

Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado Valid November 19th, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Pueblo, Colorado

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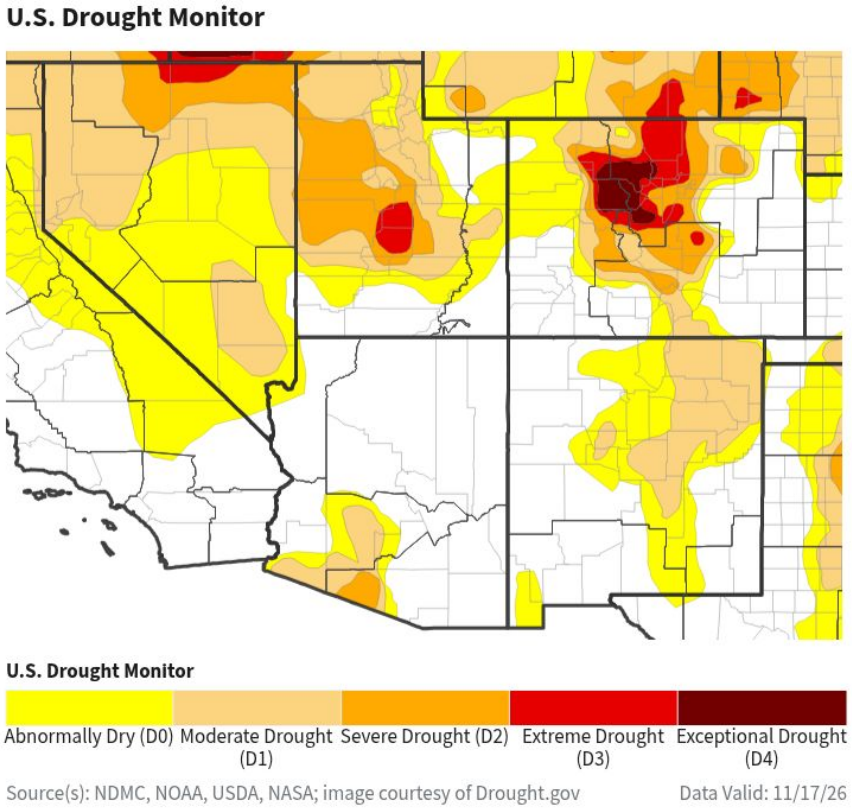
- This product will be updated by December 11th, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/pub/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- Abundant September and October Precipitation Helps to Erase Drought across southern Colorado
- Moderate to Severe Drought Persists across portions of South Central and Southeast Colorado

