



COLORADO

Department of
Natural Resources

July 19, 2022

Water Availability Task Force Summary

Observed temperature

June temperatures were 2.9° above the 1901-2000 average, although it was the 3rd coolest June in the last 11 years.

Observed precipitation and drought conditions

June precipitation was about average across the state although the precipitation was not evenly distributed. Monsoonal rains helped set precipitation records in portions of the SW while parts of the NE experienced some of the driest years on record.

The relatively wet month in Western Colorado has helped to keep fire risk low for the summer to date.

Much of the June precipitation came in convective storms which have very local impacts so not all stations received equal precipitation. Despite the monsoonal moisture, long-term drought impacts remain especially in observed streamflows. According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), much of southern Colorado has shown some improvement in their drought classification, while parts of the NE and Front Range have shown a degradation in their drought status. Overall, 98% of the state remains abnormally dry or worse.

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 12, 2022

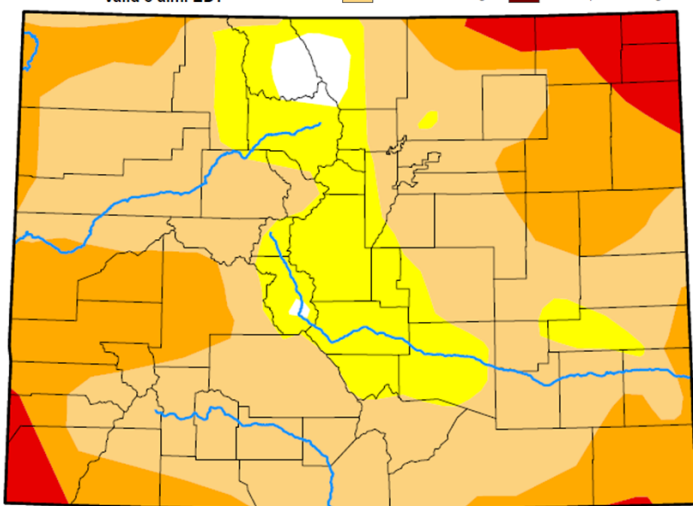
(Released Thursday, Jul. 14, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity:



Colorado



Observed soil moisture and evaporative demand

Reflective of precipitation patterns, shallow soil moisture has shown improvement in the western part of the state, but remains severely dry throughout the east, especially in the NE. The 1 month [Evaporative Demand Drought Index \(EDDI\)](#) measurements reflect this trend, but the 3 month EDDI remains high for most of the state.

Snowpack and reservoir storage

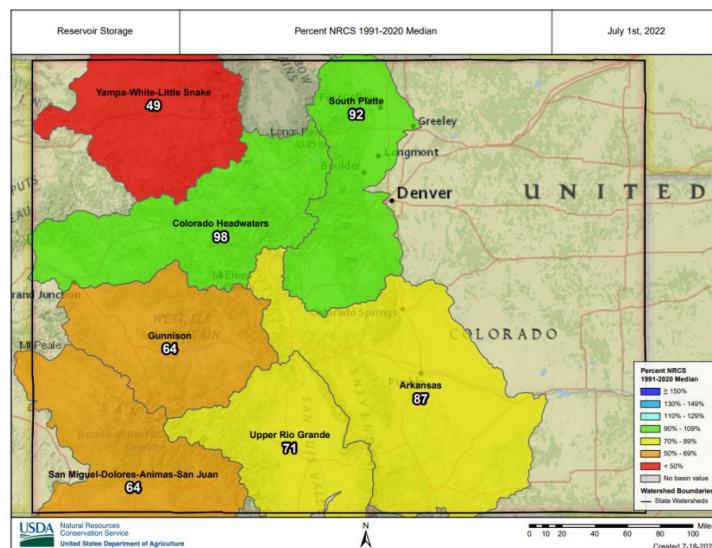
Despite average water year precipitation and well-above-average precipitation so far in July, streamflow and reservoir storage are well below normal. While precipitation events can help cause temporary spikes in streamflows, streamflow rates quickly return to below normal levels. Reservoir storage is especially low in the Gunnison basin and in the SW part of the state. The Colorado and South Platte basin reservoirs are near average (the Yampa basin's value is inaccurate due to missing data).

Seasonal outlook

The 8-14 day precipitation outlook shows a moderate likelihood for above normal precipitation for the SW and below average precipitation in the East. For the remainder of the summer, all but the SW are likely to receive below normal precipitation. For temperature, both the 8-14 day and seasonal outlooks show a greater likelihood for above normal temperatures. ENSO models show that La Niña will likely continue into early next year.

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: August 16, 2022 9:30am

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

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

Special thanks to Peter Goble, Colorado Climate Center; Karl Wetlaufer, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services