Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid September 5th, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by Dec 5th, 2024 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.

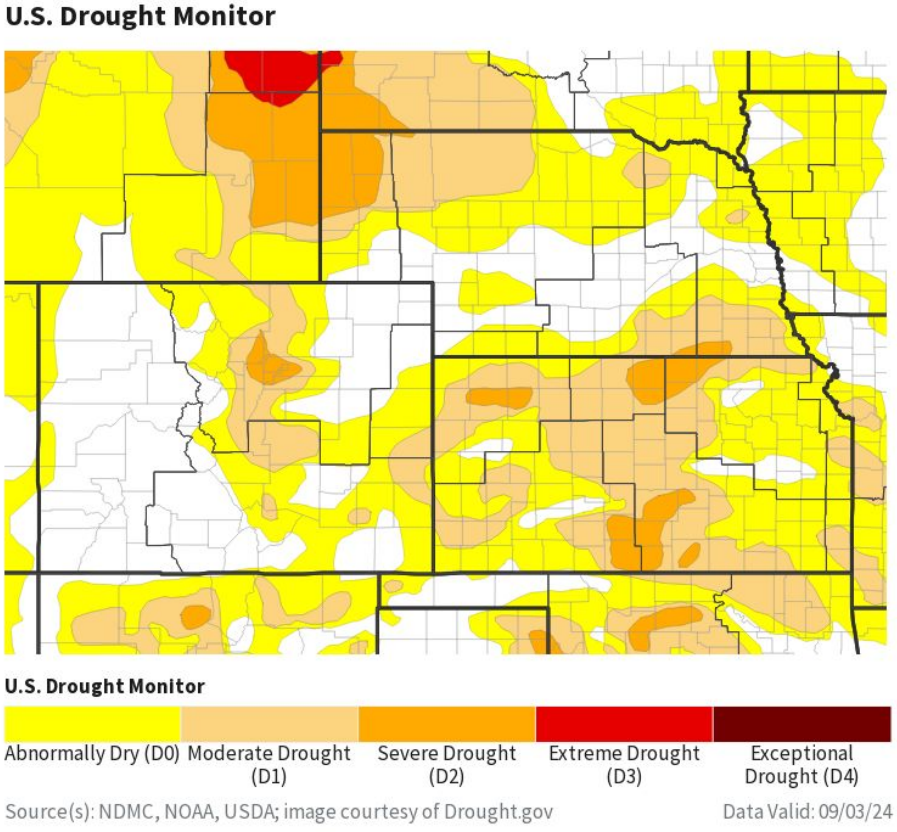
- Moderate drought conditions increasing across the Southeast Plains

U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Valid Tuesday September 3rd, 2024

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: N/A
  - **D3 Extreme Drought**: N/A.
  - **D2 Severe Drought**: N/A
  - **D1 Moderate Drought**: Portions of Teller, El Paso, Fremont, Pueblo, Huerfano, Otero, Bent Kiowa and Prowers counties.
  - **D0: Abnormally Dry**: Portions of El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, Custer, Costilla, Las Animas, Otero, Bent, Kiowa, Prowers, Baca and Chaffee counties.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **Drought Worsened:** Portions of the southeast mountains and plains.
  - **No Change:** Most of south central Colorado.
  - **Drought Improved:** Portions of Saguache and Chaffee counties.

