



Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid September 11th, 2025

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by October 17th, 2025 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.

- Moderate to Severe Drought conditions remain across portions of south central Colorado





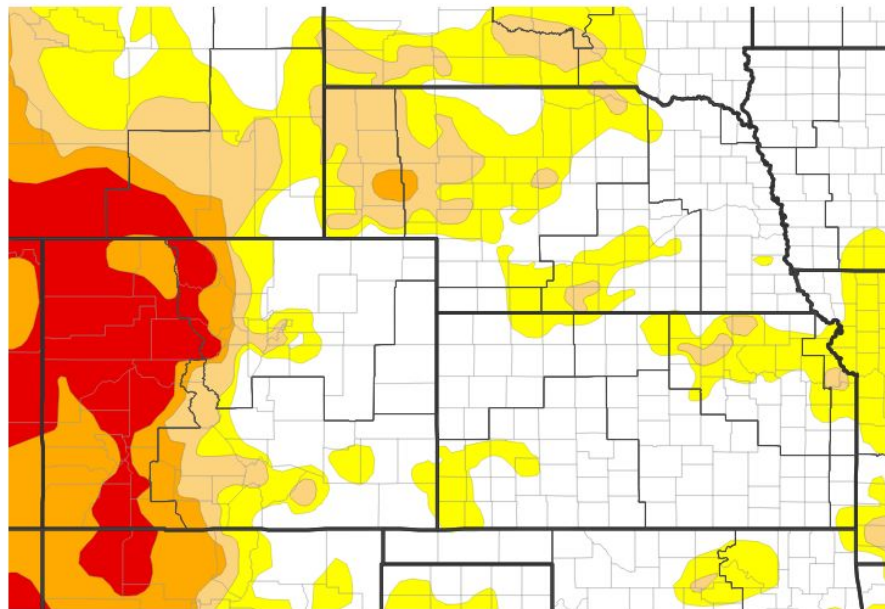
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Valid September 9th, 2025

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** N/A
 - **D3 Extreme Drought:** N/A
 - **D2 Severe Drought:** Northern and western Lake, western Saguache, Mineral, western Rio Grande, and central Conejos, counties.
 - **D1 Moderate Drought:** The rest of Lake, Chaffee, central and southern Saguache, the rest of Rio Grande and Conejos, northern and western Alamosa, southwestern Custer, northwestern Huerfano, and north central Las Animas, counties.
 - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Western Fremont, northeast Saguache, northwest through southeast Custer, eastern Huerfano, Costilla, north central Las Animas, central into eastern Otero, western Bent, southeastern Prowers and northeastern Baca, counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/09/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

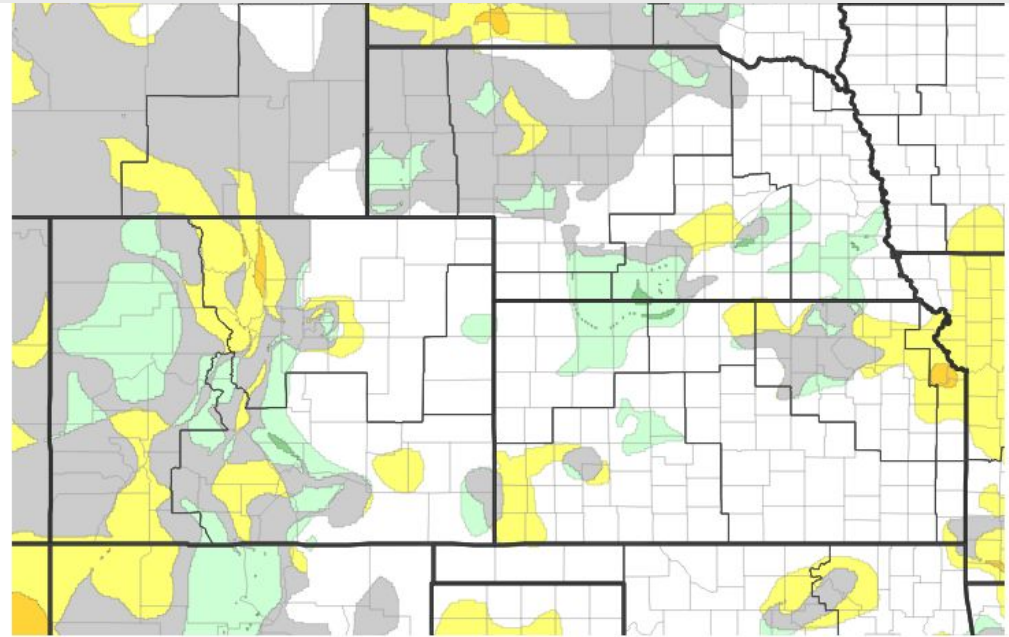
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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:** Portions of the Sangre de Cristo mountains into western portions of the San Luis Valley, and portions of the southeast plains.
- **No Change:** Portions of the south central Colorado.
- **Drought Improved:** Portions of the southwest, central and southeast mountains and southeast plains.