U.S. Drought Monitor

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

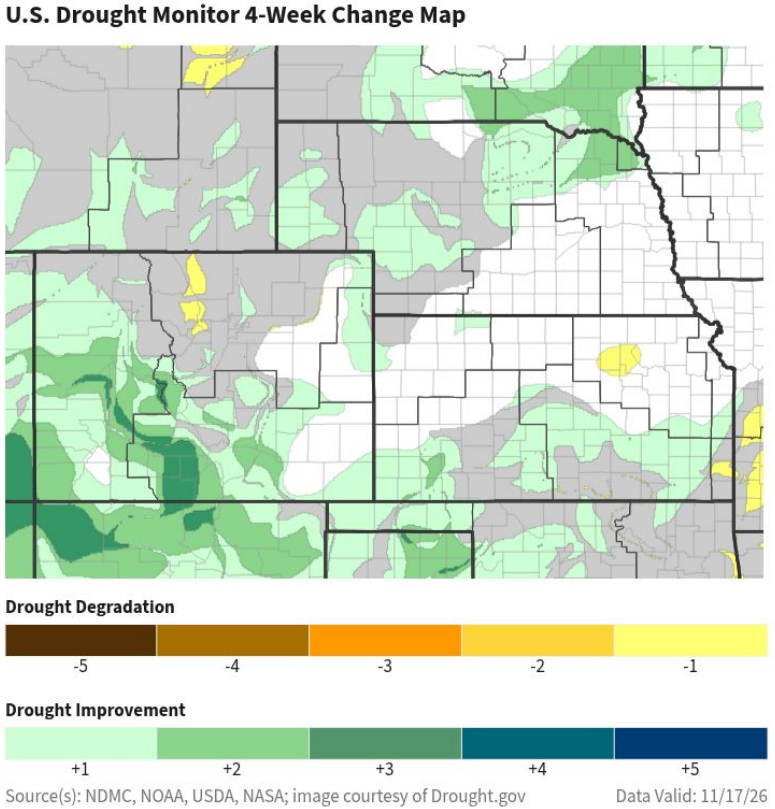
- **Drought intensity and Extent**
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Extreme northern Lake county.
  - **D3 Extreme Drought:** Most of Lake county, extreme northwest Teller county and central El Paso county.
  - **D2 Severe Drought:** Extreme southern Lake county, northern Chaffee county, northern Saguache county, most of Custer county, northern Huerfano county, eastern Fremont county, the rest of Teller county, western into central El Paso county, and northwestern Pueblo county.
  - **D1 Moderate Drought:** The rest of Chaffee county, central Saguache county, western Fremont county, northern Custer county, western Huerfano county, western Las Animas county, central Pueblo county into eastern El Paso county.
  - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Southern Saguache county, Costilla county, central Las Animas county, eastern Huerfano county, central Pueblo county into extreme eastern El Paso county.
  - The rest of south central and southeast Colorado are drought free.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Colorado

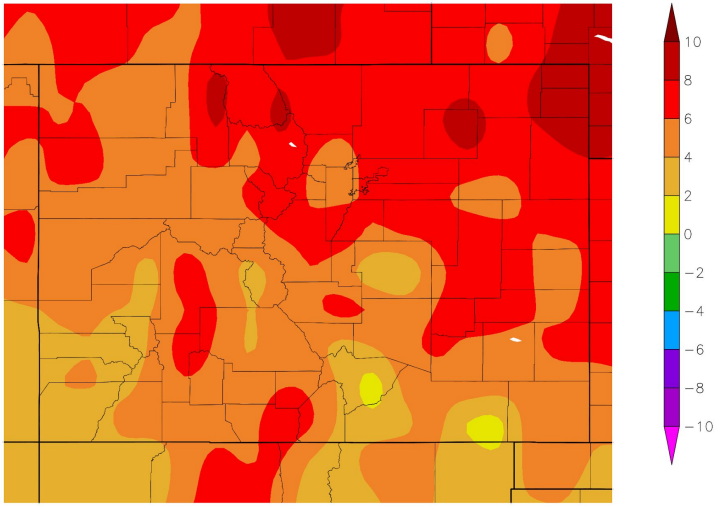
- 4 Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **Drought Worsened:** N/A
  - **No Change:** N/A
  - **Drought Improved:** Most of south central and southeast Colorado



Month to Date Temperature and Precipitation Departure

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

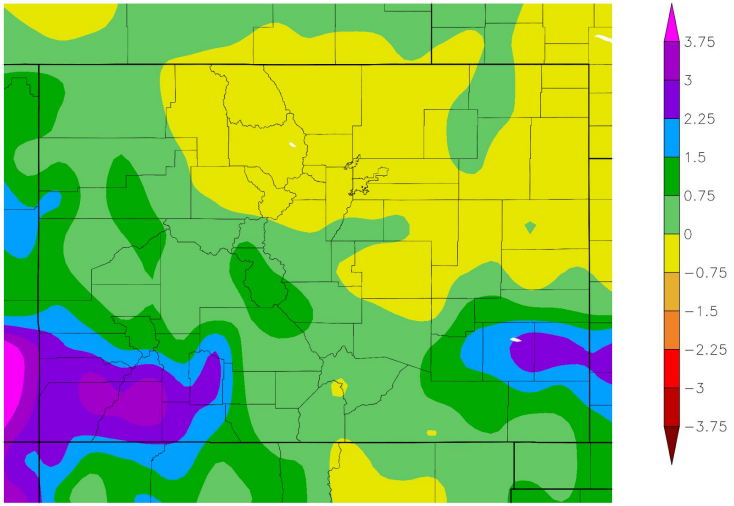
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/1/2026 – 11/18/2026



Generated 11/19/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
11/1/2026 – 11/18/2026



Generated 11/19/2026 using provisional data.

