



COLORADO

Department of
Natural Resources

April 2022

Water Availability Task Force Summary

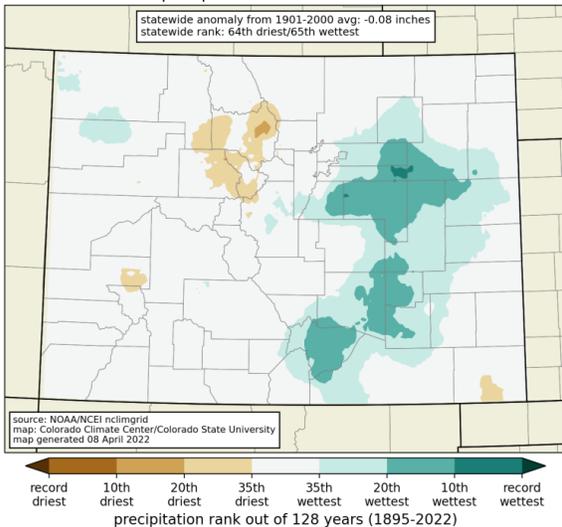
Observed temperature

Temperatures in March were average against the 128 year record (although slightly cooler than average for the past 30 year normal). For the water year to date (Oct-Mar), temperatures have been slightly above normal, largely due to a warm Nov/Dec 2021.

Observed wind, evaporative demand, and soil moisture

March and April have been windy, which increases evaporation rates. The 1-week [Evaporative Demand Drought Index \(EDDI\)](#), driven in part by wind, shows considerable drought over the far northeastern part of Colorado. Several basins still have a deficit in soil moisture.

precipitation rank: March 2022



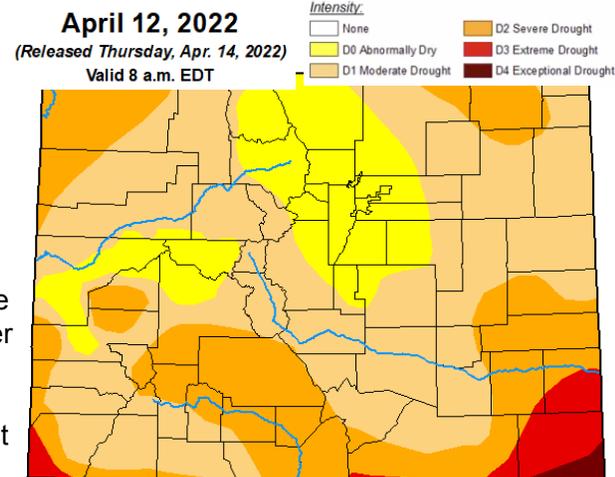
Observed precipitation

March precipitation was largely average with wetter areas on the eastern plains and a slightly drier area in the northern mountains. April precipitation has favored central and northern parts of the state. Precipitation for the water year (Oct-Mar) is slightly below average for eastern and southern Colorado; slightly above average for the northwestern quarter of the state. All of Colorado is still in a drought, according to the latest [drought monitor](#).

Seasonal outlook

Weather models forecast little precipitation for the remainder of April. This is a critical

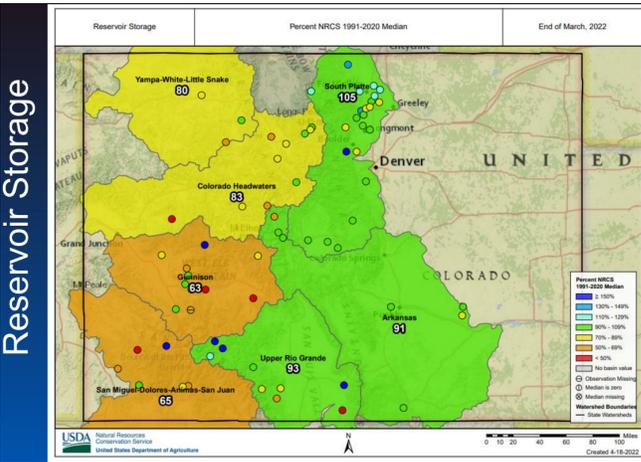
period of moisture for the eastern plains so the next six weeks will be critical. We are also not likely done with the wind. La Nina is likely to continue at least until the fall which reduces our chances of drought recovery.



Our summer temperatures will likely be above the 20th century average, in line with climate warming, and we will likely see below normal precipitation. Wildfire threat is above normal for most of the state.

Water Supply Forecasting

Snowpack peaked earlier than average overall, but snowmelt has been slowed because of cold spells. South Platte has above average reservoir storage; all other basins in the state are below average, with the Gunnison, San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basins experiencing some of the lowest storage on record. Streamflow forecasts for much of the state are expected to be below normal for the spring and summer.



Next Water Availability Task Force Meeting: May 19, 2022 9:30am

Co-Chairs: Megan O'Grady, CWCB & Tracy Kosloff, DWR

Additional info at cwcb.colorado.gov/water-availability-flood-task-forces

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