NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO

A LOOK BACK AT NOVEMBER 2024

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

The month of November started off quiet and cool, and while that coolness lasted through the month, the quietness did not. By the 3rd, the next storm had moved in, bringing mountain snow, valley rain, and even cooler temperatures. Another storm right on the heels of this one brought substantial mountain snow to the San Juans and central mountains, with even a few flakes to around an inch of snow in the Grand Valley. Unsettled conditions lingered through the first week of the month and into the second, with cloudy skies and mountain showers being the norm. Finally, by the 10th, some quieter weather moved in, bringing sunny skies and temperatures rebounding to near or a few degrees above normal. This set up a pattern that lasted through the middle of the month, where a quick moving but cold system would bring light mountain snow and below normal temperatures, and then high pressure would build in to bring sunshine and warming. Things got very interesting for the end of the month, as a strong, cold, and wet low pressure system moved across the region in the days leading up to Thanksgiving. Fueled by an Atmospheric River, this storm produced widespread 2-3 feet of mountain snow, along with 1-2 feet at higher elevation valleys. Even the lower valleys saw a few inches. It also led to some difficult pre-holiday travel. The month ended much as it started, however, with mostly clear skies and cool temperatures.

NOVEMBER 2024
CLIMATE SUMMARY

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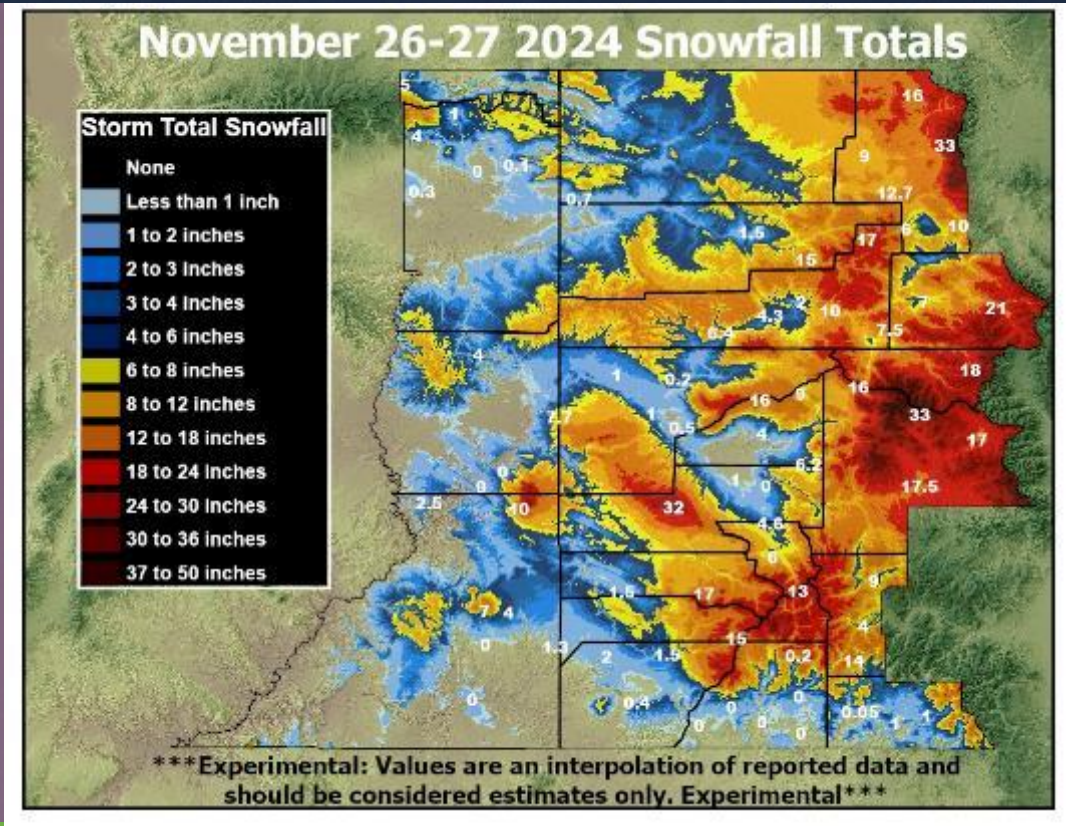
NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas NOVEMBER have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

