

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK
BACK AT

MAY 2026

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

The month of May started on a cooler and wetter note, with temperatures near to below normal and valley rain and mountain snow. Temperatures gradually warmed through the first week of the month, but nosedived once more around the 5th as a strong, moist low pressure system moved in. The mountains saw substantial snow accumulation, with up to two feet at the highest elevations. High pressure built in for the second week of the month, with sunny skies and temperatures jumping to 10-15 degrees above normal. Fire weather concerns returned during this period, as gusty afternoon winds and the much drier airmass combined with critical fuels. This pattern stuck around through the midpoint of the month before another pattern shift to cooler and wetter weather. Strong to severe thunderstorms occurred in the lead up to this shift, followed by mountain snow and much cooler temperatures. In fact, temperature ran 10-20 degrees below normal for several days during the third week of the month. By the Memorial Day holiday weekend, however, high pressure had returned once more and temperatures were on an upward trajectory. Enough moisture lingered in the higher terrain to spawn afternoon thunderstorms, which in turn created strong, gusty winds over adjacent valleys. Temperatures warmed back to 10-15 degrees above normal, with surface conditions drying out substantially. The month ended with a return to fire weather conditions.



M A Y 2 0 2 6

M O N T H L Y S U M M A R Y



TABLE OF C O N T E N T S

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 #	P A G E	T I T L E
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	Drought Conditions,	as of June 2nd
10	Snowpack Conditions,	as of June 1st
11	June Climate	Outlook

STORY OF THE MONTH

MAY ROLLERCOASTER

The month of May wound up being quite the rollercoaster when it came to weather conditions. From mountain snow and temperatures feeling more like early April than mid-May, to widespread fire weather conditions and near-record high temperatures, to surprise severe weather, and even a few pleasant spring days in between. It seems like May had it all. And even a bit of much needed precipitation as well.

SHOWERS TODAY AND COOLER

Winter Weather Advisories issued for the northern and central mountains today through tomorrow

Heaviest snow expected late tonight through noon Wednesday

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
www.weather.gov/gjt
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

FORECAST SNOWFALL

Valid 12 AM Tue May 5, 2026 through 6 PM Thu May 7, 2026

Mountain Snow
Valley Rain
Periodic Breaks in Showers
Slick Roads

This Morning through Thursday Evening

THREAT ASSESSMENT

HIGHEST LOCAL RISK

1

WHAT THIS MEANS:
ISOLATED severe storms possible

TIMING
2pm through 8pm

PRIMARY THREAT
DAMAGING WIND

Isolated SEVERE STORMS Today

1

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM RISK

NONE 1 2 3 4 5 HIGH

What To Expect

- Storms develop this afternoon (40% chance), with the potential for a storm or two to become severe with wind gusts up to 60 mph
- Storms will weaken after sunset

What To Do?

- Stay Weather Aware!
- Be ready to take shelter indoors when storms approach
- Have multiple ways to receive warnings

INDOOR SHELTER
OUTDOOR PLANS? STAY WEATHER AWARE
MULTIPLE WAYS TO RECEIVE WARNINGS

NWS GRAND JUNCTION
weather.gov/grandjunction

CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER CONDITIONS CONTINUE TODAY

May 29 2026

Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches are in effect

- Outdoor burning not recommended
- Rapid spread of fire is possible

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
10-15 %

WIND GUSTS
25 - 40 MPH

Grand Junction
www.weather.gov/gjt
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE



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TEMPERATURES



Location	AVG Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (° F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	50.5 (+0.5)	81 on 5/13	22 on 5/7
Cortez, CO	56.8 (+0.9)	89 on 5/12	22 on 5/7
Craig, CO	51.0 (-0.8)	86 on 5/13	22 on 5/1
Durango, CO	55.4 (+2.6)	87 on 5/12	21 on 5/7
Grand Junction, CO	63.6 (+1.6)	94 on 5/12	37 on 5/7
Meeker, CO	51.8 (-0.8)	86 on 5/12, 13	24 on 5/1
Montrose, CO	60.1 (+1.5)	89 on 5/12	33 on 5/1, 5/7
Rifle, CO	57.8 (+0.5)	91 on 5/12	29 on 5/7, 22, 23
Canyonlands Airport, UT	64.2 (+1.3)	96 on 5/12	36 on 5/1, 7
Vernal, UT	56.8 (-0.7)	89 on 5/12	29 on 5/1



