



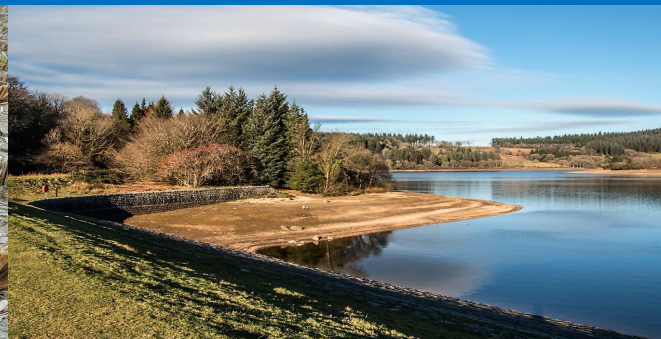
Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid November 30th, 2023

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by Dec 21st, 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> for previous statements.



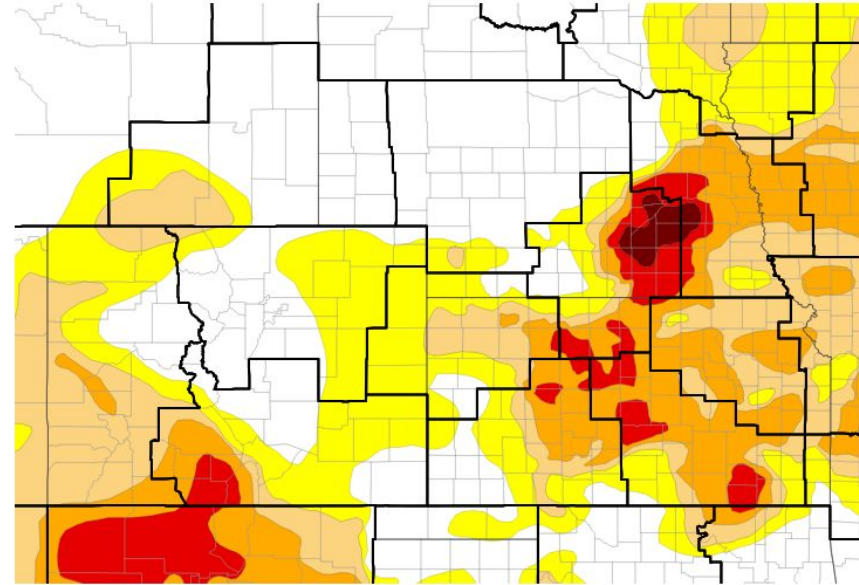


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 Exceptional Drought:** N/A
 - **D3 Extreme Drought:** Portions of Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla counties.
 - **D2 Severe Drought:** Portions of Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos and Costilla counties.
 - **D1 Moderate Drought:** Portions of Saguache, Mineral, Alamosa, Costilla, Huerfano and Las Animas counties.
 - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Portions of Chaffee, Saguache, Fremont, Custer, Huerfano, Las Animas, Pueblo, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Kiowa and Prowers counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 11/28/23

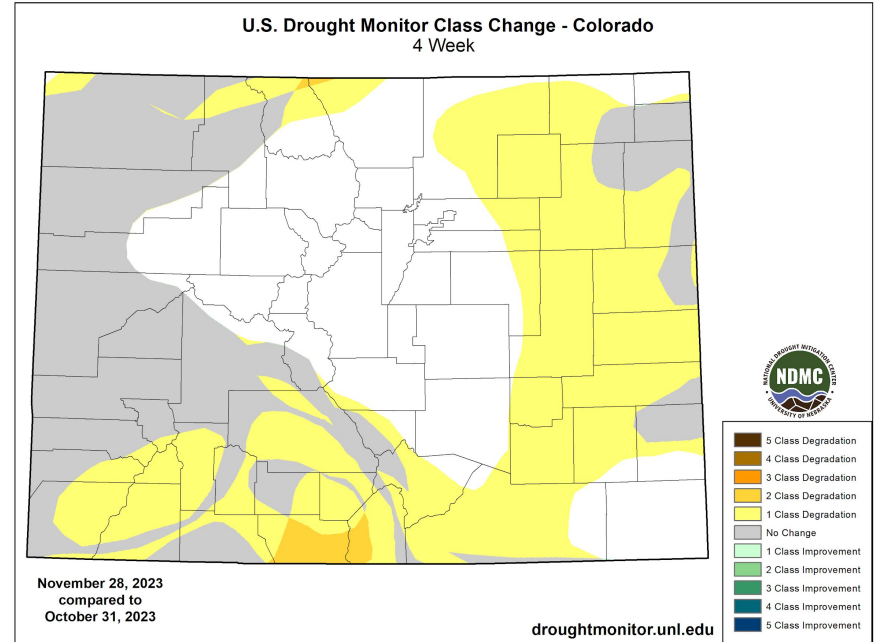




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Colorado

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Portions of Saguache, Mineral, Rio Grande, Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Fremont, Custer, Huerfano, Las Animas, Crowley, Otero, Bent Kiowa and Prowers counties.
 - No Change: Most of south central Colorado.
 - Drought Improved: N/A.





