

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A L O O K BACK AT **JANUARY 2025** WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

January started off unsettled across the higher terrain of eastern Utah and western Colorado, with a series of winter storms bringing mountain snow. The northern mountains were most favored, followed by the central, then southern mountains. Temperatures to start out the month were above normal, but a cold front at the end of the first week brought a return to near or below normal temperatures. Mountain snow showers persisted into the second week of the month, with light snows punctuated by the occasional stronger system, and again favoring the northern mountains. A brief period of warming snuck in during the middle of the month, while high pressure stationed itself overhead for a few days, although valley cold pools in the Upper Yampa and Gunnison valleys struggled to see any warming at all thanks to stubborn inversions. The next winter system to move through the area brought not only mountain snow but a blast of Arctic air along with it during the third week of the month. While not near record values, this cold was extreme enough to warrant the first Extreme Cold warnings issued out of this office. A gradual warming trend rounded out the last week of the month, while the northern mountains saw yet another round of snow. The northern valleys also saw some snow accumulation out of this system. The last few days of the month saw a long duration snow event over the southern mountains while the northern portions of the area saw sun and warmer temperatures.



JANUARY 2025

CLIMATE SUMMARY



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NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas JANUARY have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

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STORY OF THE MONTH

ARCTIC AIR OUTBREAK

The coldest temperatures of the season occurred in the middle of January as a burst of arctic cold air plunged southward in to the US. During this period, most locations saw below zero morning temperatures, and afternoon highs close to 20 degrees below normal. Wind chills were particularly brutal, as shown in this graphic, with some spots getting close to -50F. Several cold weather highlights were issued during this period, particularly for the mountains and the higher elevation valleys.



Dangerous Cold Expected Tonight

January 20, 2025
4:51 PM

Key Messages

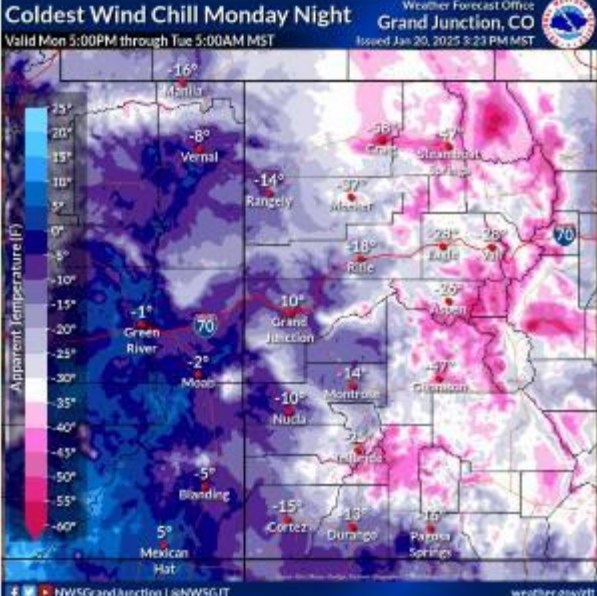
- Low temperatures well below zero in most areas outside of the low desert valleys.
- Dangerous wind chills of -35 to -55 in the high country and the coldest valleys.

Tuesday AM Temps

Location	1/21 Tue
Aspen	-12
Blanding	6
Cortez	-5
Craig	-37
Delta	-6
Durango	-3
Eagle	-18
Grand Junction	1
Gunnison	-38
Hayden	-29
Meeker	-19
Moab	2
Montrose	-3
Pagosa Springs	-9
Rangely	-8
Rifle	-9
Steamboat Springs	-32
Telluride	-10
Vernal	-2