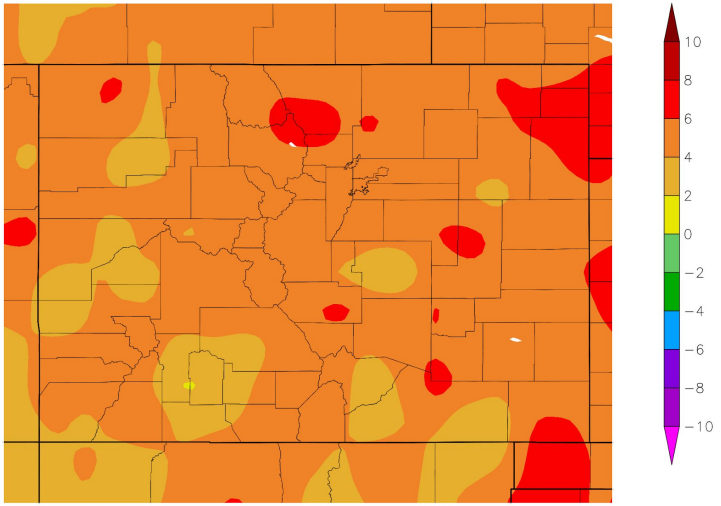
ACIS Web Services

November thus far, has been warm and wet, especially across the southern mountains, through the San Luis Valley and into the far southeast plains.

Past 3 Month Temperature and Precipitation Departure

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

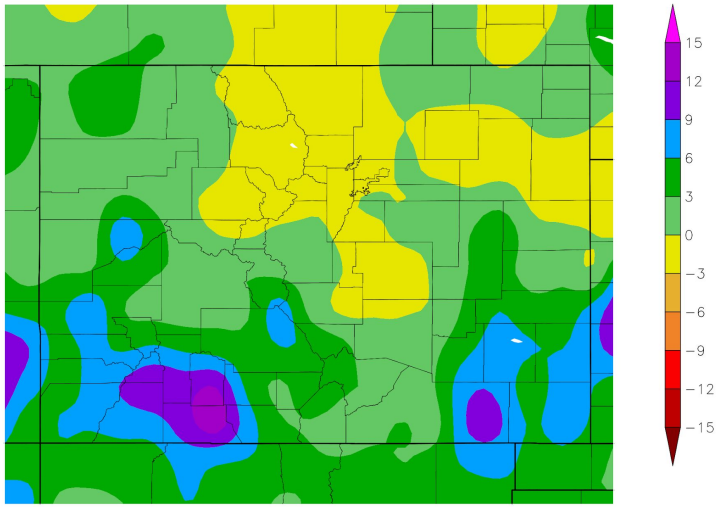
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2026 – 10/31/2026



Generated 11/10/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
8/1/2026 – 10/31/2026



Generated 11/10/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

September and October brought an abundance of precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, with favored areas of southern mountains into the far southeast plains seeing precipitation totals of 10 to 15 inches! While helping to erase the drought, that amount of precipitation also brought historic flooding across portions of the southwest mountains and into the San Luis Valley throughout October and into early November.

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- September and October brought an abundance of precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, with favored areas of the southern mountains into the far southeast plains seeing precipitation totals of 10 to 15 inches! While helping to erase the drought, that amount of precipitation also brought historic flooding across portions of the southwest mountains and into the San Luis Valley throughout October and into early November.

Agricultural Impacts

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Abundant precipitation has helped to lower Fire Danger across south central and southeast Colorado.

