



# Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid April, 15, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated May 10th, 2023 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](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 continue to improve across south central Colorado
- Some drying noted across the far southeast Plains





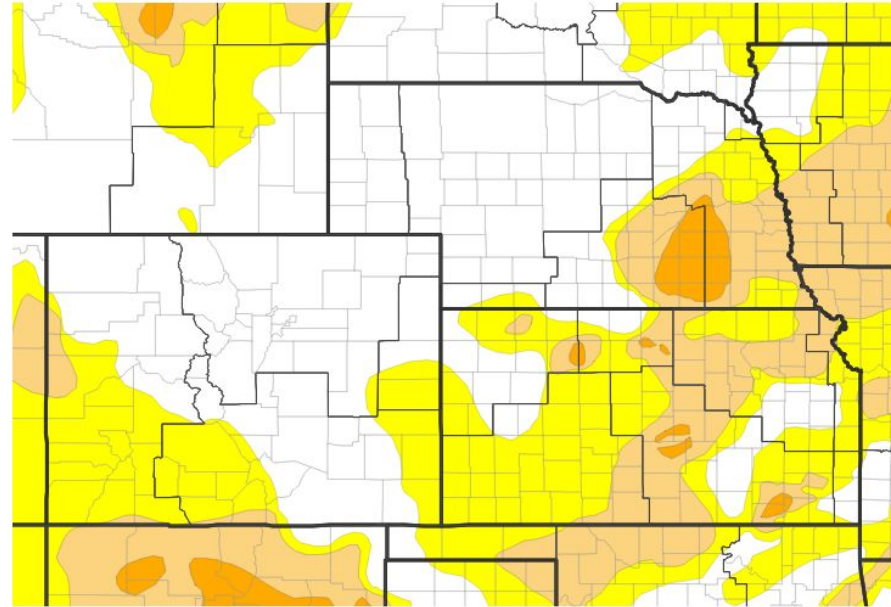
# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Valid Tuesday April 9th, 2024

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** N/A
  - **D3 Extreme Drought:** N/A.
  - **D2 Severe Drought:** N/A.
  - **D1 Moderate Drought:** Now confined to extreme southern portions of Conejos and Costilla counties into extreme western Las Animas county.
  - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande and Alamosa counties and the rest of Conejos and Costilla counties. Extreme western portions of Fremont, Custer and Huerfano counties into western Las Animas county. Portions of the southeast plains including portions of Kiowa, Bent, Prowers and Baca counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/09/24





# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Portions of the far southeast Plains.
  - No Change: Most of south central Colorado.
  - Drought Improved: Portions of the higher terrain along the Continental Divide, the San Luis Valley and southeast Mountains.