Coldest Wind Chill Monday Night

Valid Mon 5:00PM through Tue 5:00AM MST




Weather Forecast Office
Grand Junction, CO
Issued Jan 20, 2025 8:23 PM MST


#NWSGrandJunction | @NWSGJT weather.gov/gjt




Cover all exposed skin




Bring pets indoors



Stay indoors if possible



Check on elderly neighbors and family



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Grand Junction, CO

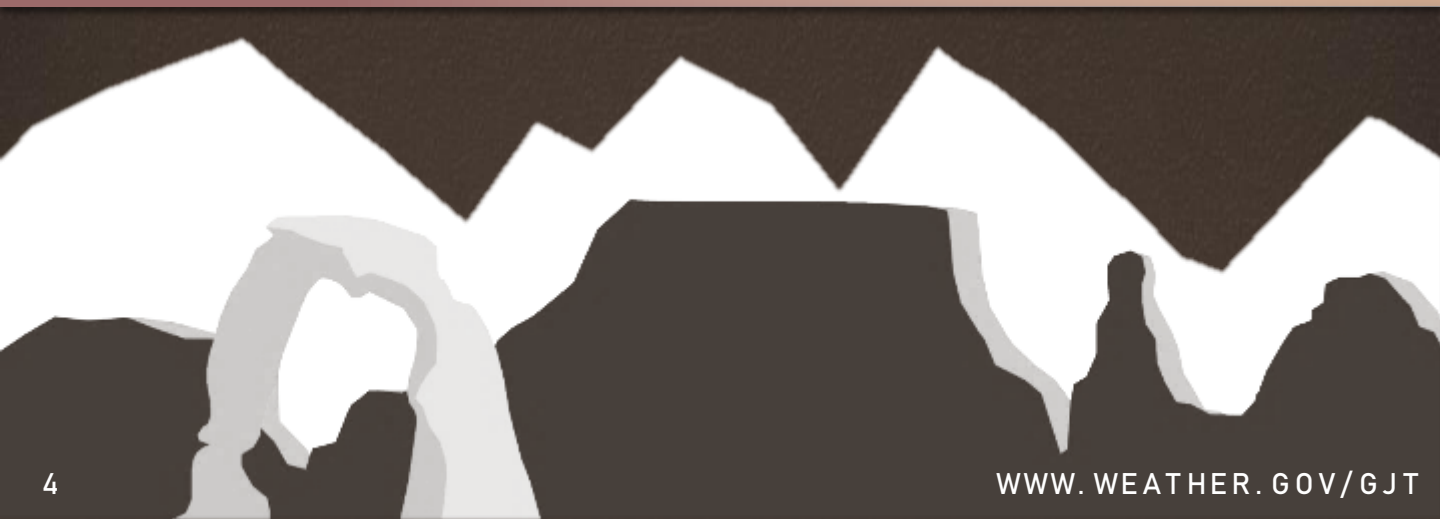


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TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	14.9 (-6.8)	44 on 1/31	-17 on 1/21
Cortez, CO	25.1 (-2.6)	54 on 1/3	-6 on 1/21
Craig, CO	9.9 (-6.9)	42 on 1/3	-25 on 1/20
Durango, CO	23.8 (+0.1)	51 on 1/4, 27, 28	-9 on 1/21
Grand Junction, CO	30.3 (+2.6)	54 on 1/31	5 on 1/21, 22
Meeker, CO	16.7 (-4.2)	50 on 1/3	-14 on 1/21
Montrose, CO	25.1 (-2.1)	52 on 1/31	-3 on 1/21
Rifle, CO	21.9 (-3.2)	48 on 1/4, 29	-8 on 1/21
Canyonlands Airport, UT	26.6 (-1.4)	51 on 1/28, 31	-1 on 1/22
Vernal, UT	22.5 (+2.8)	44 on 1/2	-1 on 1/21

