Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado Valid February 12th, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

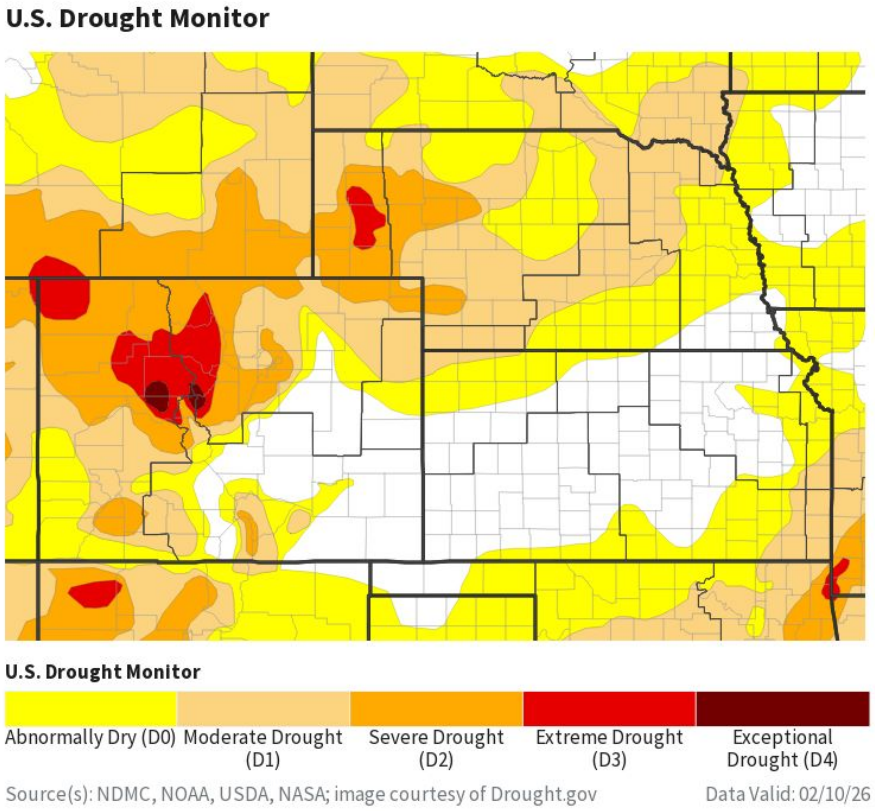
- This product will be updated by March 19th, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/pub/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- Drought conditions across south central and southeast Colorado continue to expand

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Colorado

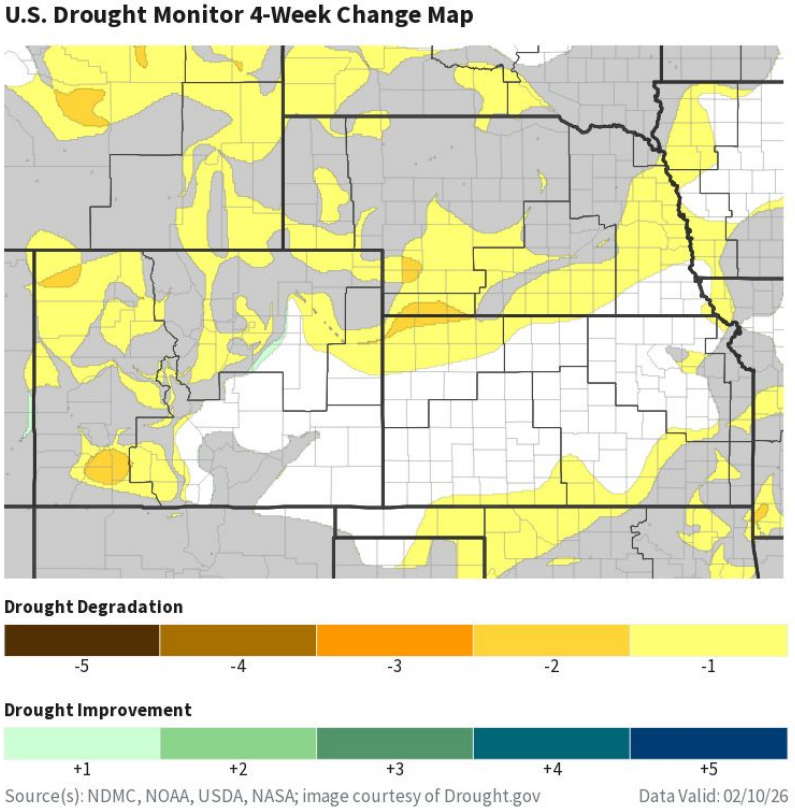
- **Drought intensity and Extent**
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Northeast Lake county.
  - **D3 Extreme Drought:** Eastern and western Lake, and extreme northwest Chaffee counties.
  - **D2 Severe Drought:** Central Lake, western and northeastern Chaffee, extreme west central Mineral, eastern Costilla, western Huerfano and northwestern Las Animas counties.
  - **D1 Moderate Drought:** Central and southwestern Chaffee, northwest and southwest Saguache, Mineral, western Rio Grande, northwest Conejos, extreme northwest Teller, southwest Custer, western into central Huerfano, eastern Costilla, western and northeastern Las Animas counties.
  - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Southern Chaffee, northwestern Fremont, western Teller, northwest El Paso, western into central and southeast Saguache, eastern Rio Grande, western into central Conejos, northeast Alamosa, Custer, southwest into southeast Pueblo, eastern Huerfano, western Las Animas, and southwest into to northeast Otero counties.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Colorado