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement

Image Caption: [Drought Monitor Colorado 4 Week Change Map](#) valid September 9th, 2025



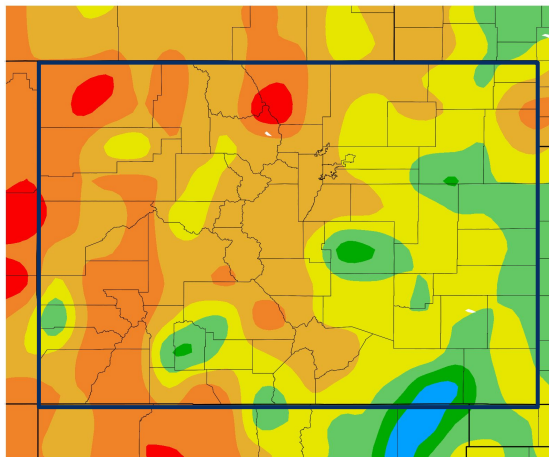


3 Month Precipitation and Temperature Summary

Links to [HPRCC Departure from Normal Temperature](#) and [Departure from Normal Precipitation](#) for the past 3 months

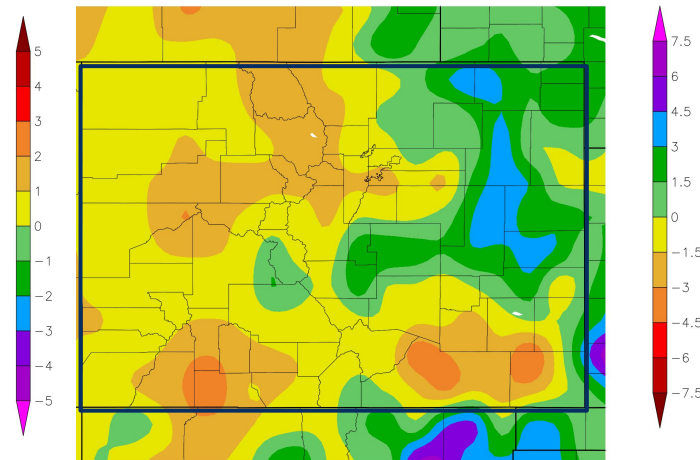
- The start of the summer of 2025 was a fairly active, with several passing weather systems bringing cool and wet periods throughout the month of June, including periods of severe weather across eastern Colorado. June also saw periods of upper level ridging allowing for warm and dry periods throughout the month as well. Both July and August saw a meandering ridge of high pressure across the Rockies, which brought periods of very warm and dry conditions, as well as cooler and wetter periods, with periods of severe weather and heavy monsoon rainfall across portions of south central and southeast Colorado.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/1/2025 – 8/31/2025



Generated 9/10/2025 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
6/1/2025 – 8/31/2025



ACIS Web Services 025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Current streamflow conditions are generally at and above normal across southeast Colorado and at and below normal across south central Colorado.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is around seasonal levels across south central and southeast Colorado, save for above normal levels across the far southeast plains. ([CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fuel status is deemed critical across much of the higher terrain of south central Colorado.

