



Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid October 18th, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by November 14th, 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 to Severe drought conditions increasing across southeast Colorado





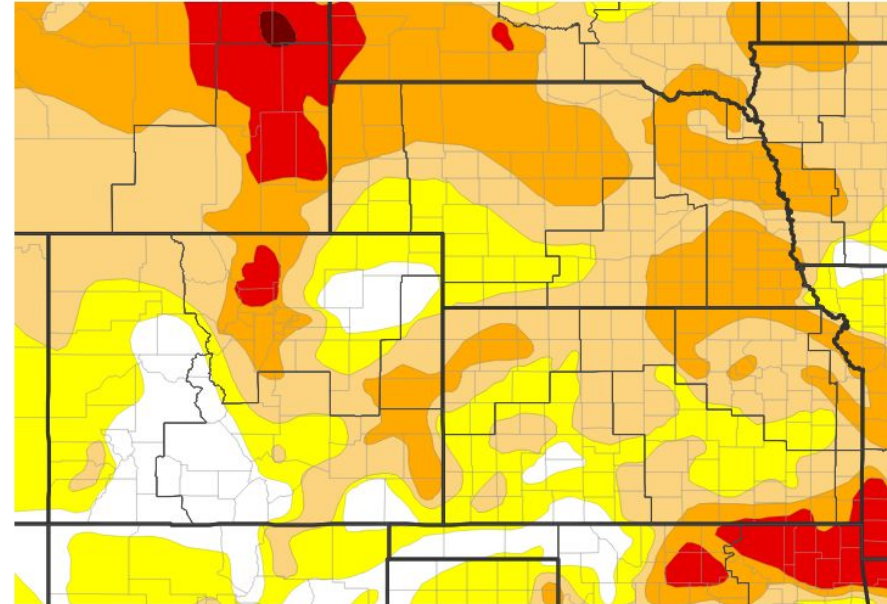
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Valid Tuesday October 15th, 2024

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** N/A
 - **D3 Extreme Drought:** N/A.
 - **D2 Severe Drought:** Northern portions of Teller county into northwestern El Paso county, central portions of Kiowa county into northern portions of Bent county, central Prowers county and northeastern Baca county.
 - **D1 Moderate Drought:** Teller and El Paso counties, northeastern portions of Fremont county into NW, SW and SE Pueblo county, portions of the southeast plains including Las Animas, Crowley, Otero, Kiowa, Bent, Prowers and Baca counties.
 - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Portions of El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, Custer, Las Animas, Crowley, Otero, Bent, Kiowa, Prowers, Baca and Chaffee counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/15/24





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:** Portions of the Pikes Peak region and SE plains.
- **No Change:** Most of south central Colorado.
- **Drought Improved:** Portions of Chaffee, Huerfano, Las Animas and Baca counties.