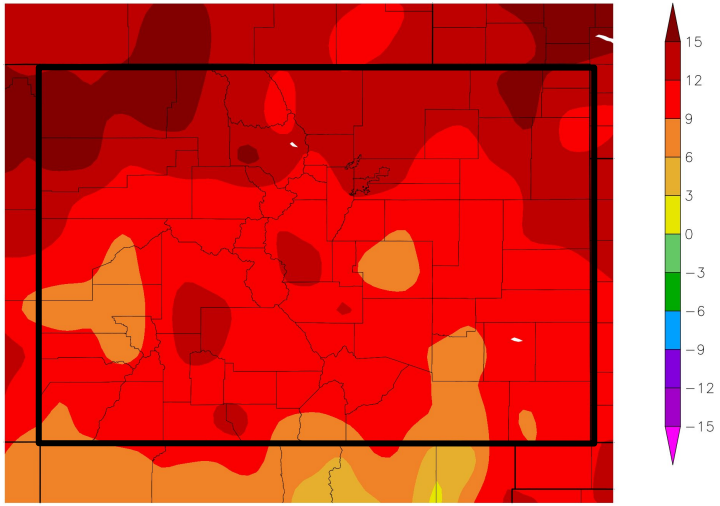
- 4 Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **Drought Worsened:** Portions of south central Colorado, especially along the Continental Divide.
  - **No Change:** The rest of south central and southeast Colorado.
  - **Drought Improved:** N/A



Month to Date Temperature and Precipitation Departure

Links to the latest HPRCC Mean Temperature and Precipitation departures from normal month to date

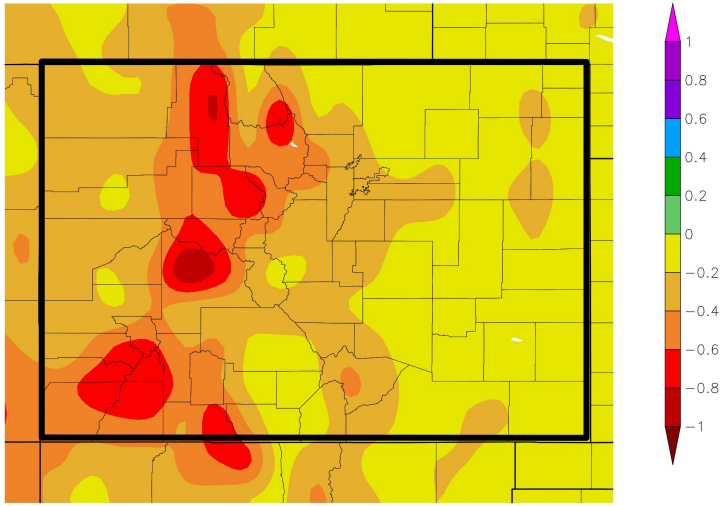
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/1/2026 – 2/11/2026



Generated 2/12/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
2/1/2026 – 2/11/2026



Generated 2/12/2026 using provisional data.