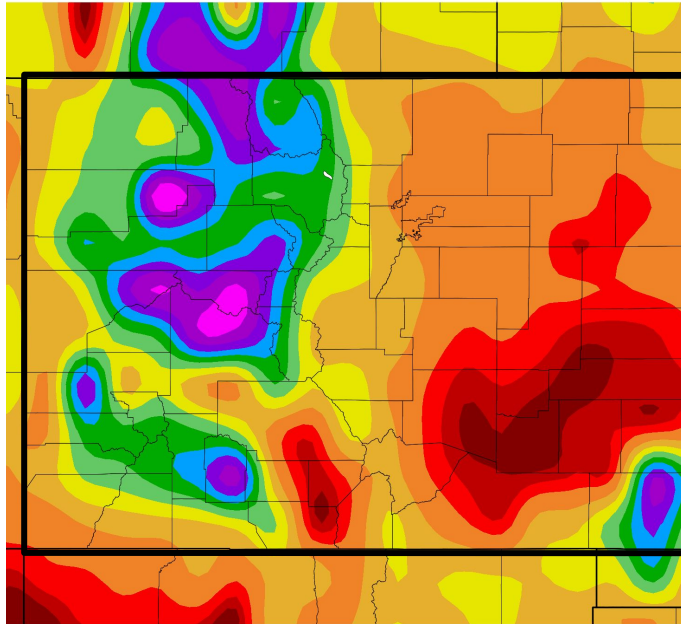
Precipitation

Links to the latest [Precipitation Accumulation](#) and [Departure from Normal](#) over the past 60 days

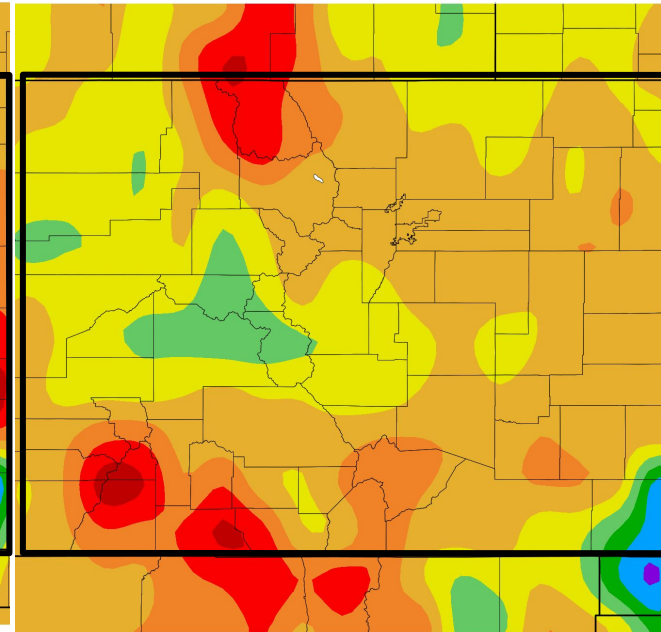
A few storm systems at the beginning and end of October and in the first and third week of November brought some beneficial moisture to south central and southeast Colorado.

However, unseasonably warm and dry conditions have prevailed for much of past two months (October and November) as a whole.

Precipitation (in)
10/1/2023 - 11/29/2023



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
10/1/2023 - 11/29/2023



2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Region 23 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Reg



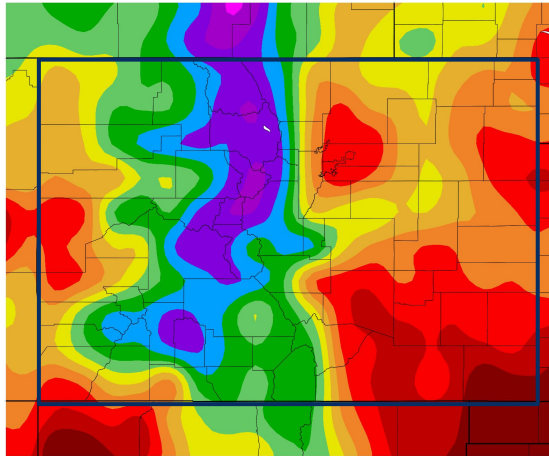


Temperature

Links to High Plains RCC Maps for Colorado [Average Temp](#) and [Departure from Normal Temp](#) for the past 60 days