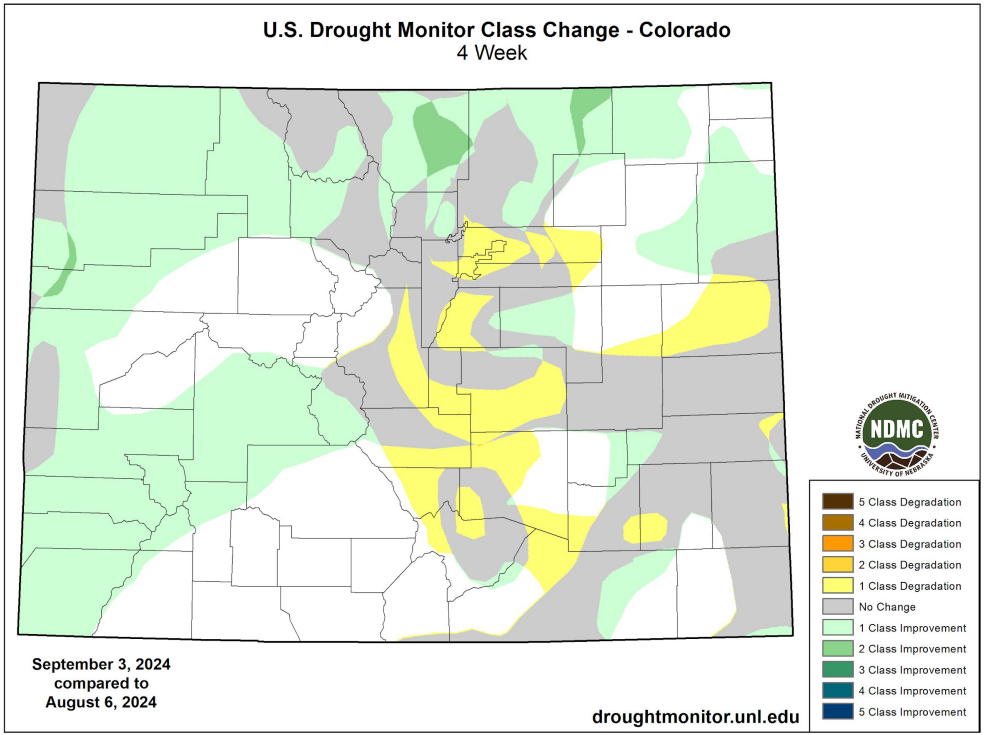
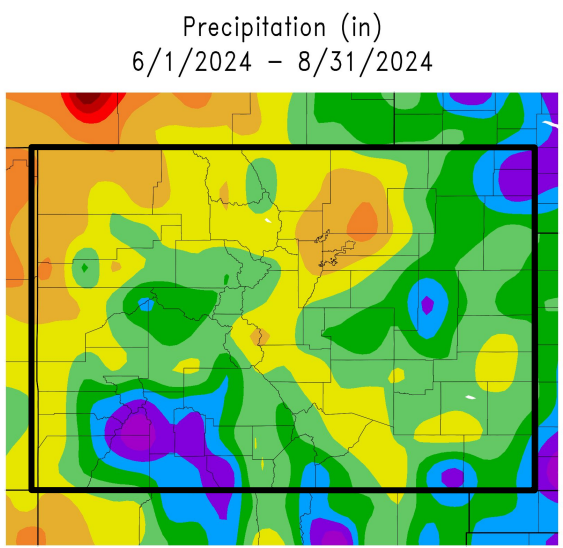


Image Caption: Drought Monitor Colorado 4 Week Change Map valid September 3rd, 2024

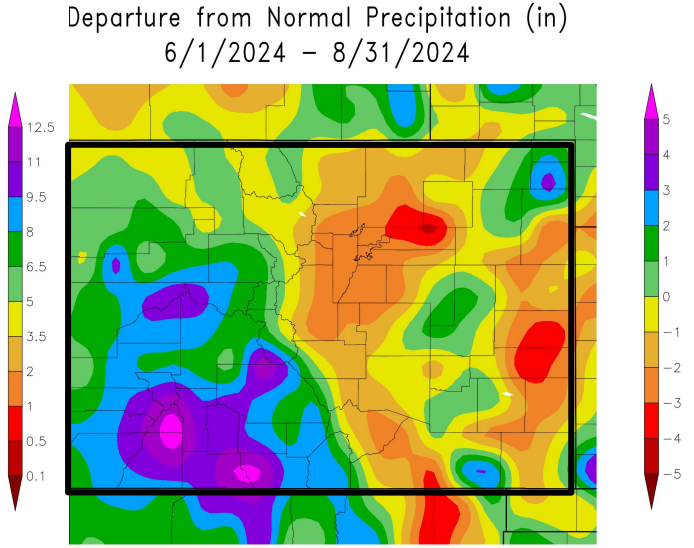
Precipitation

Links to the latest HPRCC Precipitation Accumulation and Departure from Normal for the Summer of 2024 (June-August)

- The Summer of 2024 featured a meandering ridge of high pressure across the Rockies, which brought periods of very warm temperatures, as well as periods of abundant available moisture, heavy rain, severe storms and cooler temperatures.
- Summer (June-August) total precipitation was at and above normal across south central Colorado and generally below normal across the southeast Colorado.



