



Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid October 16th, 2025

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by November 20th, 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.

- Abundant precipitation brings marked improvement in drought conditions over and near the southwest mountains
- Moderate to Severe drought conditions remain across portions of the south central Colorado





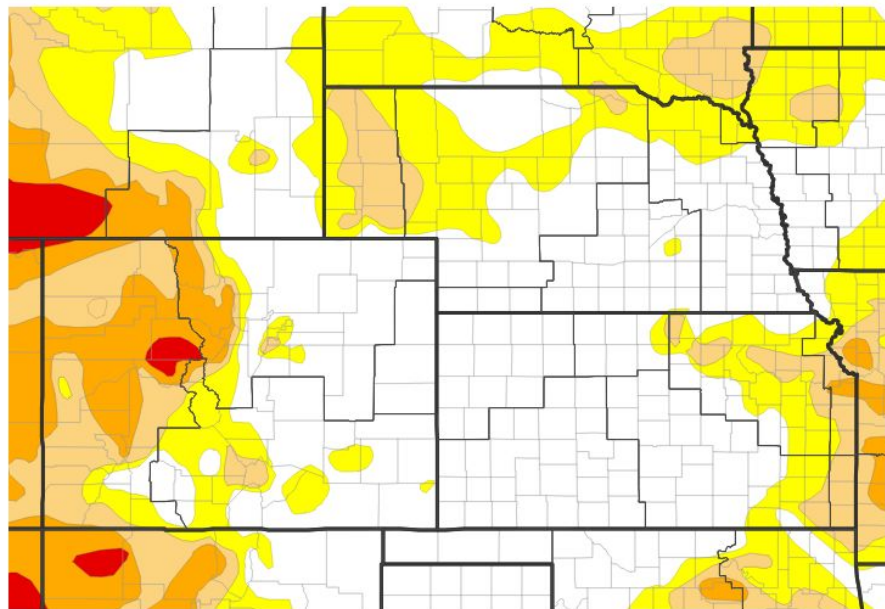
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Valid October 14th, 2025

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** N/A
 - **D3 Extreme Drought:** N/A
 - **D2 Severe Drought:** Northern and western Lake county.
 - **D1 Moderate Drought:** The rest of Lake county, extreme northwestern Chaffee county, and extreme southeast Saguache, northeast Alamosa, southwest Custer and northwest Huerfano counties.
 - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** The rest of Chaffee, western Fremont, most of Saguache, Alamosa and Custer, eastern Rio Grande, most of Conejos, northeast and southeast Huerfano, north central Las Animas, northeast Otero, northwest Bent and northeast Baca counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/14/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

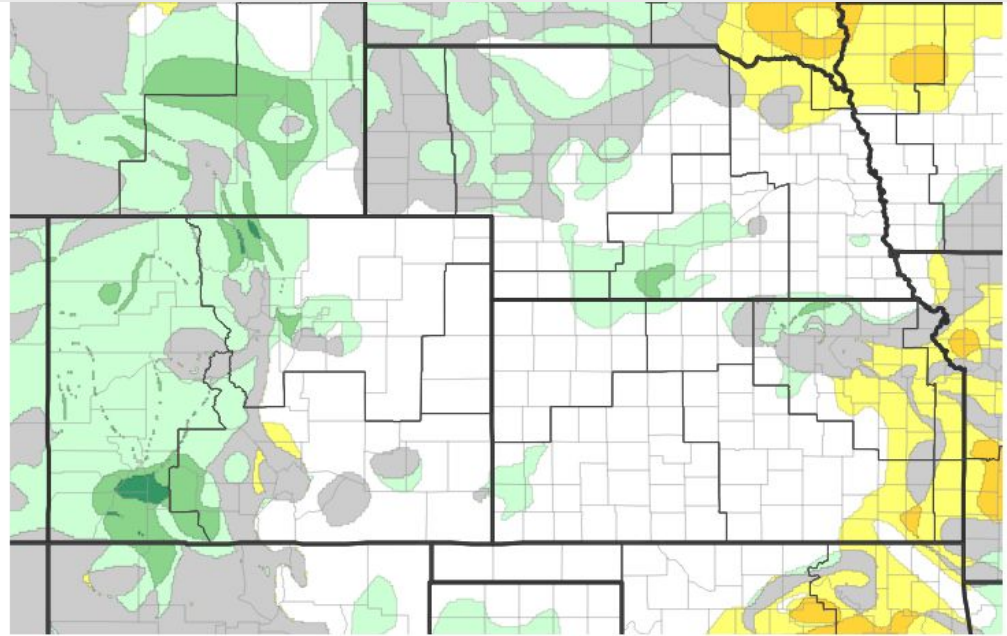
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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:** Portions of the southeast mountains.
- **No Change:** Portions of the south central and southeast Colorado.
- **Drought Improved:** Areas along the Continental Divide, especially across the eastern San Juan mountains.