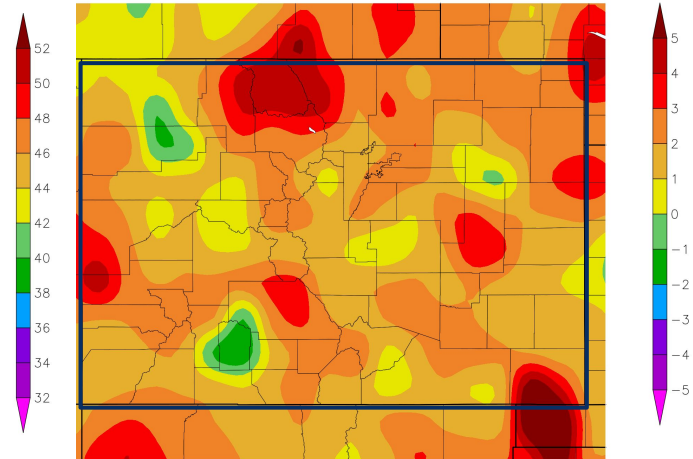
- While a few passing weather systems brought spells of cold weather, most of south central and southeast Colorado has seen above normal temperatures over the past 60 days.

Temperature (F)
10/1/2023 – 11/29/2023



Generated 11/30/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2023 – 11/29/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- While statewide snowpack is running below median (58%) through the end of November, statewide water storage is running around 100 percent of median.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture deficits are increasing across portions of south central and southeast Colorado.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Dry conditions and cured fuels have fire danger in the moderate to occasionally high category 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.



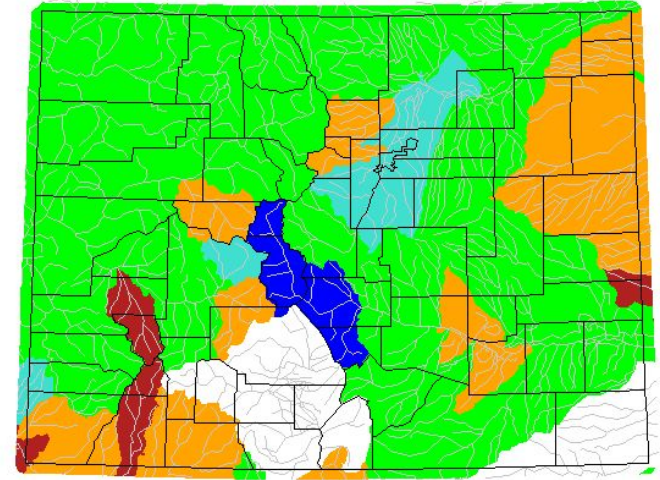


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

- Current stream flows are at or above normal across most of south central and southeast Colorado, save for below normal readings across the lower Arkansas River basin
- NRCS data indicates statewide mountain precipitation for the month of October was at 84 percent of median, as compared to 80 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the Arkansas basin, October precipitation came in at 86 percent of median, as compared to 91 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the Arkansas basin, October precipitation came in at 86 percent of median, as compared to 91 percent of median at this time last year.



USGS

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

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado](#) valid 11 29 2023





Hydrologic Conditions Colorado Snowpack

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

- As of November 30th, [Colorado Statewide Snowpack](#) was running at 58 percent of median.
- In the [Arkansas basin](#), snowpack was at 60 percent of median.
- In the [Upper Rio Grande basin](#), snowpack was at 46 percent of median.

