

# NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A L O O K  
BACK AT

## MARCH 2026

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

The month of March began mild but unsettled, with some light rain and snow showers in and around the northern and central Divide mountains. A brief break rounded out the first week, before a stronger storm moved in, bringing a general 6-12 inches of snow to all the eastern Utah and western Colorado ranges, as well as a substantial cool down. For a day or two, temperatures dipped to at or a few degrees below normal. This did not last for long, however, as a dome of high pressure built into the Desert Southwest. Over the second week of the month temperatures gradually warmed first to 10 degrees above normal, then to around 20 degrees above normal. Another weak system moved through on the 14th and 15th, bringing another brief cooldown and another round of mountain rain and snow showers. Temperatures quickly rebounded during the third week of the month, with highs by the 21st and 22nd running nearly 30 degrees above normal. Numerous records were broken, often by 5-10 degrees over the previous. The Grand Junction Regional Airport set a new All-Time Record High for the month of March, with 88F breaking the previous record of 81F handily. This heat stuck around through nearly the end of the month, although gradually temperatures cooled to around 15-20 degrees above normal by 30th and 31st. Gusty winds and dry conditions through the back half of the month led to a period of elevated fire weather concerns, with numerous Red Flag Warnings issued.



# MARCH 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

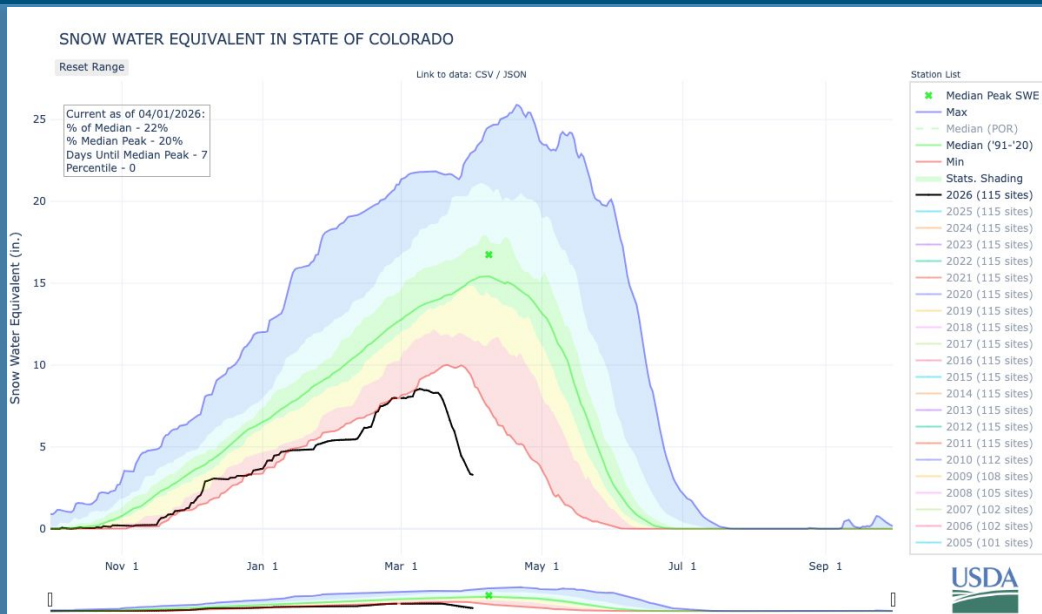
*NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas may have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.*

PAGE #	PAGE	TITLE
1		Cover / Monthly Weather Synopsis
2		Table of Contents
3		Story of the Month
4		Temperatures
5		Precipitation
6		Total Monthly Precipitation
7		Monthly Precipitation Departure from Normal
8		Daily Records Report
9		Daily Records Report Cont'd
10		Daily Records Report Cont'd
11		Drought Conditions, as of March 3rd
12		Snowpack Conditions, as of March 1st
13		March Climate Outlook

# STORY OF THE MONTH

# HISTORICALLY BAD SNOWPACK

Considering the "cold" season we've had so far, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the snowpack in Utah and Colorado is in pretty bad shape. But the data points to this being a historically bad year, with the worst snowpack conditions since records began. According to Russ Schumacher at the Colorado Climate Center, the snowpack for the entire state of Colorado peaked at 8.55 inches, which is 51% of the normal median peak, and occurred a month ahead of average. Additionally, this is the lowest peak since snowpack measurements with the SNOTEL system began (1987). Even in other historically snow-poor years, the snowpack still increased substantially between March 1st and April 1st, which has not happened this year. And that is part of what sets this year apart. No matter how you slice it, no matter what data you look at, the winter of 2025-2026 is historically bad. And with worsening drought and already hot and dry conditions, concern is growing over what the rest of the spring and summer season has in store.