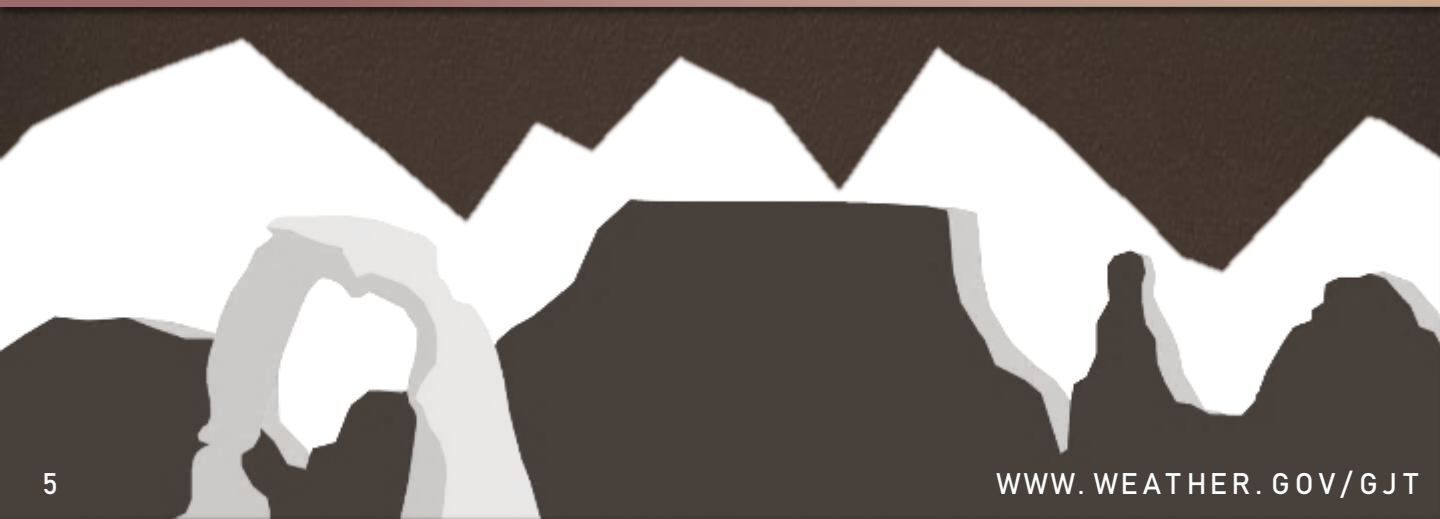


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PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	0.40	-0.65
Cortez, CO	0.20	-0.87
Craig, CO	0.16	-0.75
Durango, CO	0.13	-1.15
Grand Junction, CO	0.01	-0.60
Meeker, CO	0.44	-0.63
Montrose, CO	0.01	-0.40
Rifle, CO	0.26	-0.44
Canyonlands Airport, UT	T	-0.45
Vernal, UT	T	-0.59