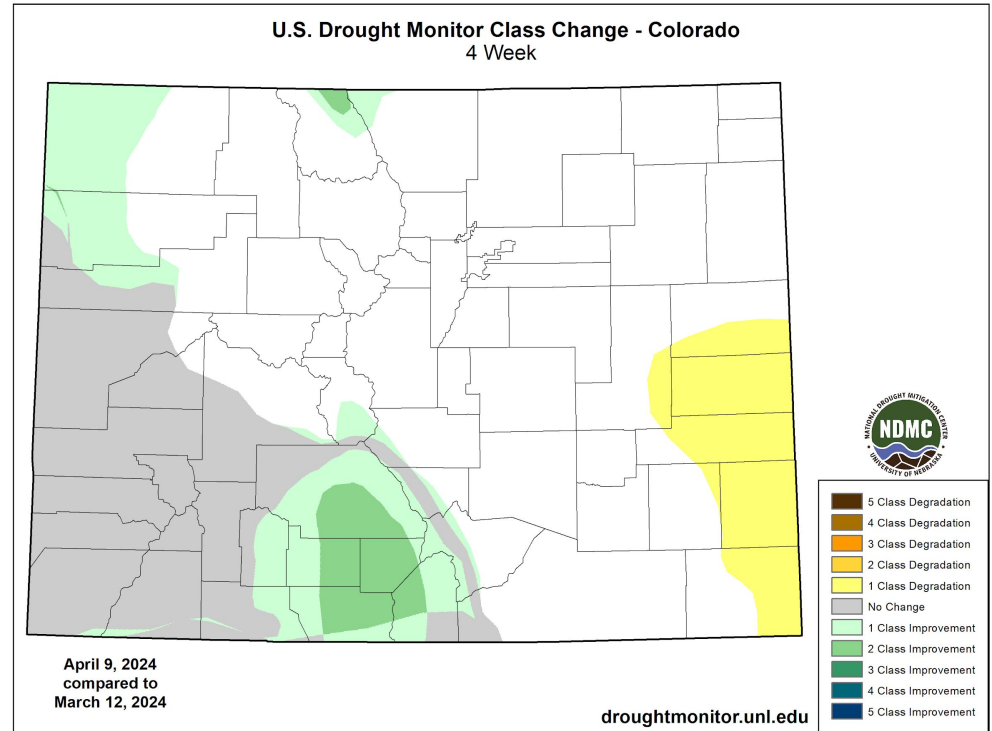


Image Caption: [Drought Monitor Colorado 4 Week Change Map](#)  
valid April 9th, 2024





# Precipitation

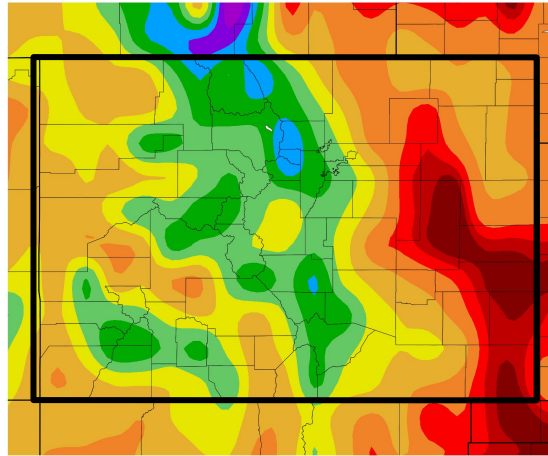
Links to the latest [HPRCC Precipitation Accumulation](#) and [Departure from Normal](#) for March of 2024

March of 2024 continued the previous month of February’s progressive weather pattern across the region, with periods of mild and dry weather along with occasional colder and unsettled weather with passing weather systems.

One passing system through the middle of the month brought widespread rain and snow to much of south central and southeast Colorado, with both Colorado Springs and Pueblo setting daily precipitation records.

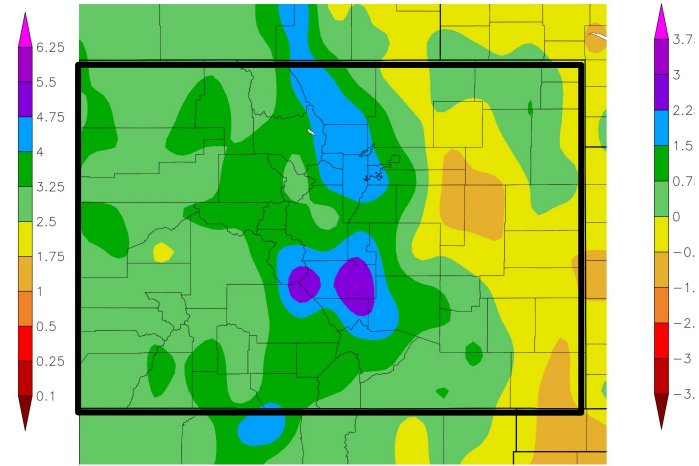
For the month of March as a whole, at or above normal temperatures and at and above normal precipitation were experienced over and near the higher terrain, with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation being realized across the far southeast Plains.

Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2024 – 3/31/2024



Generated 4/10/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2024 – 3/31/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 24 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- March was a wet month with several significant storms delivering above normal precipitation to all major basins across the state, boosting snowpack and streamflow forecasts for the upcoming snowmelt-runoff season.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Beneficial moisture has improved soil moisture across the region.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Despite the beneficial moisture, cured fuels and occasional bouts of strong winds, has allowed for bouts of critical fire weather conditions across snow free areas of south central and southeast Colorado over the past few months.