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2 0 2 6

PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.46	-1.06
Cortez, CO	0.03	-0.71
Craig, CO	1.92	+0.29
Durango, CO	0.04	-0.70
Grand Junction, CO	0.44	-0.39
Meeker, CO	1.73	-0.01
Montrose, CO	0.39	-0.43
Rifle, CO	0.96	-0.18
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.27	-0.33
Vernal, UT	0.95	-0.01

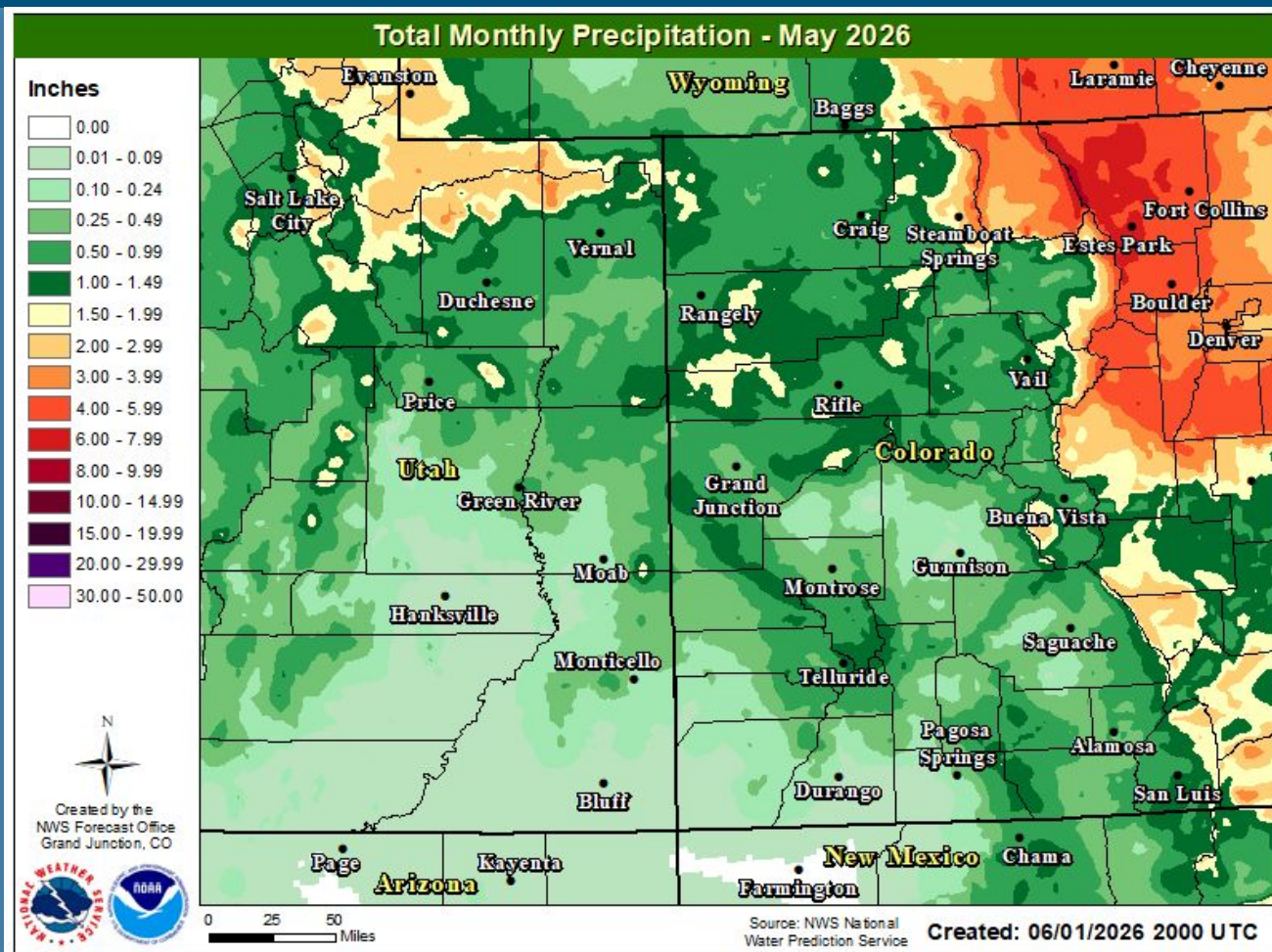


MAY 2026