Mitigation Actions

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



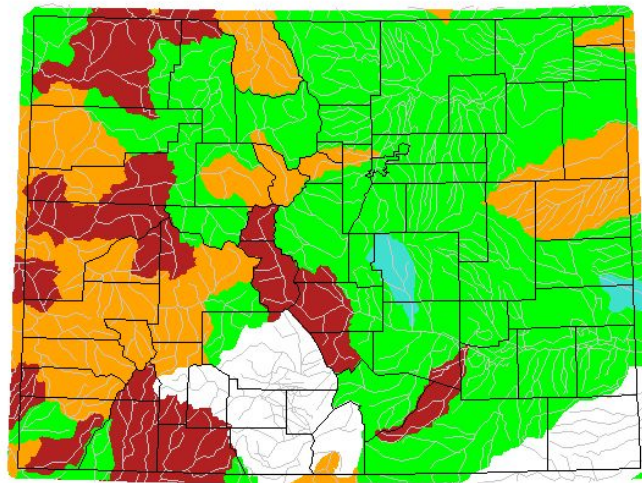


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

- Latest 7 day average stream flows are generally at and above normal across southeast Colorado, and generally below normal across south central Colorado.
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of July was 73 percent of median, as compared to 77 percent of median at the same time last year. This brings statewide Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 85 percent of median, as compared to 99 percent of median at the same time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, July precipitation was 111 percent of median, as compared to 83 percent of median at the same time last year. This brings Arkansas basin Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 96 percent of median, as compared to 108 percent of median at the same time last year.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, July precipitation was 102 percent of median, as compared to 76 percent of median at the same time last year. This brings Upper Rio Grande basin Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 85 percent of median, as compared to 98 percent of median at the same time last year.



USGS

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

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado](#) valid September 10th, 2025



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Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

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

- Latest CPC data indicates soil moisture is running around seasonal norms across south central and southeast Colorado, save for slightly above normal across the far SE Plains.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 10, 2025

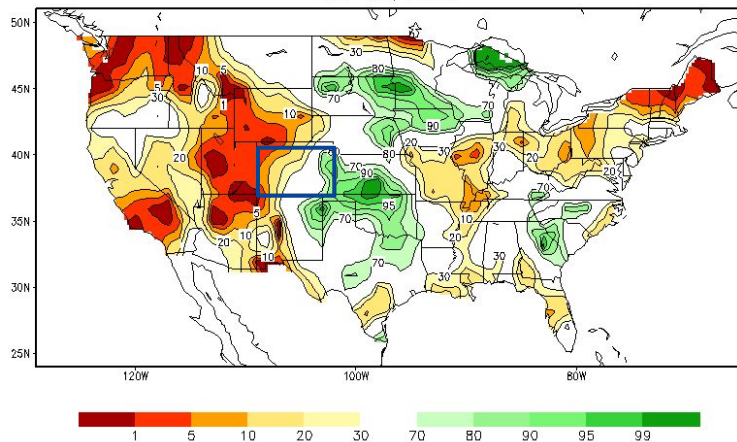


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)
valid September 4th, 2025

- NRCS data indicated [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 83 percent of median at the end of July, as compared to 94 percent of median at the same time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 101 percent of median at the end of July, as compared to 110 percent of median at the same time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 106 percent of median at the end of July, as compared to 106 percent of median at the same time last year.

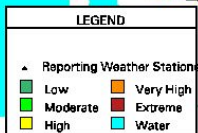
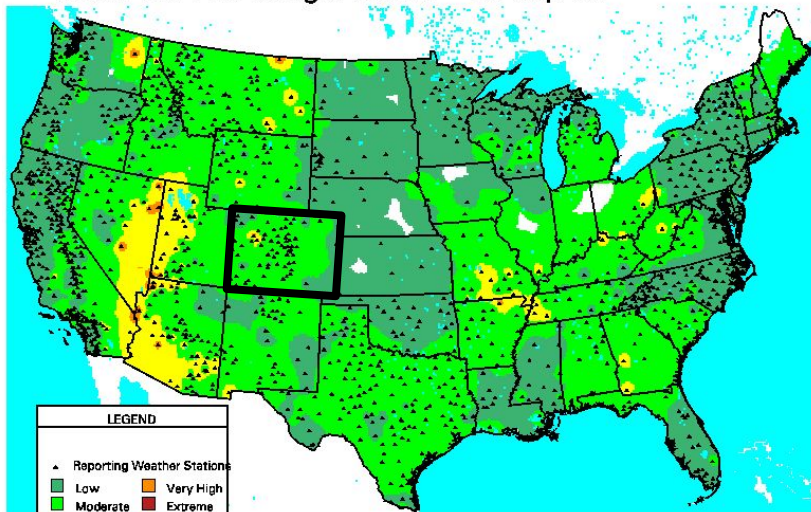