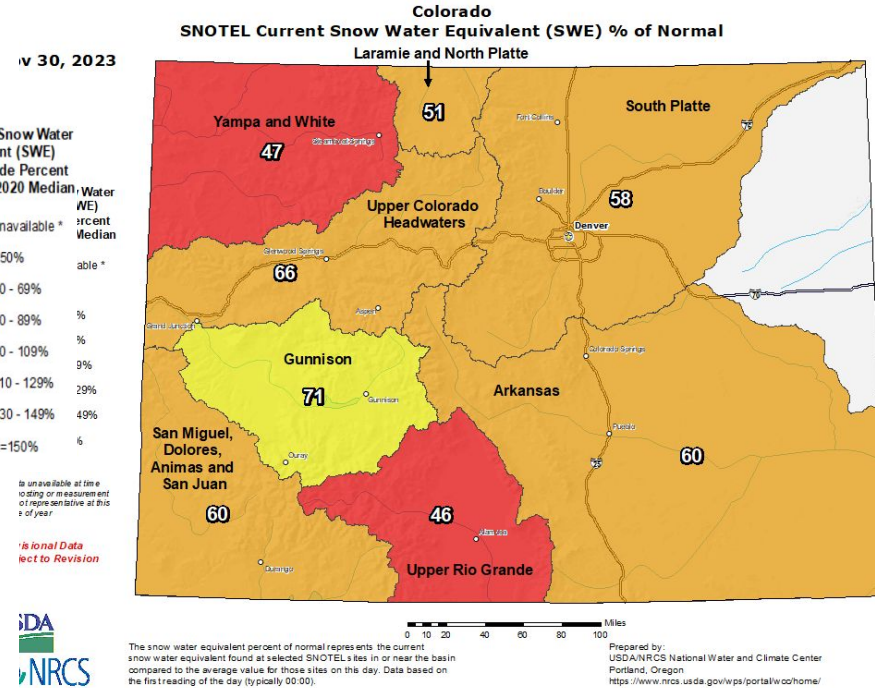


Image Caption: [NRCS Colorado SNOWTEL SWE % of Normal](#) valid 11 30 2023





Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

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

- CPC data indicates increasing soil moisture deficits across portions of south central and southeast Colorado.

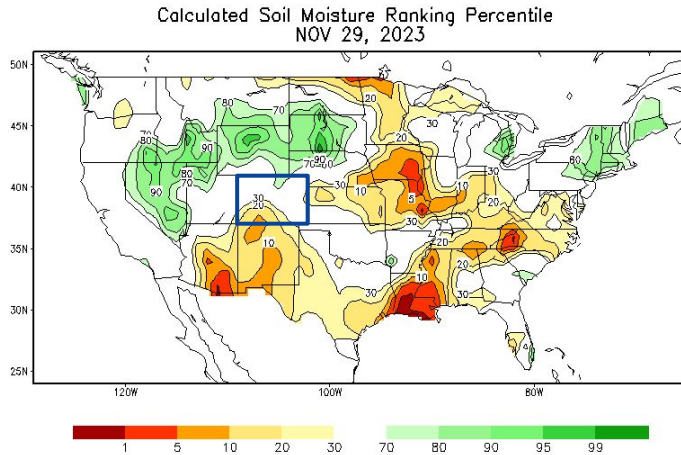


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)
valid 11 29 2023

- NRCS data indicates [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 100 percent of median at the end of October, as compared to 76 percent of median at this same time last year.
- In the Arkansas basin, reservoir storage was at 112 percent of median at the end of October, as compared to 90 percent of median at this same time last year.
- In the Rio Grande basin, reservoir storage was at 135 percent of median at the end of October, as compared to 112 percent of median at this same time last year.





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Unseasonably warm and mainly dry conditions throughout the fall, combined with cured fuels, has kept fire danger in the moderate to occasionally high category across the snow free areas of south central and southeast Colorado.

