



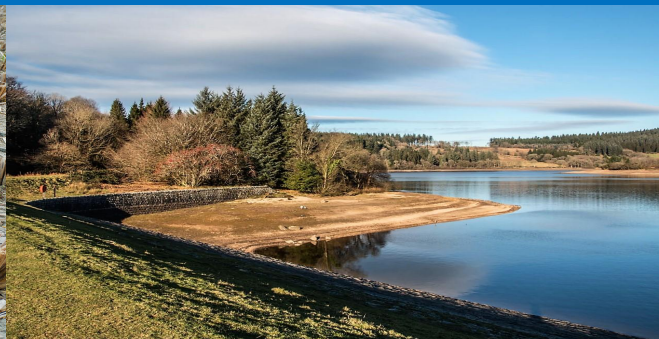
Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid January 20th, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by Feb 12th, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/pub/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



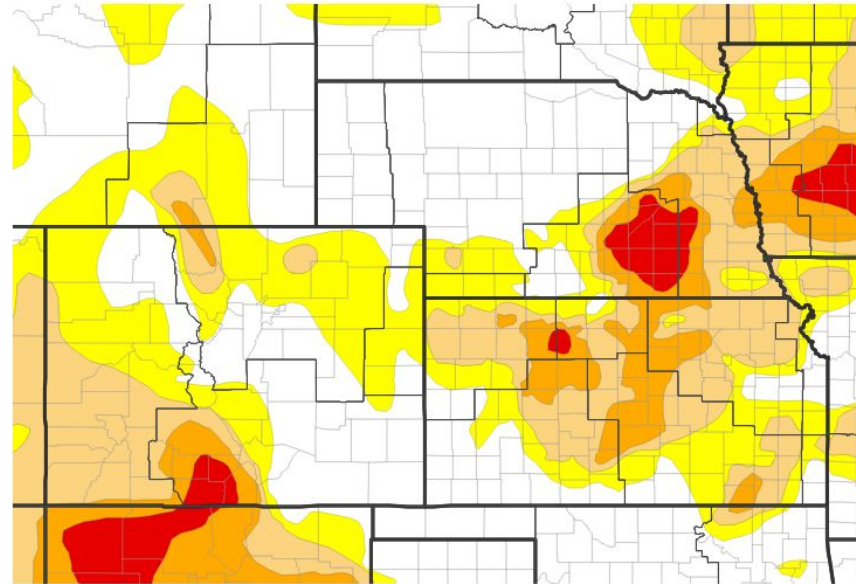


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Colorado

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 Exceptional Drought:** N/A
 - **D3 Extreme Drought:** Portions of Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla counties.
 - **D2 Severe Drought:** Portions of Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla counties.
 - **D1 Moderate Drought:** Portions of Saguache, Mineral, Alamosa, Custer, Costilla, Huerfano and Las Animas counties.
 - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Portions of Lake, Chaffee, Fremont, Teller, Custer, Pueblo, Huerfano, Las Animas and Kiowa counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/16/24



