

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO

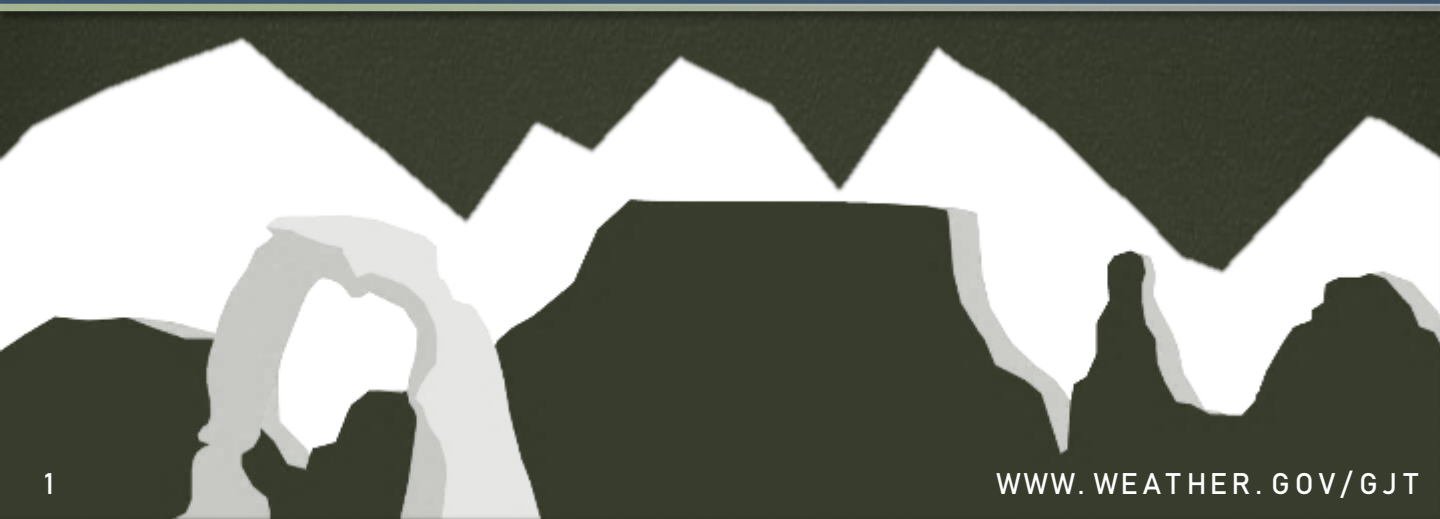


A LOOK
BACK AT

OCTOBER 2023

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

The start of October brought a period of cooler than normal and unsettled weather, with valley rain showers and mountain snow characterizing the first few days. This didn't last long, however, as a warming trend kicked in around the 4th, and by the 7th temperatures had become above normal. After a spell of above normal temperatures and sunny, dry conditions, winter made a reappearance on the 11th. The central Colorado mountains did the best with this system, with snow accumulations anywhere from 6 inches to over a foot. Clear skies and quiet weather, along with a gradual warming trend, filled in behind this system. This was a good thing, as the morning of October 14th, an Annular Solar Eclipse would occur across the western US, with the path of totality moving directly over the Grand Junction CWA. Clear skies held out, and those watching got to enjoy the show. The quiet, dry conditions stuck around into the following week, with temperatures running well above normal. Some new record high temperatures were set across the area during this period, as high pressure dominated. The month ended on an unsettled note, however, as a strong early season winter storm moved into the area, bringing substantial snow to the central mountains once again, along with a shot of much below normal temperatures to round out the last week of the month.