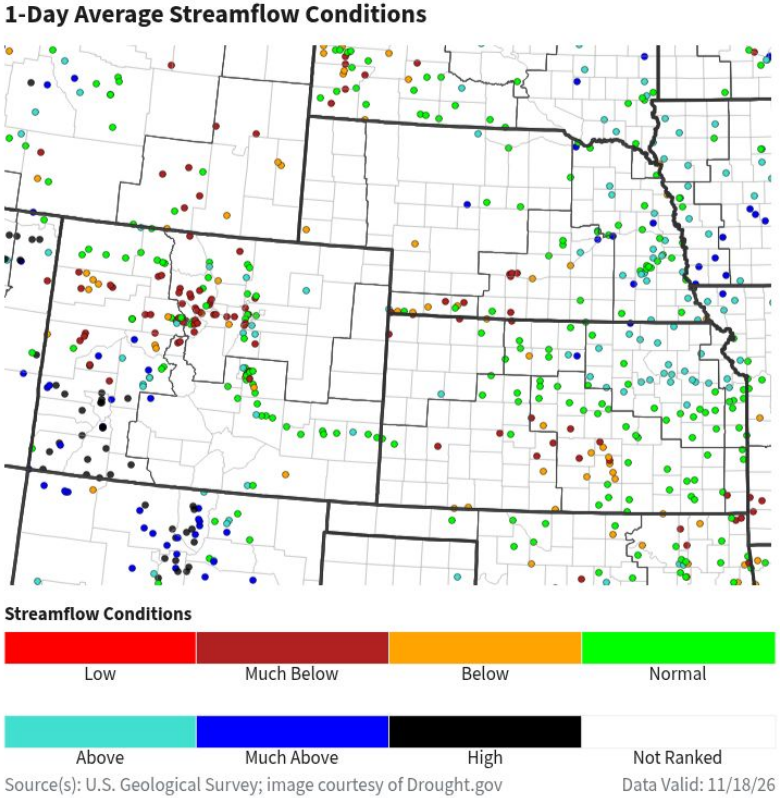
Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

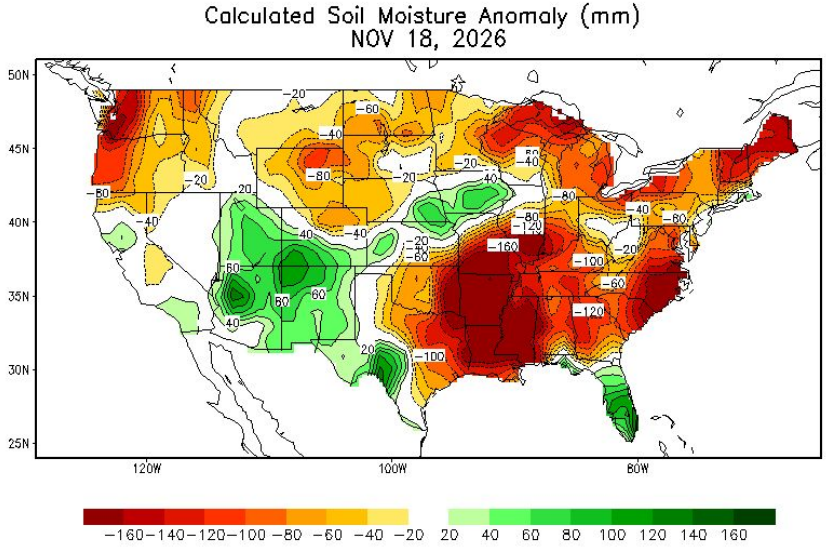
Links to Current NRCS Mountain Precipitation and NWS Western Water Supply and Streamflow Forecasts

- Latest stream flows are generally at and above seasonal normals across south central and southeast Colorado.
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of **October was 170 percent of median,** as compared to 135 percent of median at the same time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, **October precipitation was 214 percent of median,** as compared to 123 percent of median at the same time last year.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, **October precipitation was 349 percent of median**, as compared to 223 percent of median at the same time last year.



