



# Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid March 17th, 2025

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: [nws.pueblo@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.pueblo@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated by April 10th, 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 Extreme Drought Conditions are present across the Southwest Mountains
  - Moderate Drought Conditions are developing across south central and southeast Colorado





# U.S. Drought Monitor

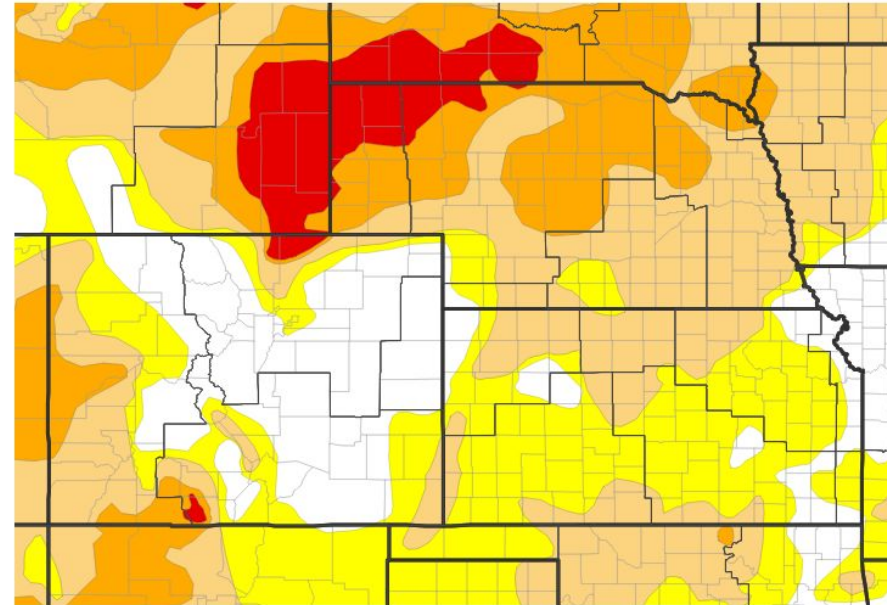
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Colorado

Valid March 11th, 2025

- Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** N/A
- **D3 Extreme Drought:** Extreme south central Rio Grande county into western and central Conejos county.
- **D2 Severe Drought:** Southern Mineral county, southwestern Rio Grande county and western Conejos county.
- **D1 Moderate Drought:** Northern Mineral, extreme southwestern Saguache, central Rio Grande, eastern Conejos, central Chaffee, western Fremont, western Custer, northern Huerfano, eastern Baca and Prowers counties.
- **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Extreme northern Mineral, southwestern Saguache, eastern Rio Grande, western Alamosa, eastern Conejos, eastern Costilla, central Chaffee, western Fremont, Custer, western Huerfano county, eastern Costilla, extreme western Las Animas, western Baca, eastern Bent, western Prowers and central and eastern Kiowa counties.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 03/11/25





# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

## Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:** Portions of the southwest mountains, the San Luis Valley, southeast mtns and far southeast Plains.
- **No Change:** Most of south central and southeast Colorado.
- **Drought Improved:** SE Las Animas County.