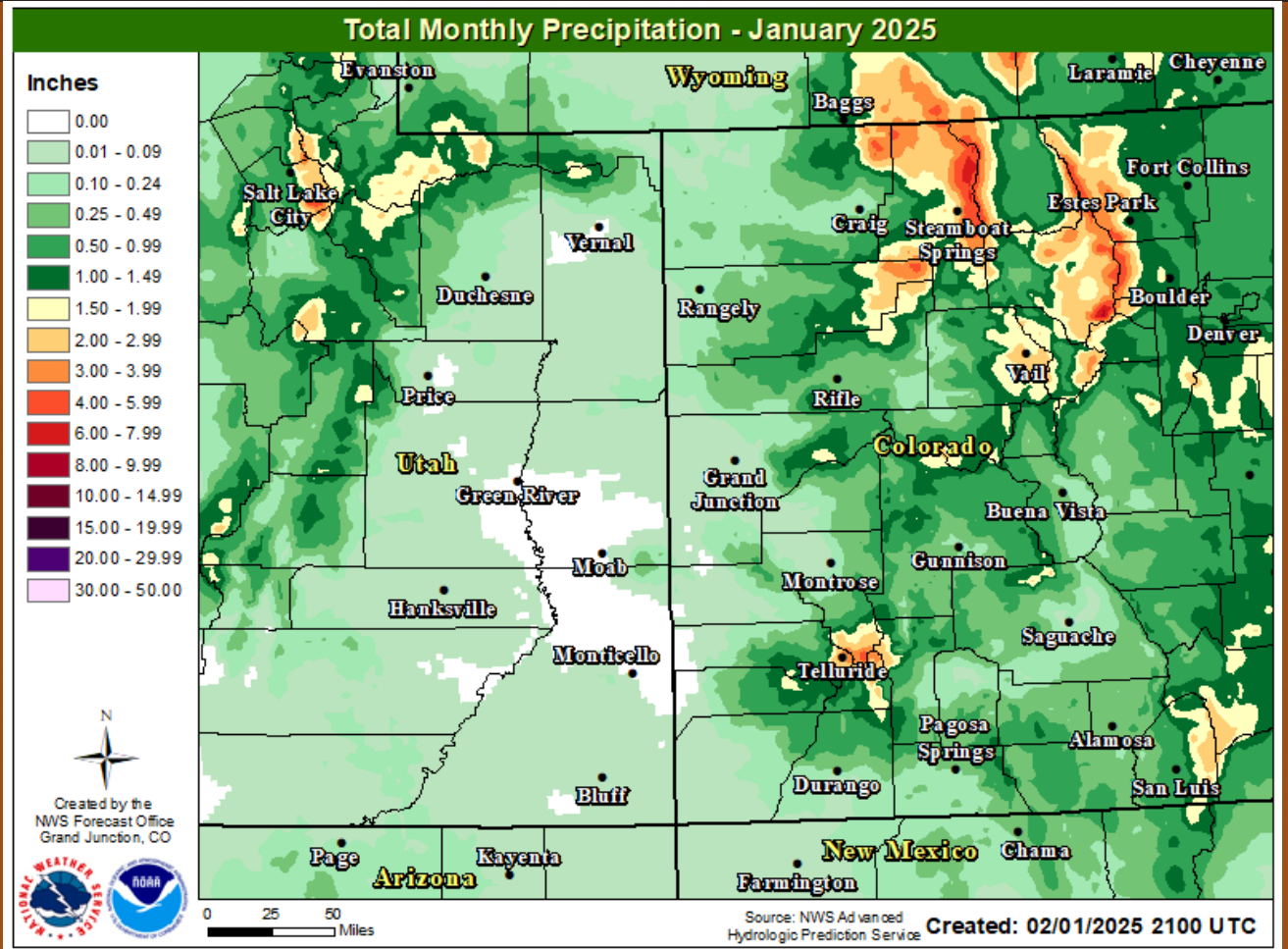


JANUARY 2025

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



JANUARY 2025

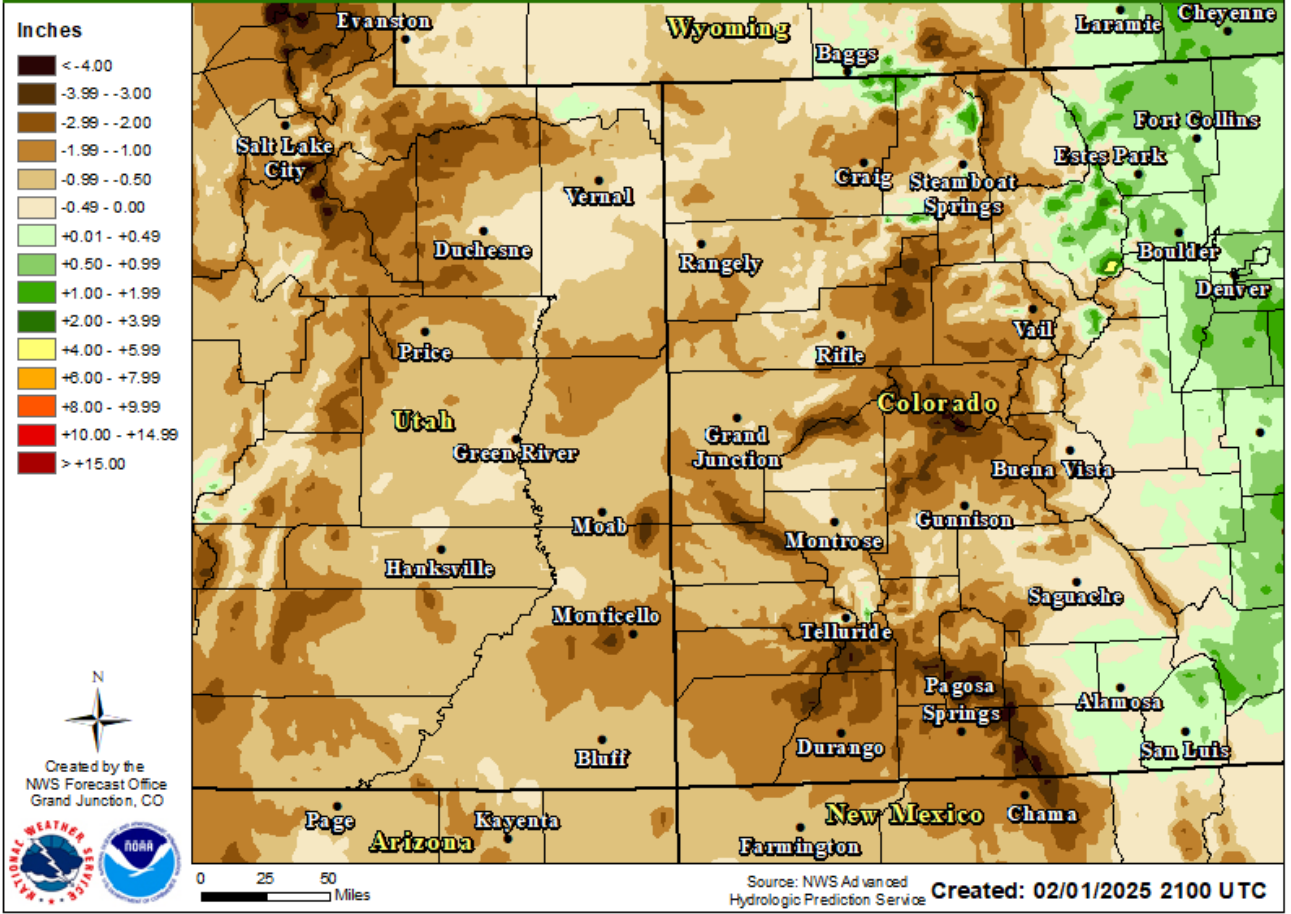
CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL

Total Monthly Precipitation Departure From Normal - January 2025



JANUARY 2025

CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY RECORDS

REPORT

A total of 0 daily records were set across the primary climate sites

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
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High Max

Low Max

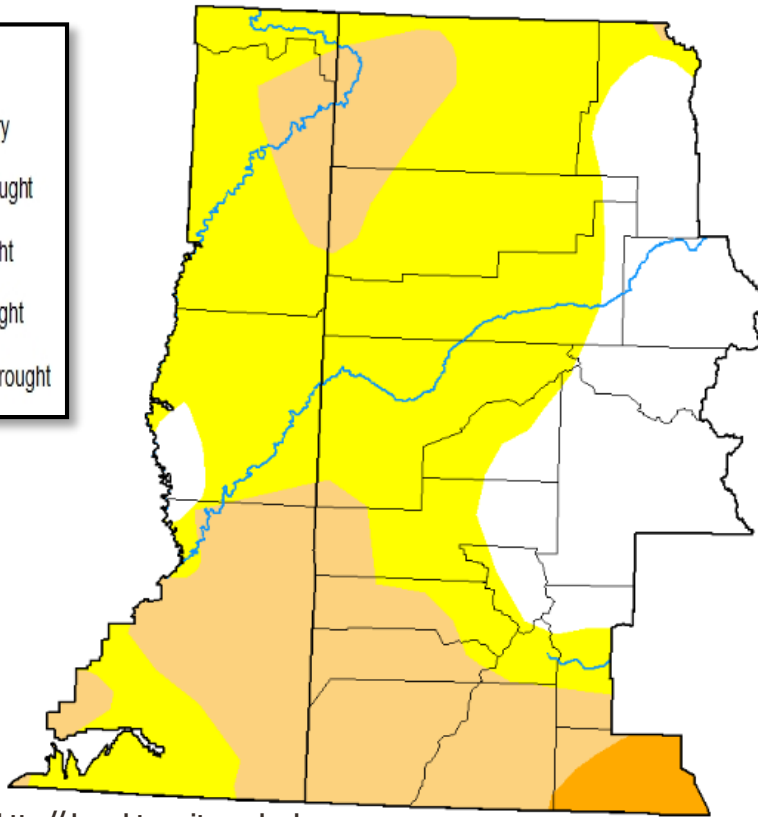
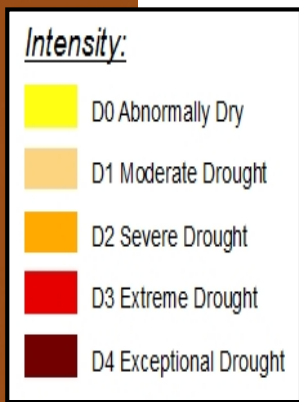
Precip