STORY OF THE MONTH

GIVING THANKS FOR SNOW

The days leading up to Thanksgiving are some of the busiest travel days of the year, and this year mother nature threw a wrench into many travel plans. A strong and moisture rich winter storm moved in on the 26th, and stuck around into the 27th… the day before Thanksgiving. Thanks to ample Atmospheric River moisture, most ranges saw 2-3 feet of snow, with 1-2 feet in some of the high valleys. Even some of the desert valleys got in on an inch or two of heavy, wet snow. The big winner was the Tower SNOTEL site, in the Park Range, that topped out with 40 inches.



NOVEMBER 2024

TEMPERATURES

Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	27.2 (-4.8)	60 on 11/23	-4 on 11/29
Cortez, CO	35.5 (-2.0)	63 on 11/15	10 on 11/22
Craig, CO	27.8 (-4.0)	61 on 11/2	-8 on 11/29, 30
Durango, CO	34.2 (-1.7)	62 on 11/15	10 on 11/20
Grand Junction, CO	40.0 (+0.4)	68 on 11/15	21 on 11/20, 21
Meeker, CO	29.2 (-4.4)	58 on 11/22, 23	1 on 11/7
Montrose, CO	35.2 (-2.9)	65 on 11/15	13 on 11/7
Rifle, CO	34.3 (-2.2)	66 on 11/15	4 on 11/29
Canyonlands Airport, UT	37.5 (-2.0)	61 on 11/1, 15	14 on 11/22
Vernal, UT	34.2 (-0.8)	56 on 11/11	15 on 11/30