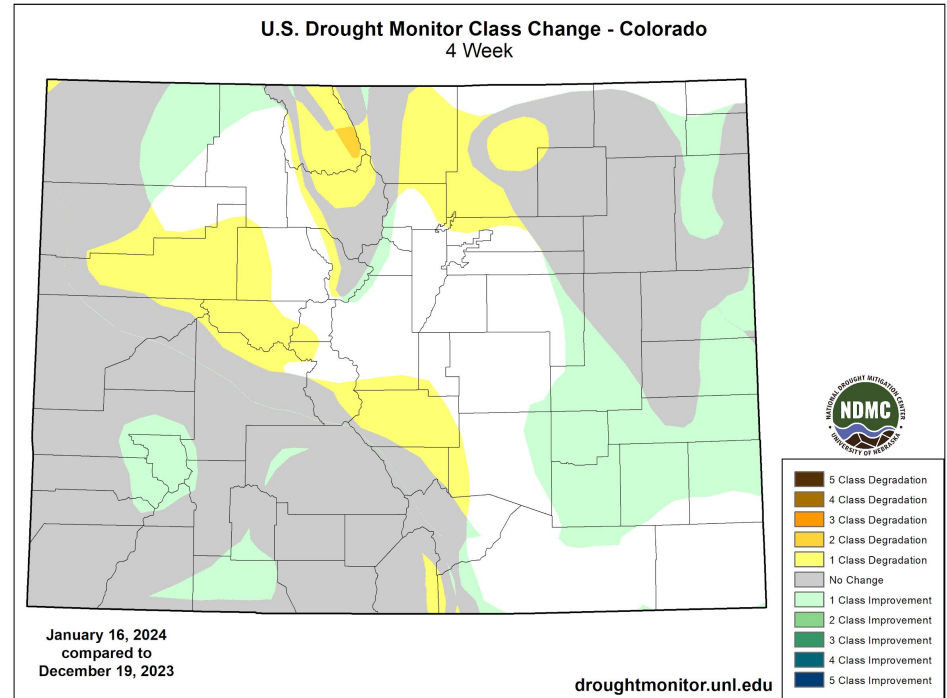


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Colorado

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- Drought Worsened: Portions of Lake, Chaffee, Fremont, Custer, Pueblo and Costilla counties.
- No Change: Most of south central Colorado.
- Drought Improved: The southeast Plains.



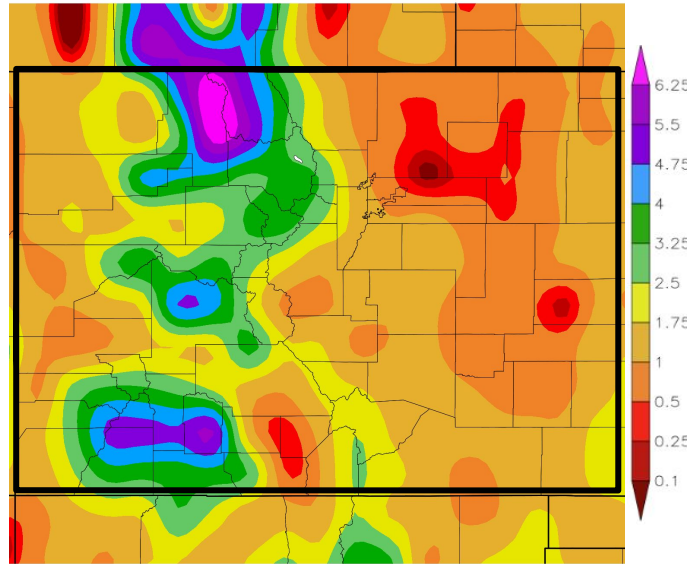


Precipitation

Links to the latest [Precipitation Accumulation](#) and [Departure from Normal](#) over the past 60 days

After a dry start to the 2024 Water Year (Oct 2023-Sept 2024), precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado picked up in the month of December and through January of 2024 thus far.

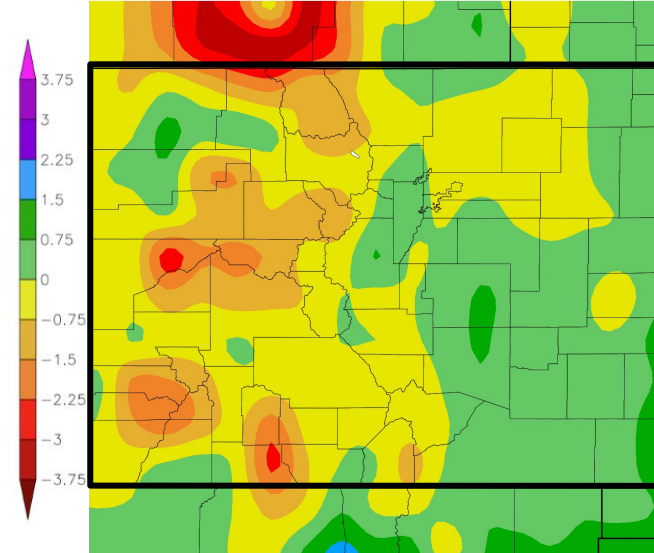
Precipitation (in)
11/22/2023 – 1/20/2024



024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Region

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
11/22/2023 – 1/20/2024



024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Reg





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- While statewide snowpack was running below median (68%) at the end of December, storms through January thus far have boosted statewide snowpack to 92 percent of median with the most gains across the Northern and Central mountains.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture deficits remain in place across portions of south central Colorado.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Cool and wet conditions throughout the past month has lessened fire danger across south central and southeast Colorado. However, cured fuels and strong winds, will occasionally boost fire danger to moderate across the snow free areas of south central and southeast Colorado.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.