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Observed Fire Danger Class: 10-Sep-25



{Inv. Dist.² Interp.}

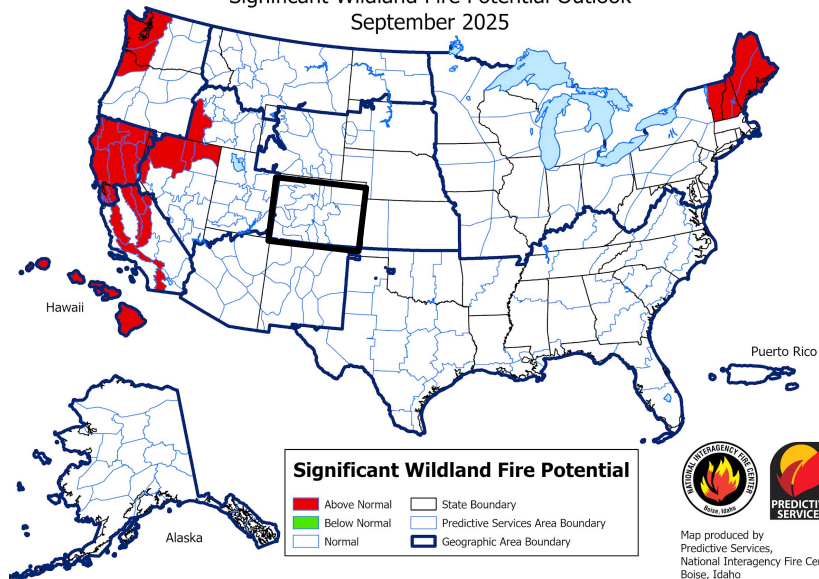
WFAS-MAPS Graphics FIRE BEHAVIOR RESEARCH MISSOULA, MT



Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid September 4th, 2025

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

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook
September 2025



Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued September 1, 2025
Next issuance October 1, 2025

Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur.
Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.
Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.

Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid for September 2025



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Long-Range Monthly Outlook for September

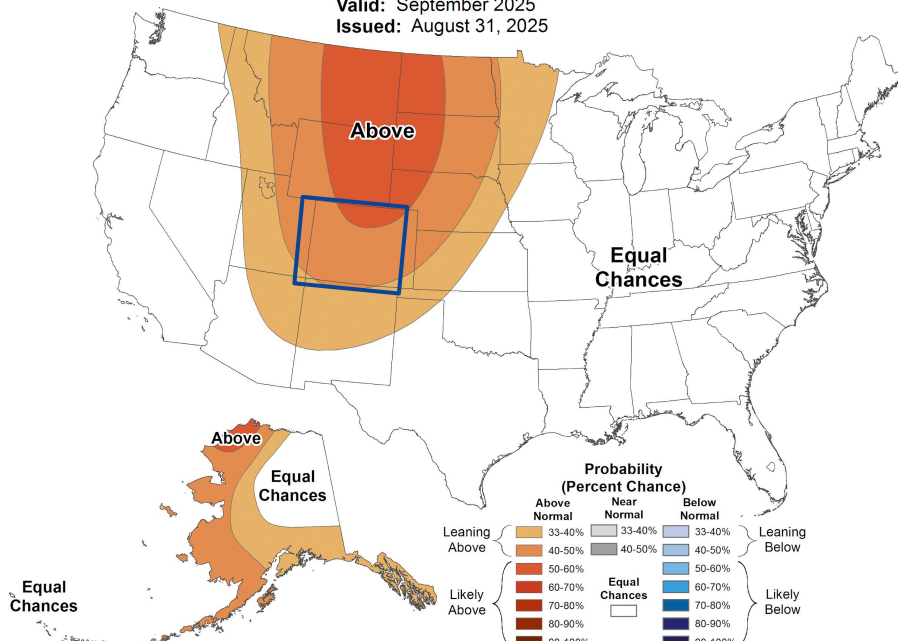
The latest monthly outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