OCTOBER 2023

CLIMATE SUMMARY



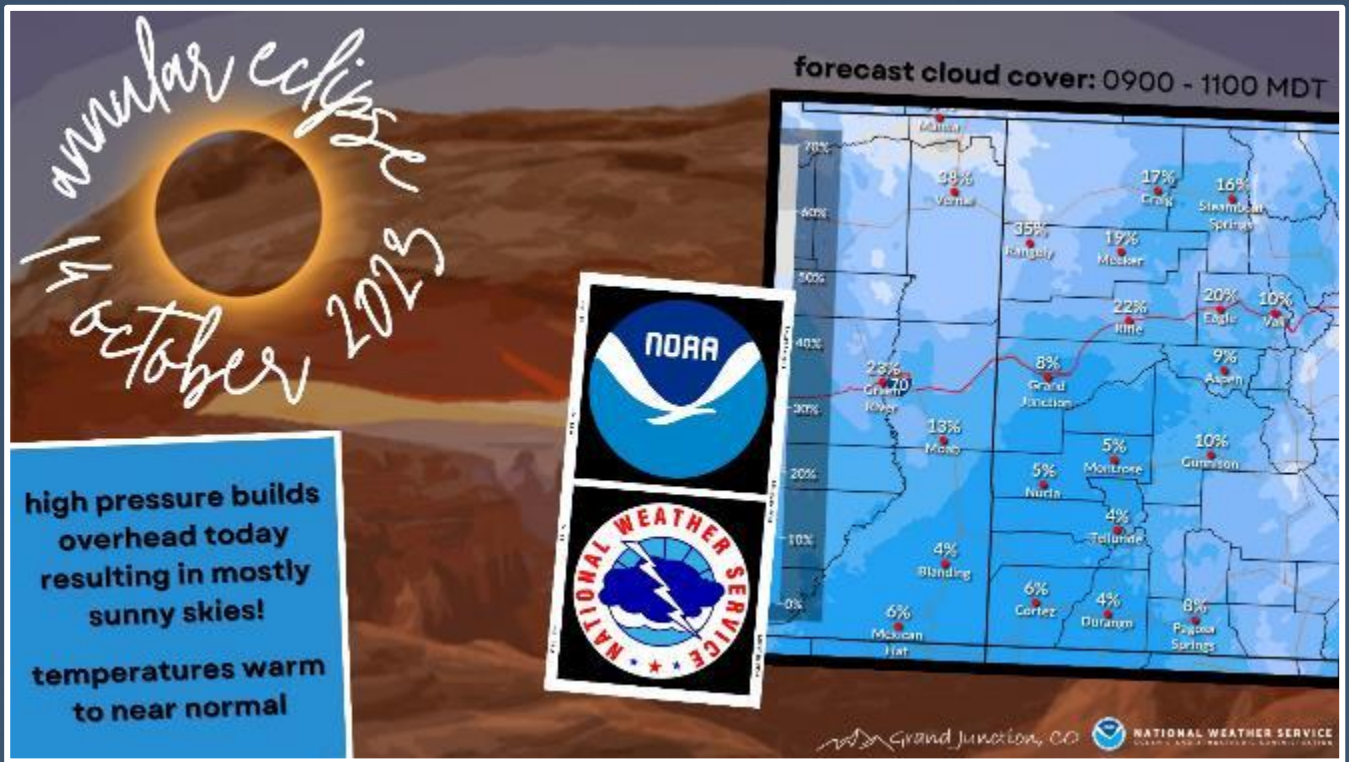
TABLE OF **C O N T E N T S**

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

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STORY OF THE MONTH **SOLAR ECLIPSE**

All eyes were to the skies on the morning of October 14th as what is known as an “Annular Solar Eclipse” occurred over much of the Western US. The path of totality moved through southeast Utah and far southwest Colorado, with much of the rest of the area seeing 80% or better of totality. While some high clouds threatened, clear skies held out through the morning, with the peak of the eclipse occurring around 10:30AM local time in this neck of the woods. Temperatures dropped around 5F during the peak of the eclipse...definitely a noticeable drop!

