



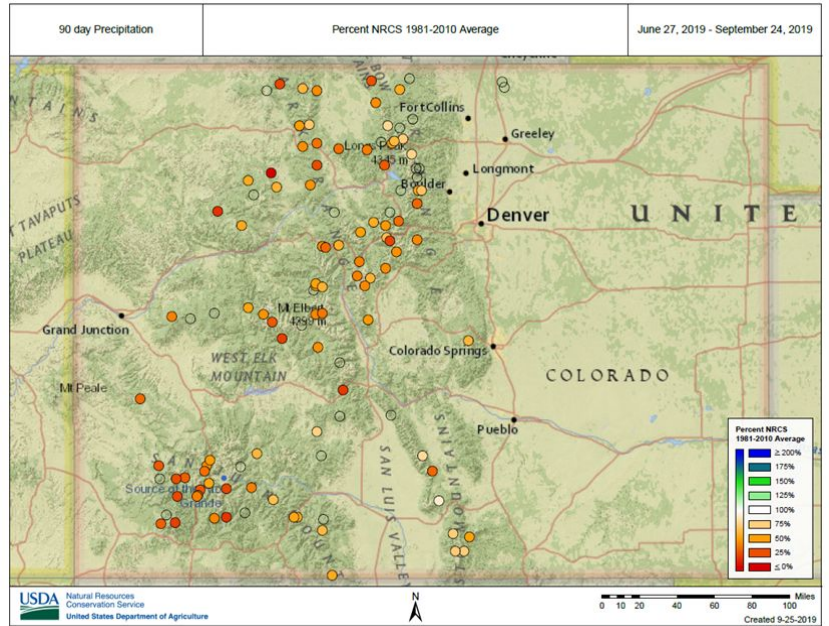
**Water Availability Task Force Co-Chairs**

Ben Wade, Acting, CWCB  
303-866-3441

Tracy Kosloff, DWR  
303-866-3581

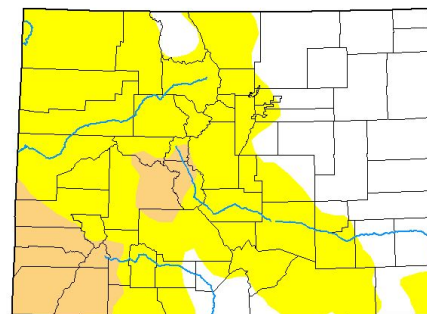
August and September to date have both been warm, although the water year as a whole is the coldest since 2010. Above normal temperatures are predicted to continue in October. Recent months have also been dry although for the water year as a whole, precipitation ranges from average to above average statewide. The North American monsoon season was disappointing in Colorado and other parts of the Southwestern U.S. The monsoon season sometimes results in beneficial rainfall for Colorado, particularly in the southern portion of the state.

- The map of Snotel precipitation for the last 90 days (June 27- September 24) compared to the average for that time period shows how dry the summer has been in Colorado's mountain areas.
- The weak El Niño has officially ended in favor of neutral conditions. The long term ENSO forecasts are trending toward neutral conditions remaining through the winter.
- Reservoir storage across the state (as of the end of August) is 116% of average and 70% of capacity. At this time last year, statewide reservoir storage was at 82% of average.
- According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, released September 24, D0, abnormally dry, and D1, moderate drought, now cover 66 percent of Colorado.
- Water providers reported their systems are in good shape but water demand was high in August and September and they hope for beneficial moisture over the winter to avoid high demand next spring before runoff has refilled storage supplies.



**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Colorado**

**September 24, 2019**  
(Released Thursday, Sep. 26, 2019)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	34.06	65.94	10.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 09-17-2019	50.45	49.55	6.68	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-25-2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2019	17.94	82.06	66.26	54.91	27.11	11.22
Start of Water Year 09-25-2018	14.19	85.81	72.30	64.41	48.47	16.21
One Year Ago 09-25-2018	14.19	85.81	72.30	64.41	48.47	16.21

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Orange)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)      D3 Extreme Drought (Red)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

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

**Author:**  
Eric Luebbehusen  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

**NOTE:** The next Water Availability Task Force Meeting will be held on November 26th, 2019 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)