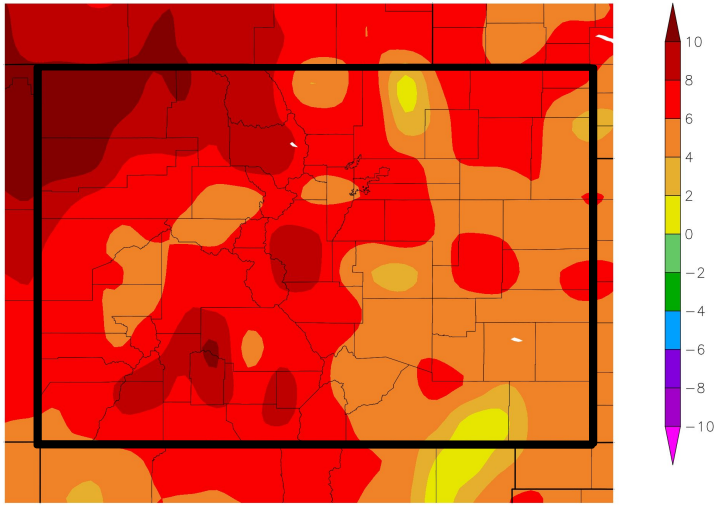
ACIS Web Services

February, thus far, has been very warm and dry, with upper level ridging in place across the West Coast into the Rockies.

Past 3 Month Temperature and Precipitation Departure

Links to the latest HPRCC Mean Temperature and Precipitation departures from normal over the past 3 months

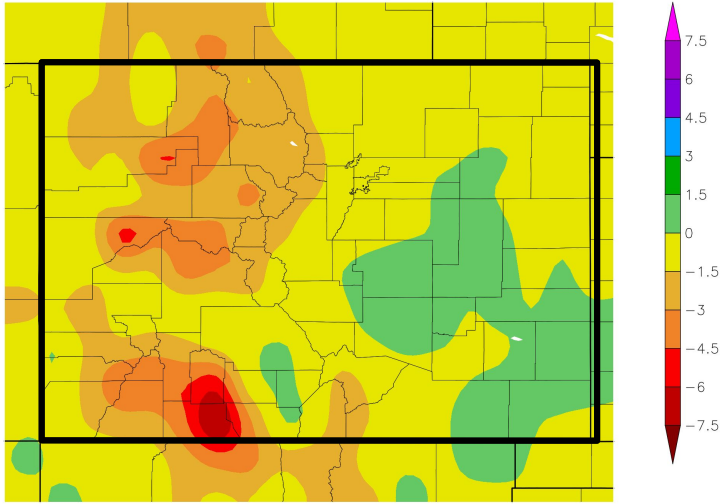
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/1/2025 – 1/31/2026



Generated 2/10/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
11/1/2025 – 1/31/2026



Generated 2/10/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

November through January was very warm and mainly dry across south central and southeast, Colorado, save for a few passing weather systems bringing some precipitation at the end of November, the beginning of December and early in January. January also saw an arctic airmass push into the southeast Colorado Plains towards the end of the month. .

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Statewide snowpack continue to run below aggregated historically low levels, with February 11th readings at 53 percent of median. February 11th snowpack readings in the Arkansas basin were at 42 percent of median while snowpack in the Rio Grande basin was at 45 percent of median.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is running at or below seasonal levels across south central and southeast Colorado. (CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Winter cured fuels and warm and dry conditions has led to increased fire danger across the snow free areas of south central and southeast Colorado.