## Mitigation Actions

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



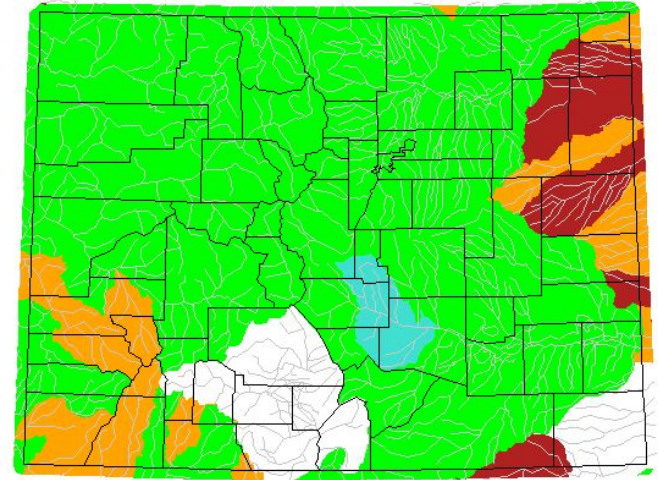


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Sunday, April 14, 2024

- Current 7 day average stream flows are at or above normal across most of south central and southeast Colorado.
- NRCS data indicated **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of March was at 156 percent of median, as compared to 182 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is now up to 103 percent of median, as compared to 124 percent at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, March precipitation came in at 186 percent of median, as compared to 145 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is now up to 115 percent of median, as compared to 100 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, March precipitation came in at 174 percent of median, as compared to 199 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is now up to 98 percent of median, as compared to 117 percent of median at this time 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 April 11th, 2024





# Hydrologic Conditions Colorado Snowpack

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

- As of April 1st, NRCS data indicated [Colorado Statewide Snowpack](#) was 112 percent of median.
- In the [Arkansas basin](#), April 1st snowpack was at 117 percent of median. April 1st NRCS streamflow forecasts ranged from 72% of median at Huerfano River near Redwing to 120% of median at Chalk Creek near Nathrop.
- In the [Upper Rio Grande basin](#), April 1st snowpack was at 110 percent of median. April 1st NRCS streamflow forecasts ranged from 67% of median at Costilla Creek near Costilla to 146% of median at Saguache Creek near Saguache.

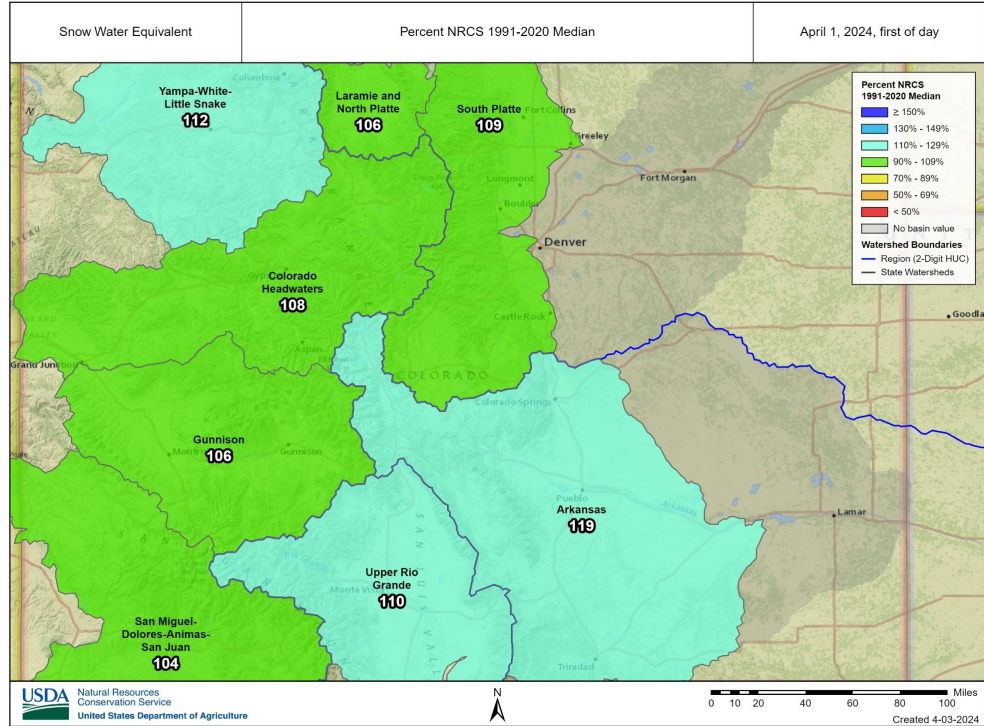


Image Caption: Latest [USDA NRCS Colorado SNOWTEL SWE % of Normal](#)





# Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

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

- CPC data indicates soil moisture around seasonal norms across south central and southeast Colorado.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
APR 14, 2024

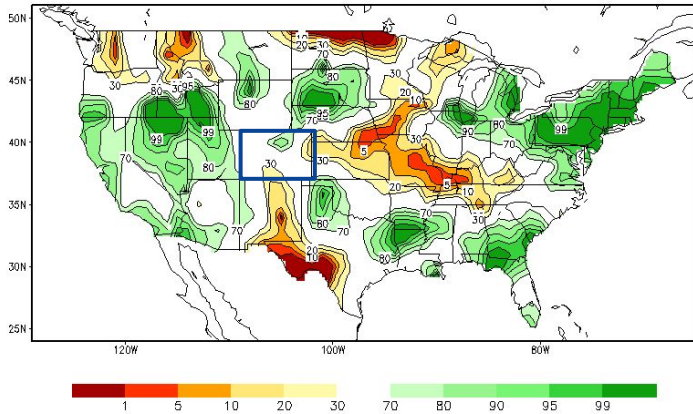


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)  
valid April 14th, 2024

- NRCS data indicated [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 99 percent of median at the end of March, as compared to 80 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the Arkansas basin, reservoir storage was at 110 percent of median at the end of March, as compared to 90 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the Rio Grande basin, reservoir storage was at 116 percent of median at the end of March, as compared to 105 percent of median at this time last year.







# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Occasionally windy conditions in March, along with cured fuels, brought bouts of increased fire danger across the snow free areas of south central and southeast Colorado.

