



COLORADO

Department of Natural Resources

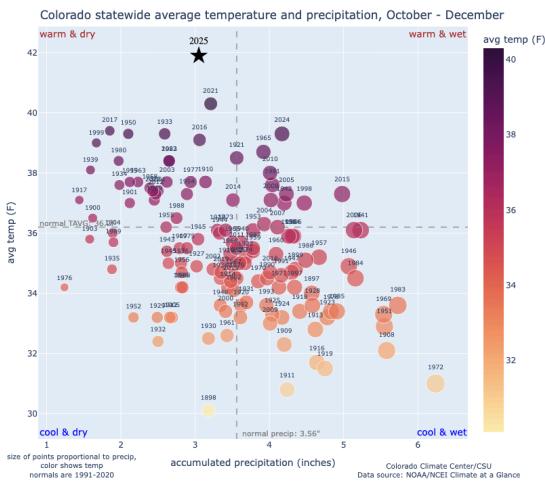
January 22, 2025
Water Conditions
Summary - WY 2025

Observed temperature

- **Temperatures in Water Year 2026 (Oct 2025 - December 2026) have been the warmest start to the water year on the 131-year record.**
- **December 2025 was the warmest December on the 131-year record.**
- So far, temperatures in **January 2026** have been much warmer than average across the West Slope and have been near average on the East Slope.

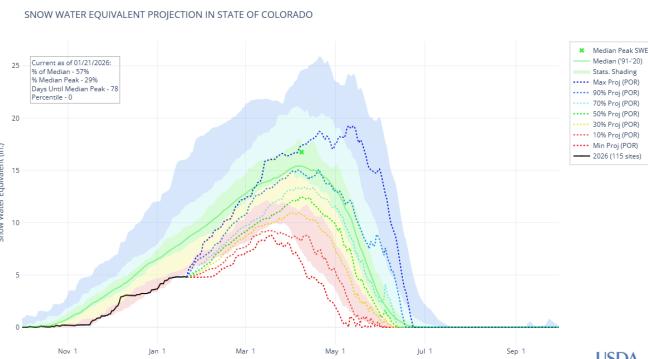
Observed precipitation

- Precipitation accumulation this WY is **83%** of the median statewide. Without the October rainstorms, statewide precipitation would be much lower.
- **December 2025** was the **34th driest December** on the 131 year record statewide. There was notable dryness across the West Slope, Southwest CO and Northwest CO.
- So far, **January 2026** precipitation accumulation has been much below normal, with the Rio Grande basin receiving only **51%** of the median precipitation so far in January.



Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

- **Statewide snowpack accumulation is the lowest on record (since 1980), at 57% of the median.**
- Winter is halfway over, and Colorado needs 145% of normal snow accumulation to get back to normal. It is unlikely for this to occur.
- Statewide reservoir storage is at 85% of median. This is a silver lining heading into spring and summer.

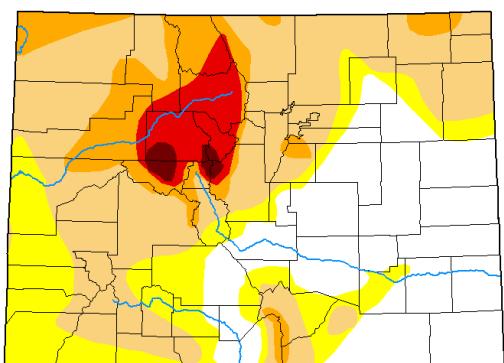
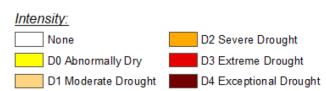


Streamflows & Soil Moisture

- Streamflow forecasts are released monthly. The January forecast projects streamflows to be well below normal this year, ranging from 81% of median in the South Platte to 68% of the median in the Colorado Headwaters. These estimates will likely drop in the coming months due to the lack of snowpack we've received this winter.
- Southwest CO seems to be holding on to moisture from the wet fall, but there's evidence of some drying at shallow depths.

Drought conditions

- Exceptional drought returned to Colorado in December. It includes portions of Eagle, Pitkin, Park, Lake, and Summit Counties.
- Approximately 16% of the state is currently in severe drought or worse.



Seasonal outlook

- The warm and dry trend is expected to continue into late winter/early spring, especially for the West Slope.
- La Niña is still in place, though a shift to ENSO neutral is expected in the late winter to early spring. There is little known connection between ENSO neutral and CO precipitation, making difficult seasonal snowfall forecasts even more challenging.

The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on February 26, 2026.

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

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

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