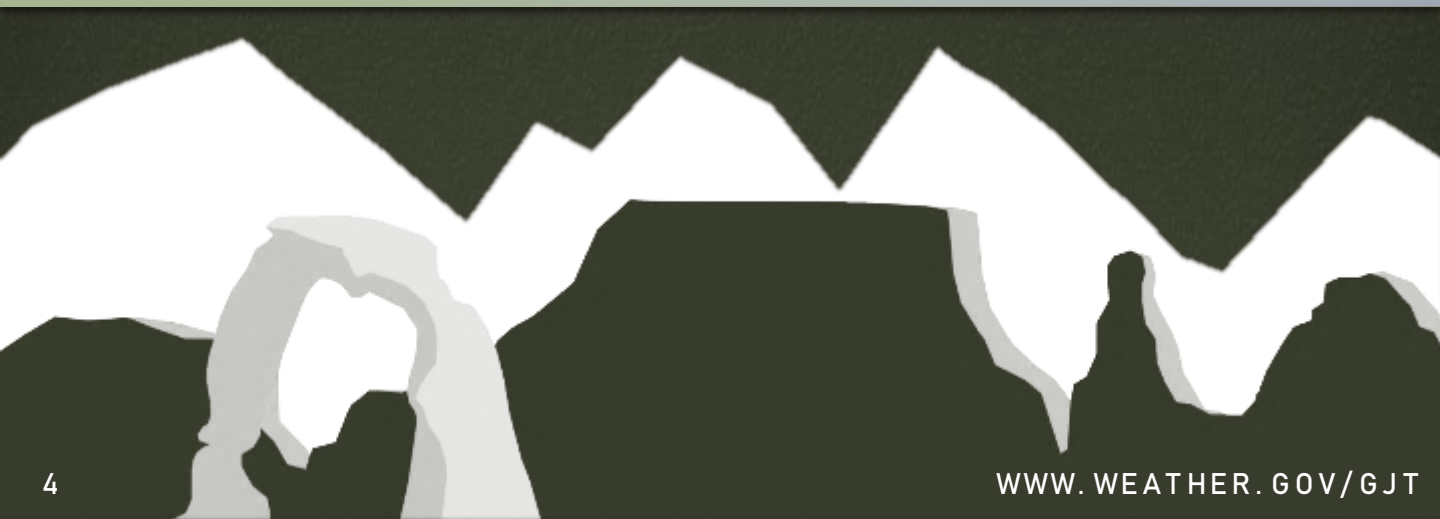


OCTOBER
2023

TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	44.2 (-0.2)	73 on 10/1	2 on 10/30
Cortez, CO	51.0 (+2.0)	83 on 10/19	14 on 10/30, 31
Craig, CO	45.2 (+0.8)	79 on 10/20	10 on 10/30
Durango, CO	49.9 (+2.8)	78 on 10/18, 19, 21	15 on 10/31
Grand Junction, CO	55.4 (+2.2)	81 on 10/9	20 on 10/30
Meeker, CO	44.8 (-0.9)	76 on 10/20	7 on 10/30
Montrose, CO	51.8 (+1.1)	79 on 10/1	20 on 10/30
Rifle, CO	50.8 (+1.3)	79 on 10/8, 9	16 on 10/30
Canyonlands Airport, UT	55.1 (+0.9)	82 on 10/8, 19	14 on 10/30
Vernal, UT	49.5 (+0.7)	76 on 10/9, 20	13 on 10/30