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement

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



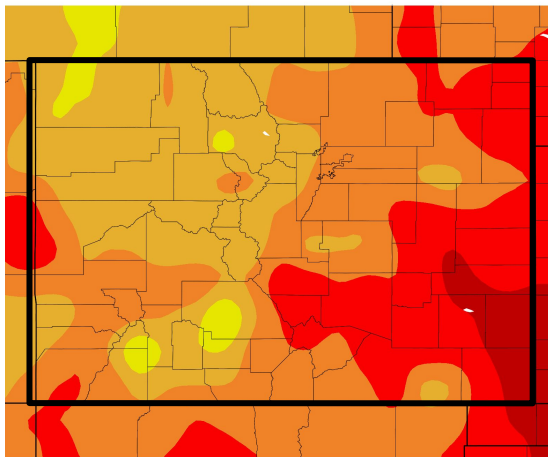


Month to Date Temperature and Precipitation Departures

Links to the latest [HPRCC Temperature](#) and [Precipitation](#) departure from normal for October to date

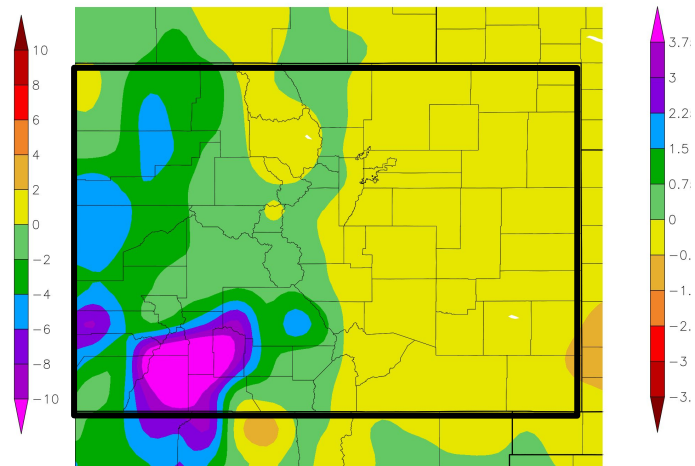
- October of 2025 started out warm and dry across south central and southeast Colorado
- Abundant sub-tropical moisture entrained in orographic southwest flow brought heavy rain and historic flooding across portions of southwest mountains from October 9th through October 14th

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2025 – 10/15/2025



Generated 10/16/2025 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
10/1/2025 – 10/15/2025



ACIS Web Services 025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Service





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Latest 7 day average stream flows are generally around normal across south central and southeast Colorado, save for below normal across the upper Arkansas river basin and well above normal across the Upper Rio Grande basin.

Agricultural Impacts

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The start of Fall curing of fuels has led to variable fuel conditions across south central and southeast Colorado.