MONTHLY SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



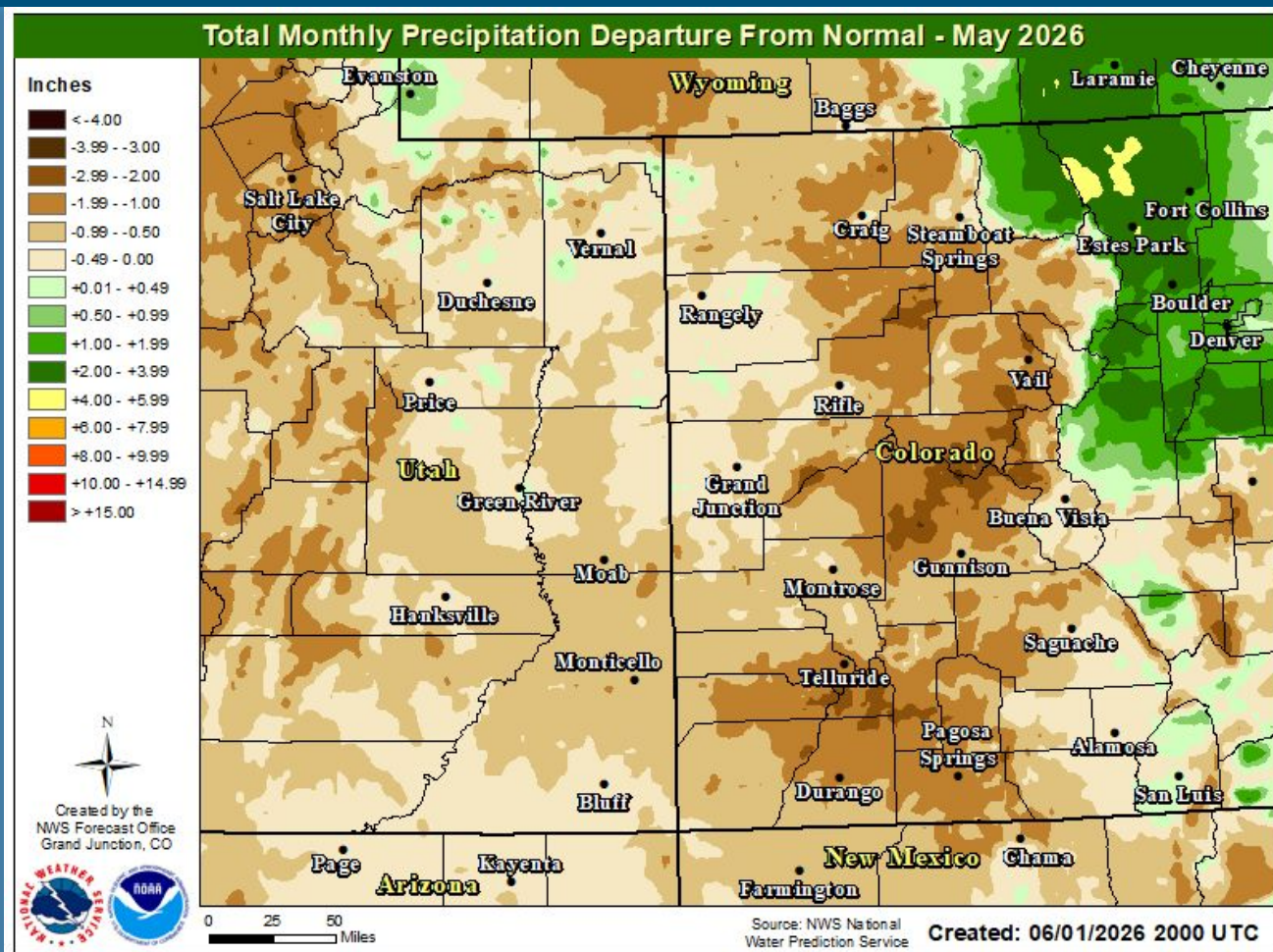
MAY 2026

MONTHLY SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



M A Y 2 0 2 6

M O N T H L Y S U M M A R Y



D A I L Y R E C O R D S

R E P O R T

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

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	May 12th	High Max Temperature	94F	92F in 1960