/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 4 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Cente

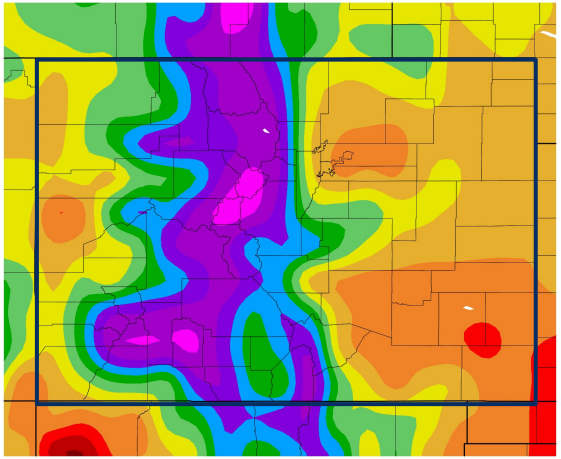
Temperature

Links to HPRCC Average Temperature and Departure from Normal Temperature for the Summer of 2024

- Temperatures across the region where generally above normal in June and August. July featured near to below normal temperatures, leading to generally above normal temperatures across south central and southeast Colorado for the Summer (June-August) as a whole.

- The Summer of 2024 was the 2nd, 4th and 6th warmest on record in Alamosa, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, respectively.

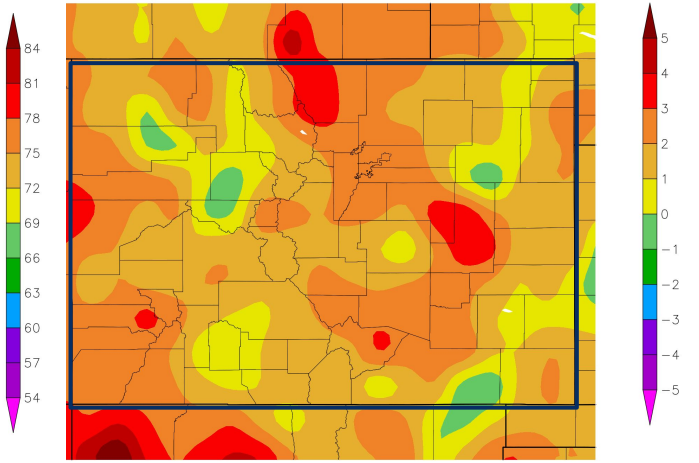
Temperature (F)
6/1/2024 – 8/31/2024



Generated 9/4/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/1/2024 – 8/31/2024



24 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

- Stream flows are at or above normal across most of south central and southeast Colorado, save for portions of the southeast mountains and plains.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moistures are running at and above normal across south central Colorado with some soil moisture deficits developing across the southeast Plains. (CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- N/A.

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)

- Current 7 day average stream flows are at or above normal across most of south central and southeast Colorado, save for portions of the southeast mountains and plains.
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of August was at 167 percent of median, as compared to 119 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is 104 percent of median, as compared to 108 percent at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, August precipitation came in at 143 percent of median, as compared to 106 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is 109 percent of median, as compared to 90 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, August precipitation came in at 188 percent of median, as compared to 91 percent of median at this time last year. Water Year to date precipitation is 106 percent of median, as compared to 95 percent of median at this time last year.