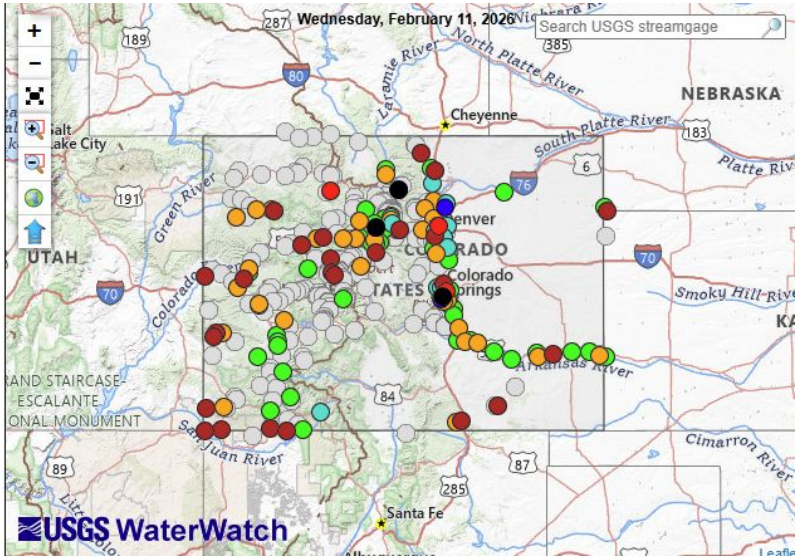
Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Links to Current NRCS Mountain Precipitation and NWS Western Water Supply and Streamflow Forecasts

- Latest stream flows are generally at and below seasonal normals across south central and southeast Colorado.
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of January was 66 percent of median, as compared to 77 percent of median at this time last year. This brings statewide WY 2026 precipitation to 82 percent of median, as compared to 91 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, January precipitation was 76 percent of median, as compared to 91 percent of median at this time last year. This brings Arkansas basin WY 2026 precipitation to 79 percent of median, as compared to 107 at this time last year.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, January precipitation was 58 percent of median, as compared to 63 percent of median at this time last year. This brings Upper Rio Grande basin WY 2026 precipitation to 93 percent of median, as compared to 87 percent of median at this time last year.



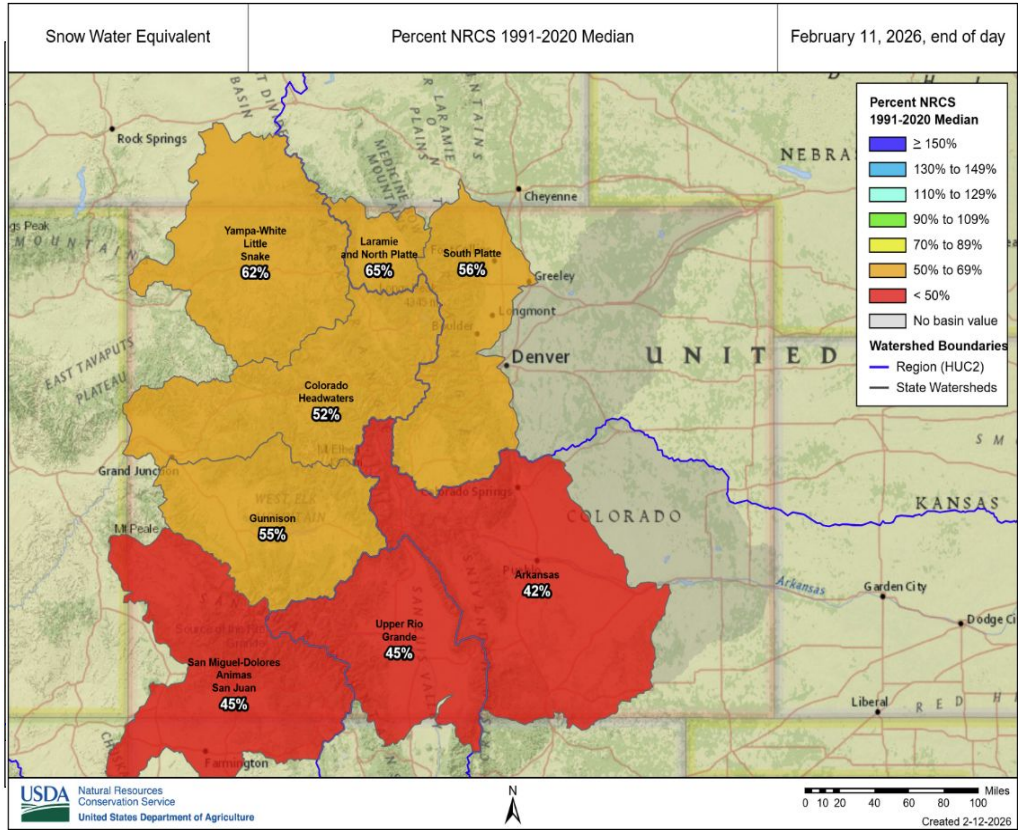
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