High Max

Low Max

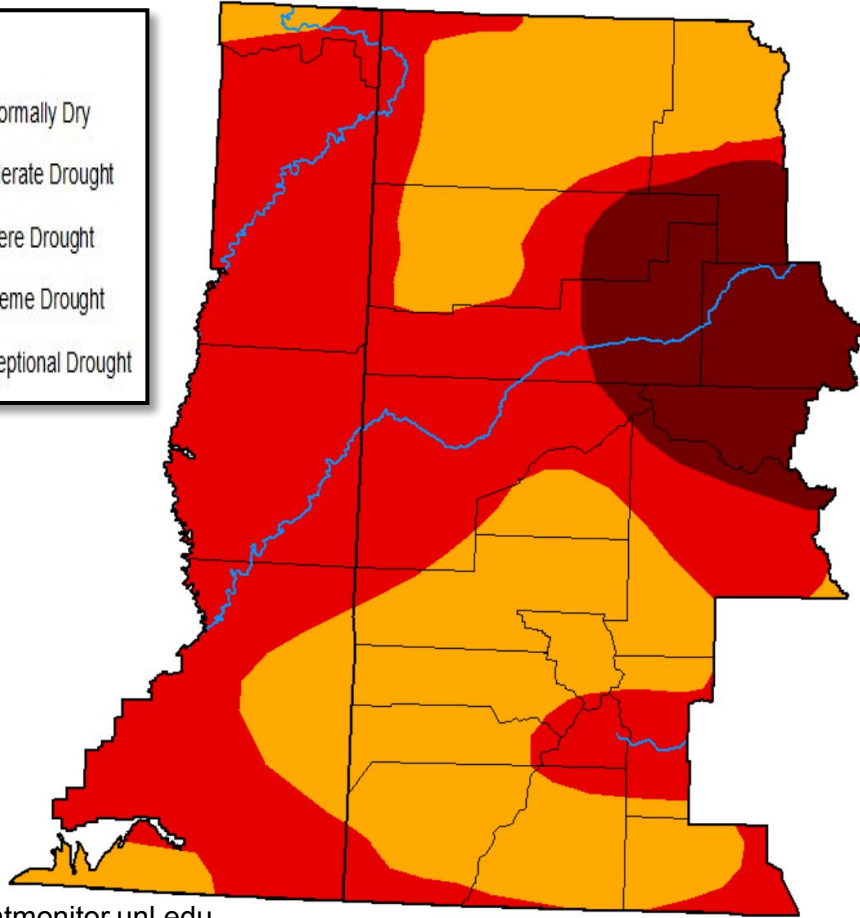
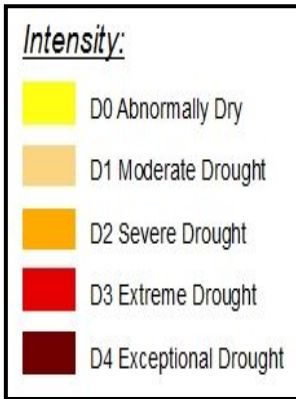
Precip

High Min

Low Min



Cooler and wetter weather across northeast Utah and northwest Colorado have improved drought conditions somewhat. A substantial chunk of Exceptional (D4) and Extreme (D3) Drought has been removed from this area, along with a pocket in southeast Utah. The area of Moderate (D1) Drought that had lingered over the northern San Juans has worsened to Severe (D2). Otherwise, conditions remained consistent over the last month.