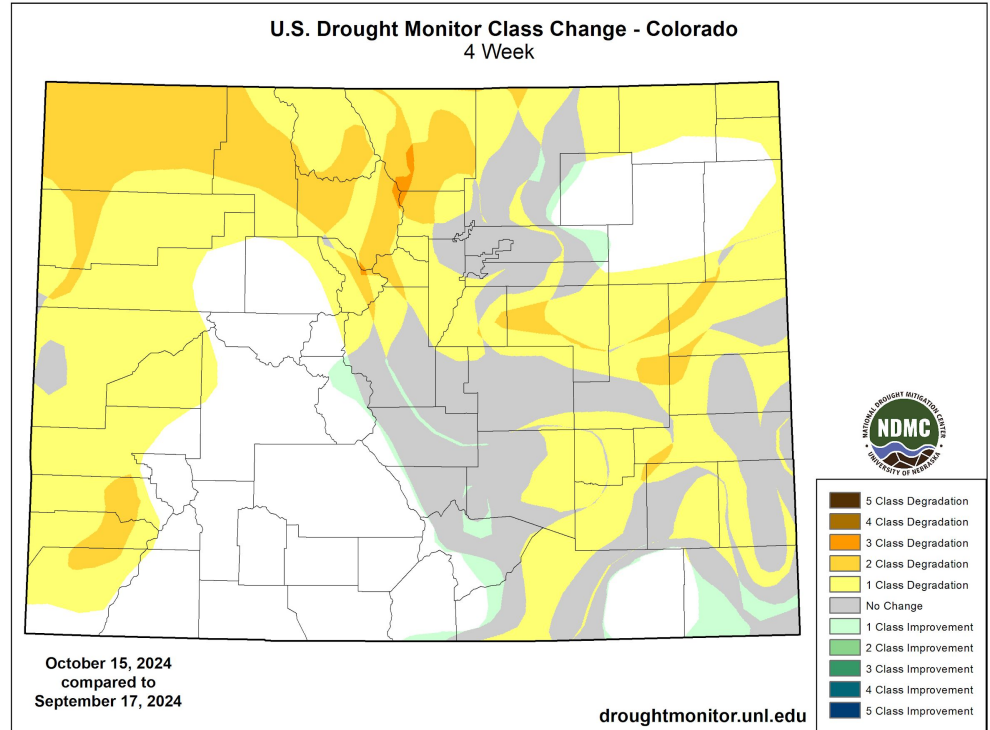


Image Caption: [Drought Monitor Colorado 4 Week Change Map](#)
valid October 15th, 2024



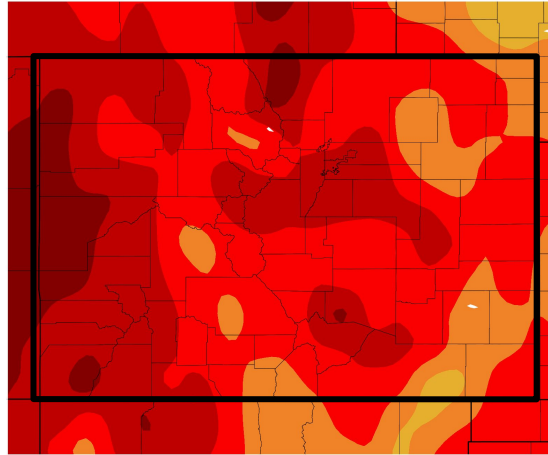


Temperature and Precipitation

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

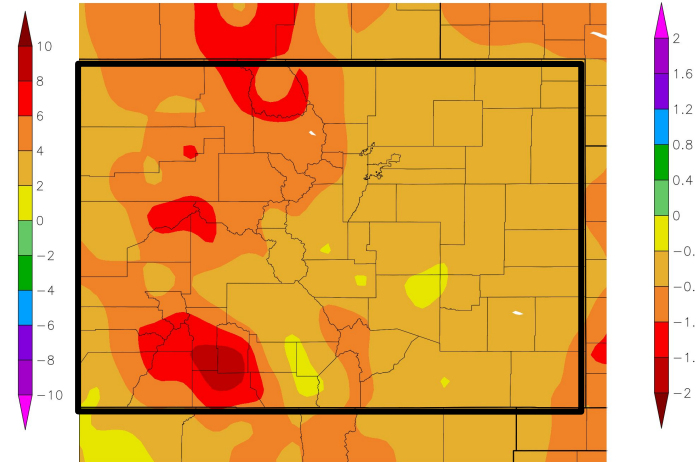
- The month of October thus far has featured well above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across all of south central and southeast Colorado.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2024 – 10/16/2024



10/17/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
10/1/2024 – 10/16/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows near to well below normal across south central and southeast Colorado.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture deficits increasing across the southeast Plains. ([CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Warmer and drier than normal conditions leading to drying fuels and increased fire danger.