Mitigation Actions

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



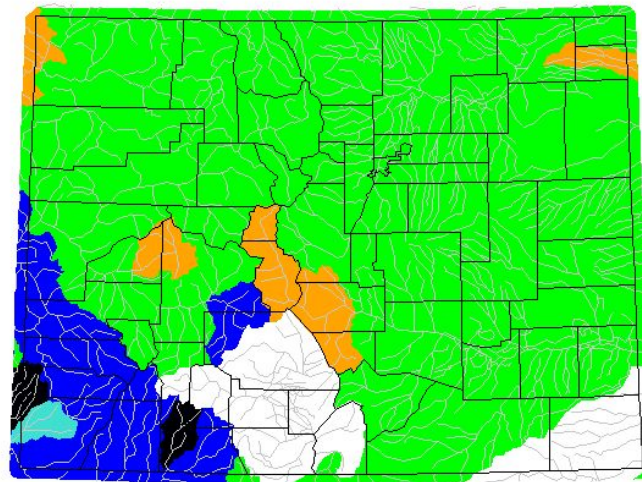


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

- Latest 7 day average stream flows are generally around normal across south central and southeast Colorado, save for below normal across the upper Arkansas river basin and well above normal across the Upper Rio Grande basin.
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of September was 86 percent of median, as compared to 78 percent of median at the same time last year. This brings statewide WY 2025 total precipitation to 85 percent of median, as compared to 101 percent of median at the end of WY 2024.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, September precipitation was 96 percent of median, as compared to 120 percent of median at the same time last year. This brings Arkansas basin WY 2025 total precipitation to 95 percent of median, as compared to 109 at the end of WY 2024.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, September precipitation was 85 percent of median, as compared to 105 percent of median at the same time last year. This brings Upper Rio Grande basin Water Year 2025 total to 82 percent of median, as compared to 105 percent of median at the end of WY 2024.



USGS

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

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado](#)
valid October 15th, 2025



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Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

- Latest CPC data indicates soil moisture is running at and above seasonal norms across south central and southeast Colorado, save for slightly below normal across portions of the I-25 Corridor.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 15, 2025

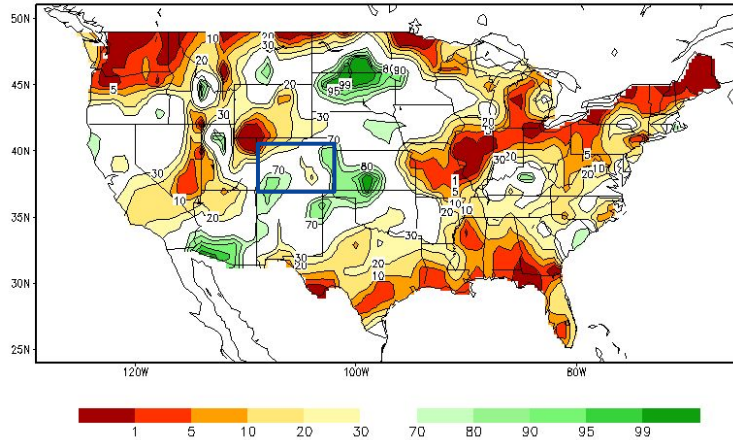


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)
valid October 15th, 2025

- NRCS data indicated [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 77 percent of median at the end of September, as compared to 93 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 102 percent of median at the end of September, as compared to 112 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 108 percent of median at the end of September, as compared to 120 percent of median at this time last year.