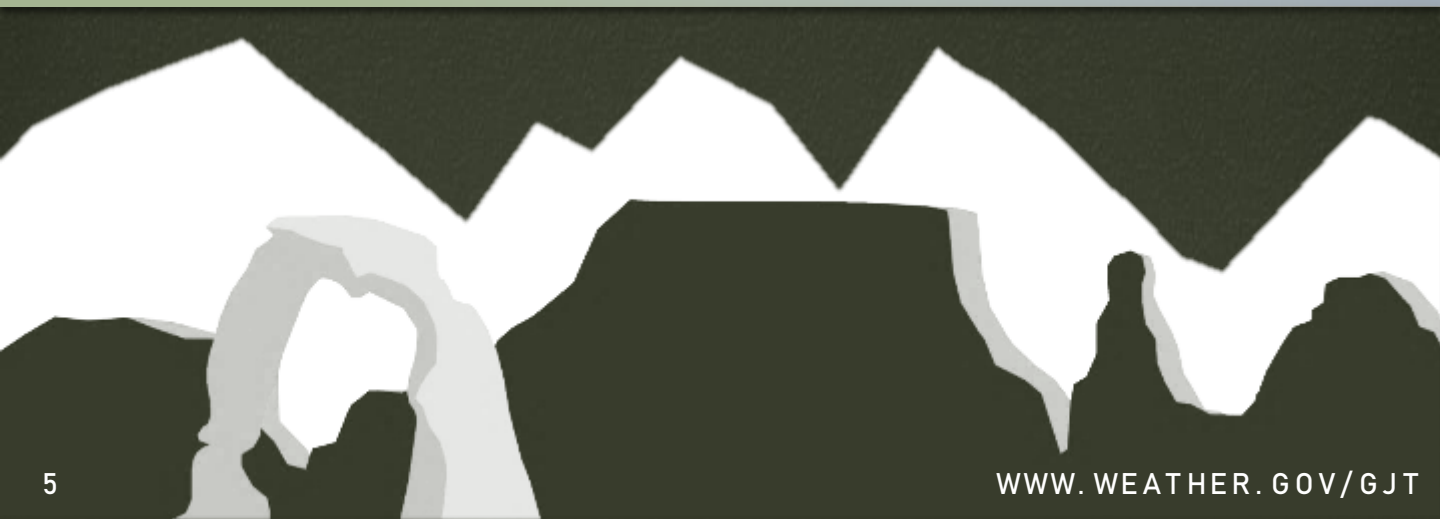


OCTOBER
2023

PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	2.39	+1.06
Cortez, CO	0.42	-0.64
Craig, CO	1.49	+0.01
Durango, CO	0.18	-1.23
Grand Junction, CO	0.55	-0.44
Meeker, CO	1.22	-0.38
Montrose, CO	1.12	+0.14
Rifle, CO	1.41	+0.14
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.33	-0.51
Vernal, UT	0.05	-1.02



