

# NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A LOOK  
BACK AT

## SEPTEMBER 2023

WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

September started off warm and unsettled, with a push of monsoonal moisture bringing widespread showers and storms for the first week. As moisture increased, temperatures dipped a bit around the 4<sup>th</sup>, but returned to above normal values quite quickly, with drying conditions bringing a return of fire weather concerns to round out the first week of the month. Unsettled conditions accompanying another moisture push led to a very similar pattern for the second week of the month, with wet and cool conditions for the first half of the week followed by drying, warming weather to round out the week. Some of these showers and storms were capable of putting down some very heavy rain across the southern half of the region, along with snow across the highest elevations. The pattern began to shift for the third week, with cooling temperatures accompanied by drying conditions and increasingly gusty southwest winds. With high pressure sticking around for the last week of the month, fire weather concerns returned once again. As a system that would bring a cool and wet start to October approached the Great Basin in the last days of September, gusty southwest winds brought dry conditions and above normal temperatures, leading to the need for Red Flag Warnings.

# SEPTEMBER 2023

## 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 SEPTEMBER have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.*

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# STORY OF THE MONTH **SNOW RETURNS**

*Summer in the mountains comes late and leaves early. Seems we just got rid of the snow, and now it's back across the highest elevations. This image, from September 13<sup>th</sup>, showcases a fresh coating of snow on the Cimarron Range outside of Ridgway. Showers and storms through the month across the higher terrain combined with cooling temperatures to bring several rounds of light snowfall over the last two weeks of the month.*



