

A Recap of Colorado's Water Year 2018

For further inquiries, please contact:

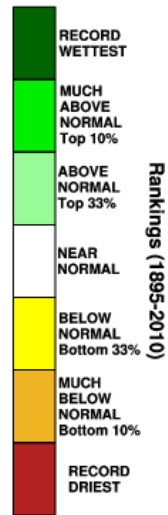
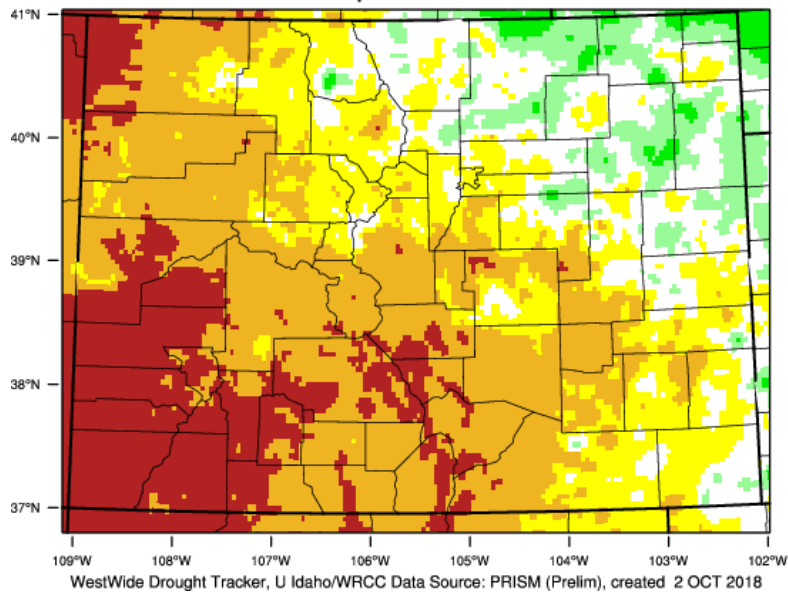
Russ Schumacher, State Climatologist – (970) 491-8084

Becky Bolinger, Assistant State Climatologist – (970) 491-8506

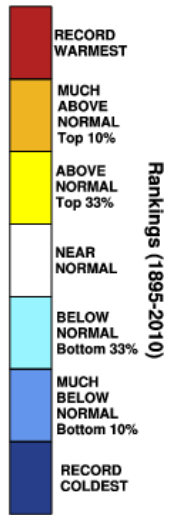
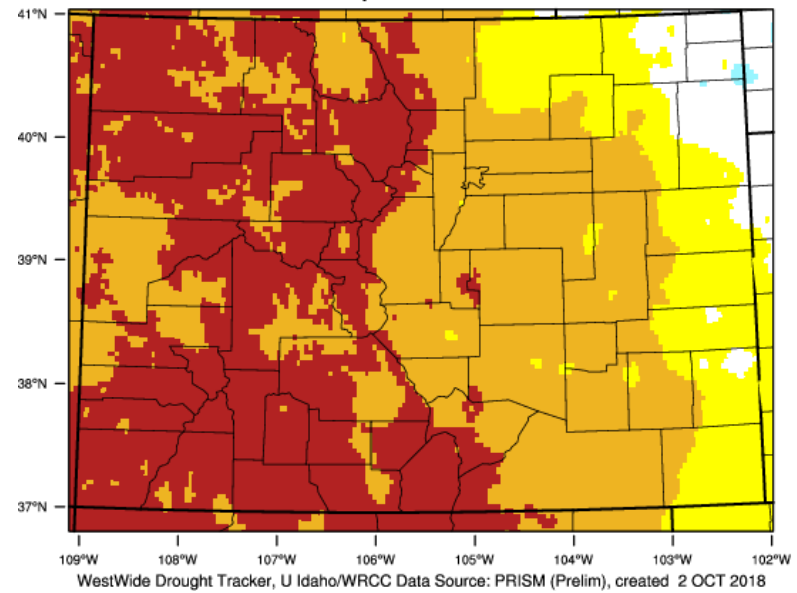
Peter Goble, Climatologist/Drought Specialist – (970) 491-8312

climate.colostate.edu

Colorado - Precipitation
October-September 2018 Percentile



Colorado - Mean Temperature
October-September 2018 Percentile



CO STATEWIDE RANKING in 124-YEAR RECORD

MONTH	T RANK	P RANK
Oct 2017	near average	37 th driest
Nov 2017	record warmest	18 th driest
Dec 2017	8 th warmest	7 th driest
Jan 2018	8 th warmest	37 th driest
Feb 2018	near average	near average
Mar 2018	25 th warmest	26 th driest
Apr 2018	near average	34 th driest
May 2018	2 nd warmest	38 th driest
Jun 2018	3 rd warmest	26 th driest
Jul 2018	10 th warmest	near average
Aug 2018	33 rd warmest	25 th driest
Sep 2018	3 rd warmest	19 th driest
Water Year	record warmest	2 nd driest

