



# COLORADO

## Department of Natural Resources

# February 25, 2025 Water Conditions Summary - WY 2025

## Observed temperature

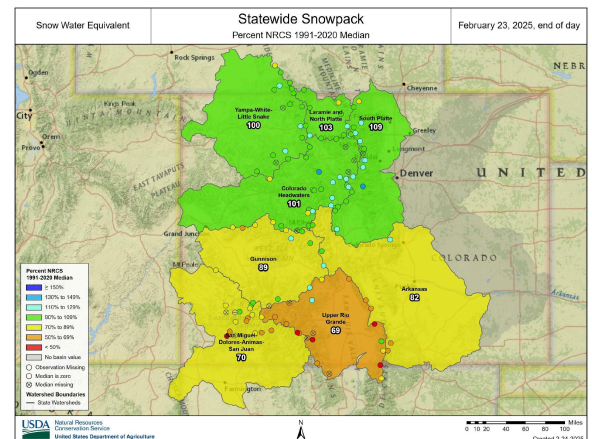
- Temperatures so far in Water Year 2025 (October 2024 - January 2025) have been slightly above normal, ranking **53rd warmest** in the 130-year record.
- A strong cold front **January 2025 resulted in the state's 24th coldest January on the 130 year record.**
- Average temperatures in February 2025 were clearly split along the Continental Divide. The West Slope experienced temperatures well above normal. Large parts of the San Luis Valley experienced temperatures at least 8°F above normal in the month of February. Temperatures on the East Slope were near or below normal, with large areas of the eastern plains experiencing temperatures at least 6°F below normal.

## Observed precipitation

- Precipitation accumulation so far in Water Year 2025 (October 2024 - January 2025), ranks **42nd wettest** in the 130 year record, which is wetter than normal thanks to late fall snowstorms in November 2024 that brought near record breaking snow to much of the Eastern Plains.
- However, January 2025 was dry, ranking **37th driest January** on the 130-year record with **large areas of Mesa and Montrose counties experiencing their driest January** on the 130 year record.
- So far, February 2025 has been wetter than normal in northern Colorado, especially in the high elevation central mountain regions. Conditions have been much drier than normal in southern Colorado.

## Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

- The statewide average snowpack (or snow water equivalent) is 102% of normal. A snow system in mid-February boosted the snowpack numbers across the state.
- Snow accumulation has been stronger in the northern basins, especially in the South Platte basin (109%), and weaker in the southern basins, especially in the Upper Rio Grande basin (69%).
- Average statewide reservoir storage is currently at 90% of the median.

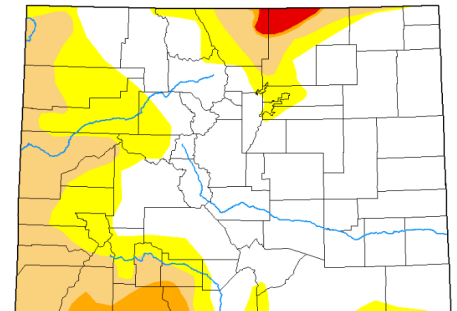


## Streamflows & Soil Moisture

- Statewide streamflow forecasts have declined from January to February, with the 50% exceedance probability dropping from 98% to 89%. The Arkansas basin is forecasted at 103% of the median and the SMDASJ basin is forecasted at 74% of the median.

## Drought conditions

- Since the last WCMC meeting in January 2025, drought conditions have improved along the Front Range and worsened throughout the southwestern area of the state. The D3 conditions in Weld and Larimer counties have receded slightly. However, D2 conditions have emerged in Conejos, Rio Grande, La Plata, and Archuleta counties due to high temperatures and weak snowpack accumulation.



## Seasonal outlook

The La Niña conditions have finally arrived. La Niña tends to favor more snow in the northern mountains and less in the southern mountains overall, which is proving to be true this winter. NOAA's spring seasonal outlook for temperature and precipitation indicate strong confidence that spring will be drier than normal, especially in southwestern Colorado. However, take these outlooks with a grain of salt because it is difficult to predict conditions that far out in advance.

## The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on March 25, 2025.

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

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

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