USGS 7 day streamflow compared to historical streamflow for time of day valid February 11th, 2026

Hydrologic Conditions Colorado Snowpack

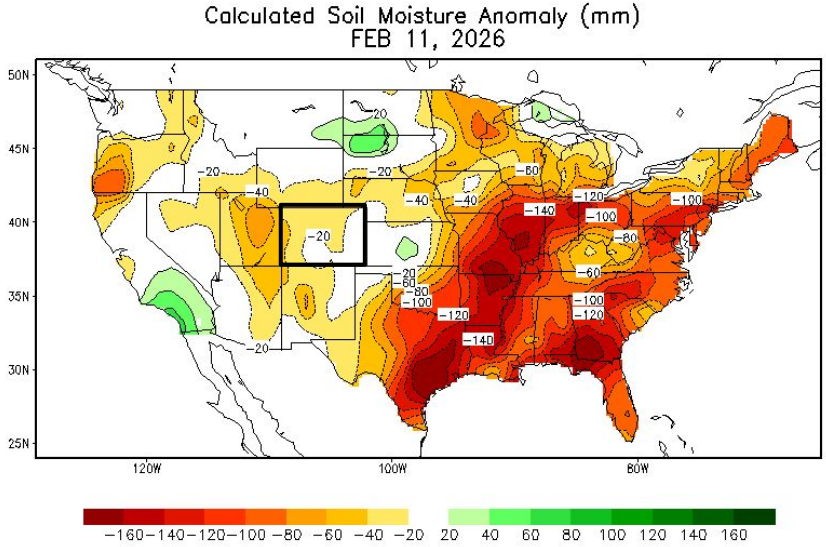
Links to Current NRCS Colorado Basin Report and NRCS Colorado Water Supply Outlook (January-June)

- On February 1st, NRCS data indicated Colorado Statewide Snowpack was at 55 percent of the 30 year median, as compared to 90 percent of median at this time last year. As of February 11th, statewide snowpack was at 53 percent of median, and continues to track below aggregated historical lows.
- February 1st snowpack in the Arkansas basin was at 48 percent of median, as compared to 96 percent of median at this time last year. As of February 11th, snowpack in the Arkansas basin was at 42 percent of median and was tracking near aggregated historical lows.
- February 1st snowpack in the Upper Rio Grande basin was at 49 percent of median, as compared to 71 percent of median at this time last year. As of February 11th, snowpack in the Upper Rio Grande basin was at 45 percent of median and was tracking near aggregated historical lows.