Agricultural and Water Supply Impacts

- The latest CPC data indicates soil moisture is running at and above seasonal norms across south central and southeast Colorado

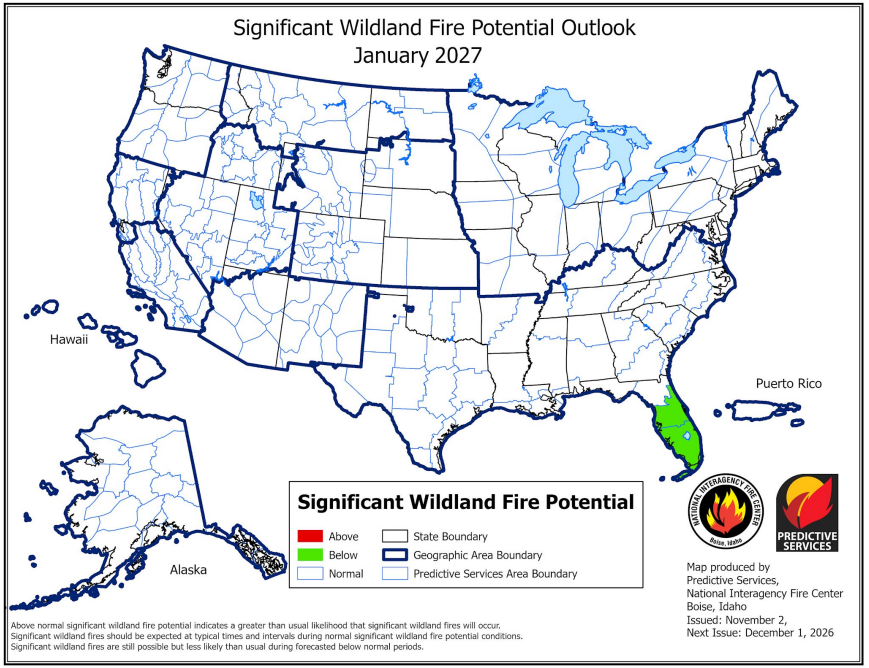


- NRCS data indicated **statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage** was at 71 percent of median at the end of October, as compared to 82 percent of median at this same time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 82 percent of median at the end of October, as compared to 102 percent of median at this same time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 166 percent of median at the end of October, as compared to 122 percent of median at this same time last year.