From NOAA NCEI's National Temperature and Precipitation Rank Maps:
www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national

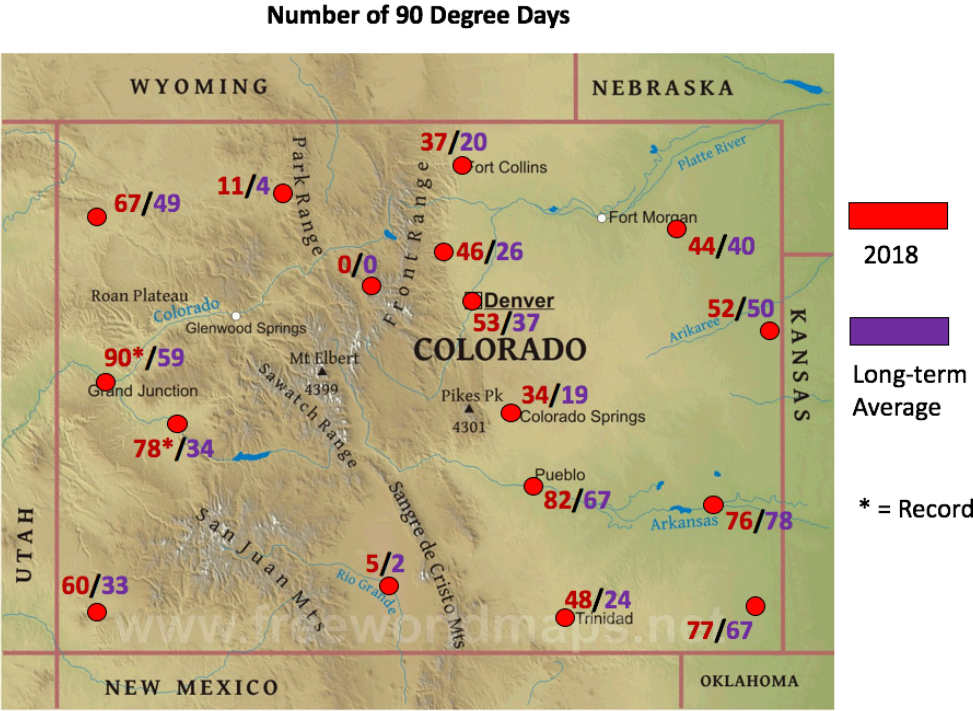
NUMBER OF DAILY AND MONTHLY STATION RECORDS BROKEN in CO

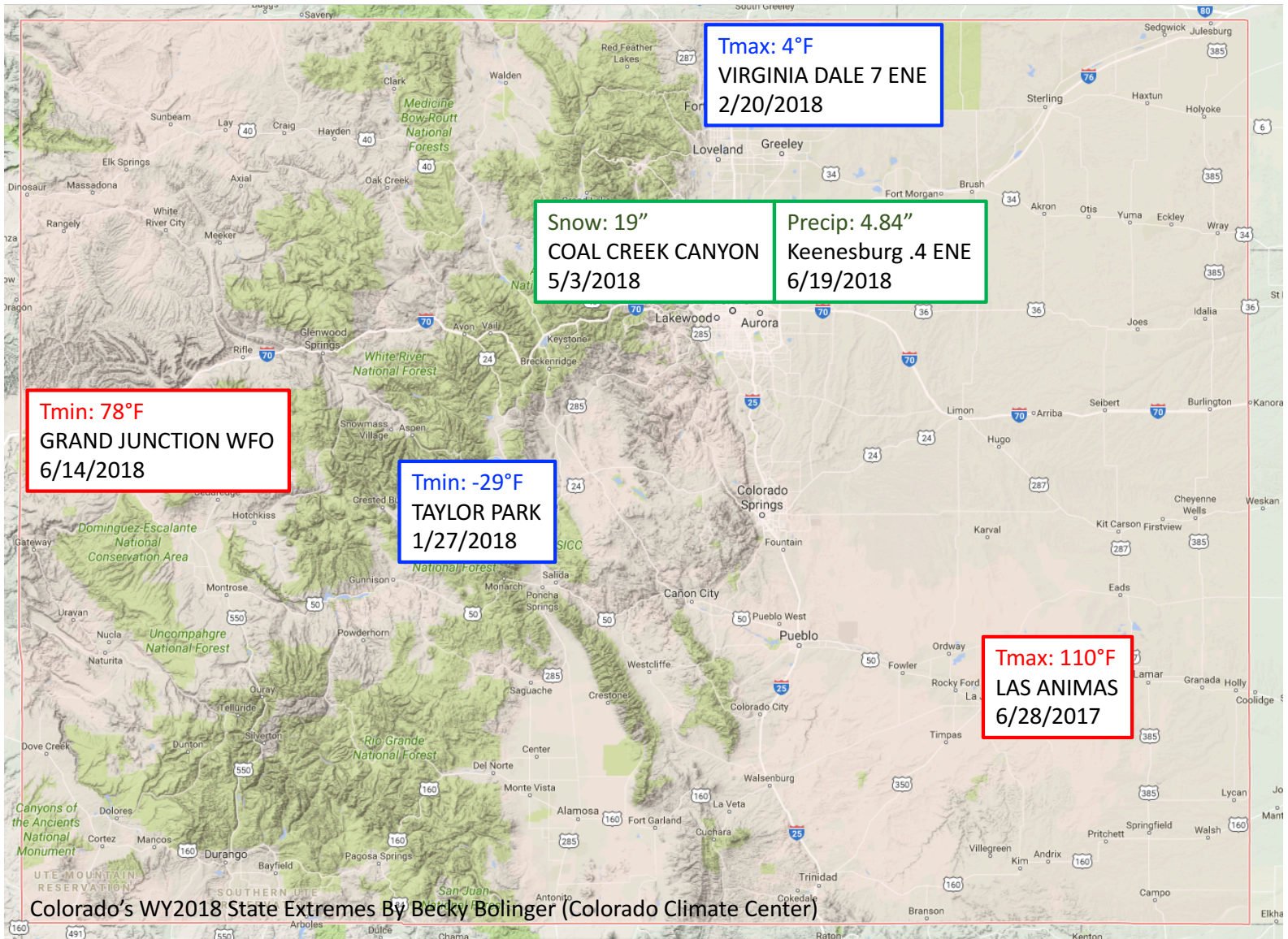
Weather Record Broken	Record broken for a day	Record broken for a month
Highest Max Temperature	1,696	22
Highest Min Temperature	2,971	100
Lowest Max Temperature	560	0
Lowest Min Temperature	292	0
Highest Precipitation	786	17
Highest Snowfall	196	2

