



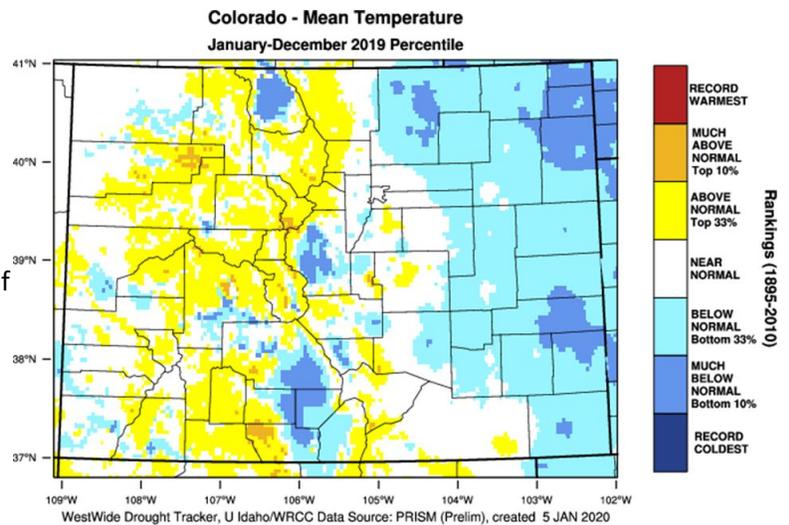
**Water Availability Task Force Co-Chairs**

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2019 Calendar Year in Review: 2019 followed one of Colorado’s warmest, driest years on record with a severe drought in southwest Colorado. This drought (of 2018) was followed by a cold, wet 2019 spring and 150% of normal snowpack that helped clear the state of drought by June 2019. The 2019 monsoon season, however, was nearly absent and September 2019 was the hottest September on record. The dry 2019 October set much of the state below normal for the 2020 Water Year. These early deficits can still be made up, particularly with snowpack running slightly above normal to date. This, however, does not guarantee an above average runoff given our dry soils.

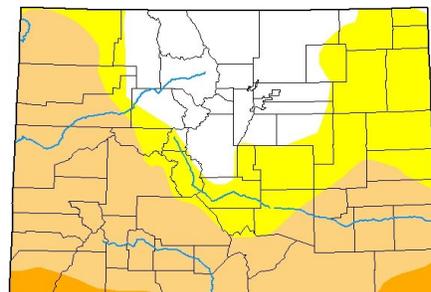
- The 90-day Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) from October 22 - January 19 shows geographically distributed average and slightly below average precipitation statewide.
- According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, released January 30, D0 (abnormally dry), D1 (moderate drought), collectively cover 75% of Colorado. Only 3% of the state is under D2 (severe) drought and 22% of the state remains drought free.
- The long term ENSO forecasts are trending toward neutral conditions remaining for spring and summer 2020, while losing El Niño conditions. This could mean reduced odds of SW Colorado spring moisture.
- NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center shows warmer than average temperature outlooks February through April for the SW half of the state, and normal precipitation outlooks for the entirety of the state.
- Reservoir storage remains near to above normal (86 to 124% of average) in all major basins and is 109% of average statewide. This time last year reservoirs were 81% of average statewide.
- Water providers and water users did not report any unusual impacts or concerns at this time.



**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Colorado**

**January 28, 2020**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

|   | Drought Conditions (Percent Area) |       |       |       |       |      |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
|   | None                              | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4   |
| Current                                 | 22.39                             | 77.61 | 51.19 | 3.30  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Last Week<br>01-21-2020                 | 22.39                             | 77.61 | 51.19 | 13.84 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago<br>10-29-2019              | 18.73                             | 81.27 | 58.24 | 27.41 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of<br>Calendar Year<br>12-31-2019 | 31.72                             | 68.28 | 51.19 | 20.11 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of<br>Water Year<br>10-01-2019    | 30.14                             | 69.86 | 27.53 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago<br>01-28-2019              | 15.91                             | 84.09 | 66.35 | 41.02 | 22.04 | 2.79 |



**Intensity:**  
None (white), D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow), D1 Moderate Drought (orange), D2 Severe Drought (dark orange), D3 Extreme Drought (red), D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**NOTE: The next Water Availability Task Force Meeting will be held on February 18, 2020 9:30a - 11:00a at Colorado Parks and Wildlife; additional information can be found at [www.cwcb.state.co.us](http://www.cwcb.state.co.us) or by contacting Ben Wade at [ben.wade@state.co.us](mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us)**