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

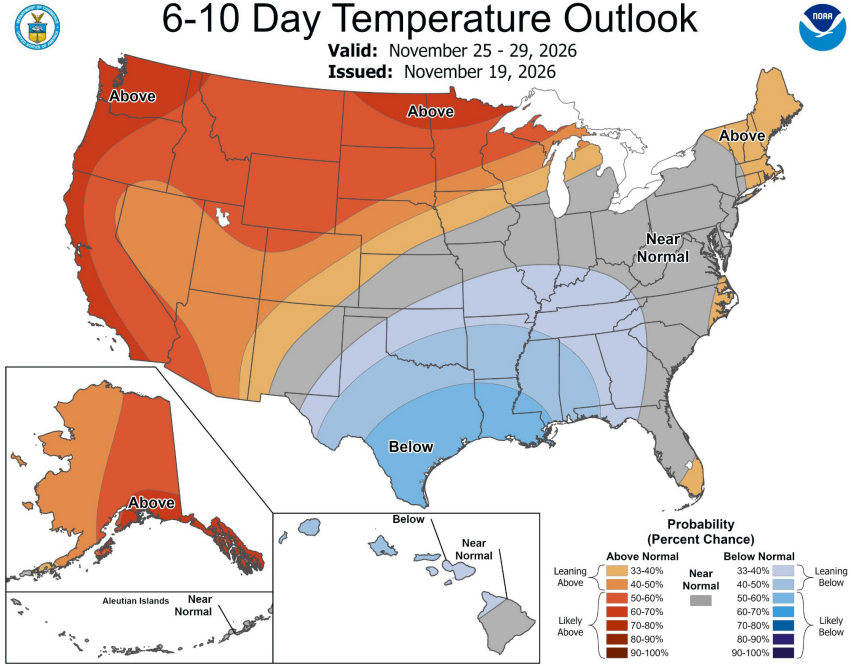


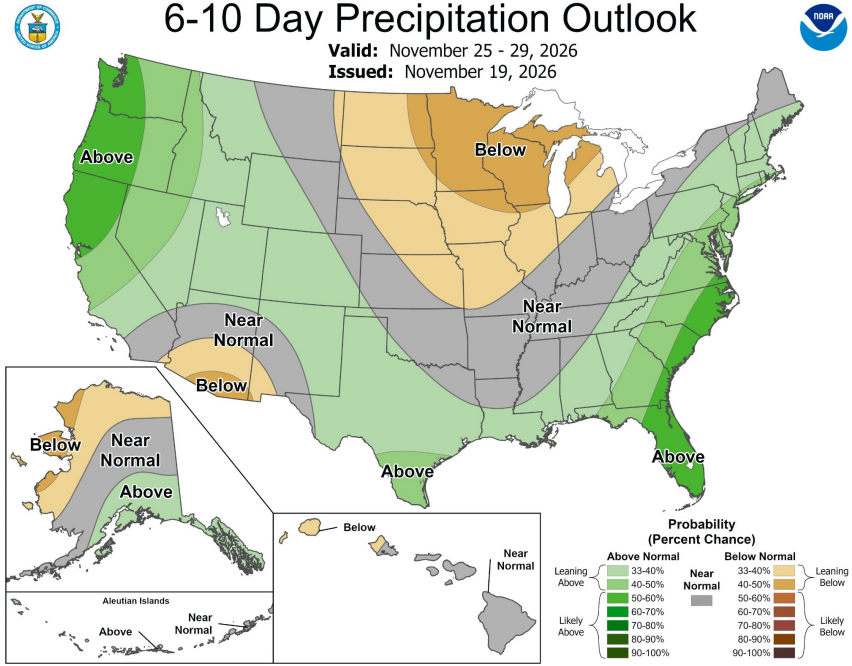


Significant wildland fires are not expected across south central and southeast Colorado over the next few months.