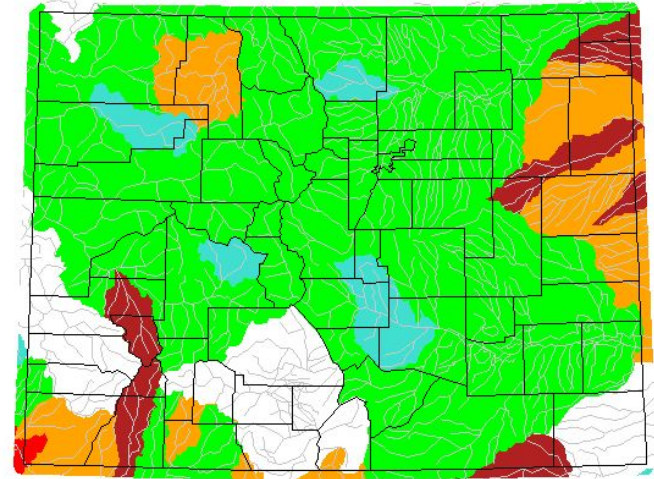


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Links to [Current NRCS Mountain Precipitation](#) and [NRCS StreamFlow Forecast \(January-June\)](#)

Saturday, January 20, 2024

- Current stream flows are at or above normal across most of south central and southeast Colorado, with some ice jams being reported along the mid Arkansas River.
- NRCS data indicated statewide mountain precipitation for the month of December was at 93 percent of median, as compared to 159 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is 75 percent of median, as compared to 107 percent last year.
- In the Arkansas basin, December precipitation came in at 100 percent of median, as compared to 90 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is 77 percent of median, as compared to 82 percent last year.
- In the Arkansas basin, December precipitation came in at 84 percent of median, as compared to 92 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is at 62 percent of median, as compared to 86 percent of median last year.



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado](#) valid 1 20 2024





Hydrologic Conditions Colorado Snowpack

Link to [NRCS Colorado Water Supply Outlook Report \(January-June\)](#)

- As of January 20th, [Colorado Statewide Snowpack](#) was running at 92 percent of median.
- In the [Arkansas basin](#), snowpack was at 84 percent of median.
- In the [Upper Rio Grande basin](#), snowpack was at 70 percent of median, and the lowest in the state.

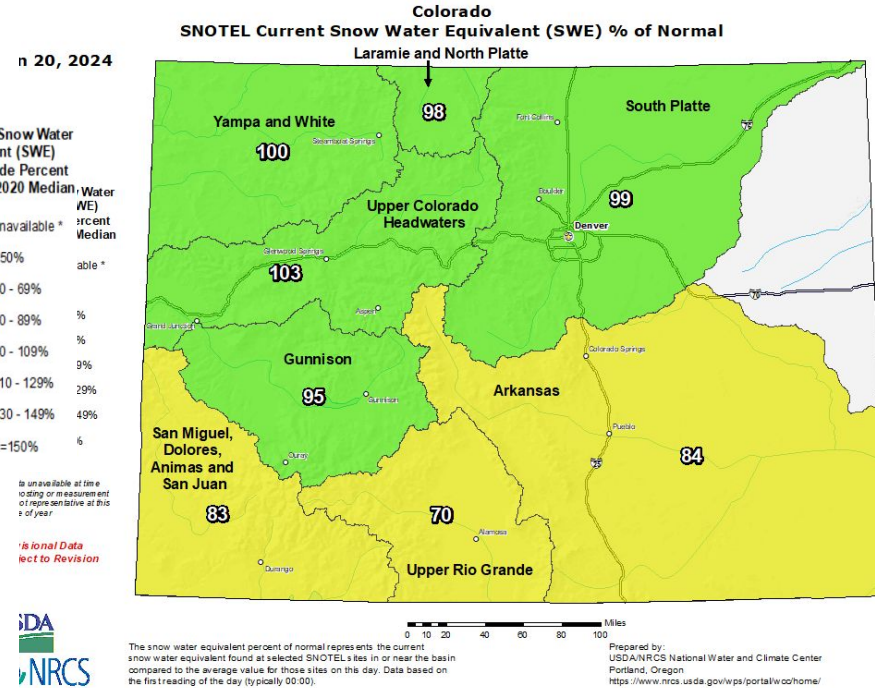


Image Caption: [NRCS Colorado SNOWTEL SWE % of Normal](#) valid 1 20 2024





Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

Link to the latest [USDA Colorado Crop Progress and Condition Report](#)