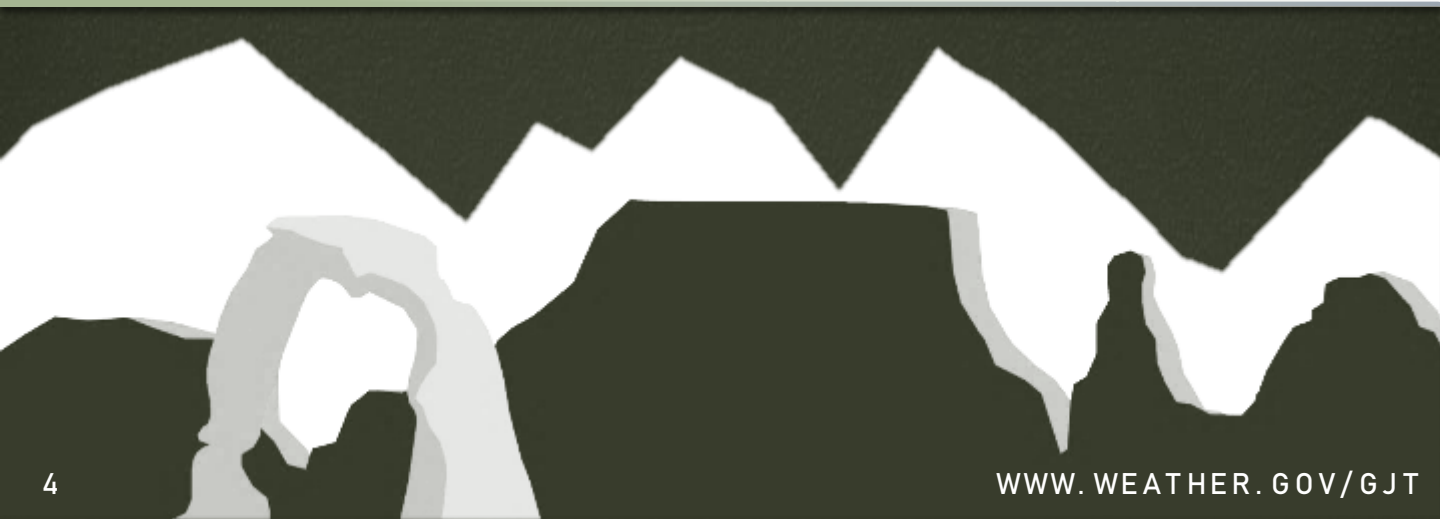
CREDIT: Val Szwarc

SEPTEMBER  
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# TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	56.2 <b>(+0.1)</b>	83 on 9/1	30 on 9/24
Cortez, CO	62.5 <b>(+1.1)</b>	91 on 9/9	35 on 9/29
Craig, CO	58.1 <b>(+1.0)</b>	89 on 9/1	24 on 9/24
Durango, CO	60.8 <b>(+1.3)</b>	89 on 9/1, 8	34 on 9/22
Grand Junction, CO	69.8 <b>(+2.7)</b>	93 on 9/8	42 on 9/24
Meeker, CO	56.8 <b>(-1.7)</b>	86 on 9/1	26 on 9/24
Montrose, CO	64.8 <b>(+1.6)</b>	89 on 9/6	39 on 9/25
Rifle, CO	63.7 <b>(+1.2)</b>	90 on 9/1, 6, 9	34 on 9/24
Canyonlands Airport, UT	69.3 <b>(+1.0)</b>	93 on 9/8, 9	46 on 9/24, 25, 27
Vernal, UT	63.3 <b>(+1.3)</b>	89 on 9/9	36 on 9/23, 24

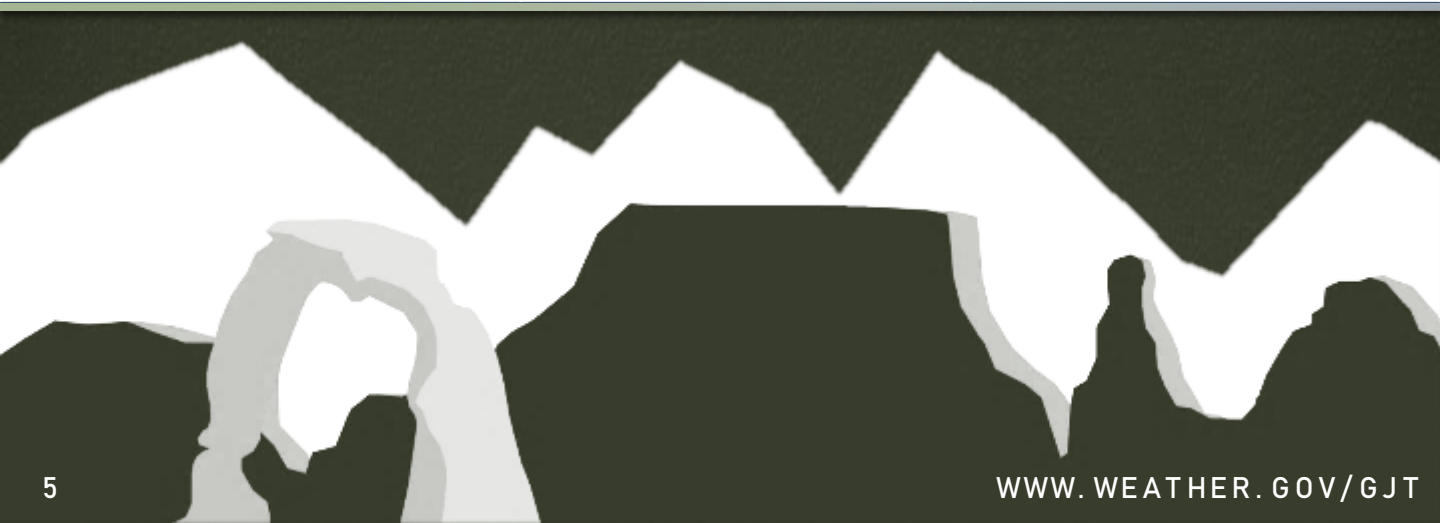


SEPTEMBER  
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# PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.36	-1.07
Cortez, CO	1.27	-0.31
Craig, CO	0.46	-1.29
Durango, CO	0.77	-1.22
Grand Junction, CO	0.07	-1.12
Meeker, CO	0.57	-1.11
Montrose, CO	0.22	-0.95
Rifle, CO	0.12	-1.22
Canyonlands Airport, UT	0.27	-0.62
Vernal, UT	0.08	-1.14