Monthly Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

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

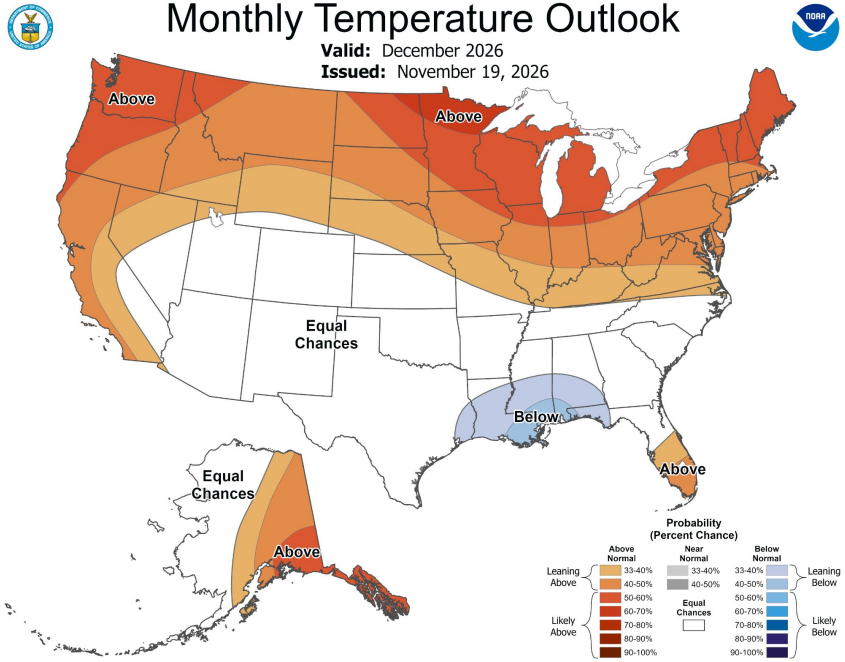


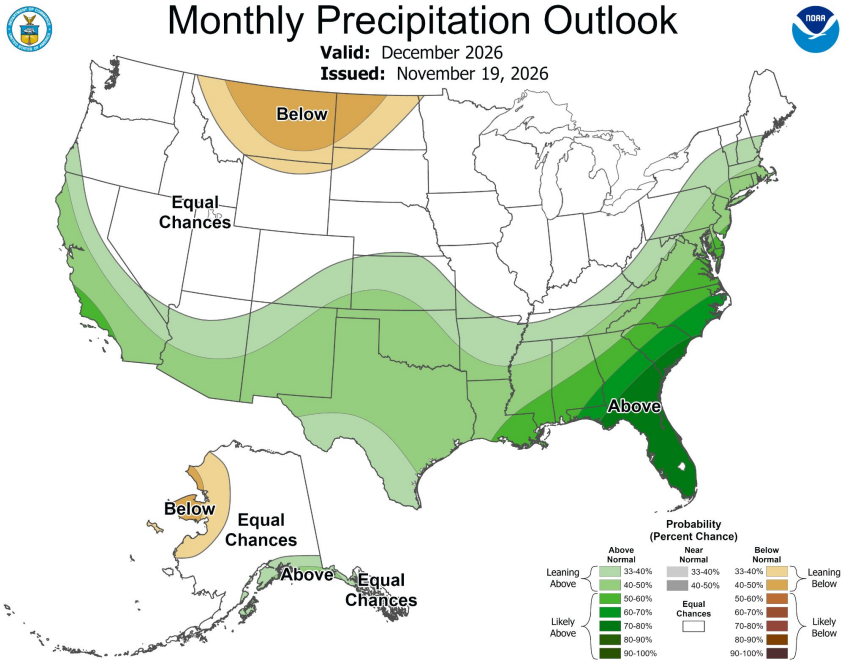


The CPC 6 to 10 day outlook, valid November 25th-29th, leans to above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado.