From NOAA NCEI's Select U.S. Records: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records

	90° days	Rank	Normal	Record	Record Year
Denver	53	7th of 70	37	67	2012
Fort Collins	37	10th of 121	20	57	2012
Boulder	46	10th of 104	26	60	1952
Colorado Springs	34	T4th of 70	19	49	2012
Pueblo	82	T7th of 65	67	90	2000
Burlington	52	40th of 85	50	88	1954
Lamar	76	T66th of 114	78	129	1934
Walsh	77	9th of 51	67	95	2011
Alamosa	5	T10th of 71	2	20	2003
Cortez	60	2nd of 78	33	69	2002
Grand Junction	90	T1st of 119	59	90	2018
Montrose	78	1st of 113	34	78	2018
Steamboat Springs	11	T13th of 98	4	29	2002
Lake Dillon	0	NA	0	0	NA
Rangely	67	T5th of 58	49	71	1955
Akron	44	T30th of 79	40	73	2012
Trinidad	48	T7th of 97	24	62	2002

Data gathered by Peter Goble (Colorado Climate Center)





WY2018 Noteworthy Events By Becky Bolinger (Colorado Climate Center)



For the first time ever, a call was placed on the Yampa River on August 22, when flows at Deerlodge Park were a meager 19 cubic feet per second.

*photo courtesy Becky Bolinger

A severe hailstorm battered Colorado Springs on August 6. Baseball-sized hail fell at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, killing 5 zoo animals and injuring 14 people. This was one of many large hail events in a very active season.

*photo courtesy Emma Pinell (Facebook)

Two tornadoes were reported in Park County over the summer, taking their total number of tornadoes ever recorded in the county to 7.

*photo courtesy CBS Denver



The Spring Creek Fire and 416 Fire burned a combined 162,000 acres in southern CO. The Spring Creek Fire was human caused on June 27 and the suspect charged with 141 counts of arson. It grew to over 100,000 acres to become the state's 3rd largest wildfire on record.

*photo courtesy Tomi Price (Facebook)



On April 17, a cold front brought significant winds. Extensive damage was reported from the Front Range across the eastern plains where gusts were 70-90mph. Wind was blamed for shutting down DIA runways and starting the Badger Hole Fire in Baca County, which burned more than 30,000 acres.

*photo courtesy Jeremiah Bellile (Twitter)

Colorado
Water Year
2018

By The Numbers

16

Number of long-term SNOTEL stations that reported record low peak snowpack.

64% increase in the percent of the state in severe drought from Oct 1 – Sep 30.

46 days

Number of days in a row without any precipitation reported at Gateway, October 3 – November 17.

3 wildfires

cracked the top 10 list for largest state wildfires on record. Spring Creek, 416, and MM 117 burned more than 200,000 acres in 2018.

74°F

All-time highest minimum temperature ever recorded at Trinidad Perry Stokes Airport on June 28.

450,000 acre feet

volume lost from Blue Mesa Reservoir, almost half its maximum capacity.

Number of 2 inch or larger hail reports made, which is more than double the average of 26.

67

77.1mph

Highest wind gust in 30 years reported at La Junta on April 17.