



COLORADO

Department of
Natural Resources

June 25, 2024

Water Conditions Summary - WY 2024

Observed temperature

Temperatures during the 2024 water year (October - May) rank **7th warmest** in the 129-year record. December and February have been particularly warm, yet temperatures in May were more mild, ranking 52nd coolest on record. June so far has been well above average and has the potential to be in the top 10 warmest Junes on record.

Observed precipitation

Precipitation this water year has been slightly below average, ranking **56th driest** in the 129-year record with much drier conditions in the southwestern half of the state and in portions of the eastern plains. Though, the central mountains have had a slightly wetter than average water year. May 2024 was slightly drier than normal, ranking as the 52nd driest May on record. The Front Range and southwest corner of the state were much drier than normal this past month, and the Rio Grande basin was much wetter than normal. Currently, statewide precipitation is at 100 percent of the median, ranging from 109 percent of the median in the Arkansas basin to 90 percent of the median in the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan (SMDASJ) basin.

Drought conditions

The US Drought Monitor indicates worsening drought conditions. Conditions in the Front Range and the southeast quadrant of the state have degraded two classes over the past three months. Elsewhere in the state, drought conditions have improved. In the Rio Grande basin, drought conditions have improved two classes over the past three months. With warmer temperatures, drought is projected to continue to develop across the western slope, Front Range, and southeastern corner of the state over the course of the summer.

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

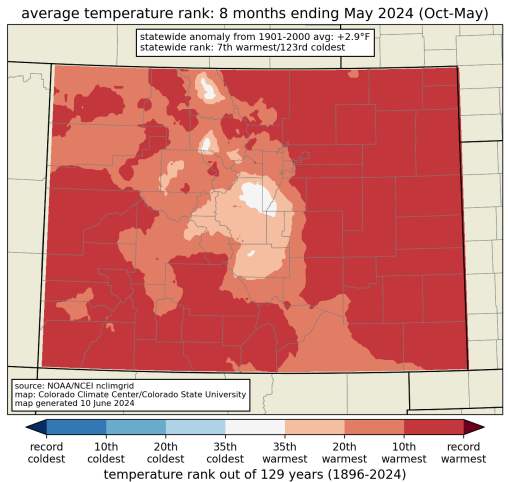
Snowpack has officially melted out at all SNOTEL stations. Snow melt rates were high early this year, but spring storms helped maintain snowpack and melt out rates ended up being close to normal. The Upper Rio Grande basin had the lowest snowpack in the state, while the Arkansas basin finished with the highest peak snowpack in the state. The South Platte basin maintained the most consistent snowpack throughout the water year. Average reservoir storage statewide is 94 percent of median as of June 1.

Streamflows & Soil Moisture

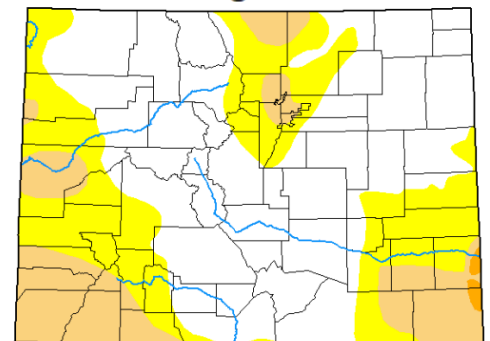
The streamflow forecast as of June 1 provided a mixed picture of streamflow projections with above average flows in the Arkansas, Gunnison, and Yampa-White-Green basins and below average flows in the Upper Rio Grande and SMDASJ basins. Streamflows are now in recession after a near normal runoff to this point. Streamflow forecasts for the rest of the summer suggest near normal flows in the northern two thirds of the state, particularly in the headwaters, but suggest below normal flows in the southern third of the state. Soil moisture is below normal in many pockets of the state; soils are especially dry in the northern Front Range area, specifically in Weld County. Wetter than normal soils can be found in the central mountains and in the Upper Rio Grande basin.

Seasonal outlook

There is strong confidence that the rest of summer is projected to be warmer and drier than average. Almost all of NOAA's ENSO models indicate neutral conditions for the summer months. La Niña becomes most probable in mid fall. In Colorado, fall La Niña conditions typically indicate increased risk of warmer and drier conditions. This combined with projected drier than normal conditions for the rest of summer could mean drought development statewide for the rest of the year.



U.S. Drought Monitor



The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on July 23, 2024.

Co-Chairs: Emily Adrid, CWCB and Sarah Brucker, DWR

Additional info at <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/Water-Conditions-Monitoring-Committee>

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