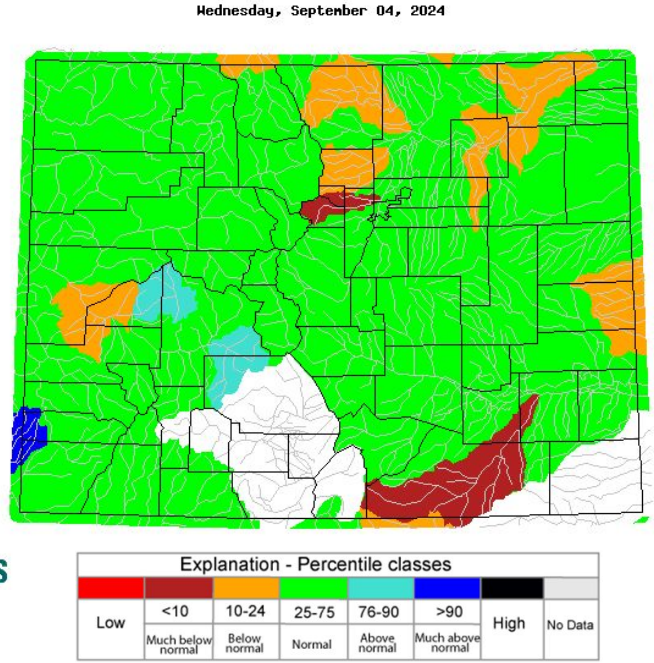


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado valid September 4th, 2024

Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

Link to the latest USDA Colorado Crop Progress and Condition Report

- CPC data indicates soil moisture at or above seasonal norms across south central Colorado with slight deficits noted across portions of SE Colorado.

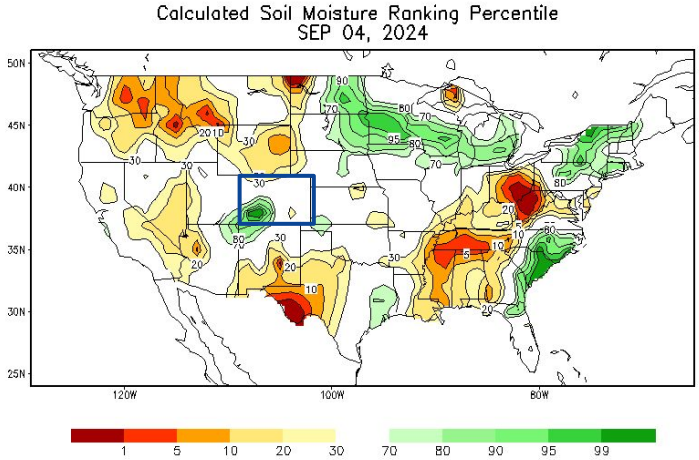


Image Caption: CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking valid Sept 4th, 2024

- NRCS data indicated **statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage** was at 93 percent of median at the end of August, as compared to 102 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 113 percent of median at the end of August, as compared to 112 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 113 percent of median at the end of August, as compared to 132 percent of median at this time last year.