- CPC data indicates soil moisture deficits across portions of south central Colorado.

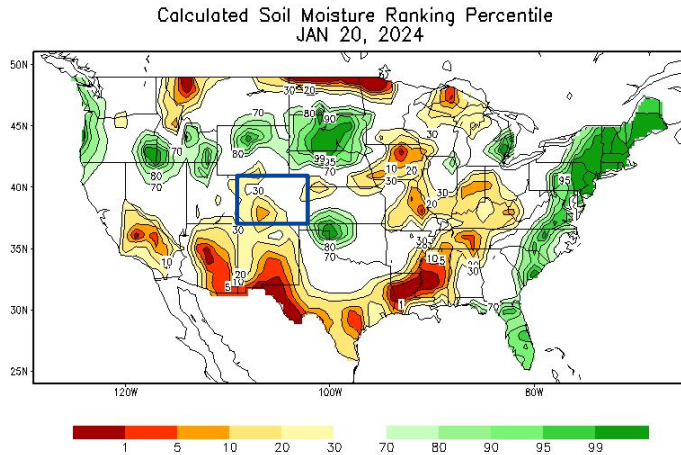


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)
valid 1 20 2024

- NRCS data indicates [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 100 percent of median at the end of December, as compared to 78 percent of median at this same time last year.
- In the Arkansas basin, reservoir storage was at 107 percent of median at the end of December, as compared to 84 percent of median at this same time last year.
- In the Rio Grande basin, reservoir storage was at 121 percent of median at the end of December, as compared to 106 percent of median at this same time last year.





Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Unseasonably cool and wet conditions throughout the past month has lessened fire danger across south central and southeast Colorado.

Link to [Latest Fire Restrictions across the state of Colorado](#)

