



COLORADO

Department of
Natural Resources

May 21, 2024

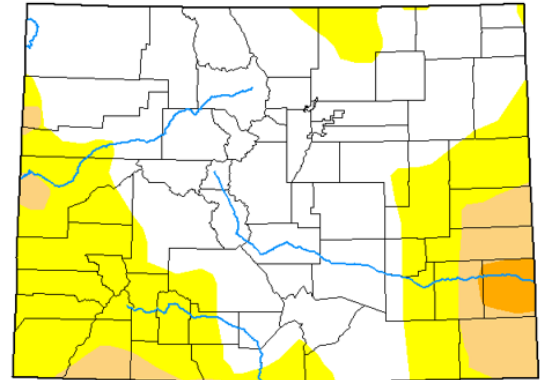
Water Conditions Summary - WY 2024

Observed temperature

Temperatures during the half of the water year (October - April) rank **7th warmest** in the 129-year record. December and February have been particularly warm, and temperatures in April ranked 17th warmest on record. May so far has been warmer than average on the eastern plains and cooler than average on the western slope.

Observed precipitation

Precipitation this water year has been right around average. The water year so far (October - April) has been the **64th driest** in the 129-year record, with much drier conditions focused in the southern half of the state and record dry conditions in Rio Blanco county. Slightly wetter conditions appear in the northeast portion of the state. Although March brought quite a bit of precipitation to the state, April ranked 46th driest, which is right around normal but contributed to early and significant runoff. Currently, statewide precipitation is at 99 percent of the median, ranging from 109 percent of the median in the Arkansas basin to 84 percent of the median in the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basin.

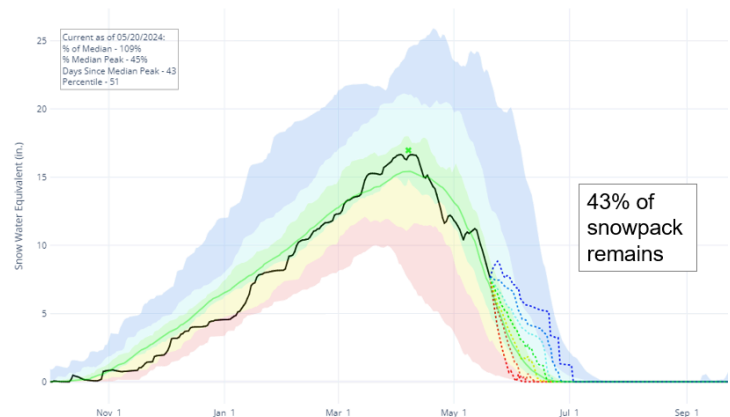


Drought conditions

The US Drought Monitor indicates worsening drought conditions in the southeast area of the state. Over the past month, conditions have degraded three classes since the start of the calendar year to D2. Elsewhere in the state, drought conditions have improved. In the Rio Grande basin, drought conditions have improved four classes since the start of the calendar year. Drought is projected to continue to develop throughout the southern portions of the state.

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

Statewide snow water equivalent (SWE) quickly fell in April reaching as low as 82 percent of the median, but then rose again in May after significant winter storms. Currently, statewide SWE is 109 percent of the median, ranging from 136 in the Arkansas basin to 41 percent of median in the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Miguel (SMDASJ) basin. Only 14 percent of snowpack remains in the SMDASJ basin, whereas 77 percent of snowpack remains in the South Platte basin. Average reservoir storage statewide remains at 100 percent of median as of May 1.



Streamflows & Soil Moisture

The streamflow forecast as of May 1 remains well below normal due to the dry conditions in April. These forecasts could project lower than what might be observed due to the winter storms in May. Streamflow was above normal across most of the state for the month of April. Runoff is projected to occur earlier in the season as temperatures rise, so this is a trend we will continue to see. Soil moisture is well above-average in South Park and the San Luis Valley after the recent rain and snow. Some areas of low soil moisture on the eastern plains and portions of southwestern Colorado.

Seasonal outlook

The rest of spring and summer are projected to be warmer than average, and June is projected to be drier than normal, especially in the southern half of the state. Drought development is likely in the southeast portion of the state over the next month. The El Niño signal has made way for a shift toward neutral conditions, and we are very likely (>85%) to transition to a La Niña by this summer and fall.

The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on June 25, 2024.

Co-Chairs: Emily Adrid, CWCB and Sarah Brucker, DWR

Additional info at <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/Water-Conditions-Monitoring-Committee>

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