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

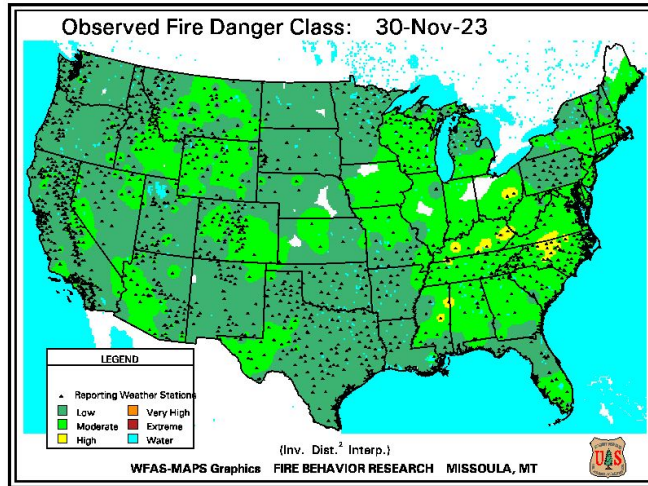


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid 11 30 2023

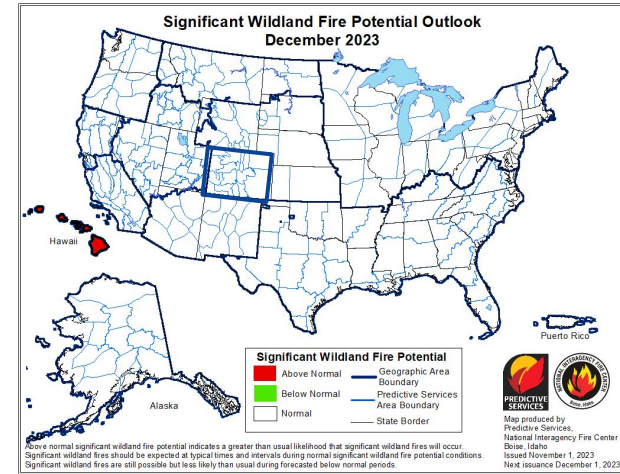


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid Dec 2023

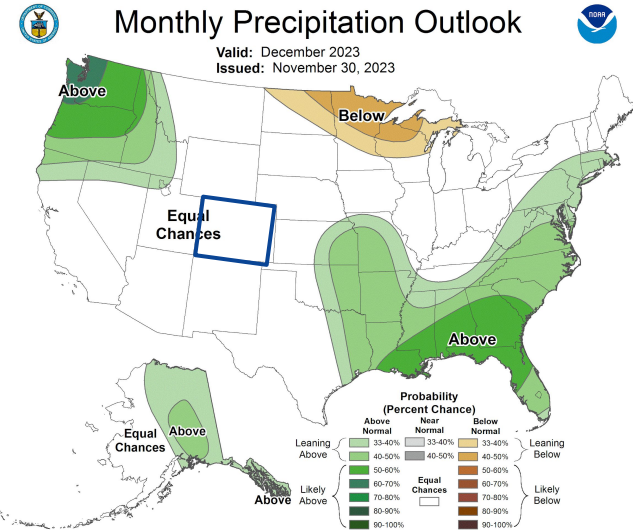
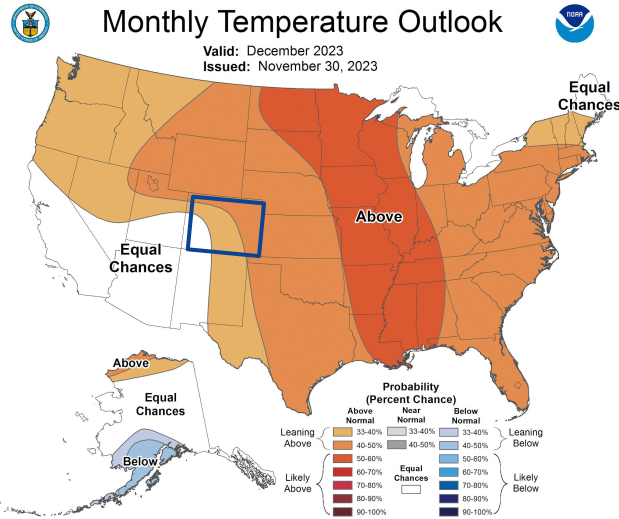




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The CPC Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the month of December leans to above normal temperatures, along with equal chances of above, below and near normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado.



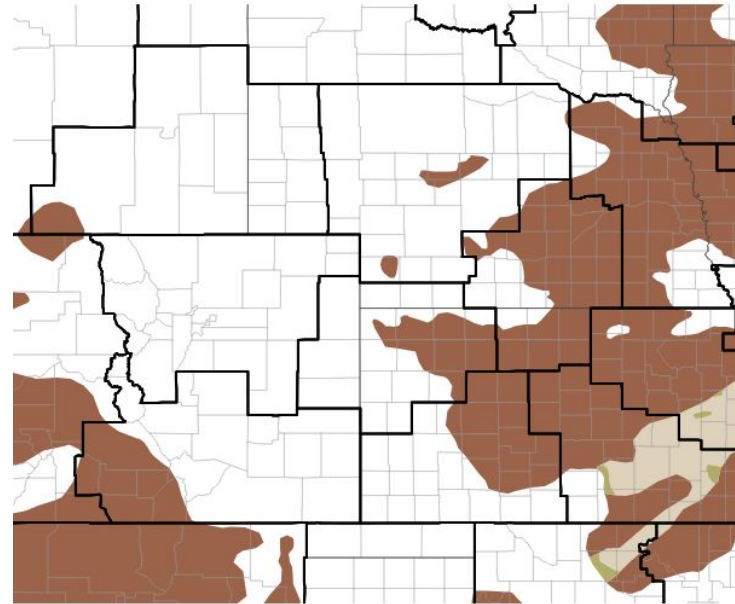


Drought Outlook

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 in December and through the rest of the Winter of 2023-2024

th Drought Outlook



Is Predicted To...



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

Data Valid

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Pueblo, Colorado