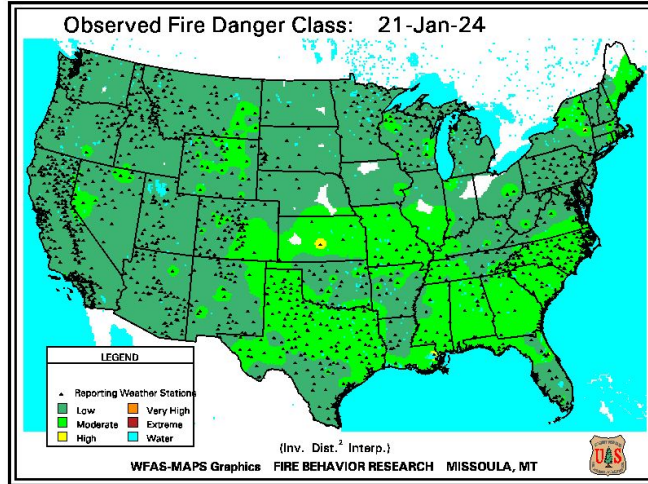


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid 1 21 2023

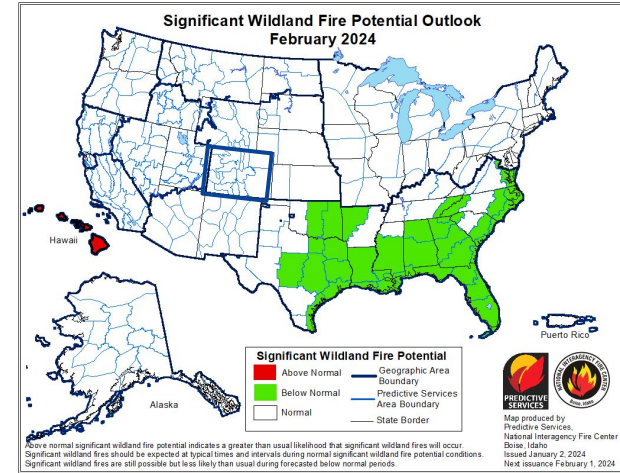


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid Feb 2024

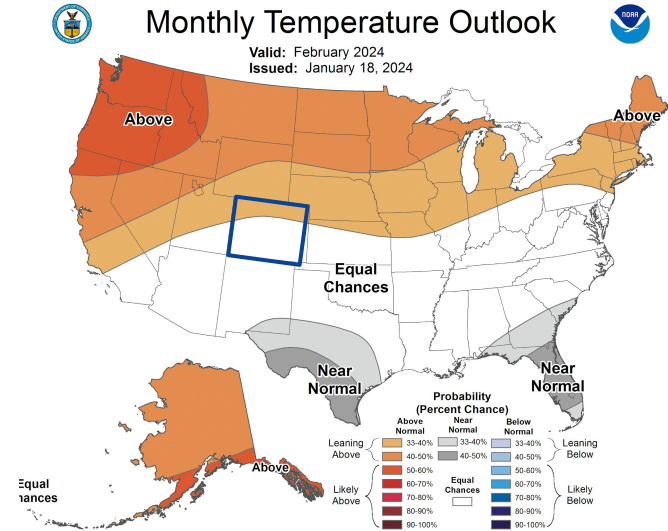
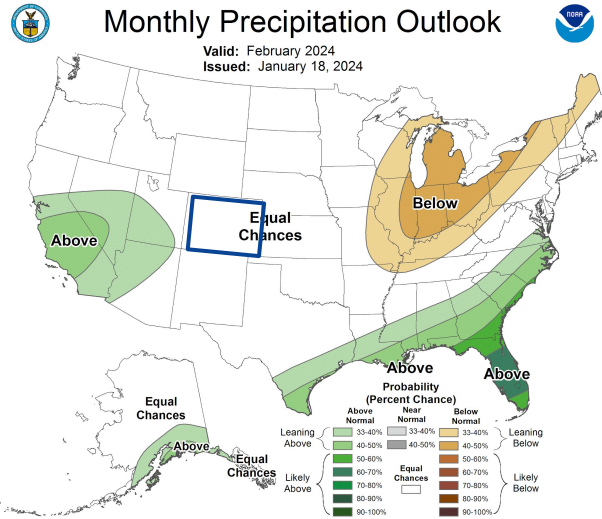




Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The CPC Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the month of February leans to equal chances of above, below and near normal temperatures and precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado.



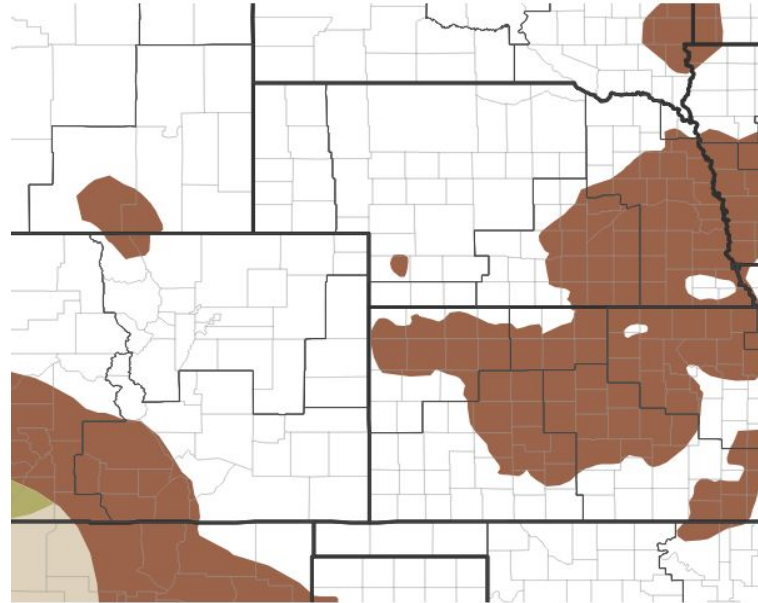


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are predicted to persist across portions of south central Colorado through the rest of January and February.

th Drought Outlook



Is Predicted To...



) : Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Pueblo, Colorado