Mitigation Actions

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



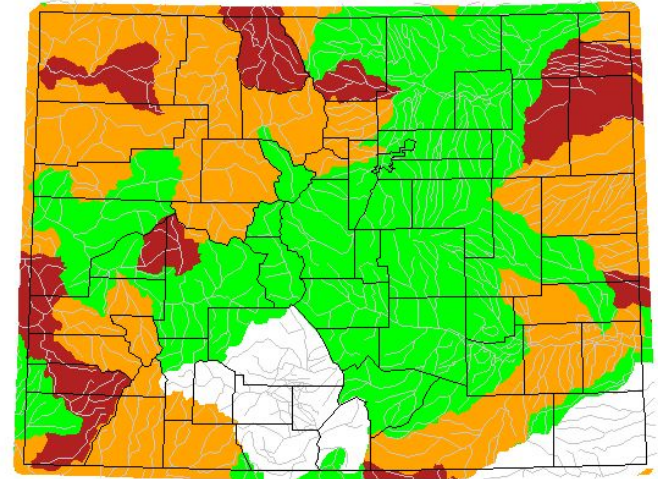


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

- Current 7 day average stream flows are at and below normal across most of south central and southeast Colorado..
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of September was at 77 percent of median, as compared to 78 percent of median at this time last year. This brings an end to the 2024 Water Year, with statewide precipitation at 101 percent of median, as compared to 105 percent of median in Water Year 2023.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, September precipitation came in at 123 percent of median, as compared to 114 percent of median at this time last year. This brings an end to the 2024 Water Year, with Arkansas basin precipitation at 111 percent of median, as compared to 92 percent of median in WY 2023.
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, September precipitation came in at 116 percent of median, as compared to 99 percent of median at this time last year. This brings an end to the 2024 Water Year, with the Rio Grande basin precipitation at 105 percent of median, as compared to 94 percent of median in WY 2023.

Wednesday, October 16, 2024



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 October 16th, 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 increasing deficits noted across SE Colorado.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 16, 2024

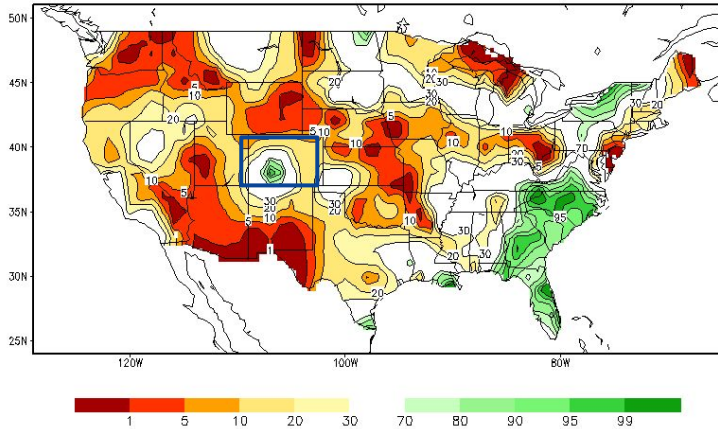


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)
valid October 16th, 2024

- NRCS data indicated [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 93 percent of median at the end of September, as compared to 101 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 112 percent of median at the end of September, as compared to 112 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 119 percent of median at the end of September, as compared to 134 percent of median at this time last year.