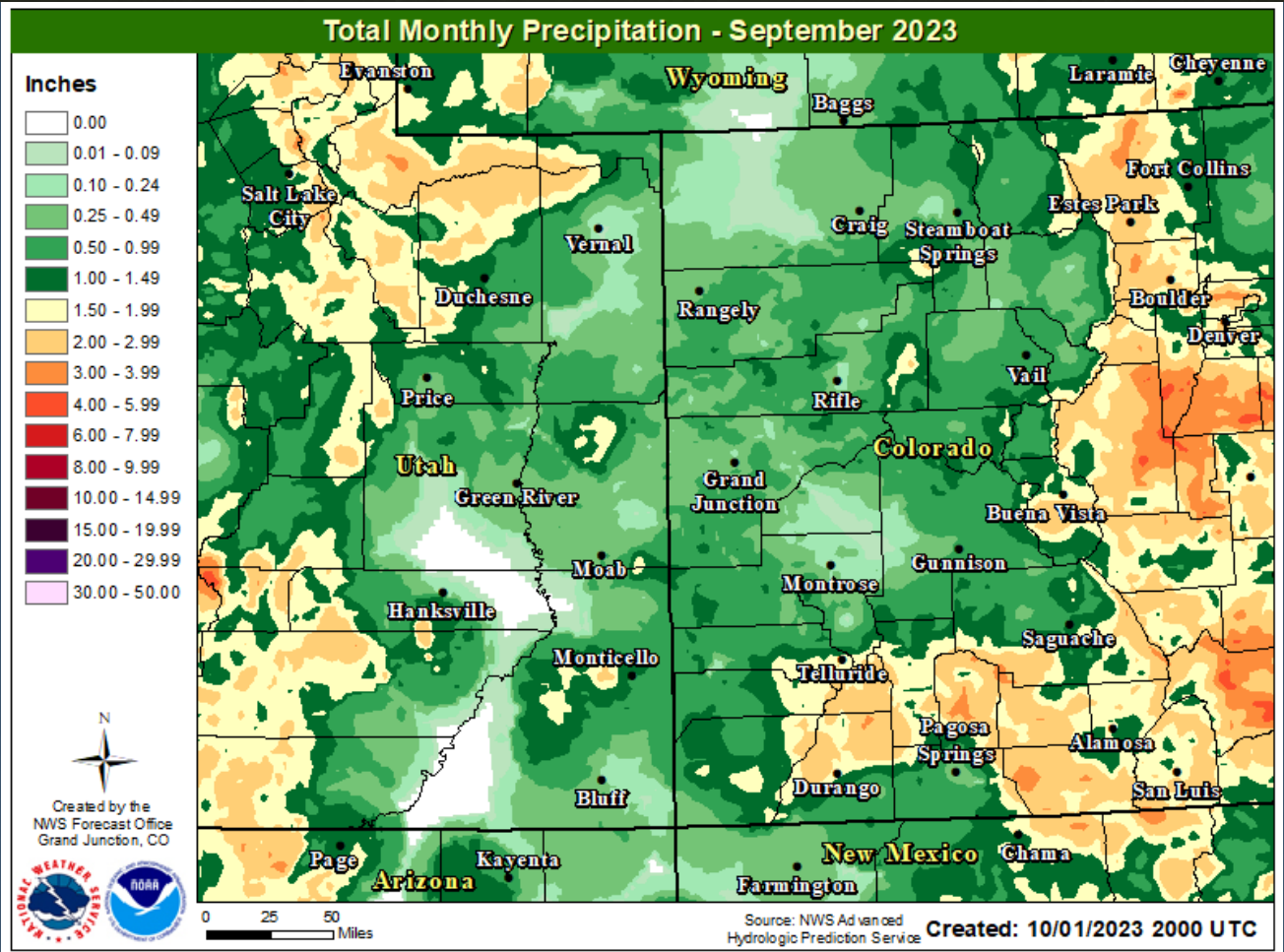


# SEPTEMBER 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



# TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



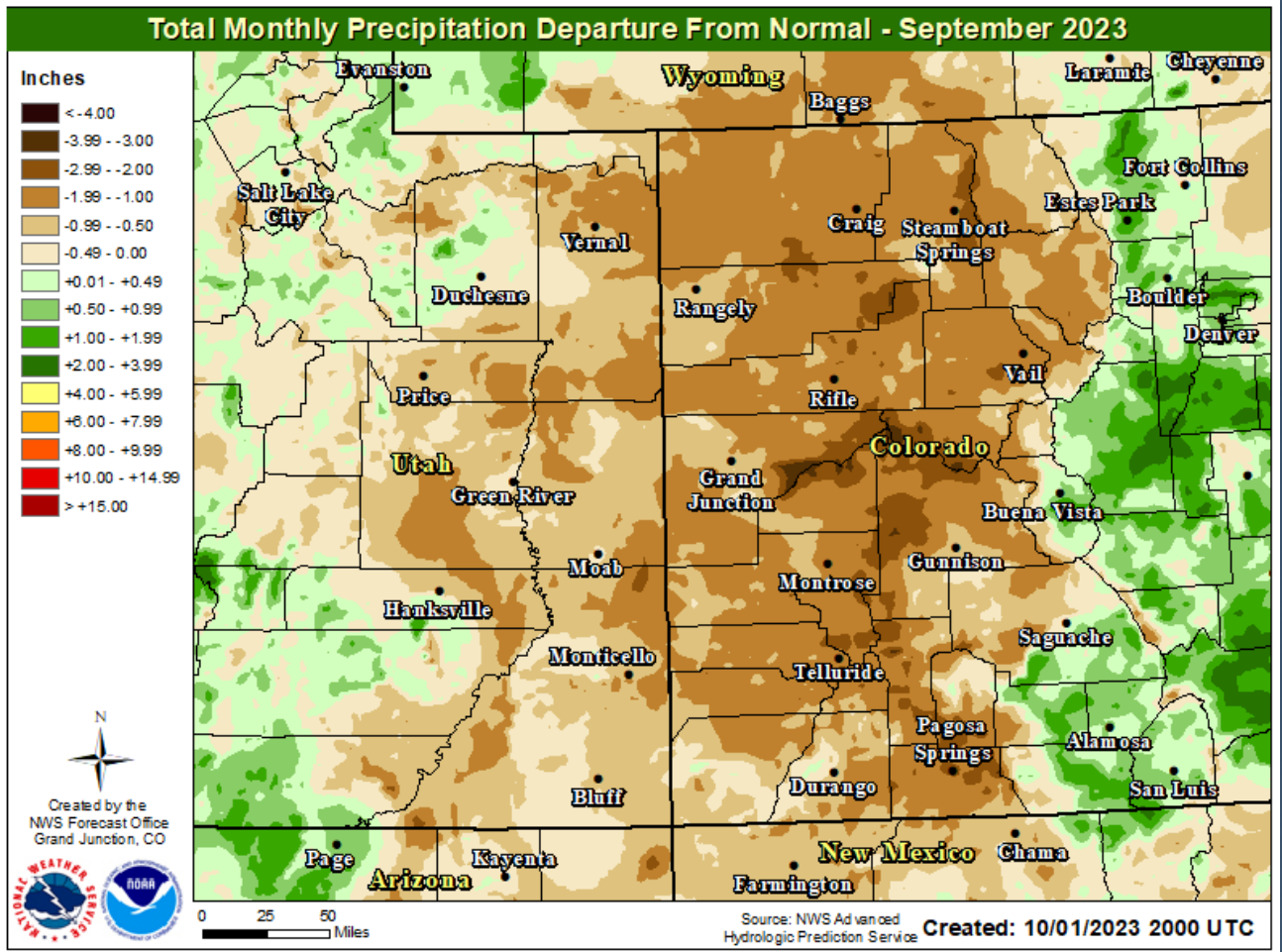
# SEPTEMBER 2023

## CLIMATE SUMMARY



# TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

## DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



# SEPTEMBER 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	September 30 <sup>th</sup>	High Max Temperature	89F	88F in 1957