M A R C H  
2 0 2 6

# TEMPERATURES



Location	AVG Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (° F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	43.9 <b>(+8.0)</b>	77 on 3/25	13 on 3/16
Cortez, CO	48.9 <b>(+8.5)</b>	85 on 3/21	16 on 3/7
Craig, CO	44.7 <b>(+10.7)</b>	82 on 3/21, 25	14 on 3/7
Durango, CO	47.7 <b>(+9.8)</b>	82 on 3/21, 25	15 on 3/7, 8
Grand Junction, CO	55.3 <b>(+10.3)</b>	88 on 3/25	24 on 3/7
Meeker, CO	45.9 <b>(+9.4)</b>	83 on 3/25	16 on 3/15
Montrose, CO	52.6 <b>(+10.5)</b>	87 on 3/25	21 on 3/16
Rifle, CO	50.1 <b>(+8.9)</b>	85 on 3/25	19 on 3/16
Canyonlands Airport, UT	55.4 <b>(+9.5)</b>	90 on 3/25	21 on 3/7
Vernal, UT	50.0 <b>(+9.8)</b>	85 on 3/25	19 on 3/7



M A R C H  
2 0 2 6

# PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.73	-0.30
Cortez, CO	0.09	-0.75
Craig, CO	0.22	-0.77
Durango, CO	T	-0.87
Grand Junction, CO	0.02	-0.78
Meeker, CO	0.06	-1.01
Montrose, CO	0.37	-0.25
Rifle, CO	0.21	-0.55
Canyonlands Airport, UT	T	-0.54
Vernal, UT	T	-0.72