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

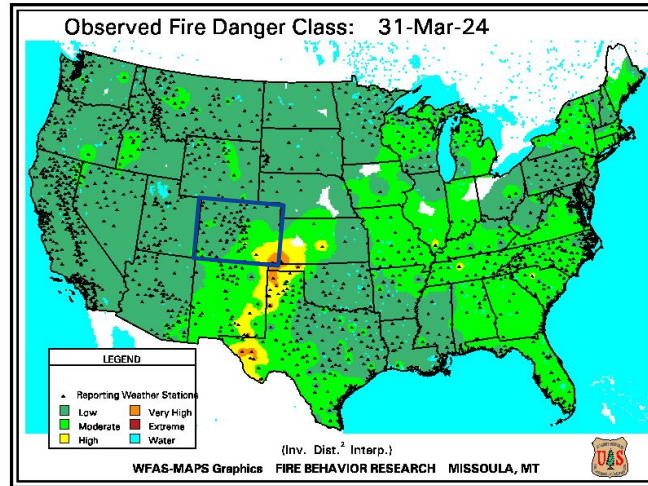


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid March 31st, 2024

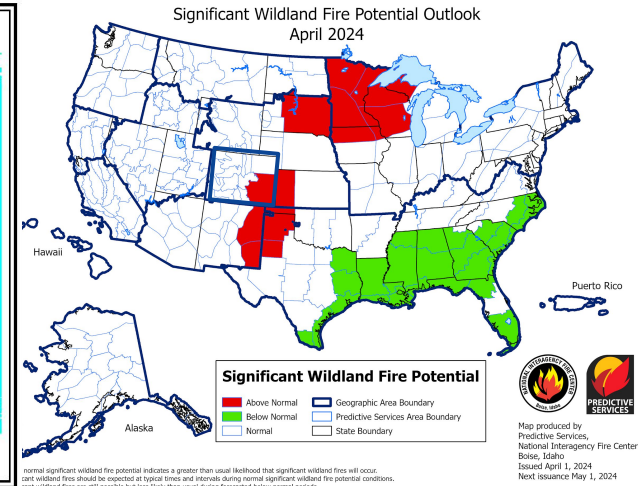


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid April 2024

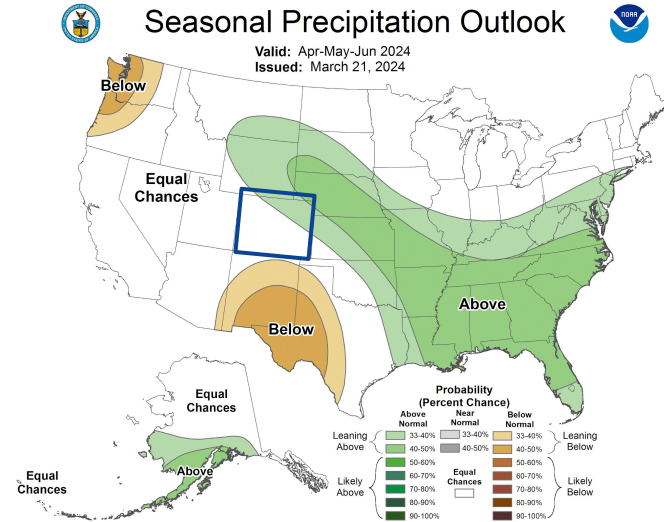
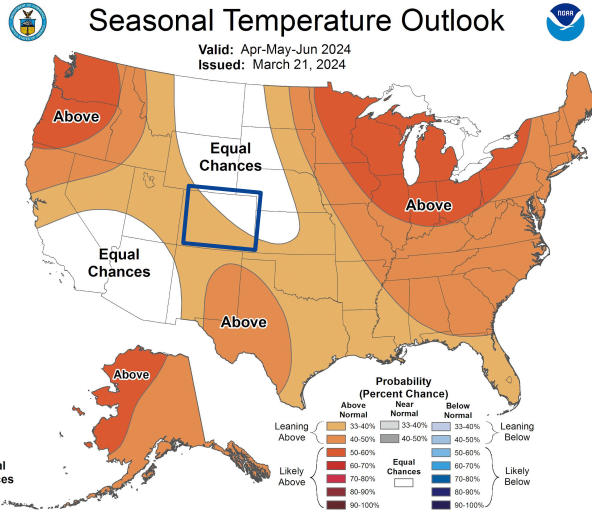




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

The CPC Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the rest of April, May and June leans to above normal temperatures and equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado.



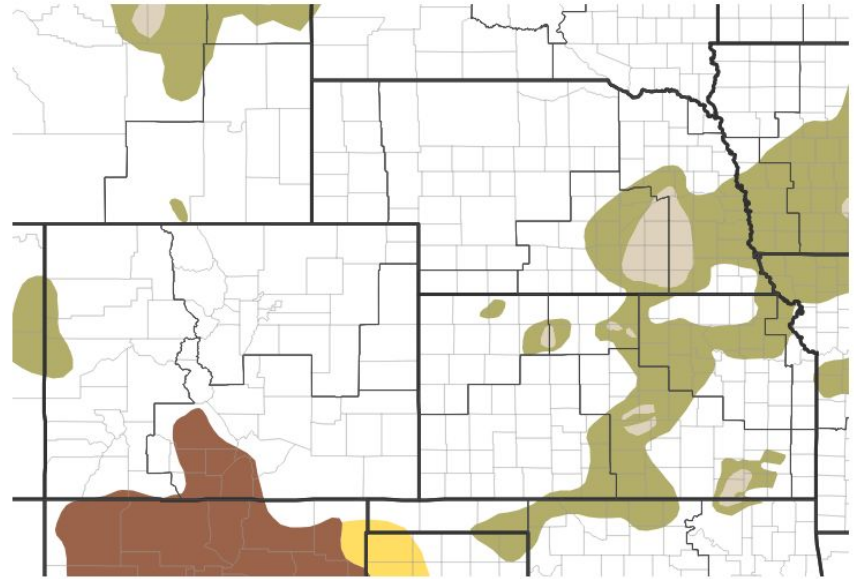


# Drought Outlook

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 for the rest April through June.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid: 04/12/24

Valid April 1st through June 30th, 2024

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