High Max

Low Max

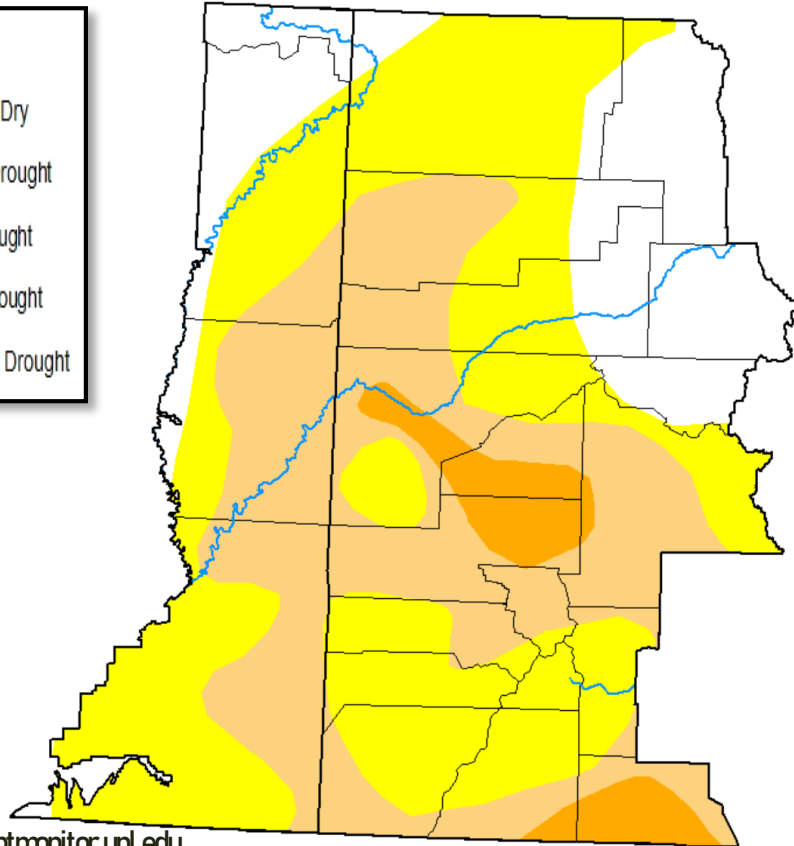
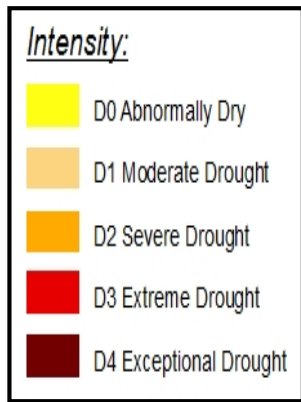
Precip

High Min

Low Min



*With above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation during the month of September, drought conditions across eastern Utah and western Colorado have continued to degrade. While Extreme (D3) Drought conditions have not yet made an appearance, Severe (D2) and Moderate (D1) drought conditions, along with Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, have spread to cover the majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado.*