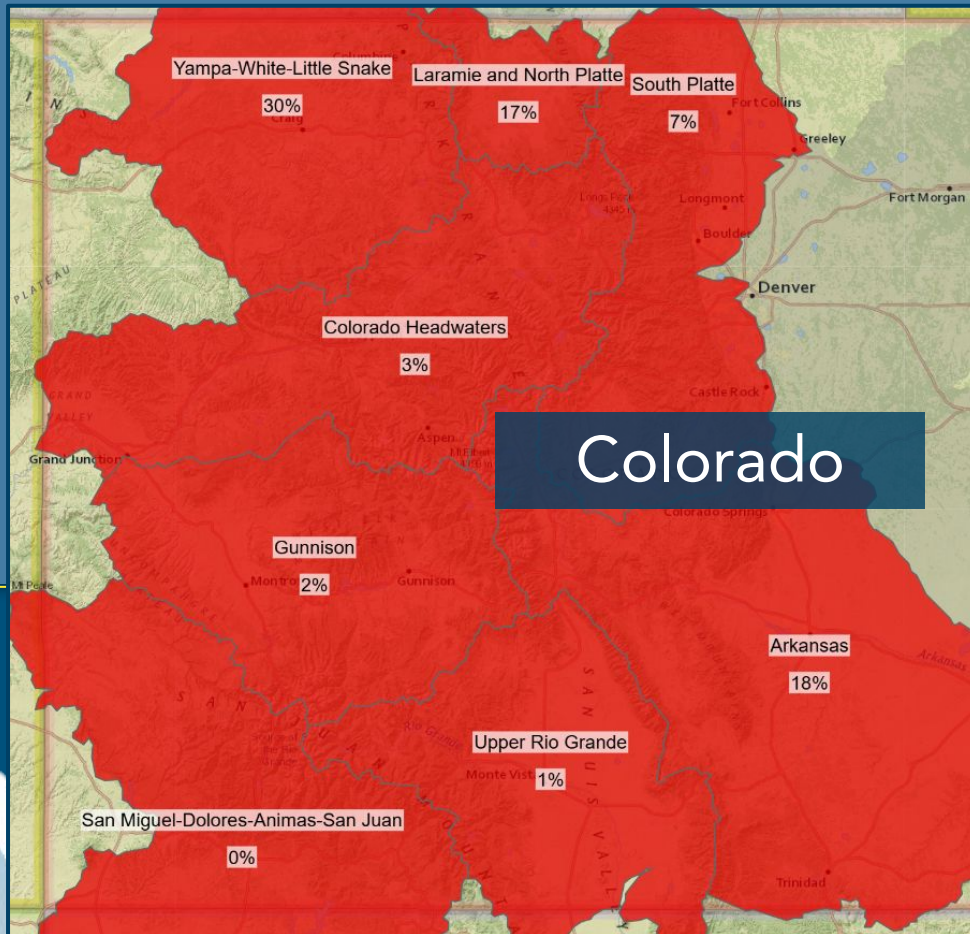


Source:
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

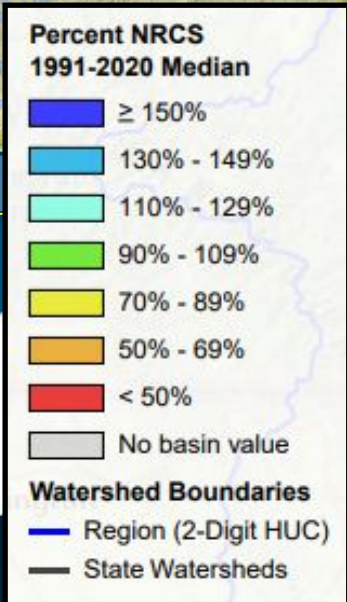


Utah

The month of May gave the mountains a minor boost to the snowpack, right at the tail end of the season. As a result, almost all of the basins in eastern Utah and western Colorado are clinging to their snowpack. In Utah, the Northeastern Uintas basin is doing "best" at 8% of normal, while the Duchesne basin is at 0% of normal, and the southeastern Utah basin is completely melted out. In Colorado, the Yampa-White-Little Snake basin is "best" at 30% of normal, while the Colorado Headwaters, Gunnison, and San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basins are all 0-5% of normal.



Colorado



J U N E
2 0 2 6

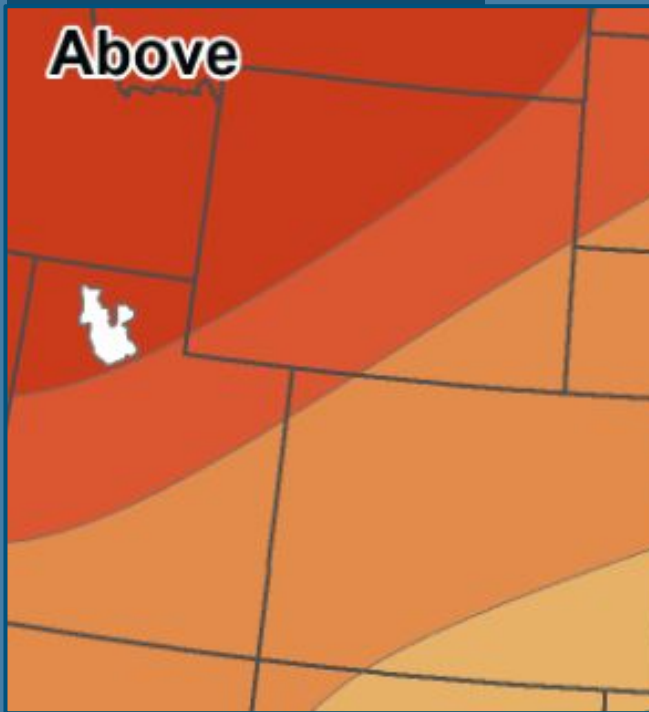
OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is leaning toward above normal temperatures for all of eastern Utah and western Colorado. Northeast Utah and northwest Colorado are most favored, with a 50-60% probability. The remainder of the area has a 40-50% probability of above normal temperatures, and there is a sliver of the southern San Juans with a 33-40% probability. For precipitation, CPC is favoring equal chances of above or below normal precipitation for the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado. Portions southwest Colorado have a 33-40% chance of above normal precipitation.

Temperatures



Precipitation