Agricultural and Water Supply Impacts

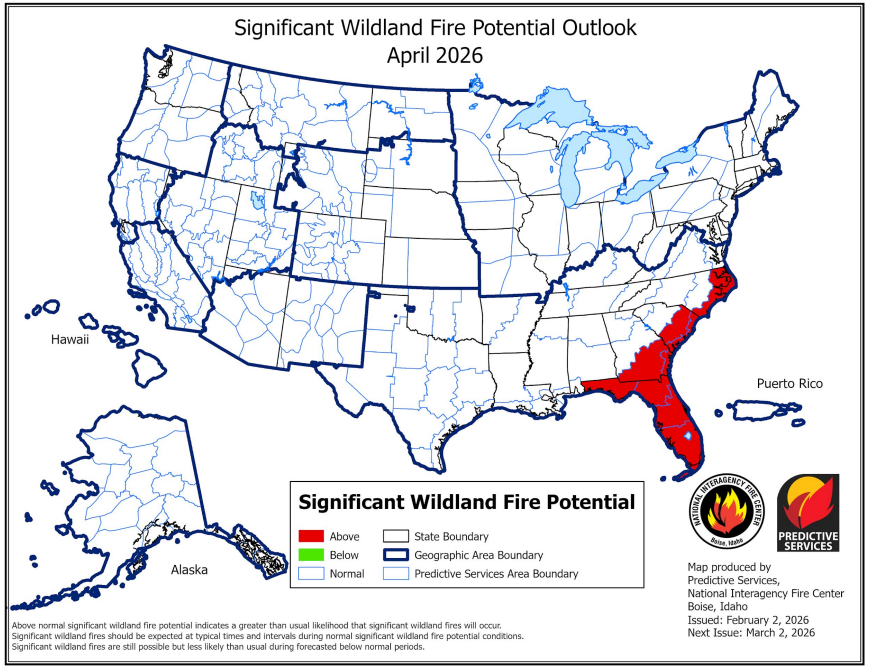
- Latest CPC data indicates soil moisture is running around seasonal norms across south central and southeast Colorado, save for below normal readings across the higher terrain.



- NRCS data indicated **statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage** was at 86 percent of median at the end of January, as compared to 94 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 100 percent of median at the end of January, as compared to 114 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 120 percent of median at the end of January, as compared to 122 percent of median at this time last year.

Fire Hazard Impacts

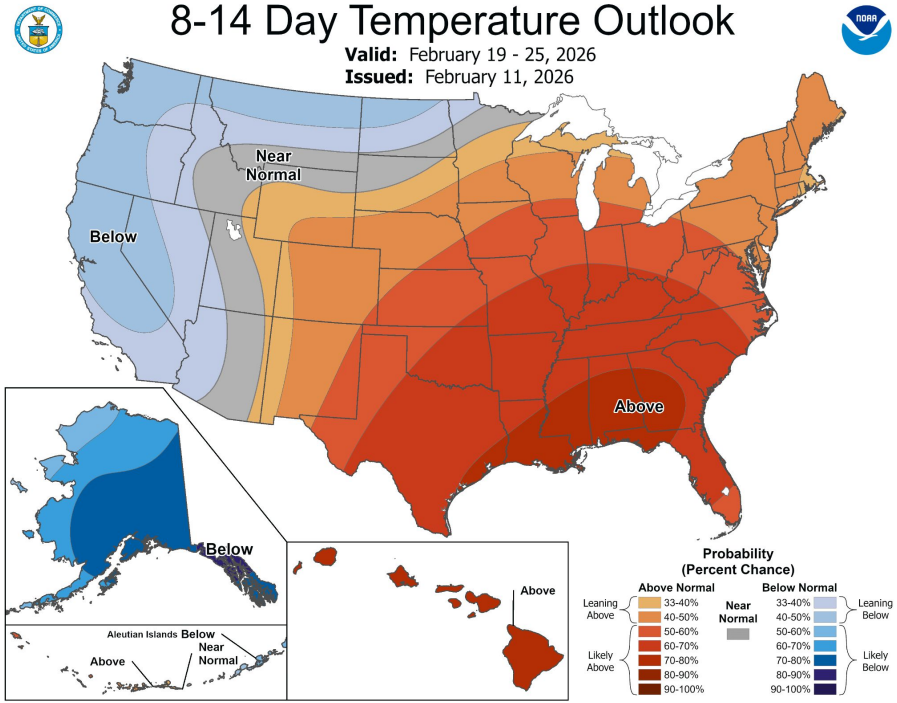
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