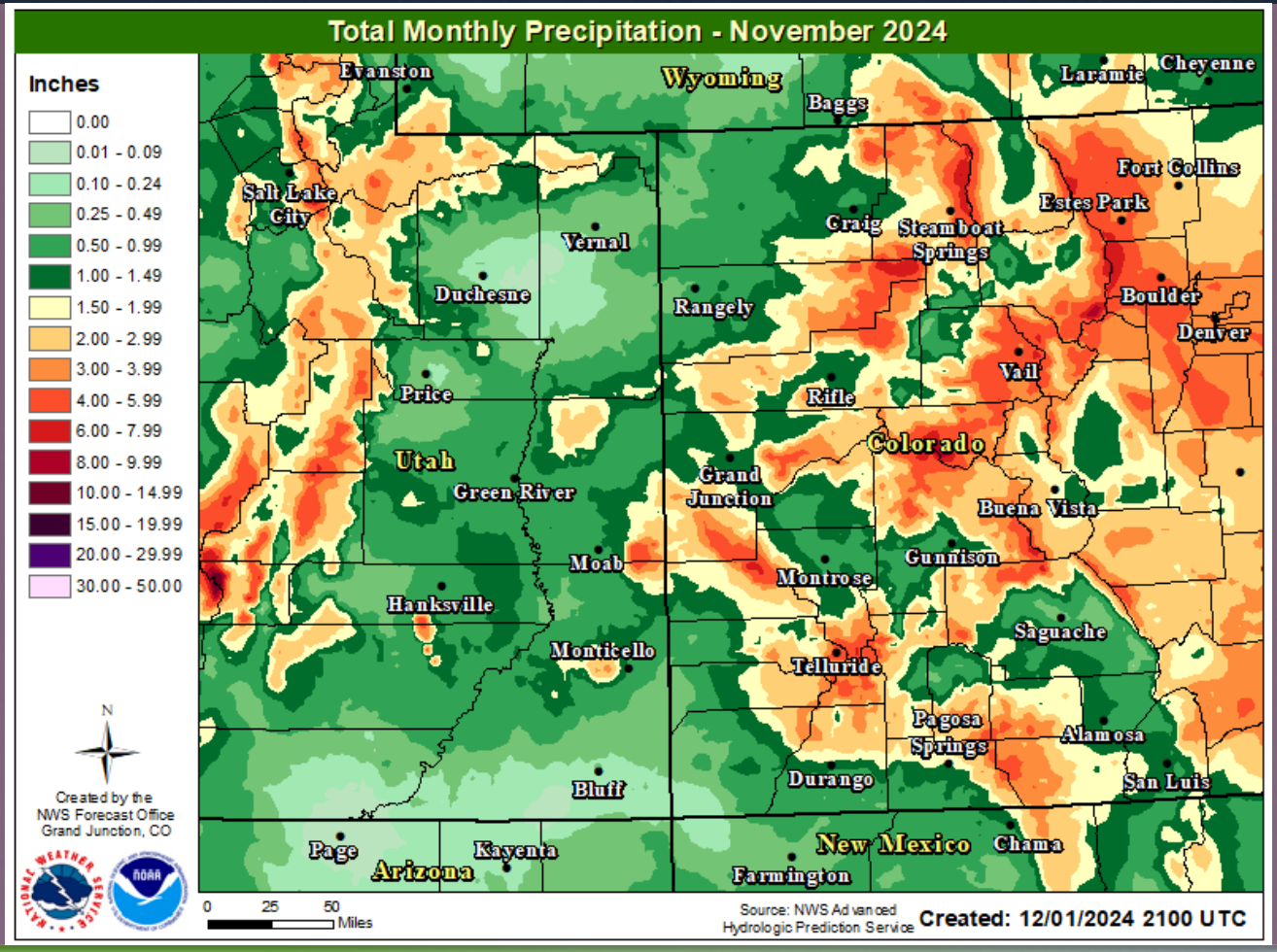
NOVEMBER 2024

PRECIPITATION

Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	2.45	+1.41
Cortez, CO	0.45	-0.34
Craig, CO	1.29	+0.30
Durango, CO	0.70	-0.43
Grand Junction, CO	1.52	+0.91
Meeker, CO	1.55	+0.41
Montrose, CO	1.01	+0.45
Rifle, CO	1.17	+0.54
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.58	+0.18
Vernal, UT	0.20	-0.23

NOVEMBER 2024
CLIMATE SUMMARY

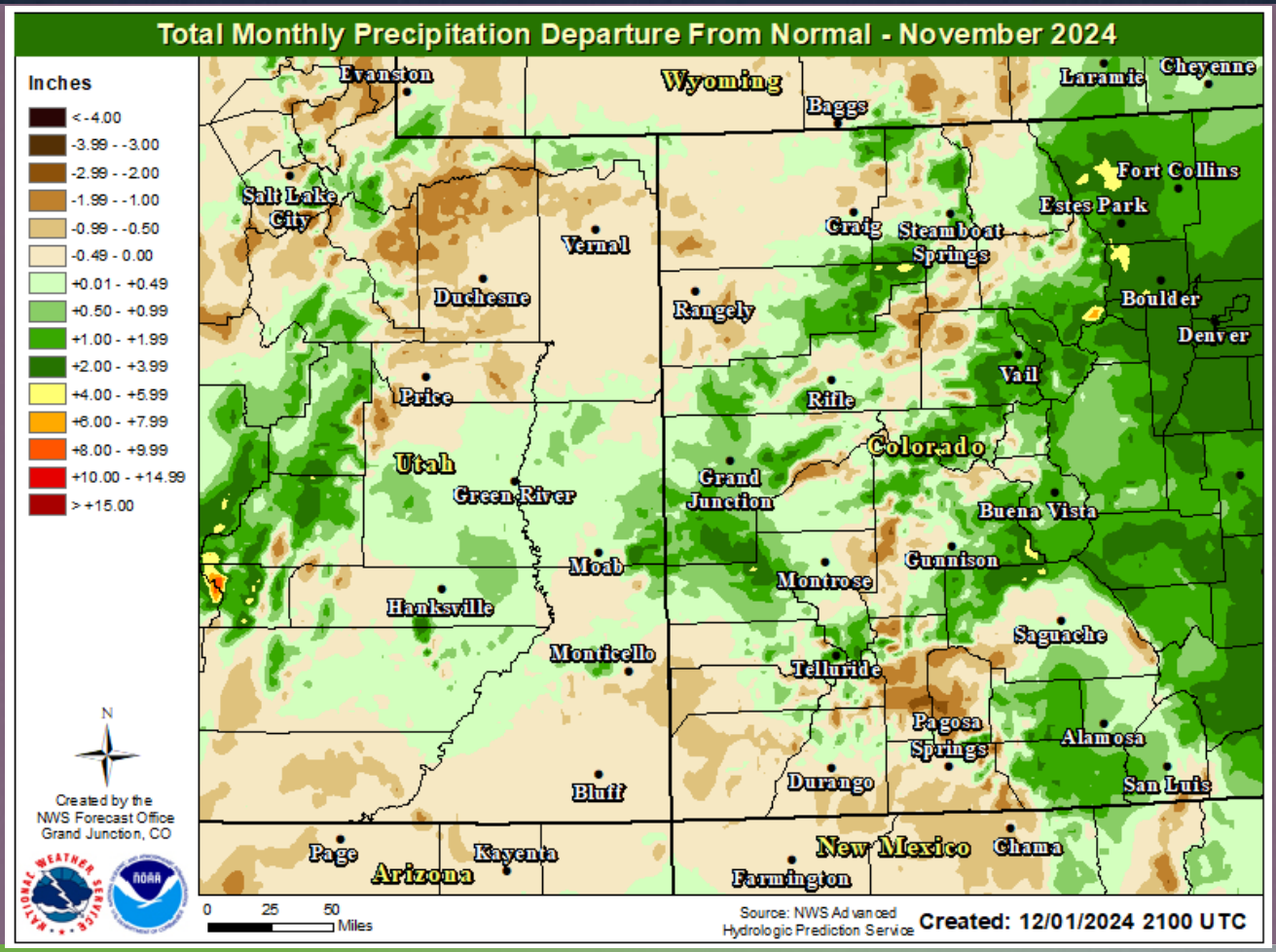
TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