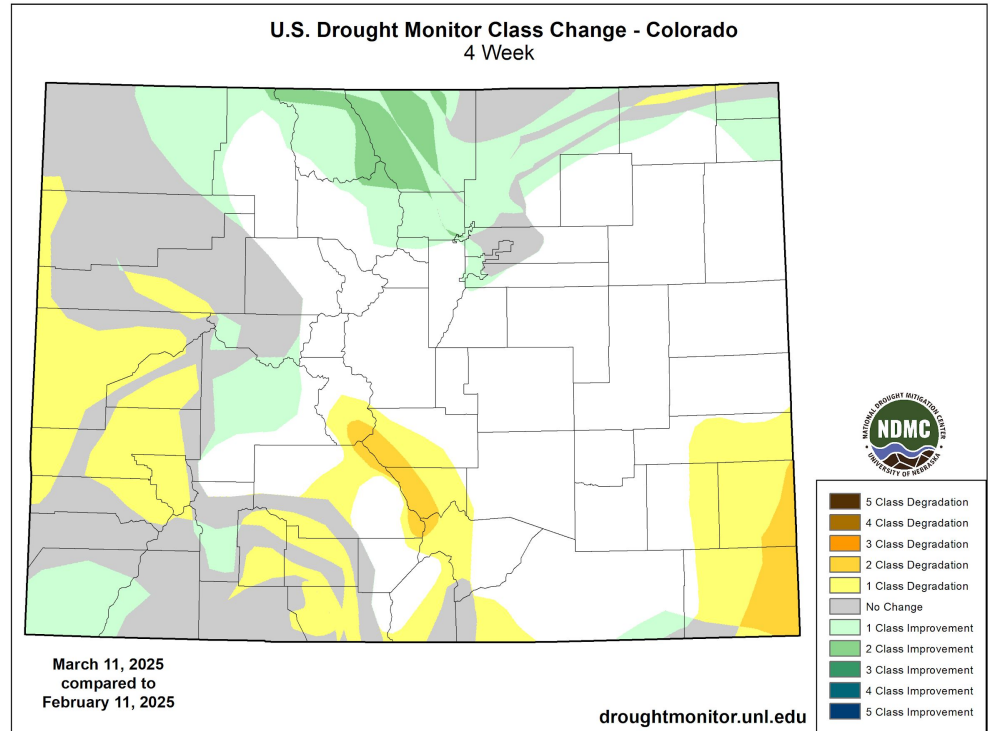


Image Caption: [Drought Monitor Colorado 4 Week Change Map](#)  
valid March 11th, 2025



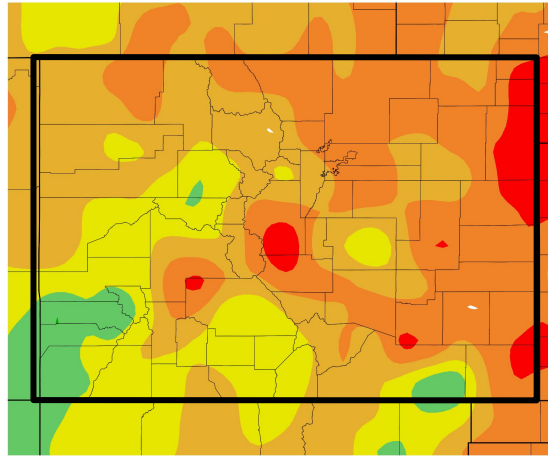


# Month to Date Temperature and Precipitation Departures

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

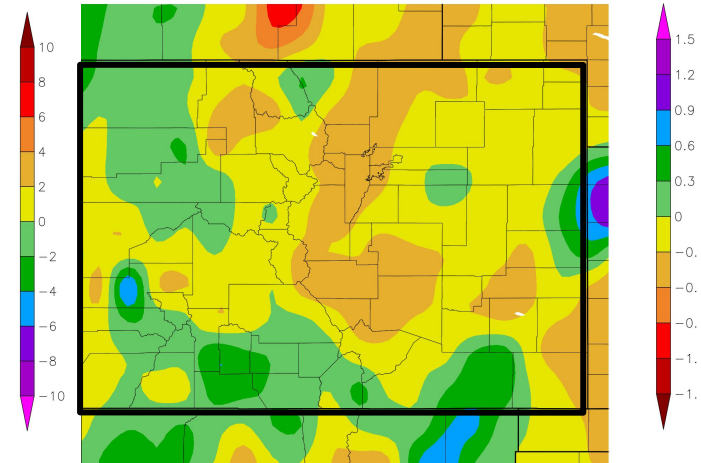
- March of 2025 has been generally warm and dry thus far, with passing weather systems bringing windy conditions and precipitation favoring the southern Tier.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2025 – 3/16/2025



3/17/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2025 – 3/16/2025



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 25 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center