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

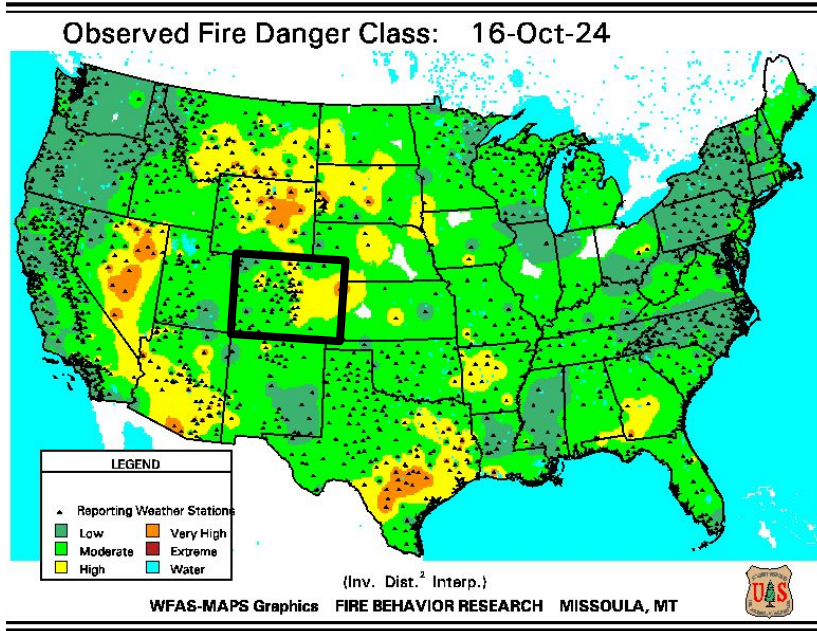


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid Oct 16th, 2024

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

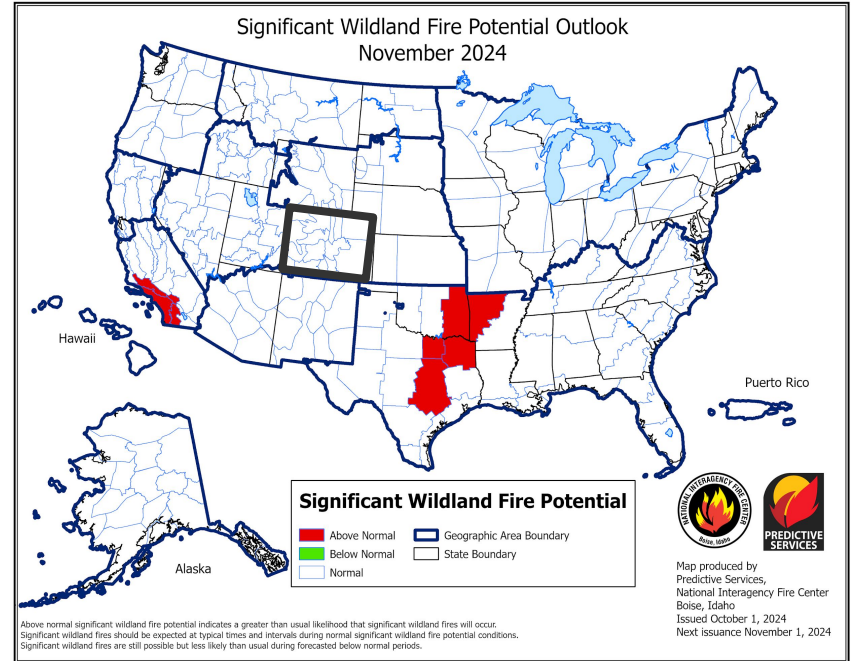


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid for November 2024





Long-Range Monthly Outlook for November

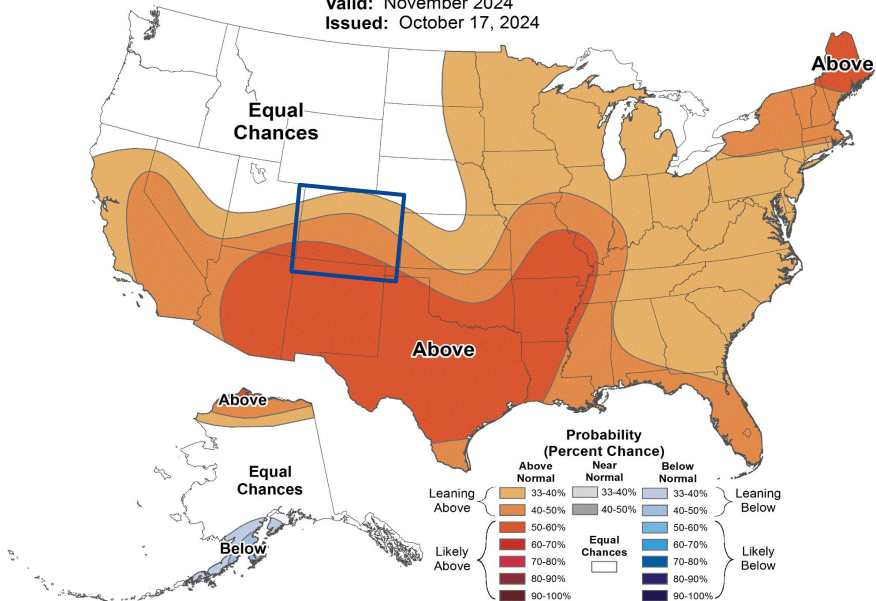
The latest monthly outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