NOVEMBER 2024
CLIMATE SUMMARY

TOTAL MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION
DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



NOVEMBER 2024
CLIMATE SUMMARY

DAILY RECORDS REPORT

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

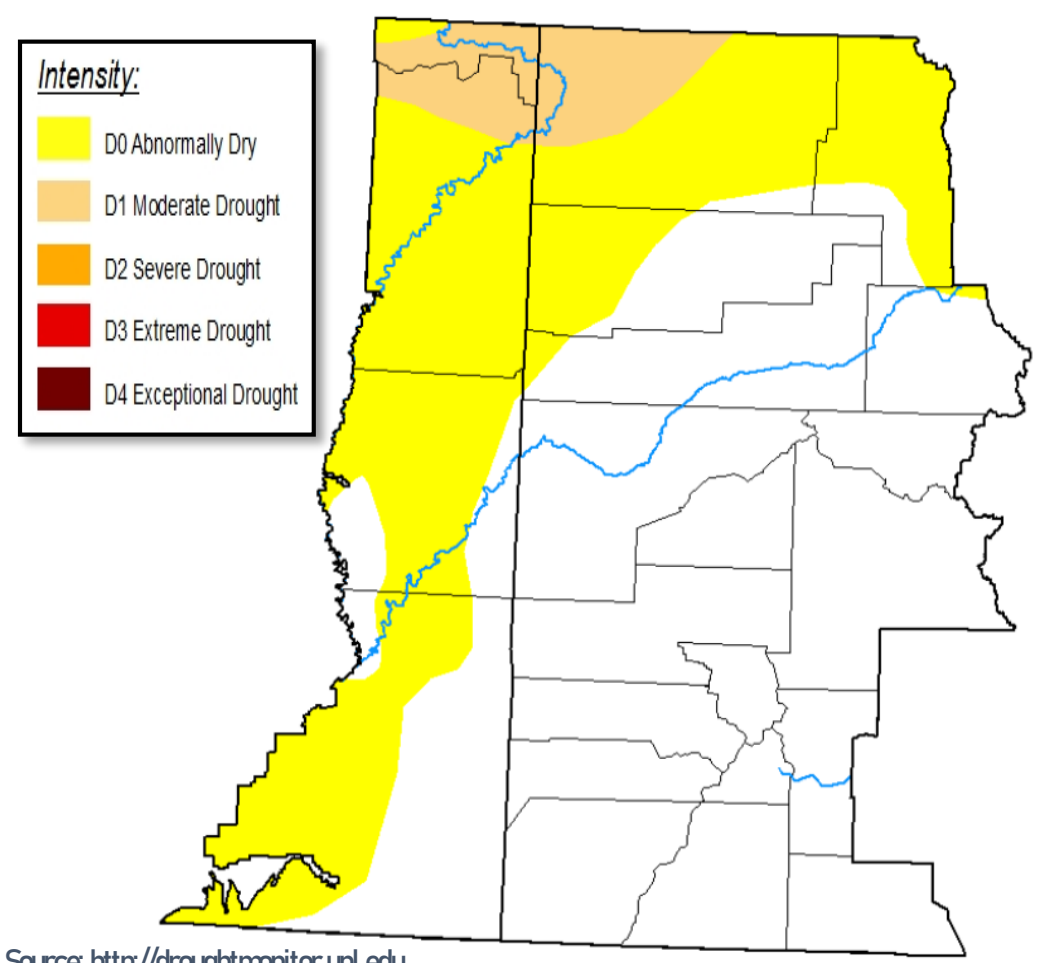
Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record