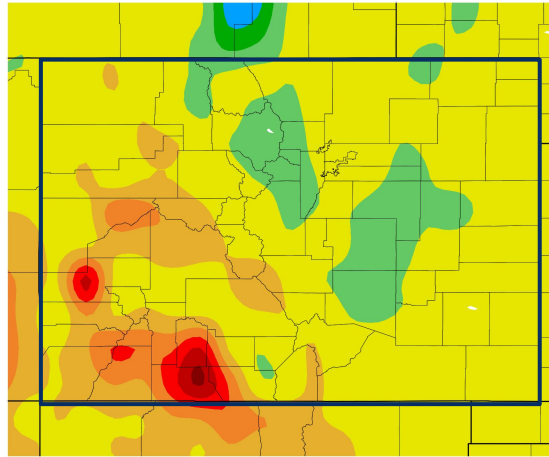


# 3 Month Precipitation and Temperature Summary

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

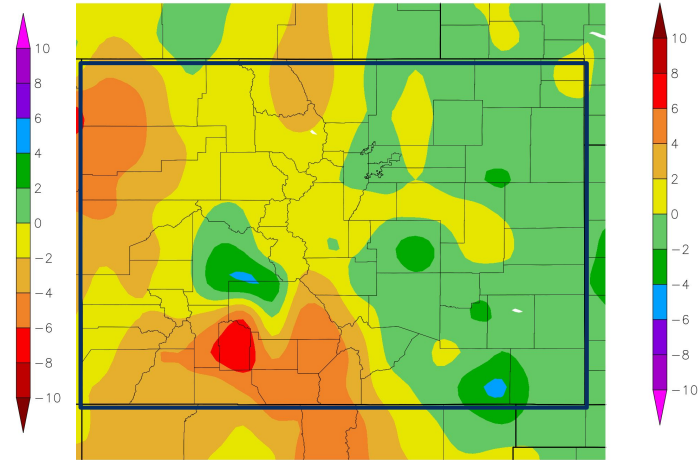
- December of 2024 was very warm and generally dry across south central and southeast Colorado.
- January of 2025 was very cold and generally wet, across eastern Colorado, with warmer and drier conditions across portions of south central Colorado.
- February of 2025 was cool and wet across south central and southeast Colorado.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025



Generated 3/10/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 025 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

- March 1st Statewide snowpack was at 91 percent of median, with the southern basins lagging well behind the northern basins. This is reflective in the latest April-July and April-September streamflow forecasts.
- Current streamflow conditions are near normal across south central and southeast Colorado.

## Agricultural Impacts

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

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Dry fuels across snow free areas, combined with windy conditions has produced moderate to at times extreme high fire danger across south central and southeast Colorado.

## Mitigation Actions

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



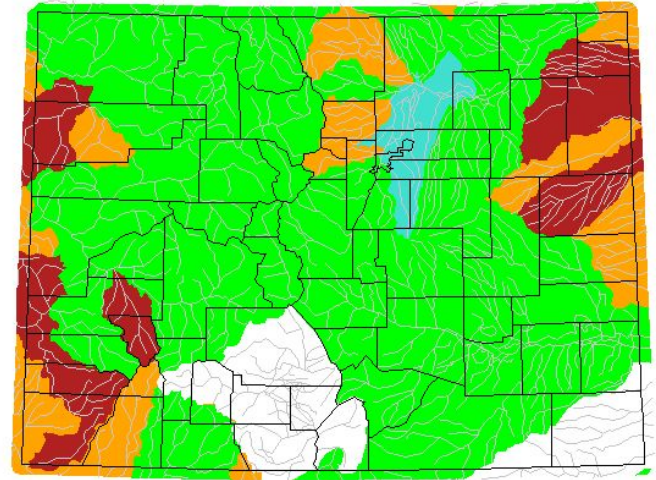


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

- Latest 7 day average stream flows are near normal across south central and southeast Colorado.
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of February was at 97 percent of median, as compared to 131 percent of median at this time last year. This brings statewide Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 91 percent of median, as compared to 95 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, February precipitation came in at 66 percent of median, as compared to 142 percent of median at this time last year. The southern portions of the basin were much drier than northern portions. This brings Arkansas basin Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 98 percent of median, as compared to 101 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, February precipitation came in at 50 percent of median, as compared to 142 percent of median at this time last year. This brings Upper Rio Grande basin Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 74 percent of median, as compared to 81 percent of median at this time last year.

Sunday, March 16, 2025



USGS

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

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado](#) valid March 16th, 2025