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

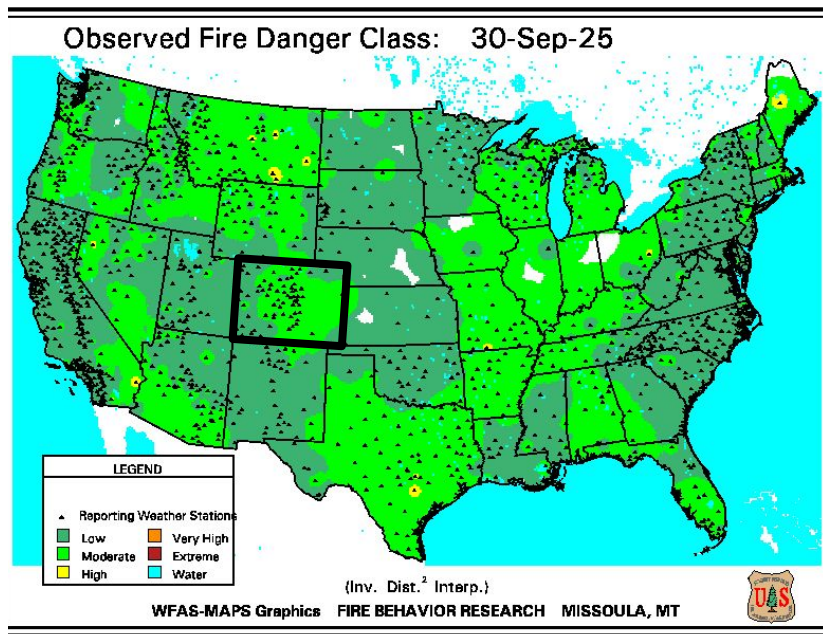


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid September 30th, 2025

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

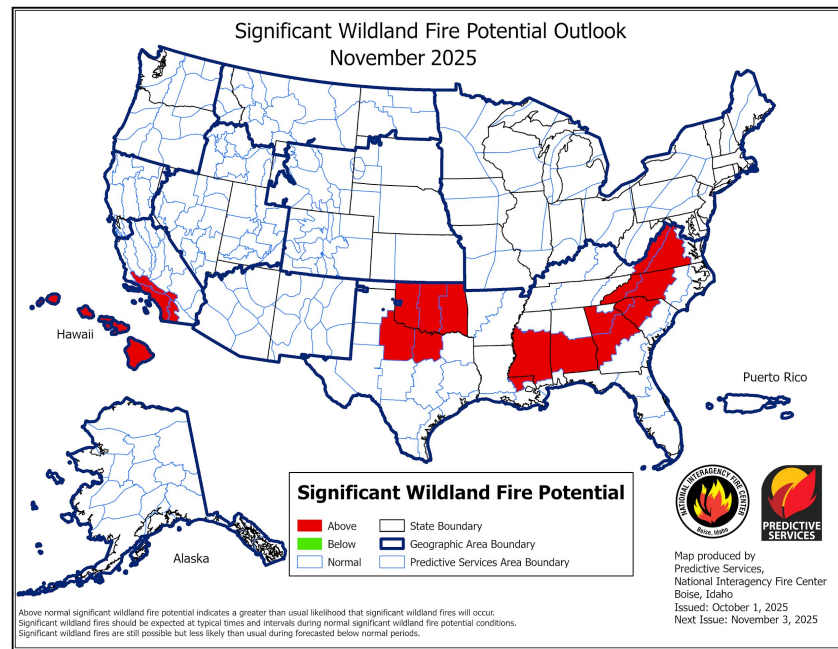


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid for November 2025



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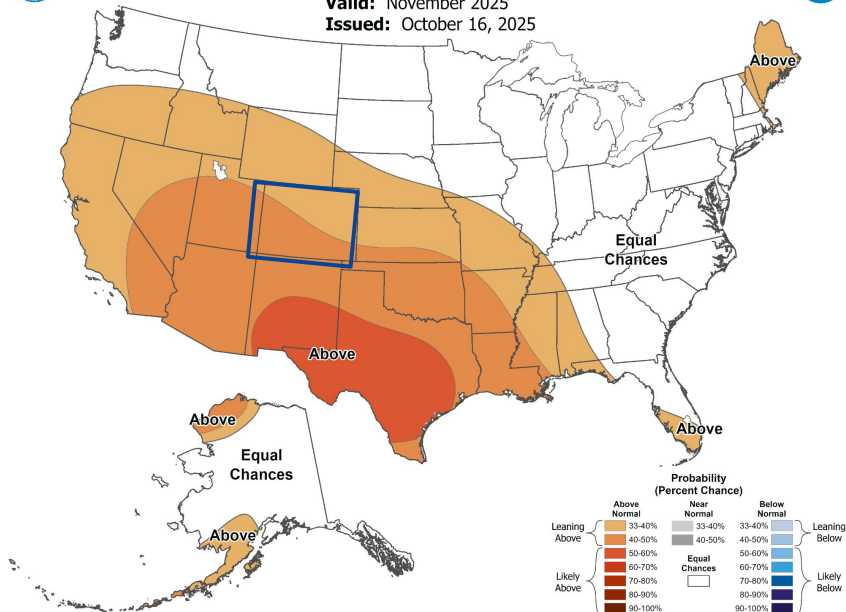
Long-Range Monthly Outlook for November