Monthly Temperature Outlook



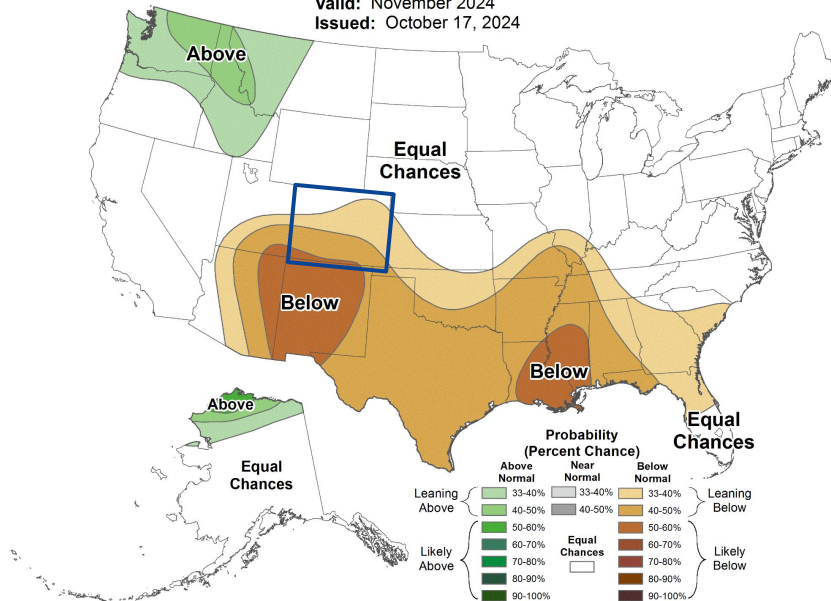
Valid: November 2024
Issued: October 17, 2024



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: November 2024
Issued: October 17, 2024



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 (Nov-Jan)

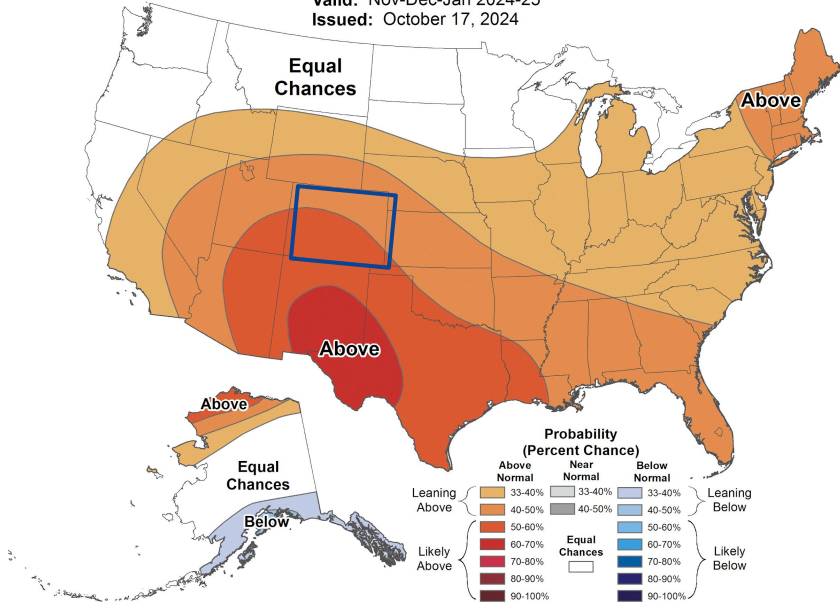
The latest seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