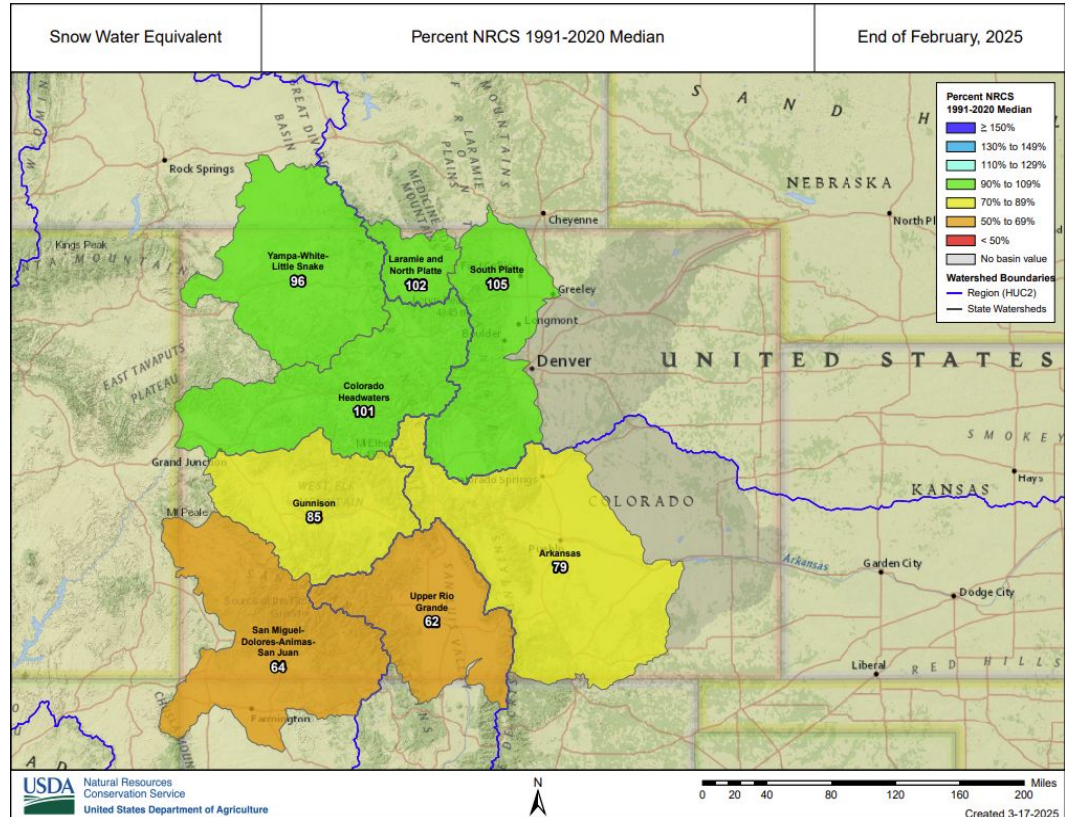




# Hydrologic Conditions Colorado Snowpack

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

- At the end of February, NRCS data indicated [Colorado Statewide Snowpack](#) was at 91 percent of median, as compared to 97 percent of median at this time last year. The southern basins are lagging behind the northern basins.
- March 1st snowpack in the [Arkansas basin](#) snowpack was at 79 percent of median, as compared to 94 percent of median at this time last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 48% of median at Huerfano River near Redwing to 105% of median at Chalk Creek near Nathrop.
- March 1st snowpack in the [Upper Rio Grande basin](#) was at 62 percent of median, as compared to 84 percent of median at this time last year. Current streamflow forecasts range from 29% of median at San Antonio River near Ortiz to 89% of median at Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap.







# Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

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

- Latest CPC data indicates soil moisture is running at to slightly above seasonal norms across south central and southeast Colorado.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAR 16, 2025

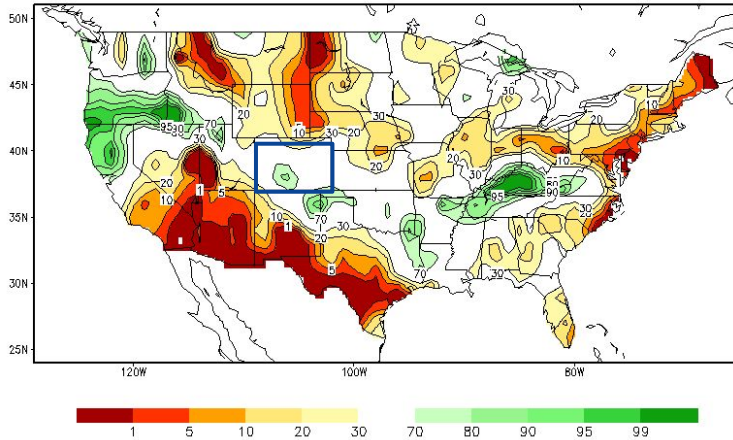


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)  
valid March 16th, 2025

- NRCS data indicated [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 94 percent of median at the end of February, as compared to 100 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 113 percent of median at the end of February, as compared to 112 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 121 percent of median at the end of February, as compared to 119 percent of median at this time last year.





# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

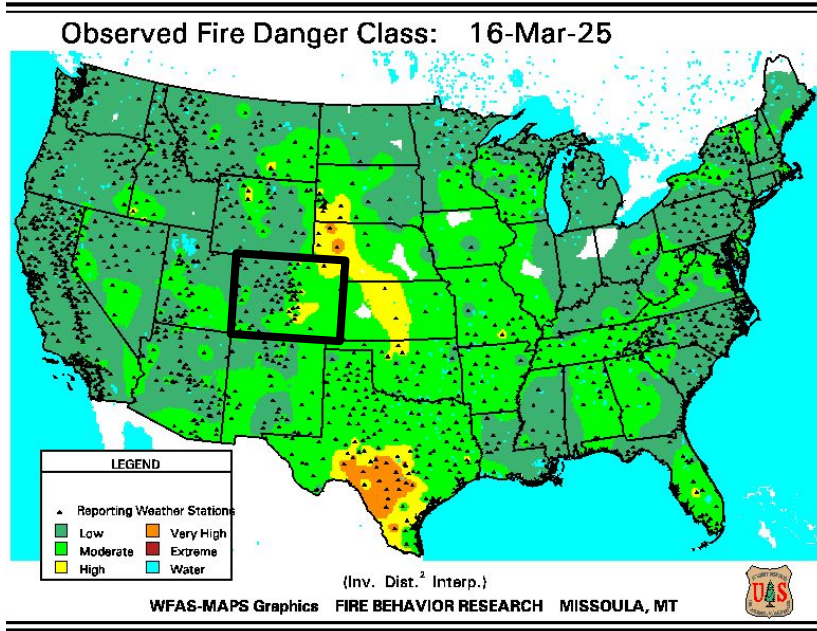


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid March 16th, 2025

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

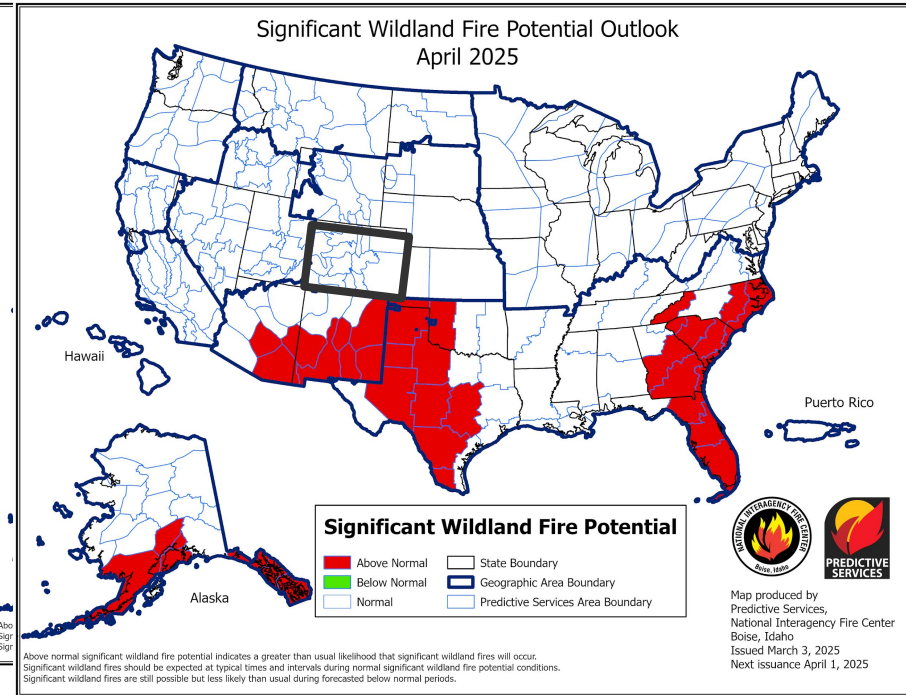


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid for April 2025



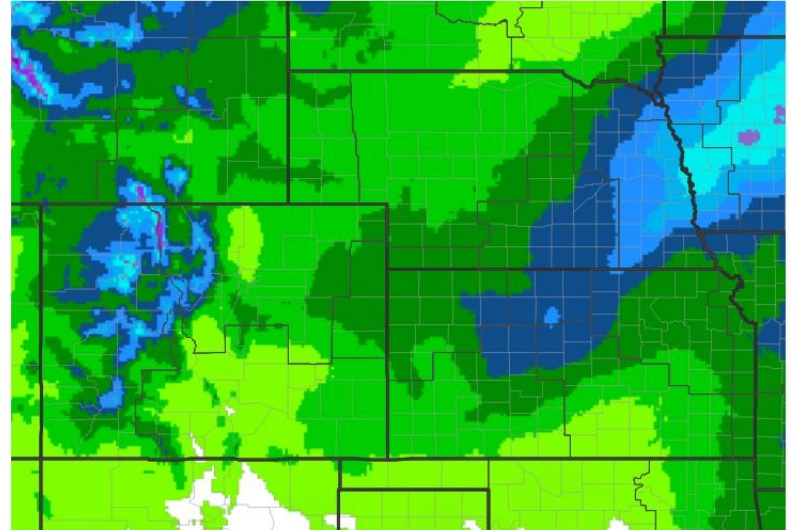


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