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

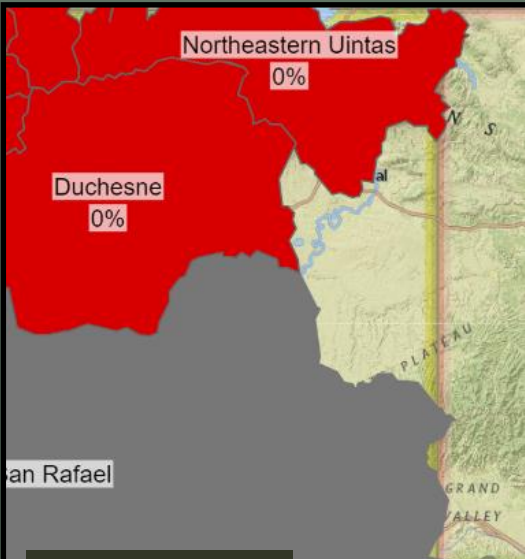
# SNOWPACK CONDITIONS

# UPDATE

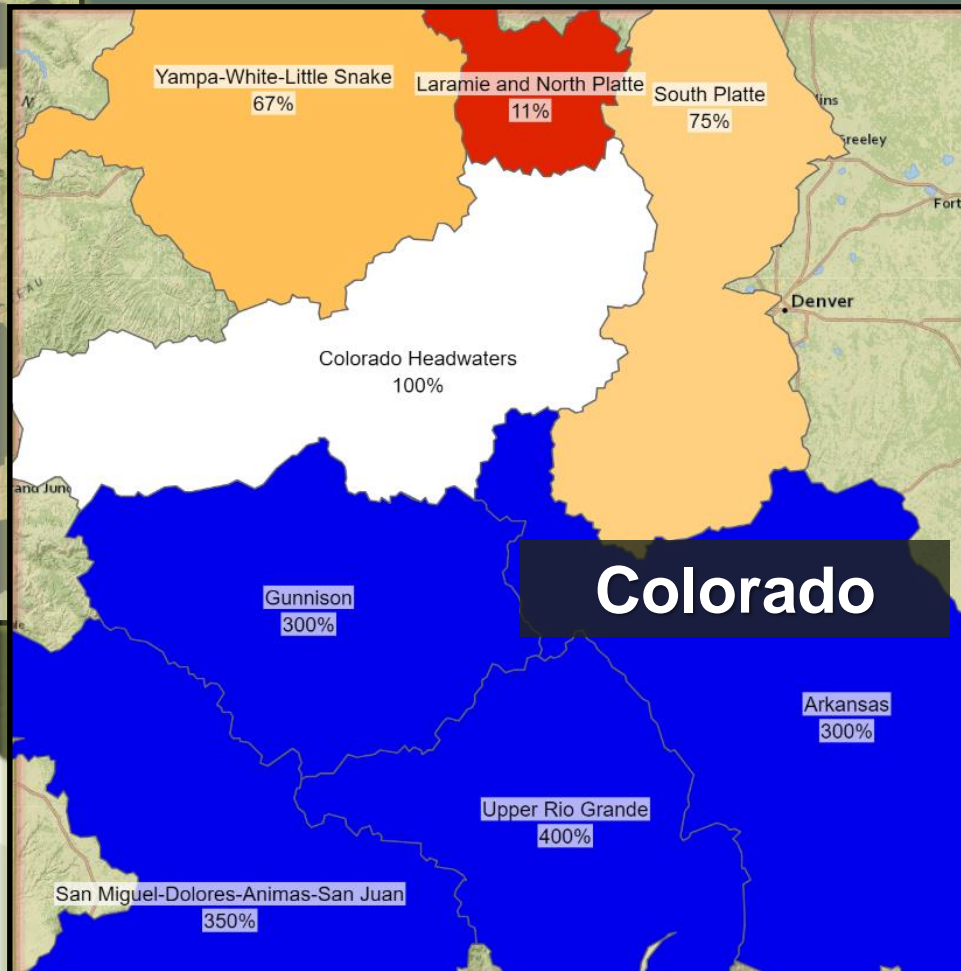
AS OF OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>



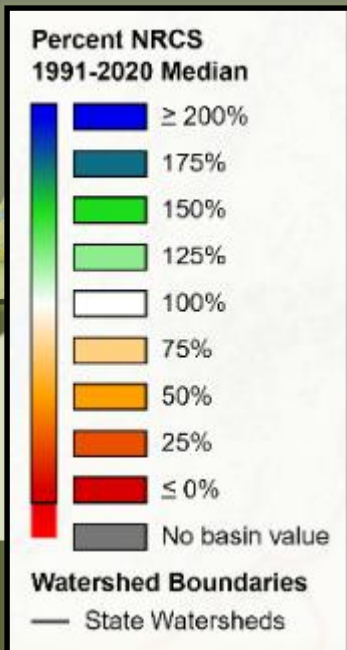
*Snow has officially started flying once again. The Colorado mountains have all seen a bit of snow in September, although small amounts can play games with the percentages of normal. No snow fell across the higher terrain of eastern Utah during September, but it came in a hurry during the first few days of October, so stay tuned for an update in next month's summary.*



## Utah



## Colorado



OCTOBER  
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# OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



*The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is leaning slightly toward above normal temperatures across eastern Utah and western Colorado for the month of October. CPC guidance is also leaning slightly toward above normal precipitation across eastern Utah and western Colorado, and indeed much of the Mountain West.*

## Temperatures

**Above**

## Precipitation

**Above**