



COLORADO

Department of Natural Resources

November 18, 2025 Water Conditions Summary - WY 2025

Observed temperature

- Temperatures in Water Year 2025 (Oct 2024 - September 2025) were well above normal, ranking **10th warmest** water year in the 130 year record. Some areas of northwestern Colorado experienced record average temperatures this water year.
- **October 2025** was very warm statewide, ranking as the **10th warmest October** on the 130-year record. It was a top-10 warm October across most of the Lower Arkansas Valley.
- So far, temperatures in **November 2025** have been much warmer than average across the entire state. Some areas of the state have experienced temperatures up to 8°F above normal in the first two weeks of November.

Observed precipitation

- Precipitation from the start of WY26 is **92%** of the median statewide. This number is skewed by the large precipitation events in southwestern Colorado in October. Without the mid-October storm, precipitation accumulation would be closer to 40% of the median.
- **October 2025** was the 46th wettest October on the 130 year record statewide. Although this rank leans toward wetter than normal, the East Slope was much drier than normal. Southwestern Colorado experienced a much wetter than normal October due to near record-breaking precipitation events that lead to major flooding.
- So far, **November 2025** precipitation accumulation has been much below normal. Most of the Eastern Plains has received little to no precipitation so far this month.

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

- Snowpack accumulation so far this year has been extremely slow.
- As of November 17, 2025, statewide snowpack accumulation is 25% of the median, ranging from Arkansas basin at 20% of the median (lowest) to the Southwest basin at 30% of the median (highest).
- Statewide reservoir storage is at 84% of median.

Streamflows & Soil Moisture

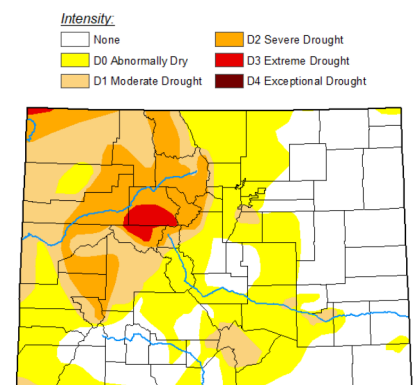
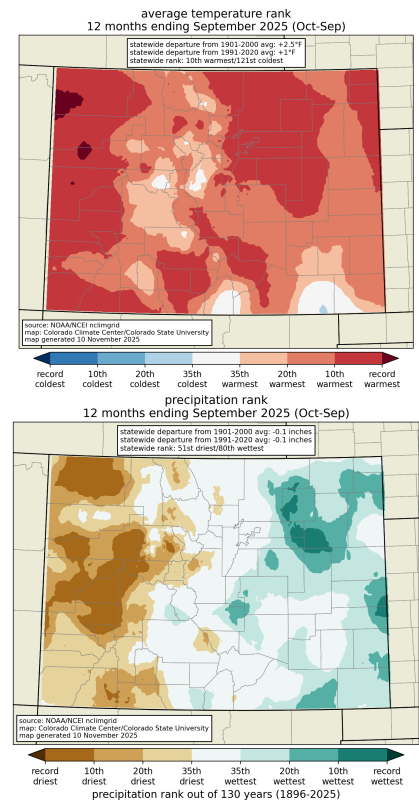
- Observed streamflows have been well below normal in the upper Colorado River basin and near normal in southwestern Colorado after the October storm.
- Soil moisture is near to below normal in most areas due to below normal precipitation in late summer and early fall.

Drought conditions

- Drought conditions have improved greatly since late summer, especially in southwestern Colorado after the October storm. Drought conditions have worsened slightly along the I-25 corridor. Overall, 30% of the state is experiencing D1 conditions (moderate drought) and 13% of the state is experiencing D2 (severe drought) to D3 (extreme drought).

Seasonal outlook

- The rest of November through early December are expected to bring needed precipitation to most parts of the state.
- Weak La Niña conditions currently persist and are likely to stick around through winter. La Niñas typically favor a snowy and cooler than normal winter in the northern Rocky Mountains. It is too early to tell what spring conditions will bring.



The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on January 22, 2025.

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

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

Special thanks to Peter Goble, Colorado Climate Center and Brian Dornkos, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services