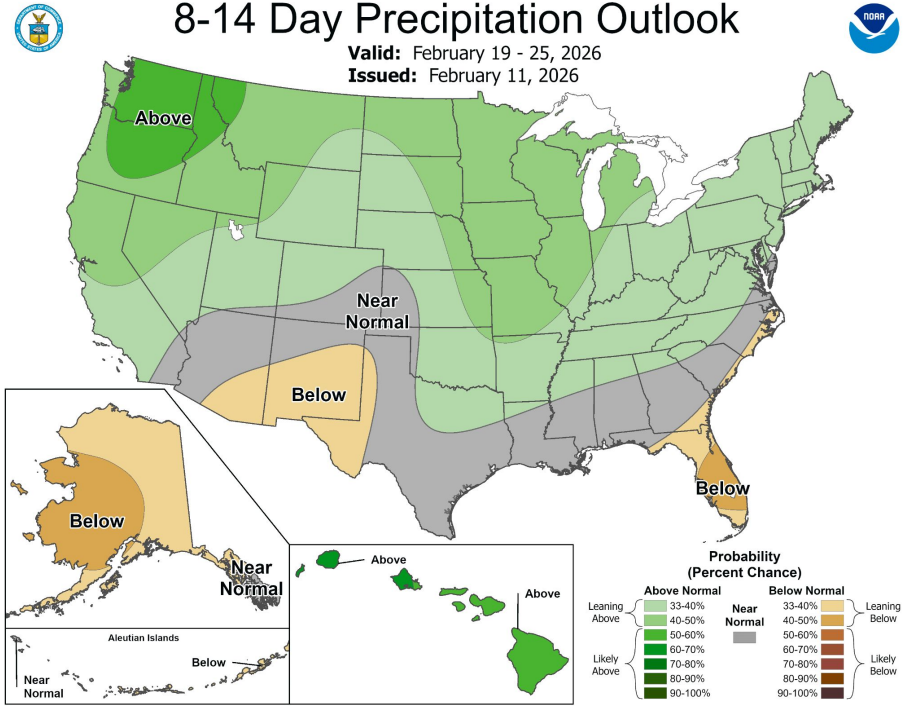


With drier than normal conditions still predicted across southeast Colorado through the winter, the potential for significant wildland fires continues to increase across the snow free areas of south central and southeast Colorado.