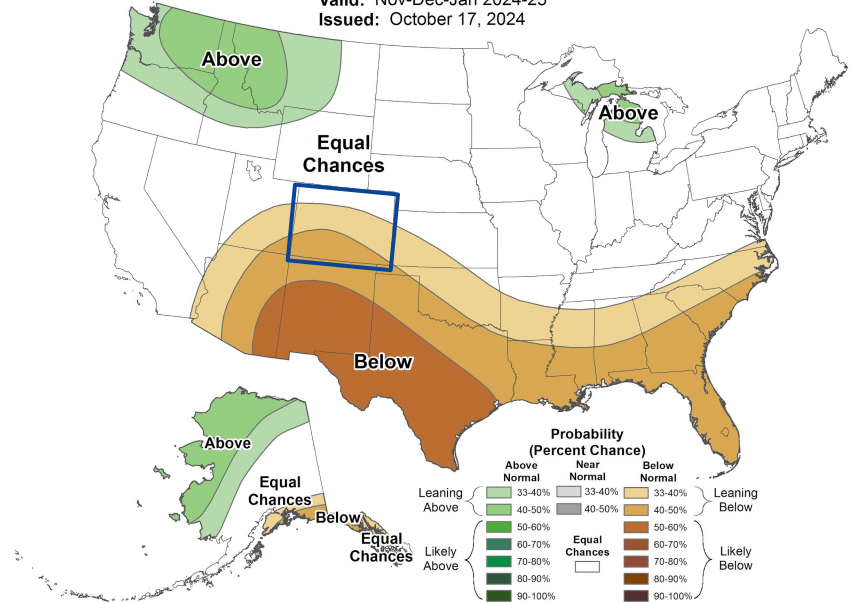
Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2024-25
Issued: October 17, 2024



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2024-25
Issued: October 17, 2024



The CPC outlook for November of 2024 through January of 2025 again leans to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado.





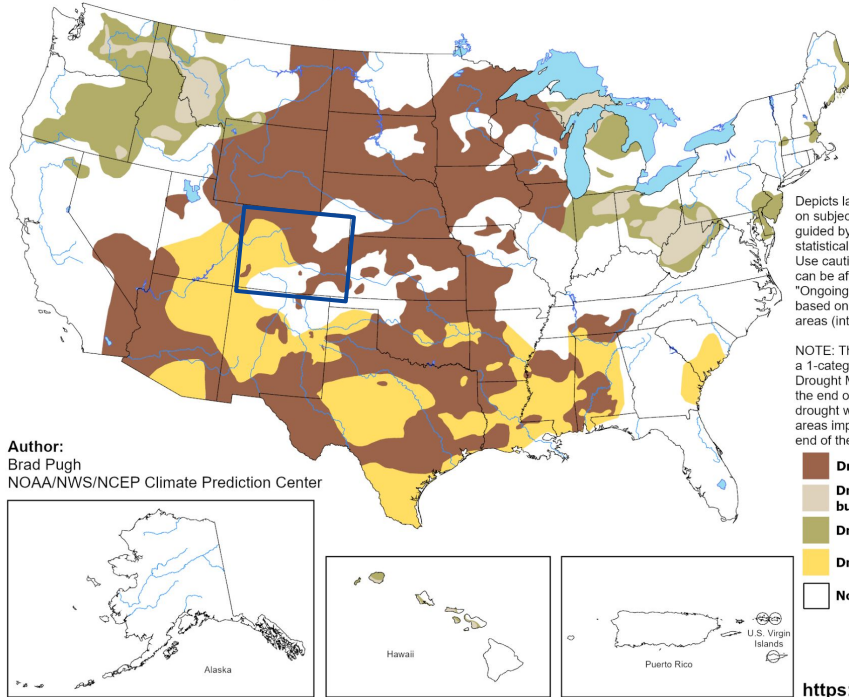
Drought Three Month Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are predicted to persist and expand across south central and southeast Colorado through the rest the Fall and into the early Winter.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 17, 2024 - January 31, 2025
Released October 17, 2024



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

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<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Valid October 17th, 2024 through January 31st, 2025

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