



COLORADO

Department of
Natural Resources

June 2020 Drought Update

On June 22, 2020, Governor Polis activated the State Drought Mitigation and Response Plan and the supporting Drought- and Agricultural Impact Task Forces to respond to deepening drought conditions across the state. The recommendations to activate the State Drought Plan were reviewed by over 50 state experts, department directors, and external advisors that represent a range of Colorado economies, water users, and state regions. As of Thursday, July 2nd, dry conditions cover 84.3% of the state. To stay informed on the evolving 2020 drought season and response resources, please visit the Colorado Water Conservation Board [drought website](#) and submit questions or comments on Twitter at [@CO_H2O](#).

The latest [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), released July 2, presents abnormally dry conditions in all but 15.7% of the northernmost Colorado border. D4 (exceptional) drought conditions emerged for the first time on July 2 in Baca and Prowers counties (1.37% coverage) since Feb. 2019. D3 (extreme) conditions cover 33% of the state; D2 (severe drought) covers 22%; D1 (moderate drought) covers 12%; and D0 (abnormally dry) covers 15% of the state.

The 90-day [Standardized Precipitation Index](#) (SPI) (from March 23 to June 20) shows slightly below average moisture for nearly all of Colorado with deeper shortfalls along the eastern border. Above normal temperatures are likely to continue for the eastern half of state for next 2 weeks

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently neutral with a 50/50 chance of La Niña or neutral conditions for the rest of summer and into the fall. Monsoonal patterns may emerge for Arizona and New Mexico in early July. Recall that during La Niña conditions, the eastern plains are more likely to see above average summer and winter temperatures. During El Niño, the entire state is more likely to experience below average temperatures.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center [three month outlook](#) maps continue to show very high confidence for above average temperatures July through Sept. and a slight chance for below average precipitation for most of the state.

[Reservoir storage](#), while 100% of average across the state, ranges from 62% of average in the Rio Grande to 115% of average in the Colorado and Yampa/White basins.

Several municipal water providers are reporting demands around 8% above normal and elevated but not extreme concerns around the lack of spring precipitation.

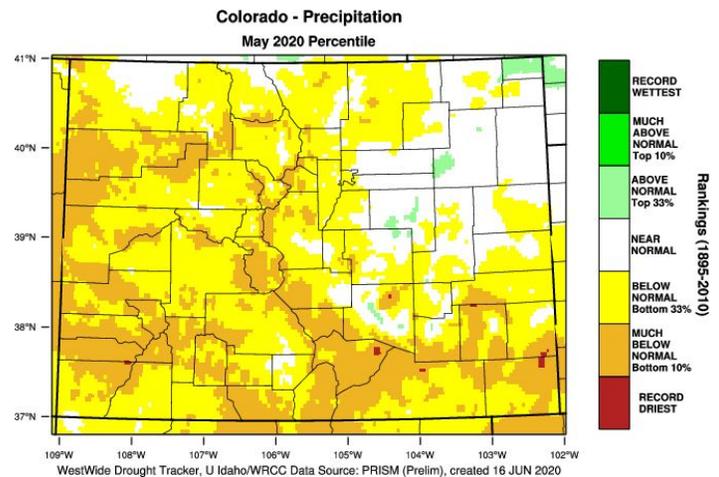
Next Water Availability Task Force Meeting:

JULY 23, 2020 9:30a - 11:30a - Webinar

Co-Chairs: Megan Holcomb, CWCB & Tracy Kosloff, DWR

Questions? Contact ben.wade@state.co.us

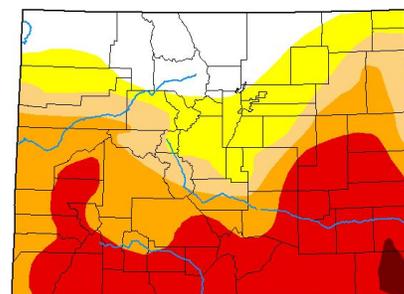
Additional info at cwc.colorado.gov/drought



U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

June 30, 2020
(Released Thursday, Jul. 2, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

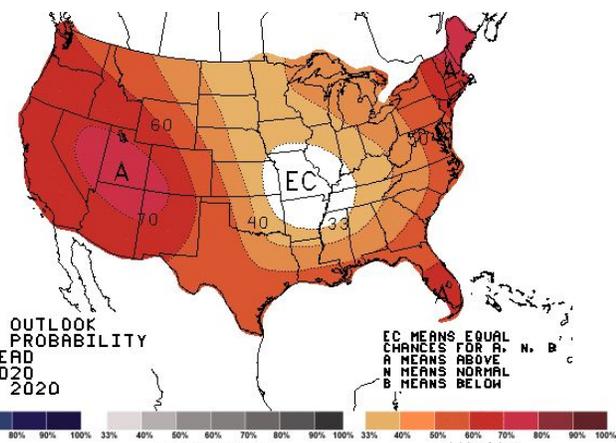
	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.67	84.33	67.96	56.23	34.07	1.37
Last Week 06-23-2020	17.21	82.79	67.96	56.23	32.96	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-31-2020	32.23	67.77	47.33	3.25	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2019	31.72	68.28	51.19	20.11	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	30.14	69.86	27.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 07-02-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



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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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID JAS 2020
MADE 18 JUN 2020

