



# August 2017 Drought Update

## Water Availability Task Force Co- Chairs

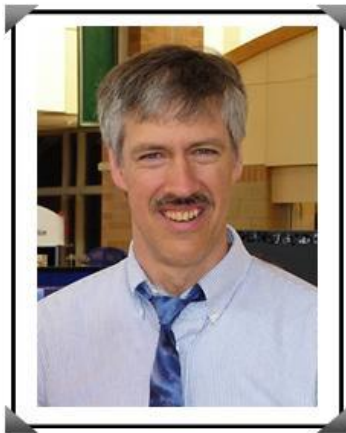
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July was characterized by warm and wet conditions. The first half of August has been cool, particularly east of the Continental Divide with near normal precipitation. Reservoir storage remains high, and municipal water providers have no immediate concerns with levels of supply and demand in their systems.

- Reservoir storage statewide remains high at 116% of average.
- After receiving 130% percent of statewide average precipitation in July at SNOTEL stations, August precipitation through August 16 was 110% of average in the mountain areas. Much of eastern Colorado was exceptionally wet in early August.
- Reference evapotranspiration (ET), an indicator of how much water that can be consumed by crops, has been below normal for the first half of August.

The August 15 drought monitor shows that 14.8 percent of Colorado is classified as abnormally dry (D0), with no other drought classifications in the state.

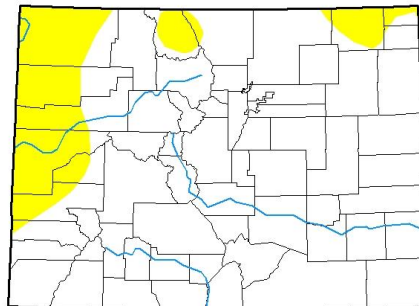


Colorado water and climate professionals are bidding a sad farewell to our longtime State Climatologist, Nolan Doesken. Nolan is retiring after 40 years of service to Colorado. In his presentation to the August Water Availability Task Force meeting, Nolan provided some long-term graphs relevant to Colorado climate and water supply.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

August 15, 2017  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	85.18	14.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-08-2017	82.69	17.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-16-2017	81.26	18.74	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	31.88	68.12	37.21	2.88	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	70.49	29.51	2.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-16-2016	71.05	28.95	1.47	0.00	0.00	0.00



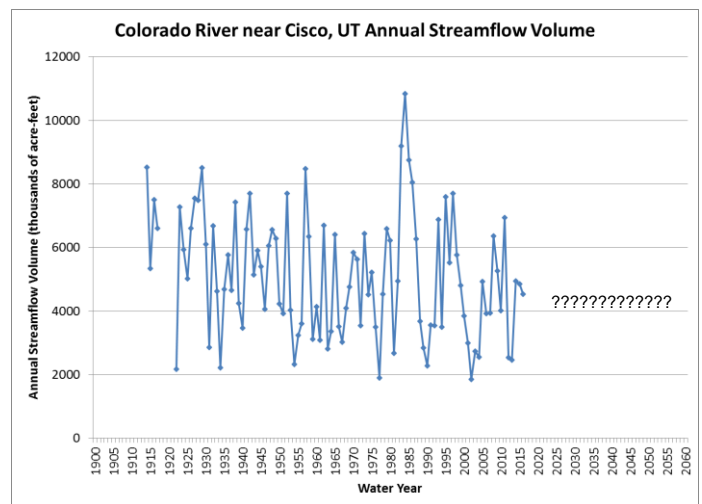
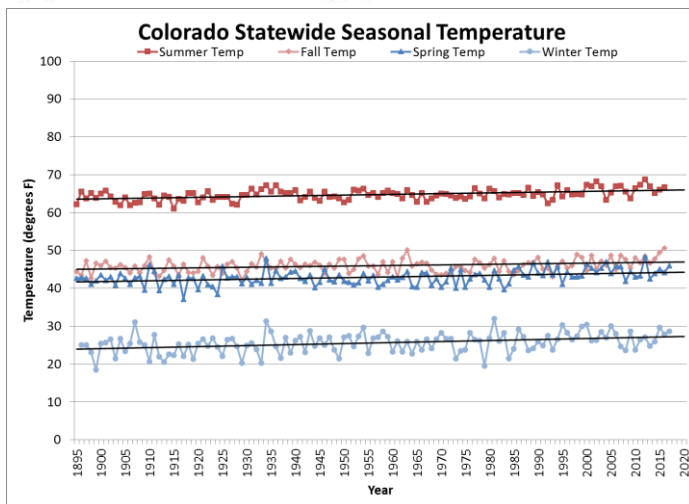
**Intensity**  
 D0 Abnormally Dry     D3 Extreme Drought  
 D1 Moderate Drought     D4 Exceptional Drought  
 D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:  
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NCEI/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



**NOTE:** The next Water Availability Task Force Meeting will be held on September 14 at Colorado Parks and Wildlife Broadway Office; 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)