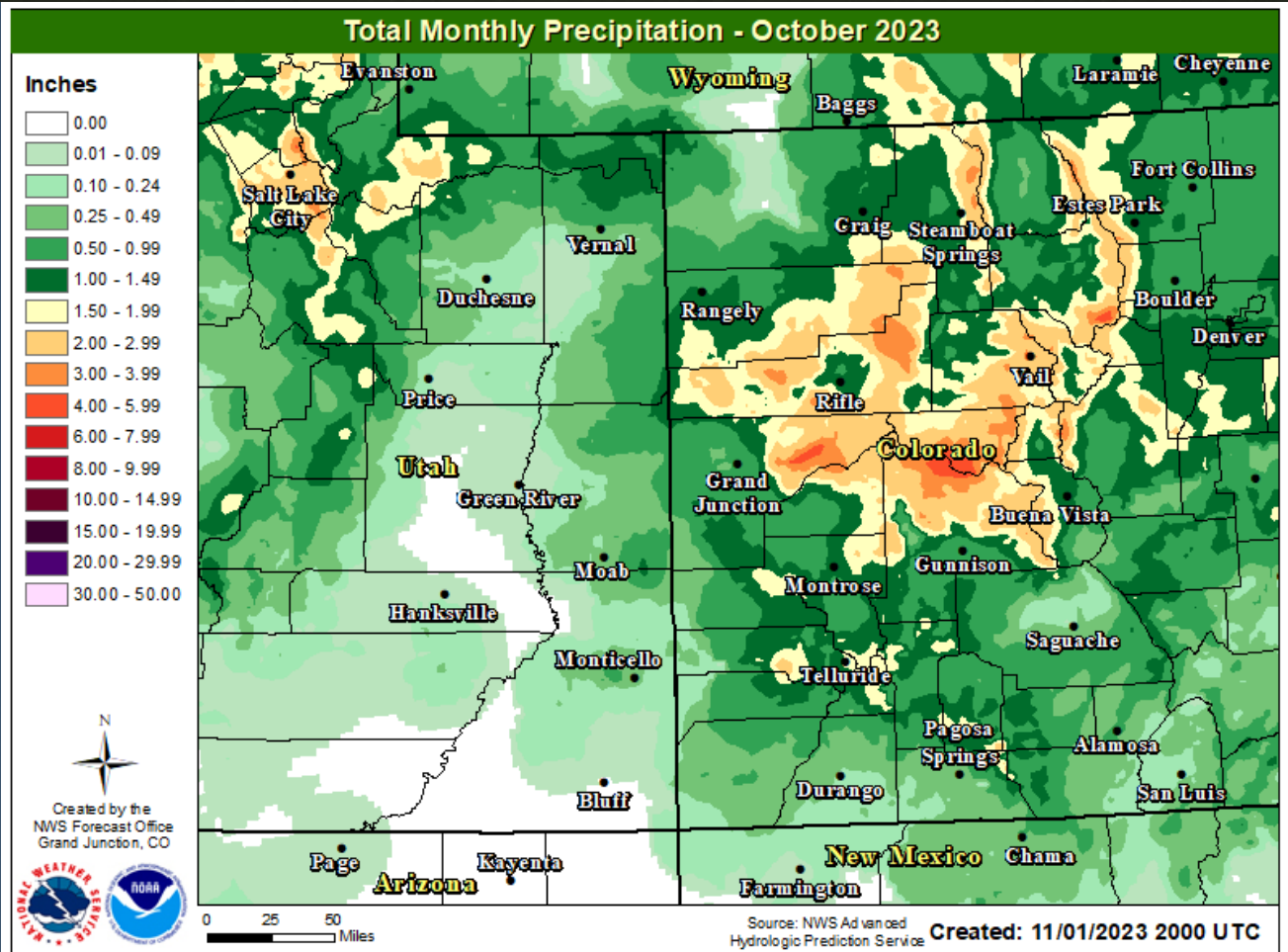
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CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY