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



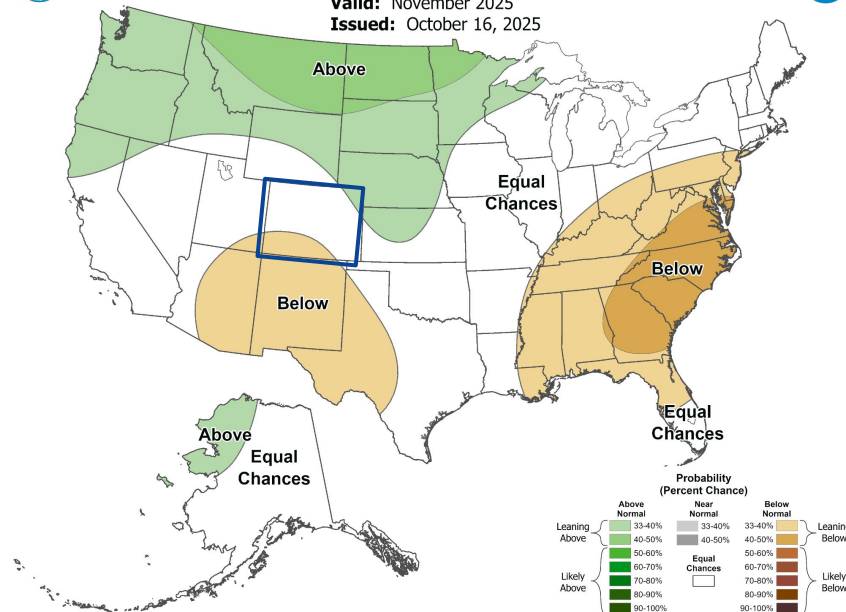
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: November 2025
Issued: October 16, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: November 2025
Issued: October 16, 2025



The CPC Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the month of November leans to above normal temperatures and equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, save for a nod to below normal precipitation across southwest Colorado.



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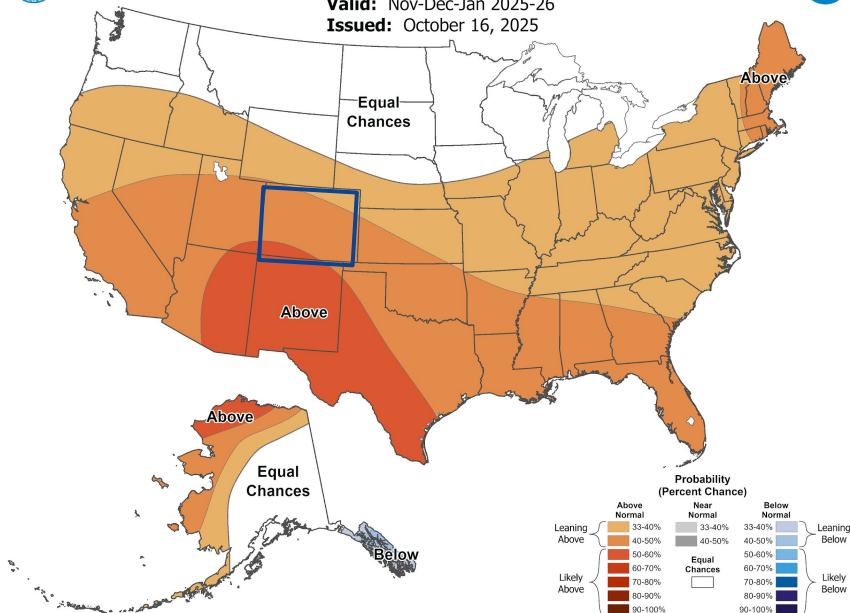
Long-Range Three Month Outlook (November-January)