Monthly Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

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

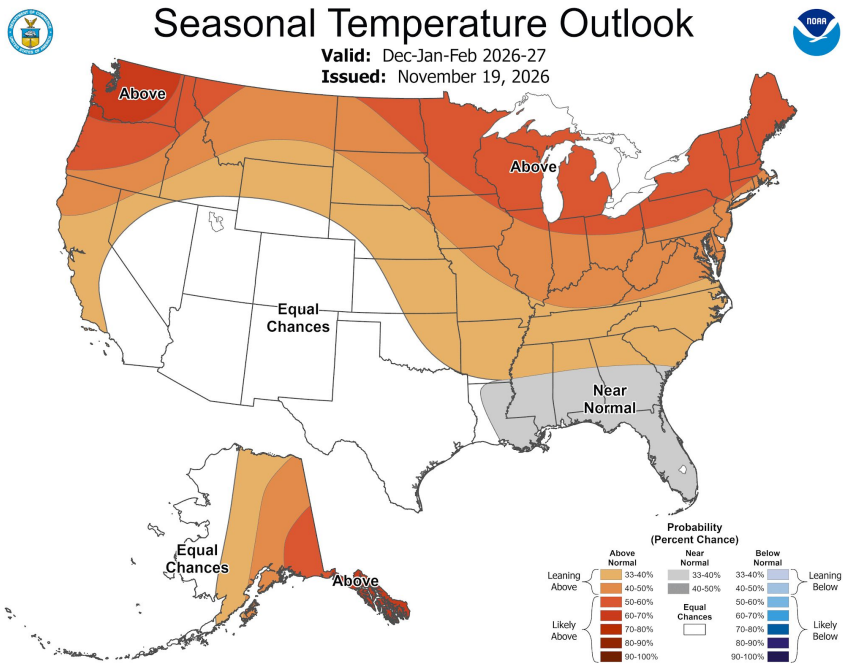


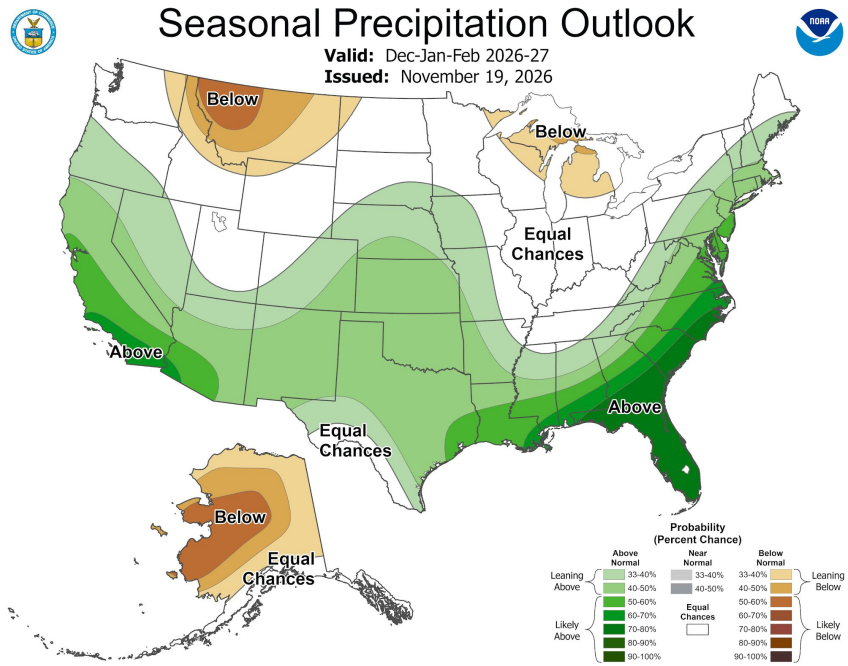


The CPC outlook for the month of December leans to equal chances of above, below and near normal temperatures and precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, save for a slight lean toward above normal precipitation across southeast Colorado.

Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

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



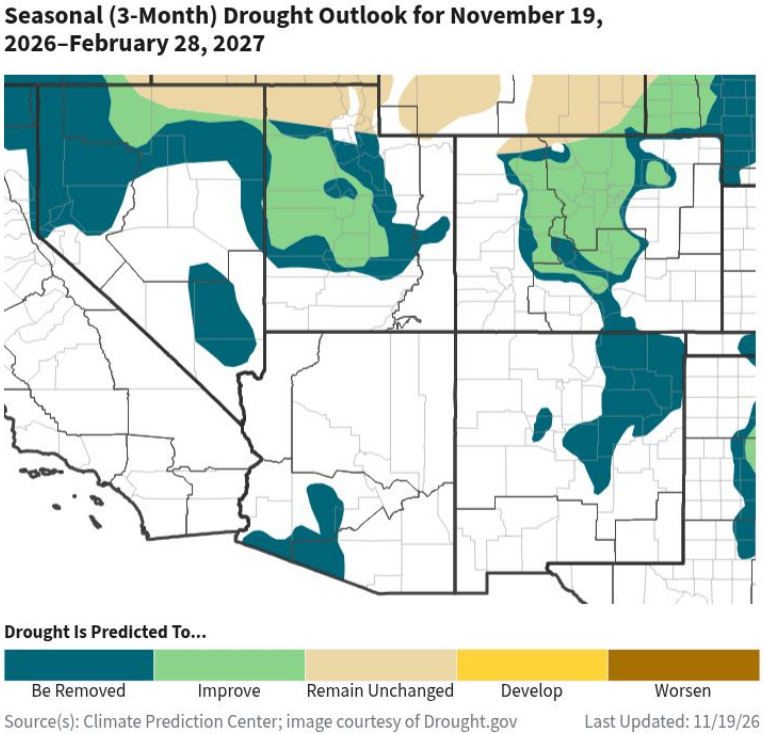


The CPC outlook for December through February supports equal chances of above, below and near normal temperatures across south central and southeast Colorado, with better chances of above normal precipitation, especially across southeast Colorado.

Drought Outlook

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

The CPC Drought outlook through the winter supports improvement in drought conditions across south central and southeast Colorado.



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