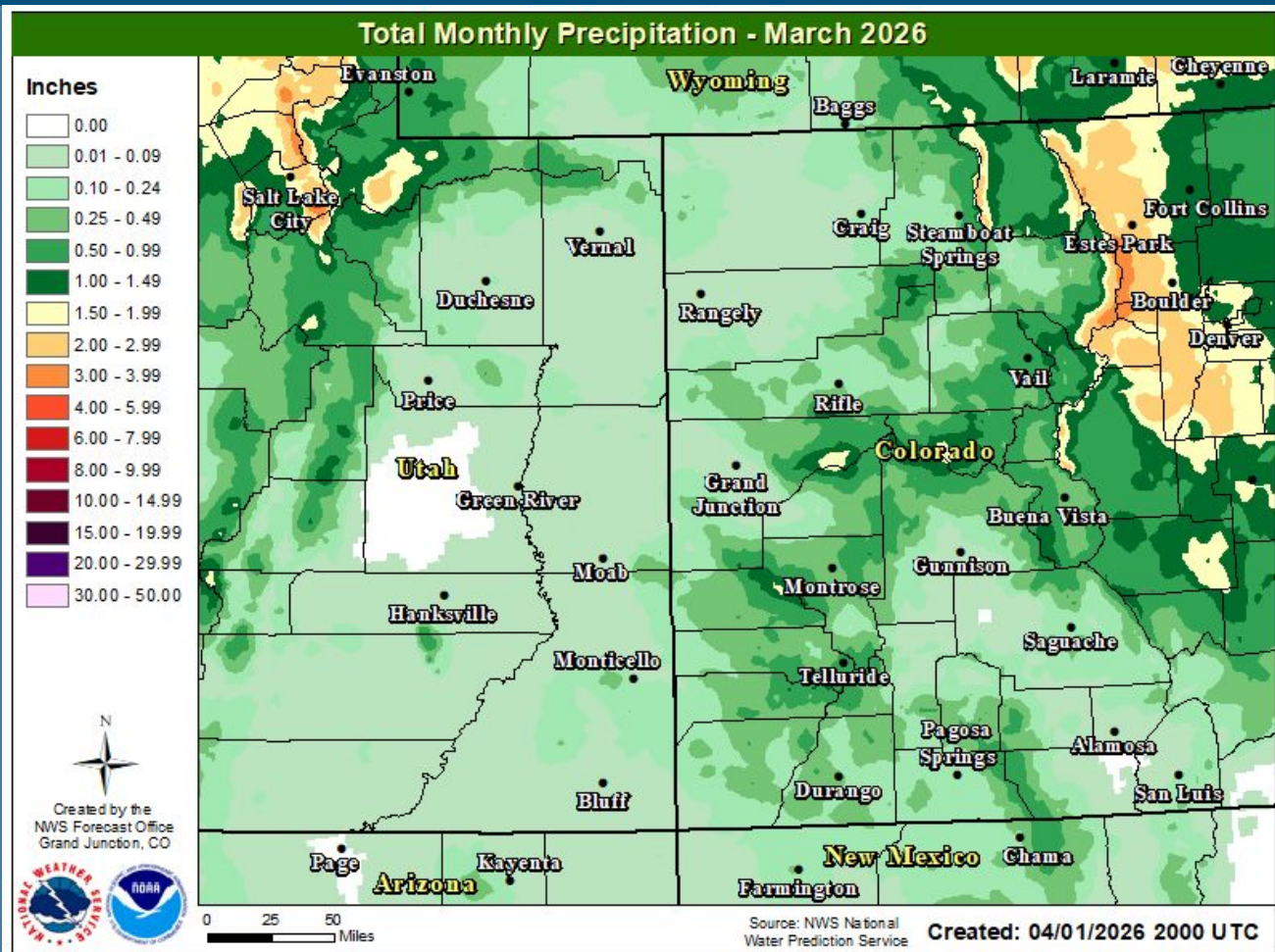


# MARCH 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



# TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



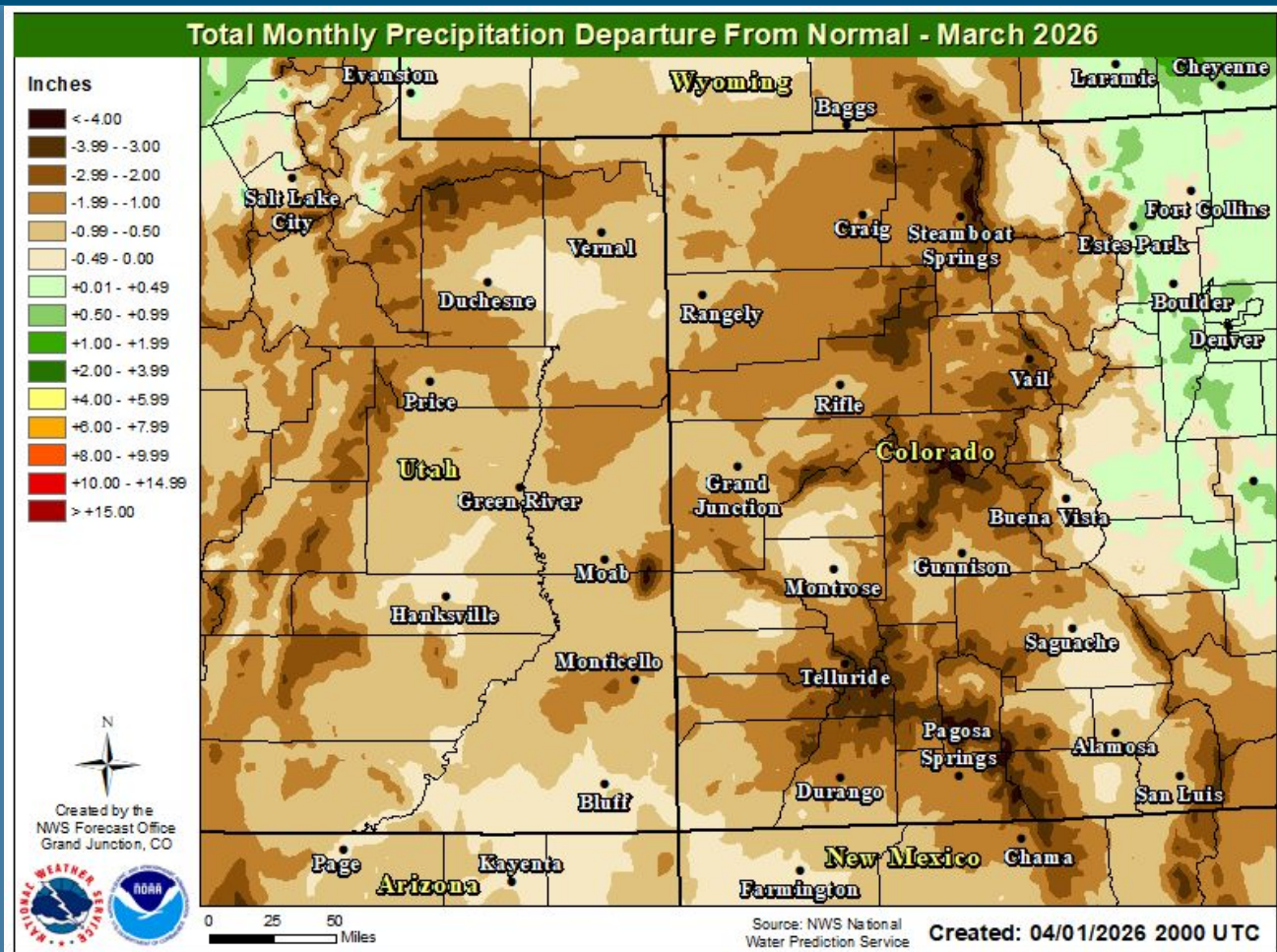
# MARCH 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



# TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

## DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



# MARCH 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



### DAILY RECORDS

# REPORT

*A total of 16 daily records were set across the primary climate sites*

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	March 2nd	High Max Temperature	71F	70F in 1901
Grand Junction, CO	March 2nd	High Min Temperature	42F	42F in 1982
Grand Junction, CO	March 19th	High Max Temperature	82F	81F in 1907
Grand Junction, CO	March 20th	High Max Temperature	85F	81F in 2004
Grand Junction, CO	March 21st	High Max Temperature	87F	79F in 2004
Grand Junction, CO	March 22nd	High Max Temperature	81F	79F in 2004

High Max

Low Max

Precip

High Min

Low Min

# MARCH 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



### DAILY RECORDS REPORT

*A total of 16 daily records were set across the primary climate sites*

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	March 23rd	High Max Temperature	77F	76F in 2012
Grand Junction, CO	March 24th	High Max Temperature	84F	77F in 1998
Grand Junction, CO	March 25th	High Max Temperature	88F	79F in 2012
Grand Junction, CO	March 25th	High Min Temperature	52F	51F in 1998
Grand Junction, CO	March 26th	High Max Temperature	85F	81F in 1971
Grand Junction, CO	March 26th	High Min Temperature	55F	54F in 1940

High Max

Low Max

Precip

High Min

Low Min

# MARCH 2026

## MONTHLY SUMMARY



### DAILY RECORDS

# REPORT

*A total of 16 daily records were set across the primary climate sites*

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	March 29th	High Max Temperature	80F	77F in 1986
Grand Junction, CO	March 30th	High Max Temperature	79F	79F in 1971
Grand Junction, CO	March 30th	High Min Temperature	55F	47F in 1974
Grand Junction, CO	March	Low Monthly Precip	0.02 inches	0.02 inches in 2004