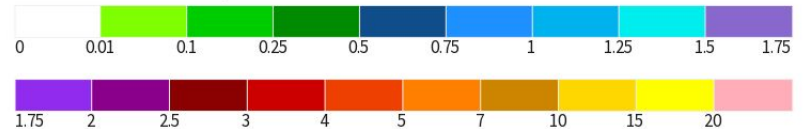
Link to [WPC 7 day Precipitation Forecast](#)

- WPC 7 Day Precipitation Forecast

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 17, 2025–March 24, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/17/25





# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

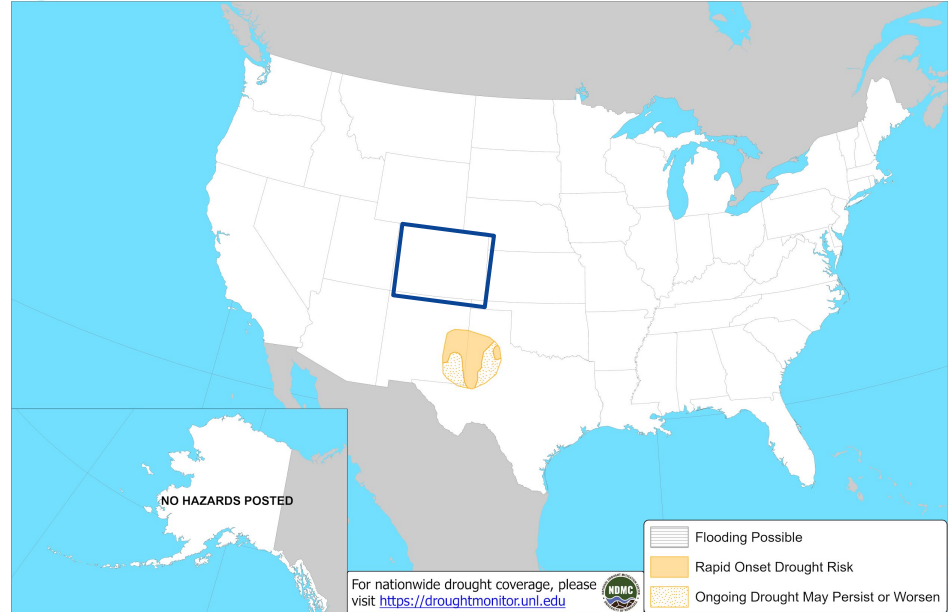
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Summarize conditions and impacts here



## Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: March 25 - 31, 2025



Climate Prediction Center

Released: March 17, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

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

National Weather Service  
Pueblo, Colorado



# Long-Range Monthly Outlook for November

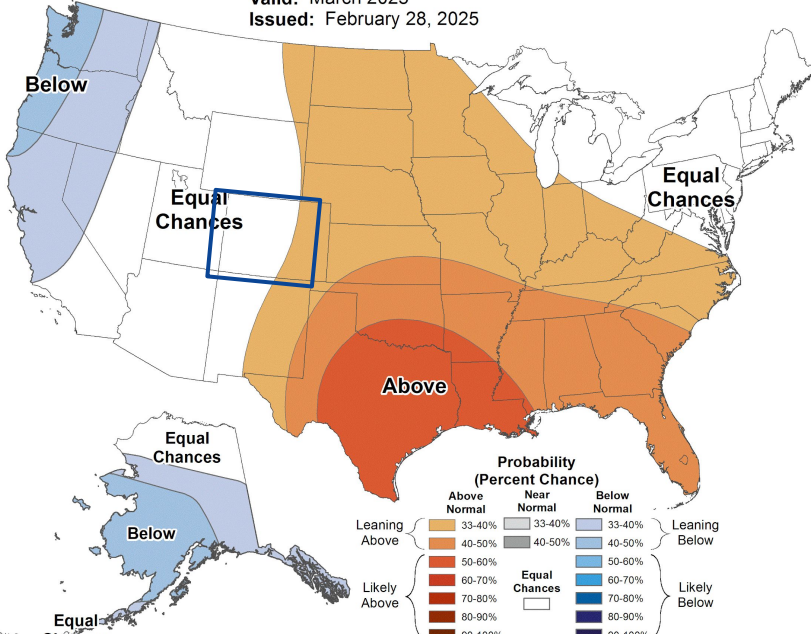
The latest monthly outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



## Monthly Temperature Outlook



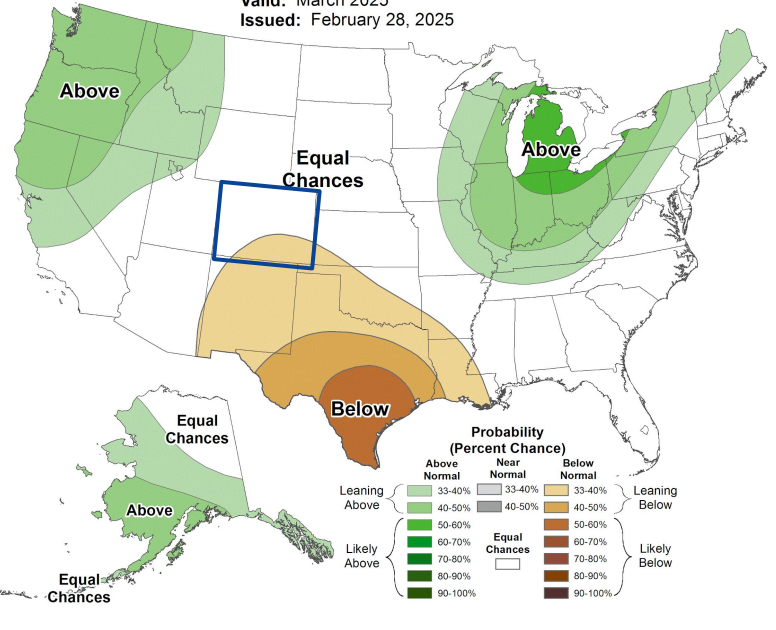
Valid: March 2025  
Issued: February 28, 2025



## Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: March 2025  
Issued: February 28, 2025



