



COLORADO

Department of
Natural Resources

June 28, 2022

Water Availability Task Force Summary

Observed temperature

Spring temperatures were slightly below the 1991-2020 average, but March to May still ranked as the 36th warmest spring in the full 128 year record.

Observed precipitation and drought conditions

Colorado had 3.83 inches of spring precipitation, falling below the 1991-2020 mean of 5.15 inches. This precipitation was not evenly distributed across the state, however. Much of the central and NW part of the state received about average precipitation, while totals in parts of NE and SW Colorado ranked in the bottom 10th percentile of the 128 year record. We have begun to see some monsoonal moisture enter the state earlier than usual this year and this active monsoon pattern is expected to continue.

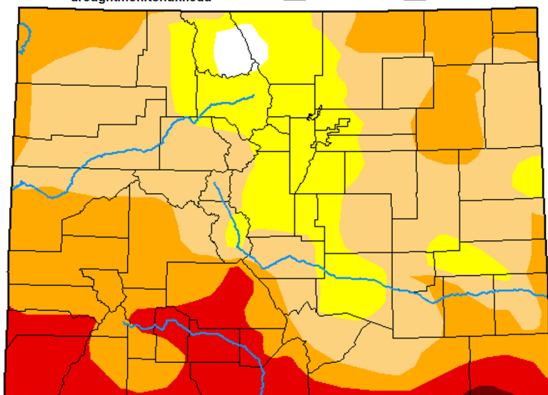
U.S. Drought Monitor

June 21, 2022
(Released Thursday, Jun. 23, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Intensity

None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

Colorado



Many parts of the state, especially along the Eastern plains have seen a slight improvement in their drought classification, although 43% of the state remains in a severe or higher drought classification.

Observed soil moisture and evaporative demand

As of June 21st, the top meter soil moisture measurements were mixed throughout the state, but there are large areas of significant dry soil, especially in the NE and SE. The 1 week [Evaporative Demand Drought Index \(EDDI\)](#) measurements showed reduced vegetative water demand for the Western part of the state, but the Eastern plains remain extremely dry with high vegetative water demand.

Snowpack and reservoir storage

Snowpack in the Northern parts of the state has melted out at SNOTEL sites with near normal timing, thanks in part to May snows. The Southern mountains, however, saw early and faster snow melt rates because of warm temperatures, dust on snow, wind, and no late spring snow. The Southern part of the state has received a bump in precipitation in June which has helped overall precipitation rates recover. Reservoir storage is below normal in every basin.

Seasonal outlook

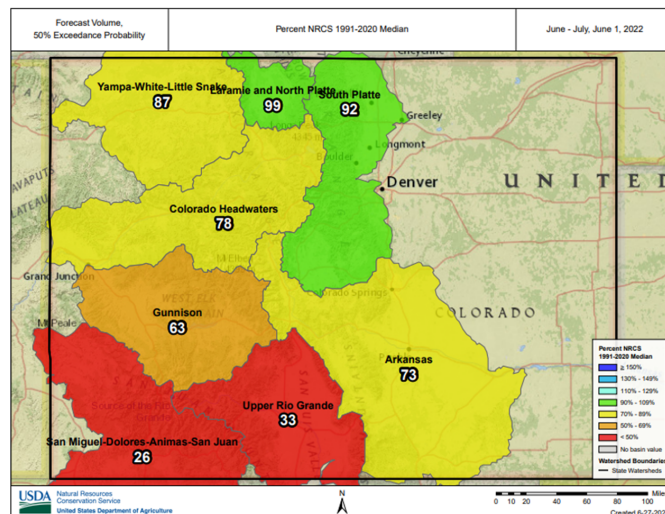
The 8-14 day precipitation outlook shows a slightly above normal chance for above average precipitation for most of the state, but the seasonal outlook through the end of the summer has an increased likelihood for below average precipitation. For temperature, the 8-14 day outlook shows a greater likelihood for above normal temperatures and this likelihood of higher than normal temperatures continues in the long term forecasts for the rest of the summer. ENSO models show La Niña continuing into the fall and potentially into the winter.

Water Supply Forecasting

Streamflow forecasts are more favorable for the Northern parts of the state and well below normal for the Southern basins.

Public Comment Draft of the Colorado Water Plan

The Colorado Water Plan draft will be available for a 90 day public comment period starting on June 30th. Please visit engagecwcb.org to learn more.



Next Water Availability Task Force Meeting: June 28, 2022 9:30am @ CPW 6060 Broadway, Denver or [virtual](#)

Co-Chairs: Megan O'Grady, CWCB & Tracy Kosloff, DWR

Additional info at cwcb.colorado.gov/water-availability-flood-task-forces

Special thanks to Becky Bolinger, Colorado Climate Center; Karl Wetlaufer, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services