JULY 2009 DROUGHT UPDATE

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Executive Summary

El Niño conditions have returned to Colorado during the summer months, providing increased precipitation for Colorado. Following a wet June statewide, July precipitation has been centered over the Front Range and Eastern Plains with less moisture falling in the western part of the state. Drought conditions in parts of southeastern Colorado have eased. Throughout May Colorado experienced above average temperatures while June temperatures dropped below average and July temperatures have returned to near normal. The monsoon has also receded in recent weeks, but is forecast to return later in the summer.

- June was one of the wettest on record for the Front Range with Fort Collins reporting the 6th wettest June on record and Denver falling short of record breaking June rainfall by only 1/10th of an inch.
- June brought above-average moisture (in some cases, near-record wetness) to our state, while temperatures remained cool. This helped slow down the remaining snowmelt which had been proceeding faster than normal in the previous month.
- Overall statewide, reservoir storage above average. Individually, nearly all basins are above average for storage, with the exception of the Arkansas which is roughly average at 99%. The Yampa/ White, Colorado, South Platte, Gunnison and San Juan/ Dolores are all near reservoir storage capacity.
- Reservoir levels is some areas are so strong that if normal conditions persist, models show Lake Granby spilling next year.
- Wet conditions have lead to low customer demand in many communities this summer.
- Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI*) values for July for the seven basins range from -1.2 to +3.4. The South Platte had the highest value at +3.4. From May to October, streamflow is given the most weight in determining SWSI values except in the South Platte where reservoir storage is given the most weight in determining their SWSI value. The San Juan/ Dolores basins recorded the lowest value, of -1.2, which is a result of rapid runoff in May.
- Agricultural conditions are the best that we have seen in a decade. Irrigated crops are set up for excellent rest of the season, with record crop yield projected.

* *SWSI values are based on streamflow, reservoir storage and precipitation for the summer period (May-October). The values range from a high of +4.0, which indicates an abundant supply to a low of -4.0, which indicates severe drought. A value of 0.0 indicates a near normal supply.*

Long Term Forecast Summary

It is now clear to Forecasters that there has been a switch to El Niño conditions from La Niña conditions seen earlier this winter and spring. El Niño conditions provide increased precipitation for Colorado. La Niña conditions during the winter months with a switch to El Niño in the summer months results in a best case scenario for Colorado as far as precipitation. This is exactly what we have seen this year. According to forecasters Rainfall chances for 4-6, 6-10, and 8-14 days from July 16 show near-normal or slightly above-normal odds in most of Colorado.

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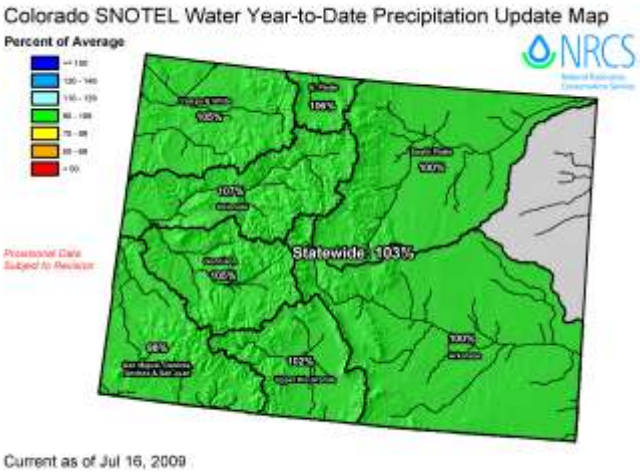
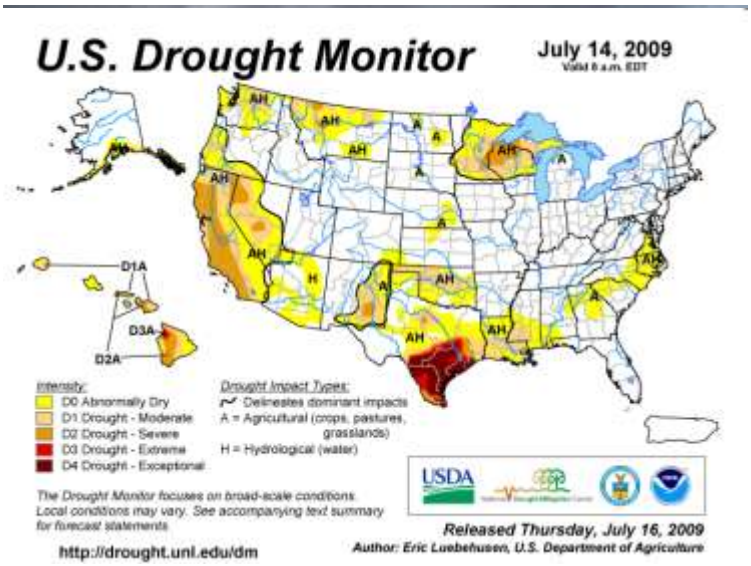
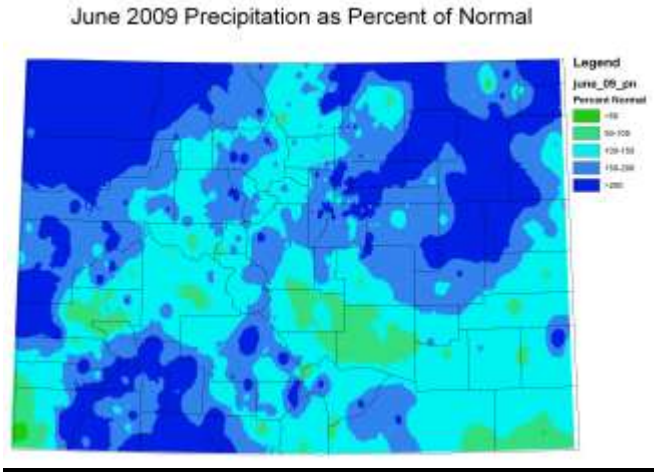


The Colorado water year to date precipitation map as of July 16 shows cumulative precipitation from October through present. Statewide precipitation since October is 103% of average. The San Miguel/ Dolores/Animas/ San Juan basins are the only division with slightly less than 100% of precipitation for the water year. All other basins are at or above 100% for the water year.

The adjacent map shows the U.S. Drought Monitor as of July 16, 2009. Drought conditions in southeastern parts of Colorado have remained at D0, Abnormally Dry conditions; however, the area classified as D0 has decreased and is isolated to mainly Baca County.





The June 2009 Precipitation as a Percentage of Normal map shows the amount of moisture recorded statewide during the month of June. The majority of the state has received above average precipitation. The southeastern part of the state remains the driest. These totals are taken from CoCoRaHS gauges throughout the state. CoCoRaHS is a Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, Snow network made up of volunteers who measure daily precipitation levels around the state.

NOTE: The maps and graphics depicted in this report were those presented at the July 16, 2009 meeting and may have been updated since the meeting.