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

DROUGHT CONDITIONS UPDATE

AS OF DECEMBER 3RD

The month of November saw several strong, wet storms, including one fueled by an atmospheric river. These all combined to improve drought conditions across the region. Much of western Colorado and parts of southeast Utah are drought free, while Moderate (D1) drought remains along the CO/UT/WY border. The remainder is Abnormally Dry (D0).



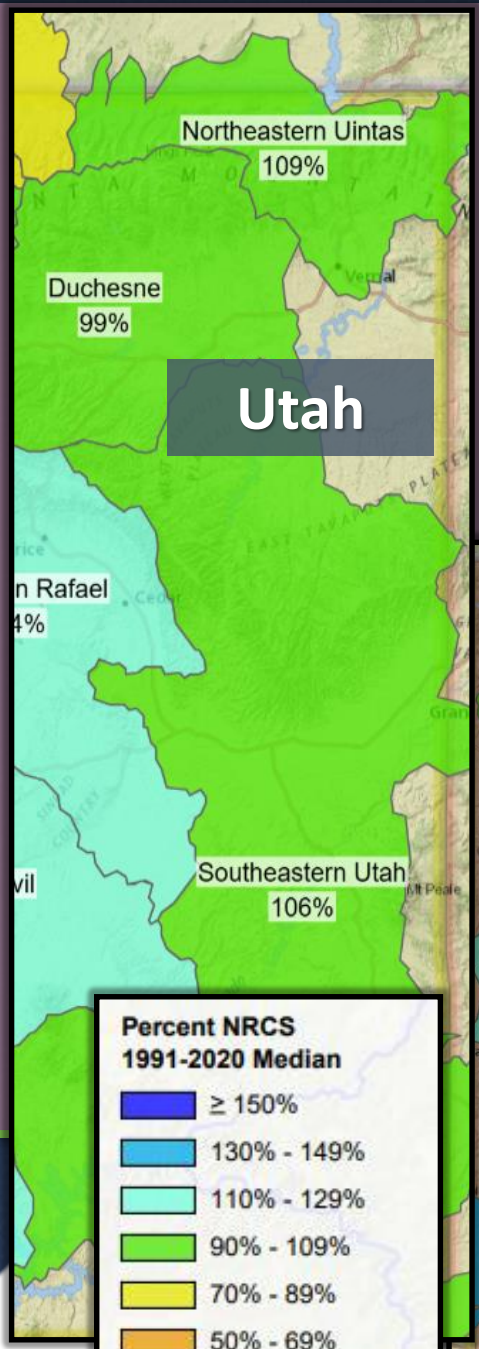
Source: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