PRECIPITATION



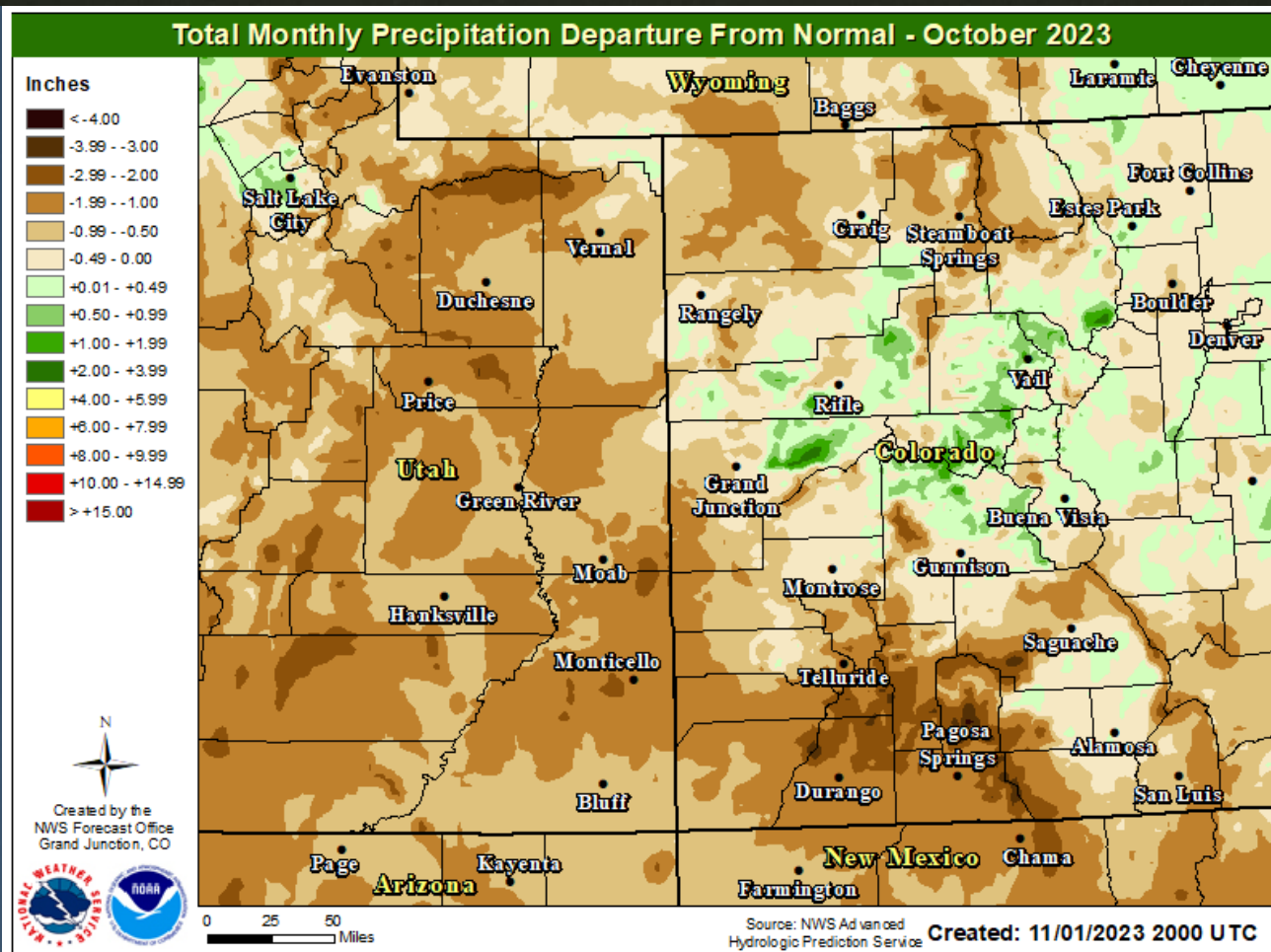
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CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



OCTOBER 2023

CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY RECORDS **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	October 20 th	High Max Temperature	79F	79F in 2003
Grand Junction, CO	October 23 rd	High Max Temperature	78F	78F in 1954

High Max

Low Max

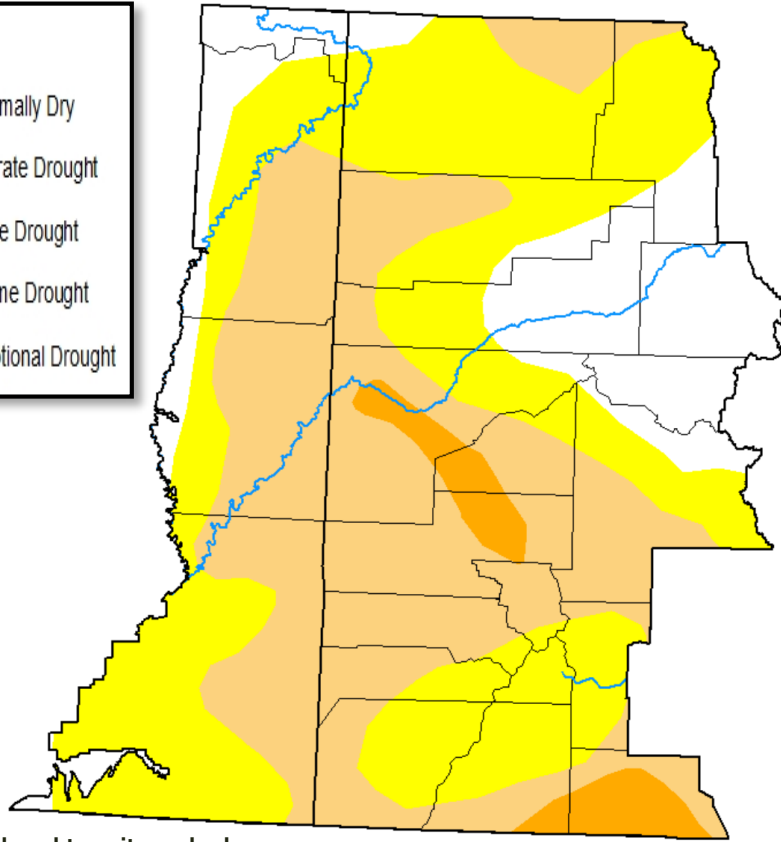
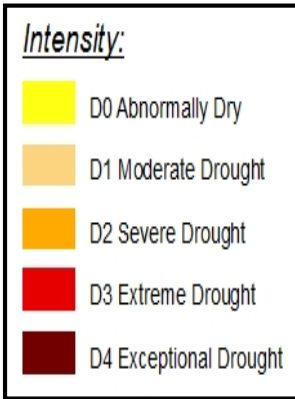
Precip