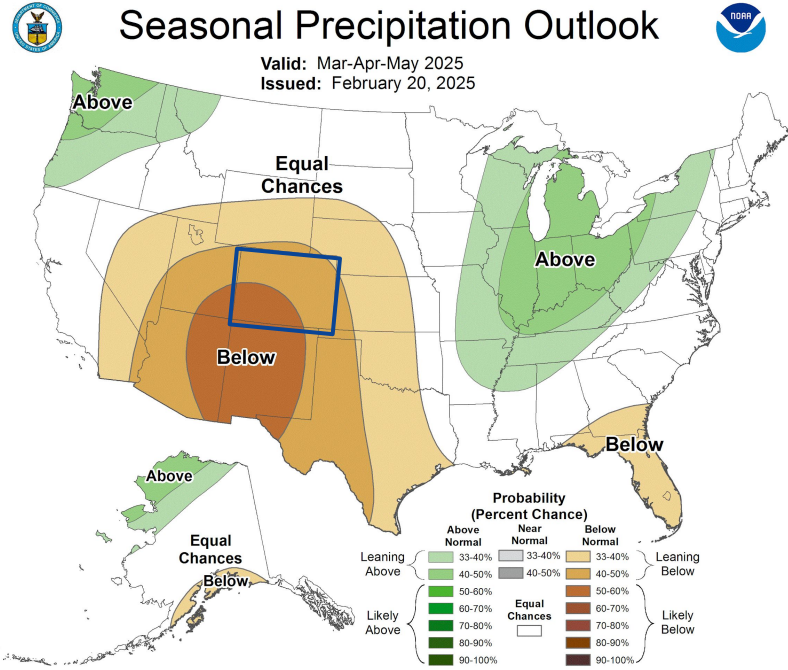
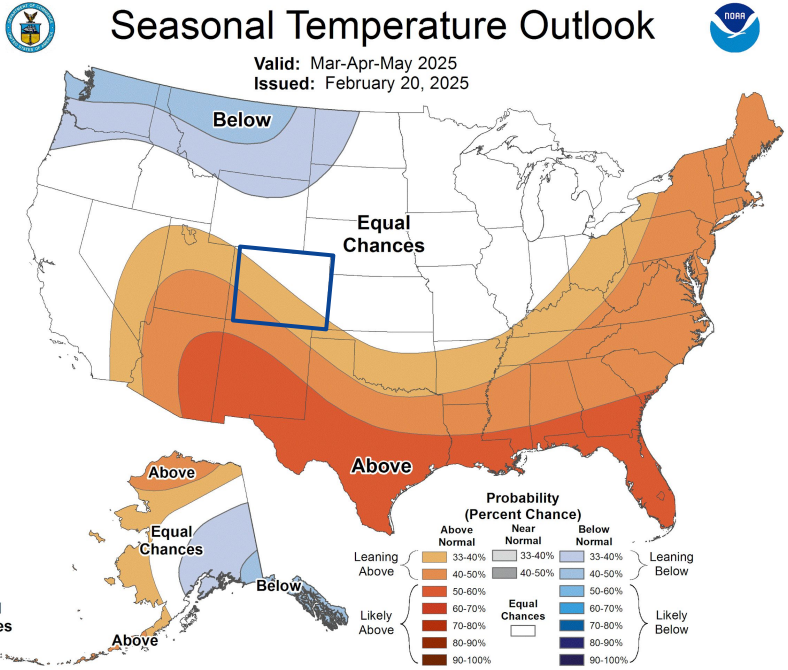
The CPC Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the month of November leans to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado.





# Long-Range Three Month Outlook (March-May)

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



The CPC outlook for March through May gives equal chances of above, below and near normal temperatures, save for a slight lean to above normal temperatures across the southwest Colorado. The precipitation outlook leans to below normal conditions across south central and southeast Colorado.

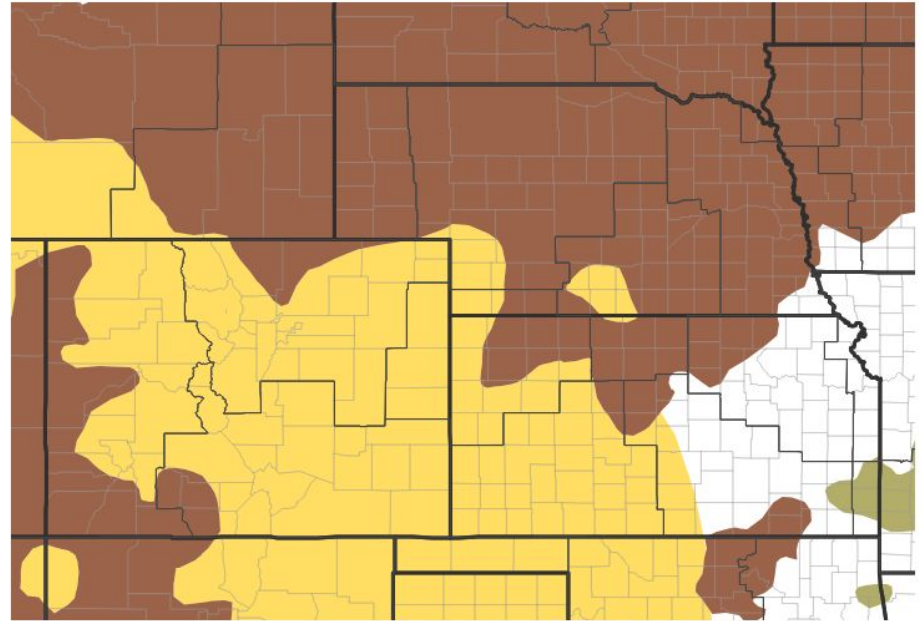


# Drought Three Month Outlook

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

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 28, 2025–May 31, 2025

- Drought conditions look to persist and expand across south central and southeast Colorado through the Spring.



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 02/28/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