High Max

Low Max

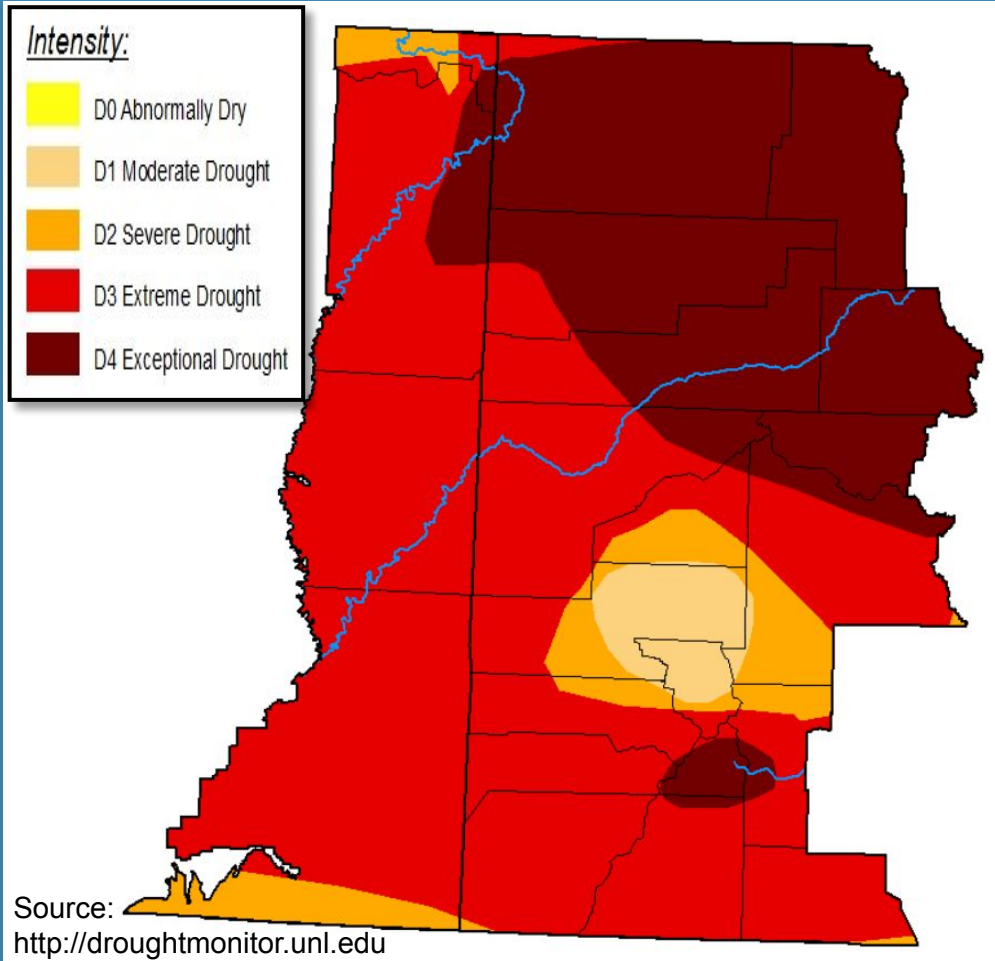
Precip

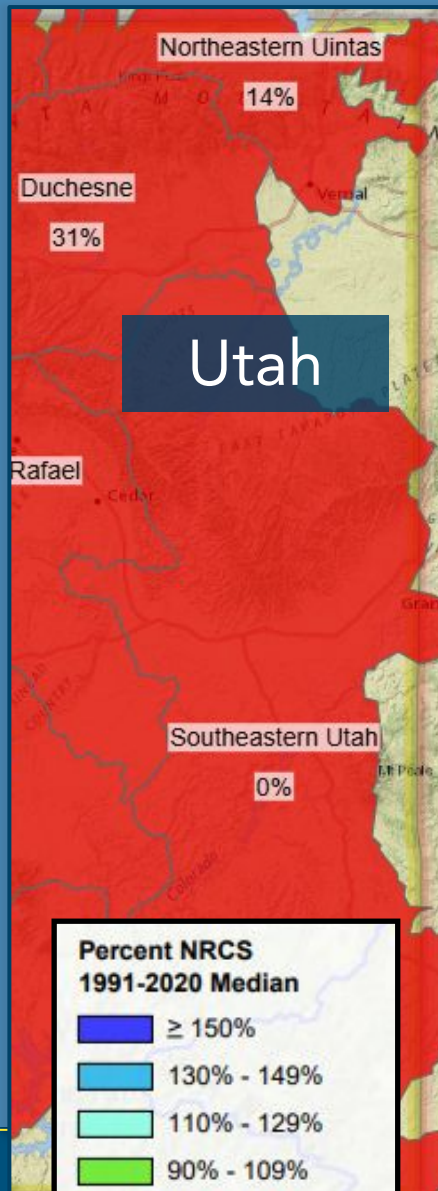
High Min

Low Min



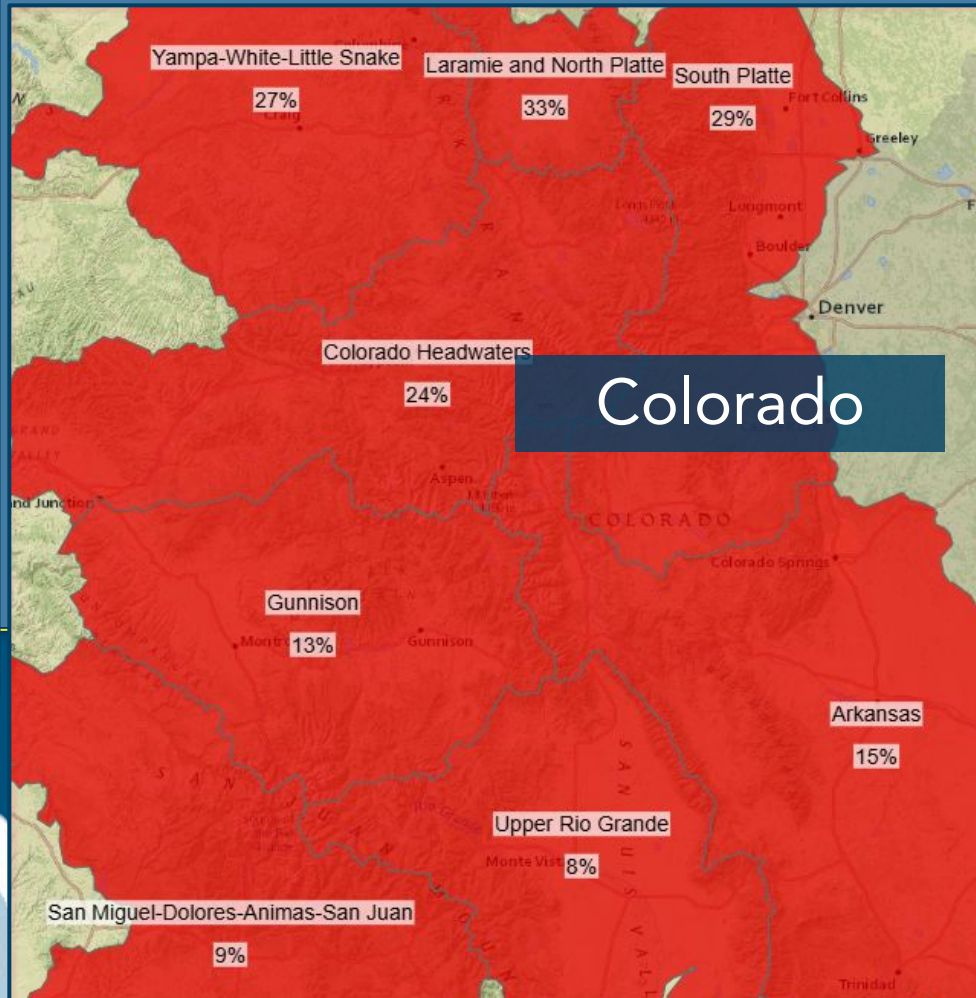
*The overwhelmingly hot and dry month of March has resulted in degradations in drought conditions across the region. Nearly all of eastern Utah and western Colorado are now under Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought. Only far northeast and far southeast Utah, as well as the northern San Juan mountains, continue to see drought conditions of Severe (D2) or better.*



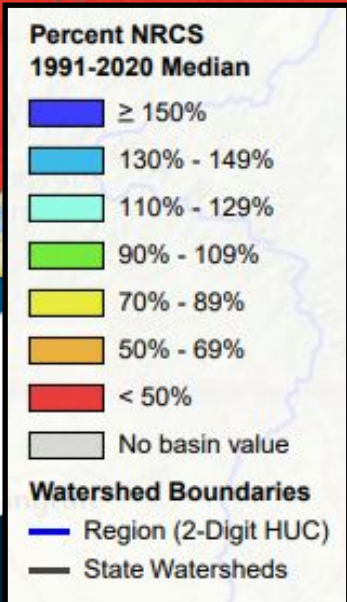


Utah

The month of March was overwhelmingly hot and dry, with most locations seeing temperatures 10-20 degrees above normal for at least half the month. Likewise, many locations saw less than half the normal precipitation for the month. As a result, the already bad snowpack conditions worsened substantially. All basins are below 50% of the monthly median, with many under 20% of the monthly median. Many basins have already begun the meltout process, nearly a month ahead of schedule.



Colorado



A P R I L  
2 0 2 6

# OUTLOOK

## TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



*The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is strongly leaning toward above normal temperatures for all of eastern Utah and western Colorado, with a 60-70% likelihood across the Four Corners and into central-eastern Utah. The remainder of western Colorado and northeast Utah are under a 50-60% likelihood of above normal temperatures, with a small sliver along the WY/CO border with a slightly lower 40-50% likelihood. As for precipitation, northeast Utah and portions of northwest and north-central Colorado are favored to see equal chances of above or below normal precipitation. The remainder of eastern Utah and western Colorado see a slight favoring of below normal precipitation, with a 33-40% likelihood.*



Temperatures

