

August 26, 2025 Water Conditions Summary - WY 2025

Observed temperature

- Temperatures in the first nine months of Water Year 2025 (Oct 2024 July 2025) have been well above normal, ranking **10th warmest** in the 130 year record.
- **July 2025** was warm statewide, ranking as the **24th warmest July** on the 130-year record. However, most of western Colorado experienced a top ten warmest July.
- So far, temperatures in **August 2025** have been warmer than average across most of the state, especially in southwestern Colorado. Temperatures have been slightly cooler than average in pockets of the Eastern Plains.

Observed precipitation

- WY 25 has been much drier than normal throughout western Colorado.
 Water year to date precipitation is 81% of the median statewide, ranging from 75% in the Southwest basin to 91% in the Arkansas basin.
- The eight months from December to July have been the 11th driest December to July period on the 130 year record (see image).
- July 2025 was the 29th driest July on the 130 year record statewide. It
 was also a top-10 dry July for some of Colorado, including parts of the
 West Slope, Four Corners, and the northern Front Range.
- So far, August 2025 precipitation accumulation has been well below normal across the West Slope, and recent precipitation has mostly benefitted the Northeast Plains and Colorado Springs areas.

8 months ending July 2025 (Dec-Jul) statewide departure from 1901-2020 aye; 2-8 inches statewide engarture from 1901-2020 aye; 2-5 inches statewide rank: 11th driest/120th wettest statewide rank: 11th driest/120th wettest mage Colorado Climate Centen/Colorado State University imap generated 69 August 2025 record 10th 20th 35th 35th 20th 10th record driest driest driest driest driest wettest wettest wettest wettest wettest precipitation rank out of 130 years (1896-2025)

precipitation rank

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

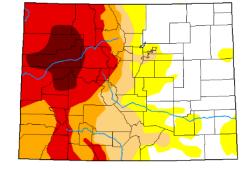
- Snowpack has melted out at all SNOTEL sites.
- Statewide reservoir storage is at 83% of median, a 10% decrease from this time last year.

Streamflows & Soil Moisture

- Statewide observed streamflows have been well below normal, averaging 48% of the median. The Yampa, Gunnison, Southwest, and Upper Rio Grande basin observed streamflows are below 50% of the median.
- Soil moisture readings at both 8" and 20" depths show decreased saturation in response to dry precipitation patterns.

Drought conditions

- Drought conditions have rapidly degraded across western Colorado since the beginning of summer. Approximately 7% of the state is in exceptional (or D4) drought, the most intense drought classification on the US Drought Monitor. Additionally, most of the West Slope is experiencing extreme drought (D3). About 70% of the state is experiencing some level of drought.
- The WCMC Agency Partners are closely monitoring the progression of drought conditions across the West Slope.



D0 Abnormally Dry

D3 Extreme Drought

D4 Exceptional Drough

Seasonal outlook

- Recent and upcoming precipitation will help in the short-term, but the outlook for fall is not as promising as La Niña conditions are expected to develop. La Niña falls are typically associated with less than normal precipitation in Colorado
- NOAA's seasonal outlook (Sept-Oct-Nov) indicates with confidence that fall will be warmer and drier than normal across the state.

The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on September 23, 2025.

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

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