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



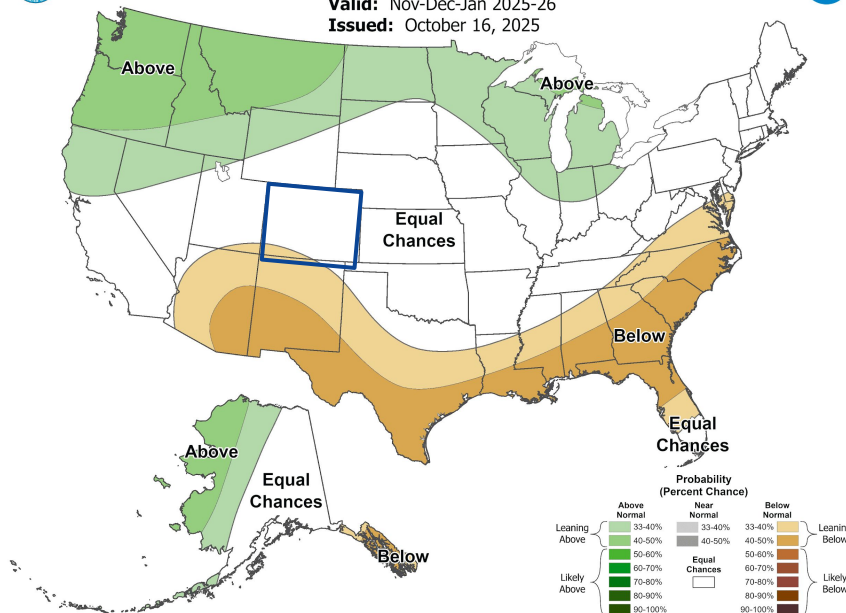
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2025-26
Issued: October 16, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2025-26
Issued: October 16, 2025



The CPC outlook for November through January leans to above normal temperatures, with equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, save for a slight nod to below normal precipitation across southwest Colorado

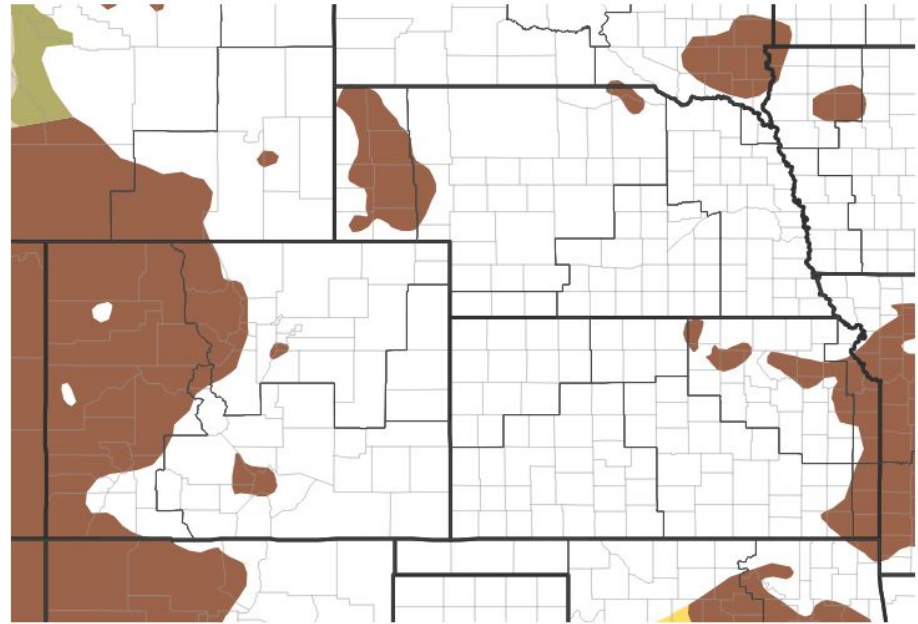




Drought Three Month Outlook

- Drought conditions look to persist across portions of south central Colorado through the rest of the Fall and into the early Winter of 2026.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 16, 2025–January 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



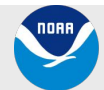
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/16/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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