Monthly Temperature Outlook



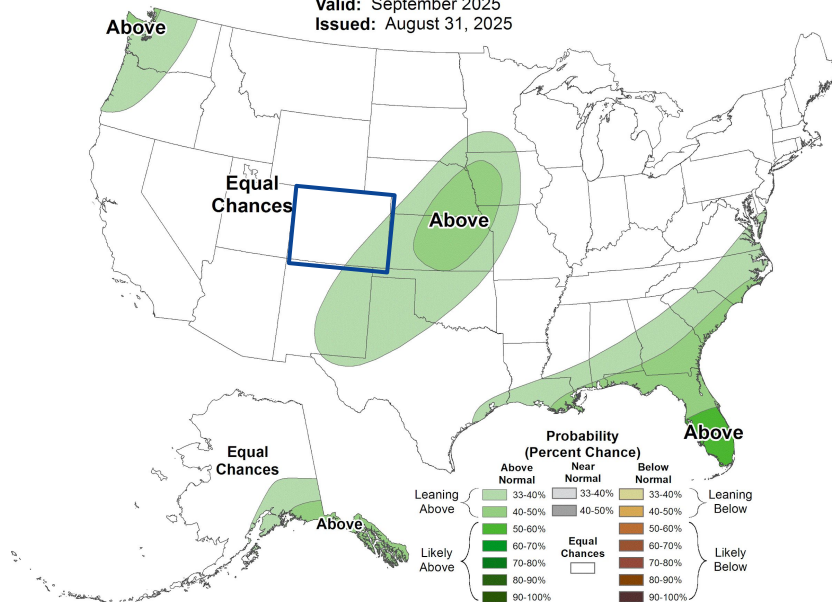
Valid: September 2025
Issued: August 31, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: September 2025
Issued: August 31, 2025



The CPC Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the month of September leans to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, save for a nod to above normal precipitation across the far southeast plains.



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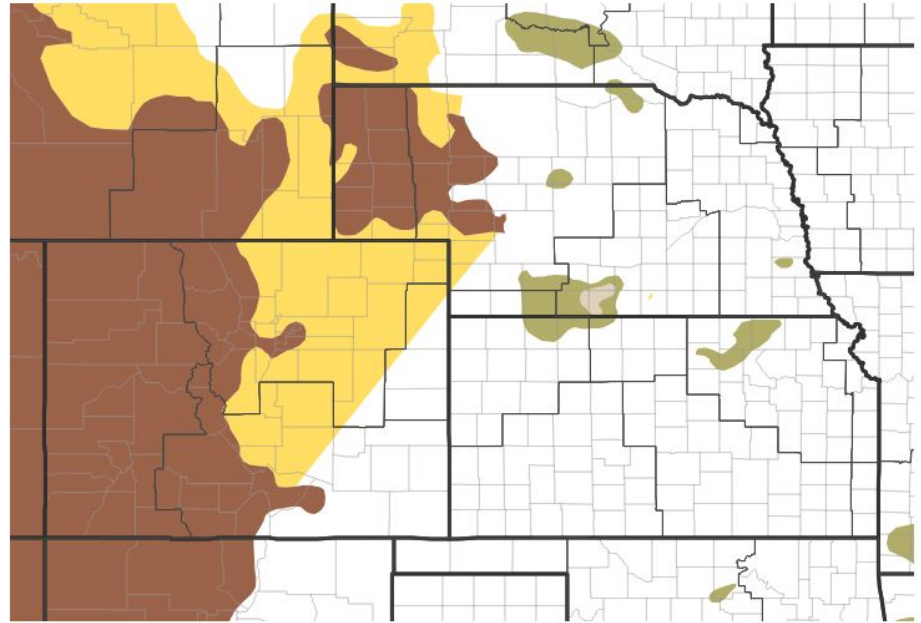
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Drought Three Month Outlook

- Drought conditions look to persist and expand across south central Colorado into portions of the eastern Colorado through the Fall of 2025.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31, 2025–November 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/21/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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