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

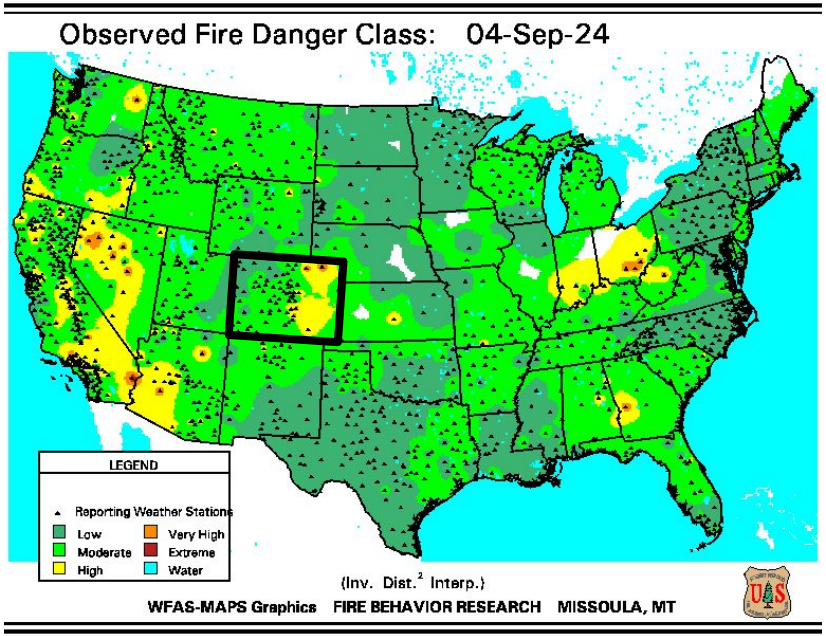


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger] valid Sept 4th, 2024