Monthly Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

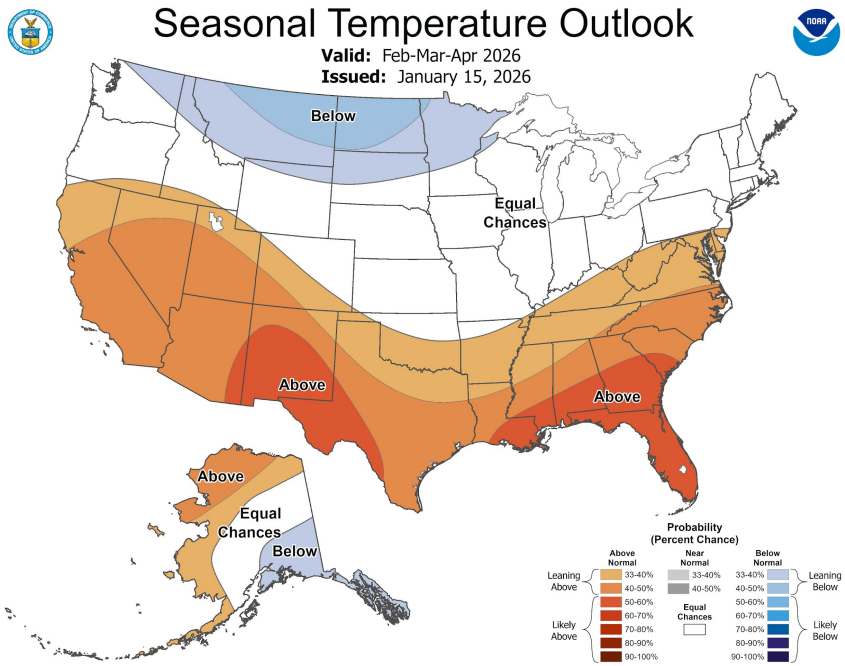


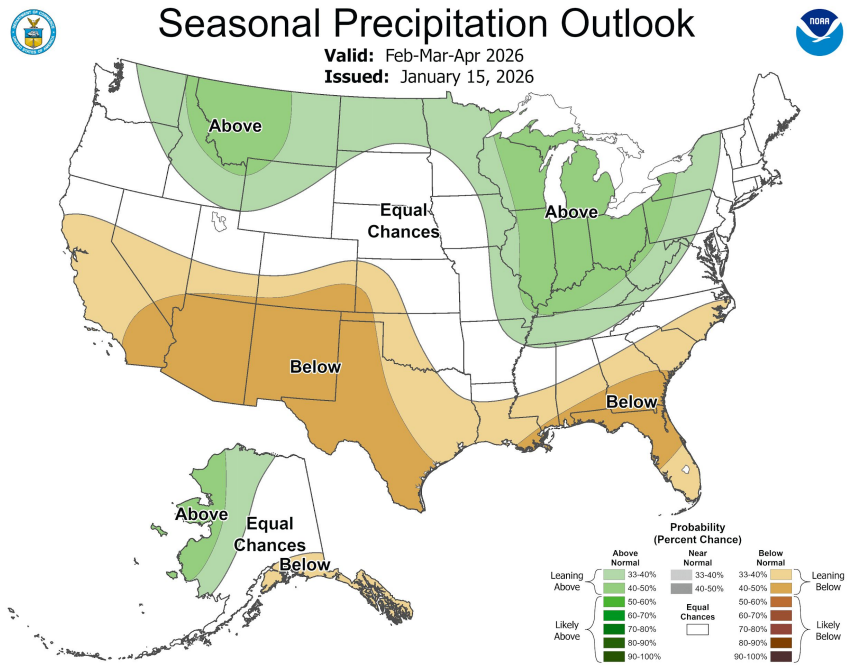


The CPC 8 to 14 day outlook, valid February 19th-25, indicates better chances of above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, with continued broad west to northwest flow keeping northern Colorado on the fringe of wetter conditions.

Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

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



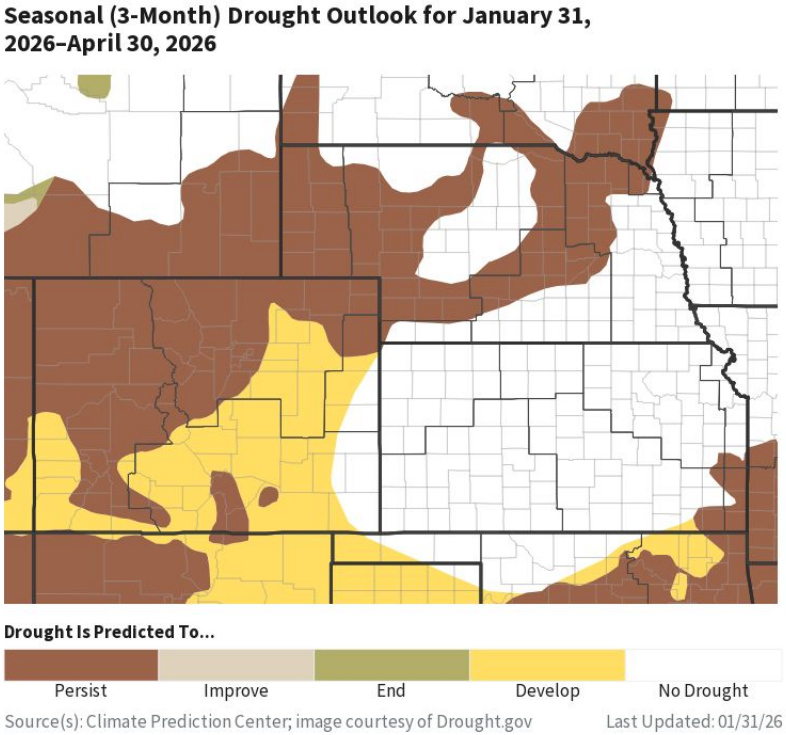


The CPC outlook for February through April supports warmer and drier conditions across much of southern Colorado with an expected transition to ENSO neutral conditions through the Spring and possible El Nino conditions through the end of Summer.

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

The potential for warmer and drier conditions across much southern Colorado through the rest of the winter supports the development of drought conditions across south central and southeast Colorado through the early Spring.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook