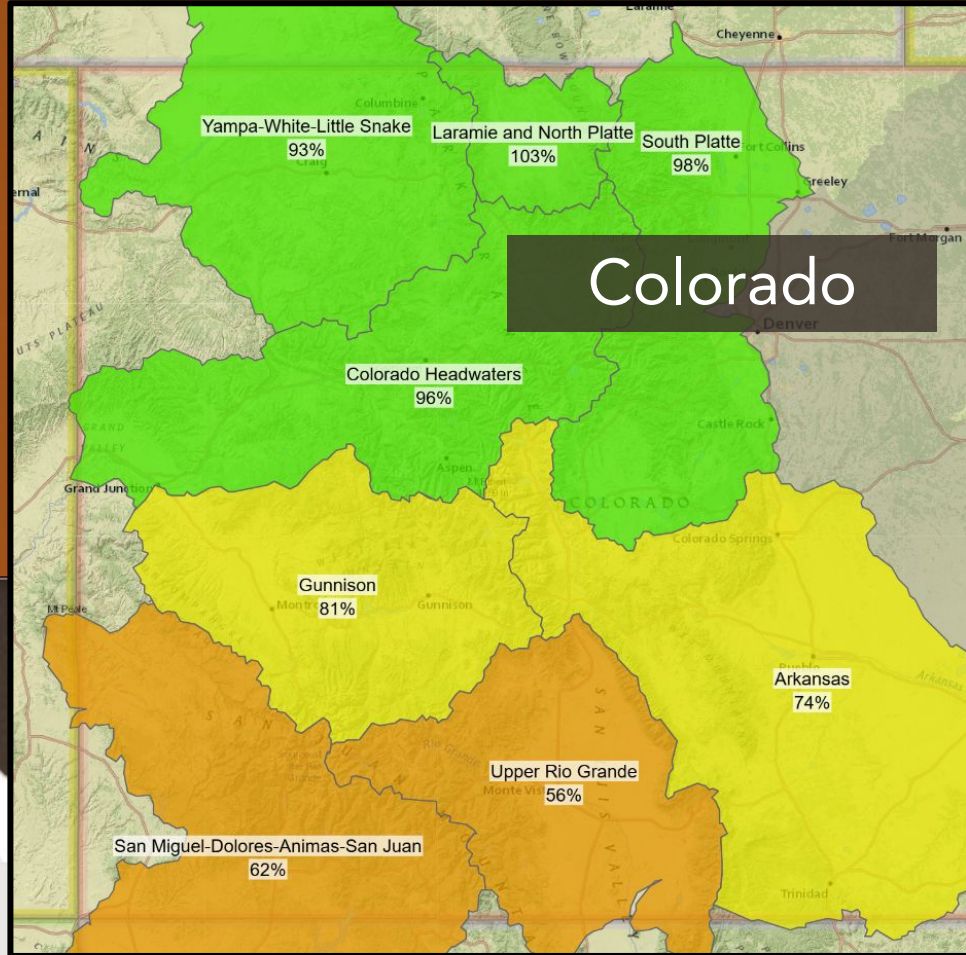
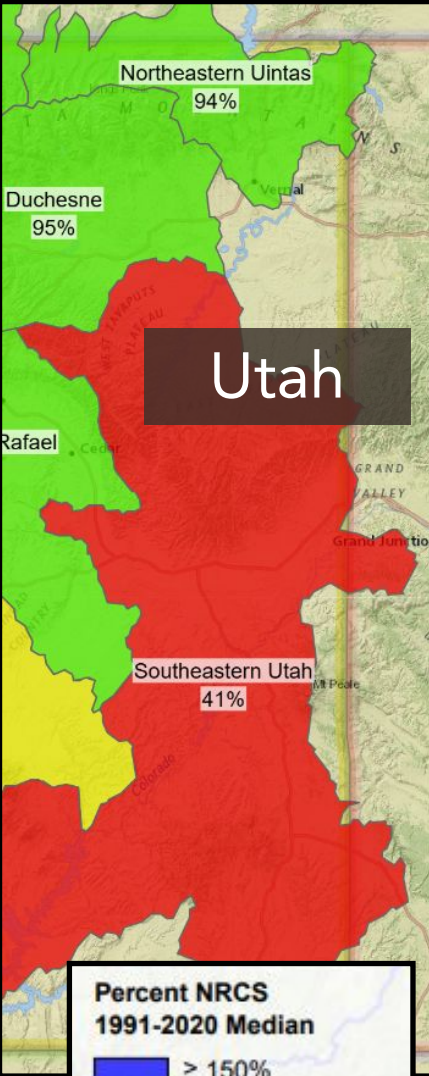


A continued lack of precipitation during the month of March, particularly at lower elevations, has led to continued expansions of drought. The northern and central mountains, into the Gunnison Basin, remain drought free. The tiny sliver of Extreme (D3) Drought in far eastern Archuleta county has expanded just a bit over the last month. Otherwise the only significant change over the last month is an expansion of Severe (D2) Drought through the western San Juans and into the Southwestern Colorado valleys.





Precipitation during the month of March quite strongly favored the northern mountains of eastern Utah and western Colorado, with the Northeastern Uintas and Duchesne basins in Utah and the Yampa-White-Little Snake and Colorado Headwaters basins in Colorado ending the month with 90-100% of average snow-water equivalent (SWE). The southern basins didn't do so well. The Gunnison basin came in at 75-85% of normal SWE, while the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basin came in at 55-65% of normal. The worst basin by far was the Southeastern Utah basin, where the end of month average was just 35-45% of normal SWE.



Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

- ≥ 150%
- 130% - 149%
- 110% - 129%
- 90% - 109%
- 70% - 89%
- 50% - 69%
- < 50%
- No basin value

Watershed Boundaries

- Region (2-Digit HUC)
- State Watersheds

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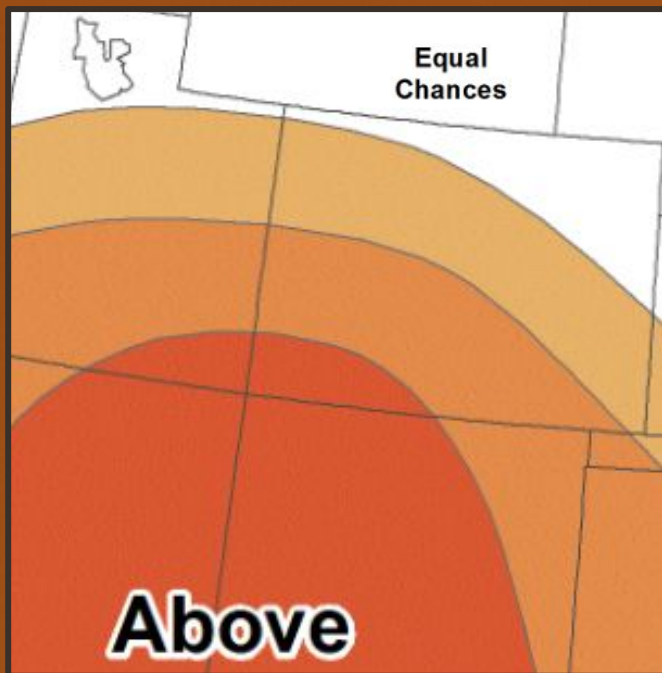
OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center is leaning toward above normal temperatures for eastern Utah and western Colorado, with northern areas seeing a 33-40% chance of above normal temperatures, and central areas seeing a 40-50% chance. Areas around the Four Corners are likely to see above normal temperatures, with a 50-60% chance. Below normal precipitation is also favored April, with the majority of the area favored for a 33-40% chance of below normal precipitation, with higher probabilities (40-50%) around the Four Corners.

Temperatures



Precipitation