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

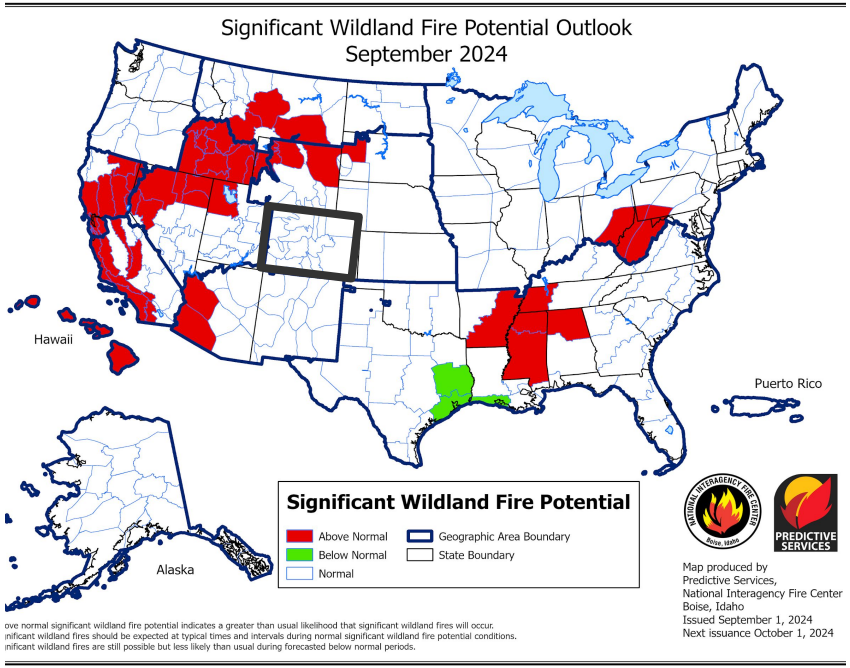
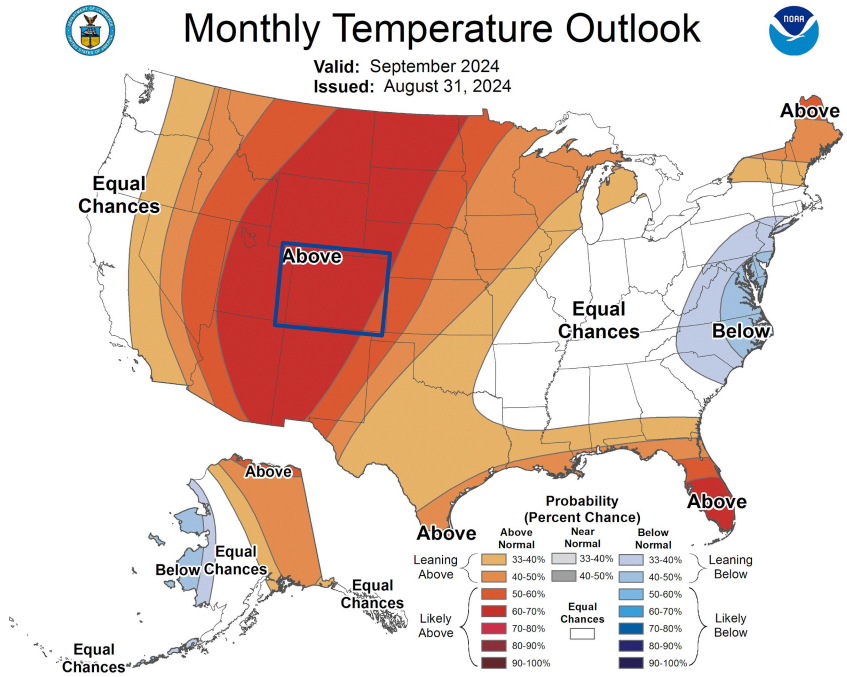
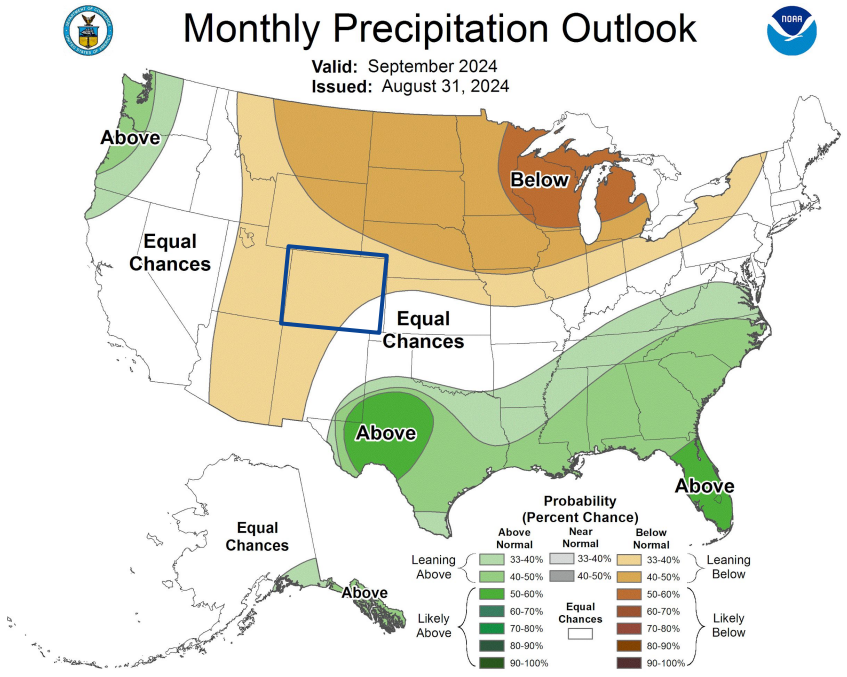


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook] valid for September 2024

Long-Range Monthly Outlook

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

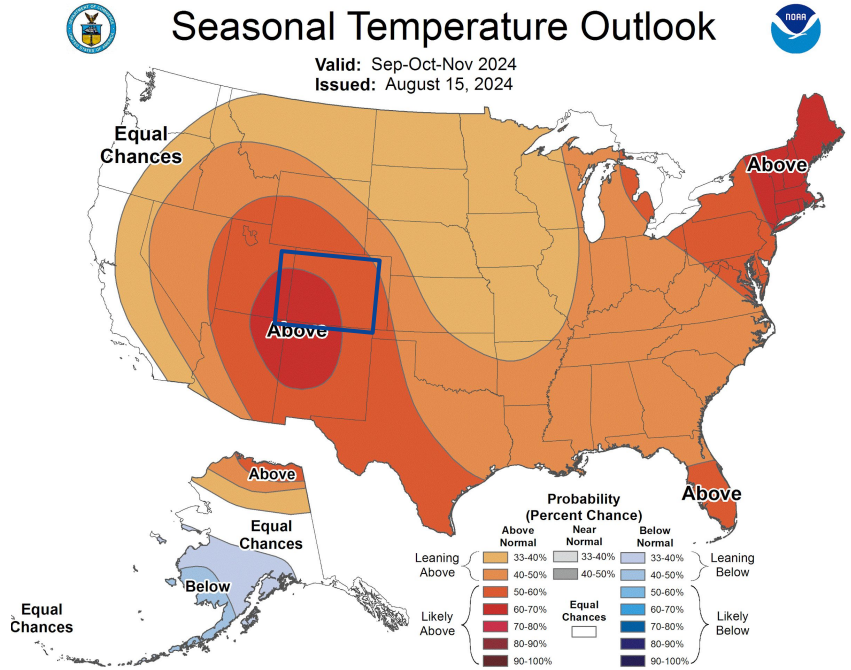


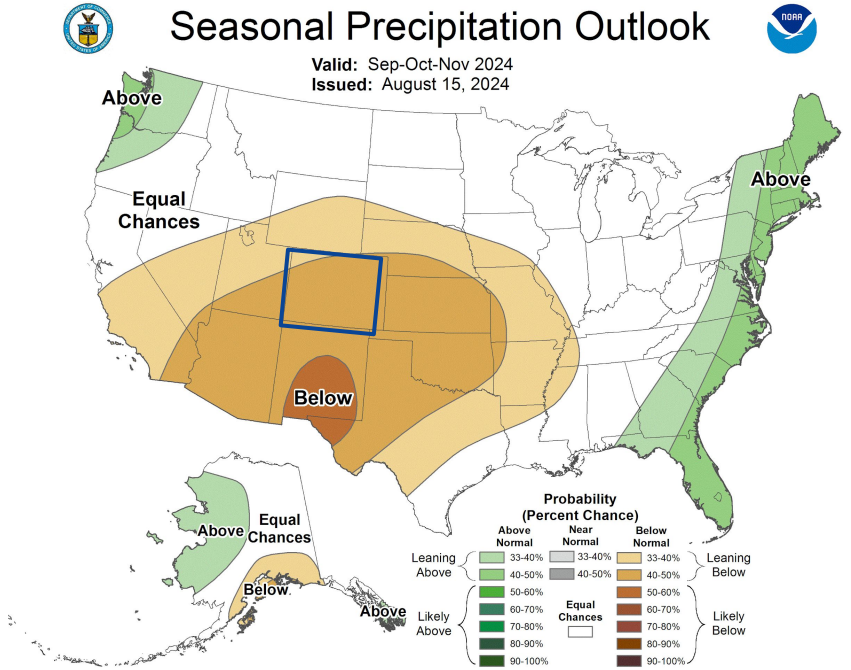


The CPC Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for the month of September leans to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, save for equal chances of above, below and near normal precip across the far SE Plains.

Long-Range Three Month Outlook

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



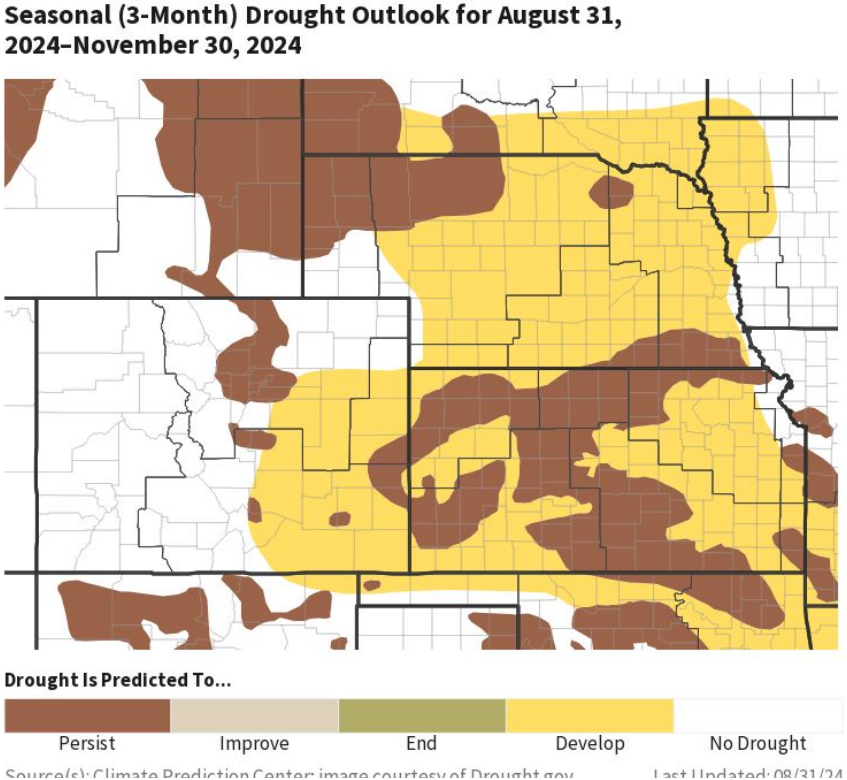


The CPC outlook for September through November again leans to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado.

Drought Three Month Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are predicted to persist and expand across portions of southeast Colorado through the Fall of 2024 (September-November).



Valid August 31st through November 30th, 2024

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