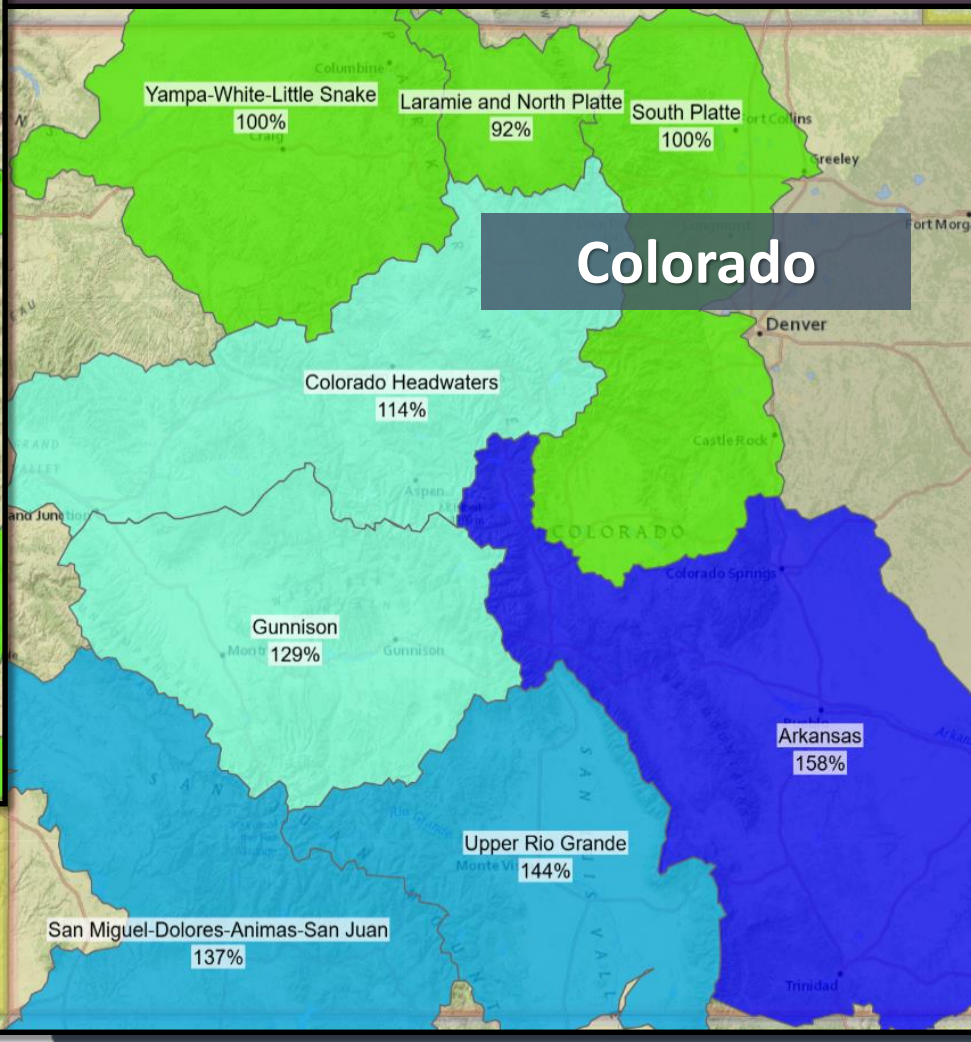
SNOWPACK CONDITIONS

U P D A T E

AS OF DECEMBER 1st

A few solid winter storms, capped off by a very moist Atmospheric River event has kept snowpack growing apace. The southern mountains made out the best over the last month, with the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basin at 130-140% of normal. The central mountain basins are in the 110-130% of normal range, while the northern mountains are right around normal for this time of year. In eastern Utah, the Northeastern Uintas and Southeastern Utah basins are at 100-110% of normal, while the Duchesne basin is sitting right at normal. It is interesting that this is a distribution more reflective of an El Nino pattern, rather than the current La Nina. But it is still early, and things likely will change.





DECEMBER
2024

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION

The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center indicates that above normal temperatures are likely (50-60% chance) for all of eastern Utah and western Colorado. In addition, guidance is leaning toward (33-40% chances) below normal precipitation for southeast Utah and southwest Colorado with the rest of the region seeing equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.