High Min

Low Min



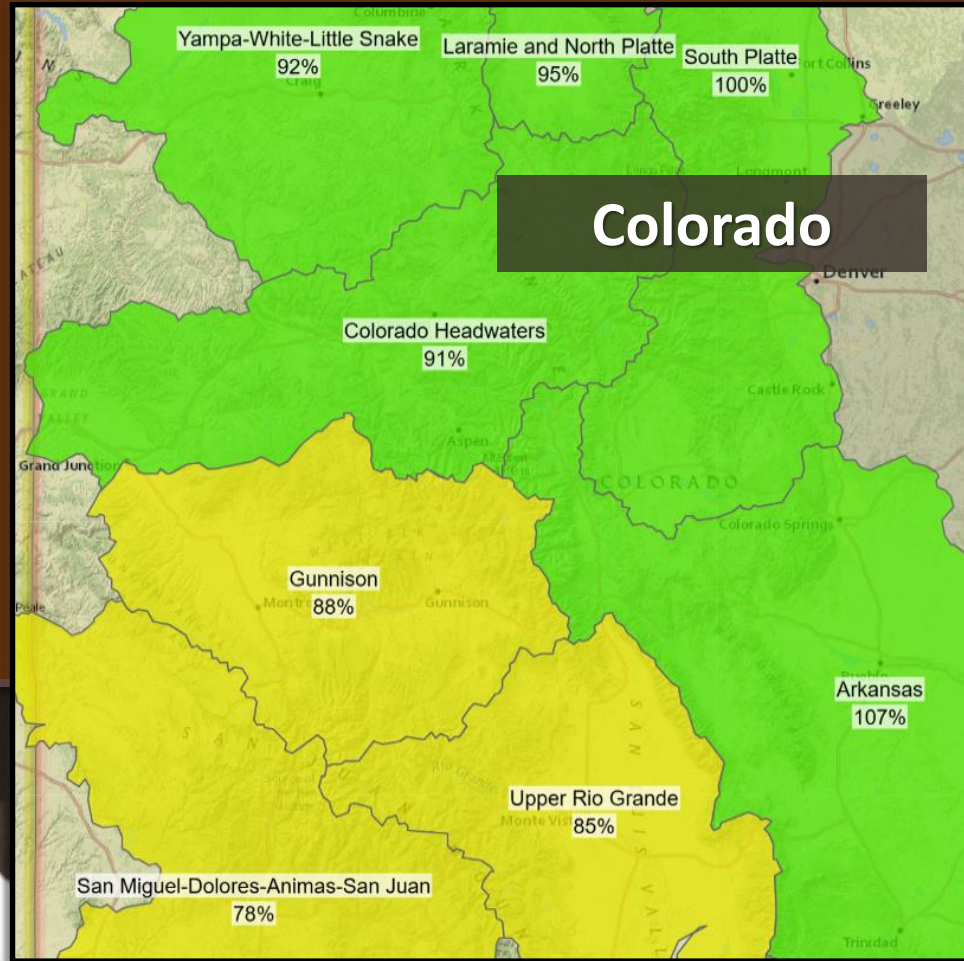
Unfortunately, below normal precipitation from December continued into January, with some significant drought degradation over the lower elevations. The northern and central Colorado mountains remain drought free, while the remainder of the area is in at least Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Moderate (D1) drought exists in a pocket of northeast Utah and northwest Colorado, as well as the majority of southeast Utah and southwest Colorado. A pocket of Severe (D2) drought has also cropped up in the far southeast portion of the CWA.



Source: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



While January was certainly cold, with most climate sites seeing below normal average temperatures, it was also dry. This is beginning to be reflected in the snowpack. Northern basins, including the Northeastern Uintas, the Yampa-White-Little Snake, and Colorado Headwaters are still in the 90-100% of normal range. However, southern basins aren't doing as well. The Duchesne and Gunnison basins are at 80-90% of normal, while the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basin is sitting at 75-85% of normal. Southeastern Utah is doing the worse, at 60-70% of normal.



**Percent NRCS
1991-2020 Median**

- ≥ 150%
- 130% - 149%
- 110% - 129%
- 90% - 109%
- 70% - 89%
- 50% - 69%
- < 50%
- No basin value

Watershed Boundaries

- Region (2-Digit HUC)
- State Watersheds

FEBRUARY
2 0 2 5

OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURES & PRECIPITATION



The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center is leaning toward above normal temperatures (33-40%) for southeast Utah and southwest Colorado. The norther half of the region is favored for equal chances of above or below normal temperatures. For precipitation during the month of February, the Climate Prediction Center is favoring equal chances of above or below normal precipitation for the vast majority of eastern Utah and western Colorado. Only the far northwestern corner of the Grand Junction County Warning Area, which includes the eastern Uinta mountains, is showing a slight (33-40%) tendency toward above normal precipitation.