High Min

Low Min



The largest change to the Drought Monitor for eastern Utah and western Colorado over the last month has been the degradation of conditions across far northern Colorado to Moderate (D1) Drought. Some improvement to the Severe (D2) Drought over central Western Colorado has occurred thanks to some good precipitation in that area. Overall, though, conditions have remained largely unchanged over the last month.



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

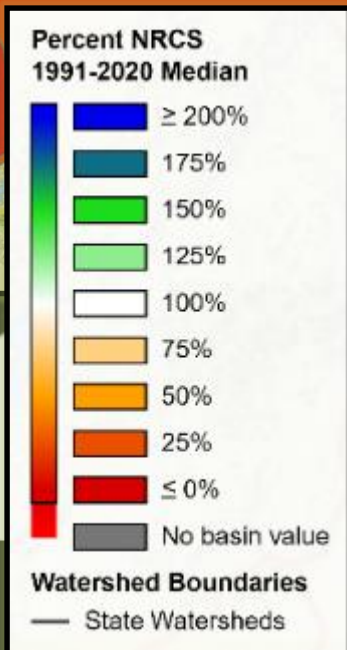
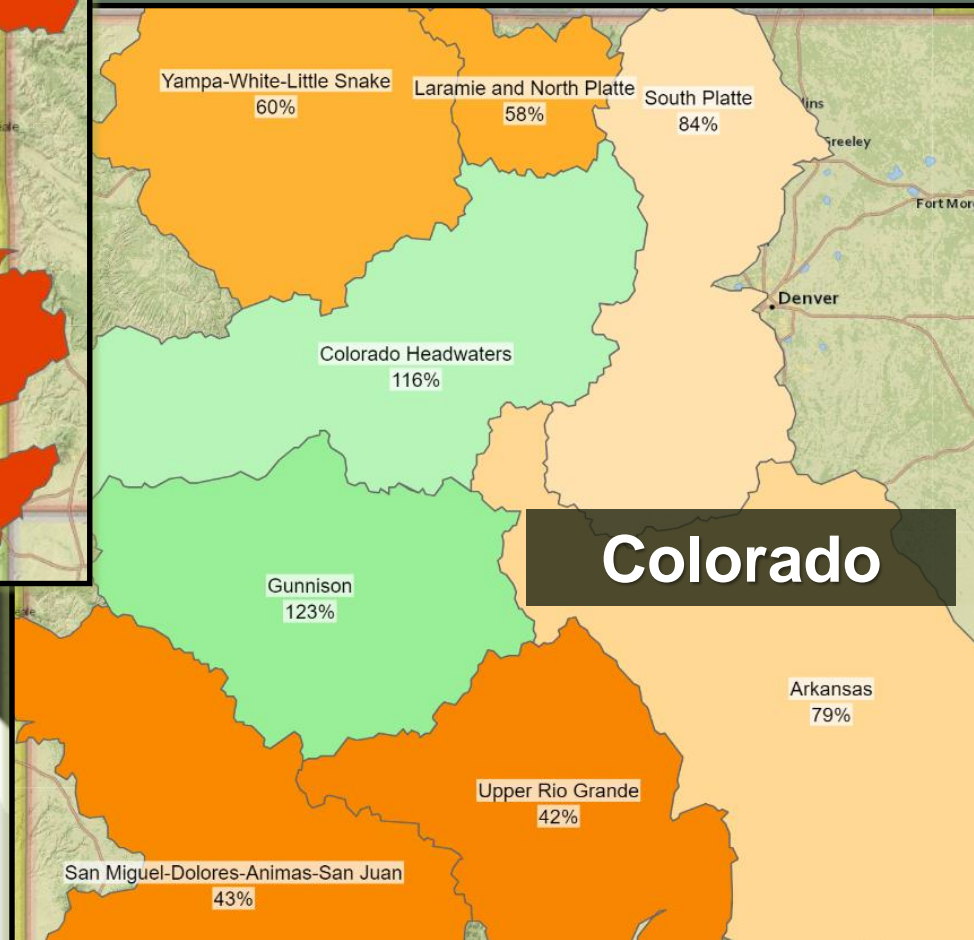
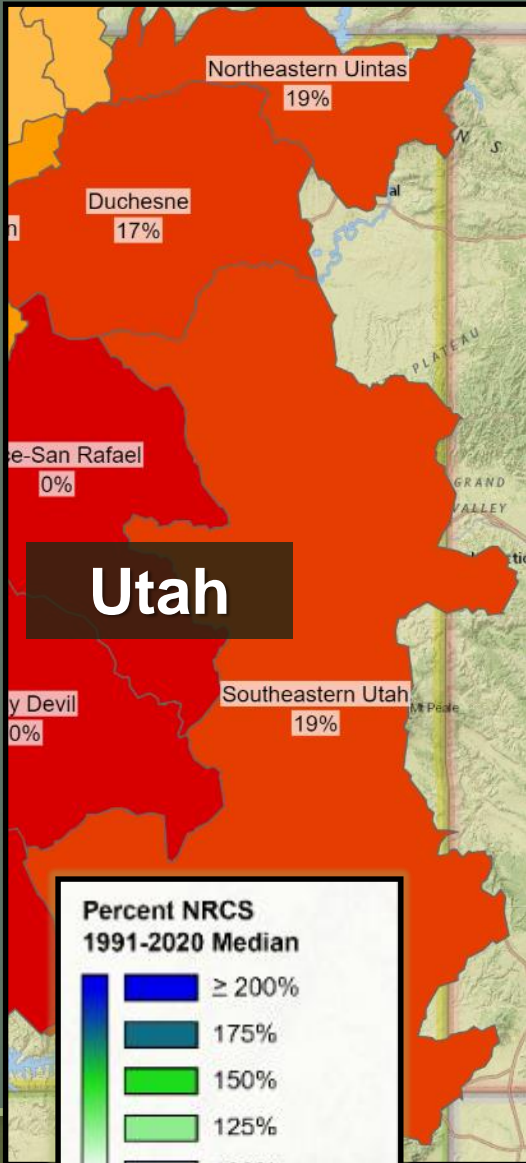
SNOWPACK CONDITIONS

UPDATE

AS OF NOVEMBER 1st



Despite the quick start to snow season in October, November has been a bit underwhelming. A few really good storms brought slightly above normal snowpacks to the Central Mountains of western Colorado, including the Colorado Headwaters and Gunnison basins. Outside of that, all remaining eastern Utah and western Colorado basins are below normal for the month. This is due to a combination of generally less than normal precipitation and above normal temperatures limiting snow accumulation.



NOVEMBER
2 0 2 3

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) indicates temperatures likely (50-60% chance) above normal across much of western Colorado and all of eastern Utah, with guidance leaning toward (40-50% chance) above normal temperatures for the remainder of western Colorado. As far as precipitation, CPC is indicating equal chances of above or below normal for the month of November.

Temperatures

Above

**Equal
Chances**

Precipitation