



# COLORADO

Department of  
Natural Resources

July 23, 2024

## Water Conditions Summary - WY 2024

### Observed temperature

Temperatures during the 2024 water year (October - May) rank **7th warmest** in the 129-year record. **June 2024 was the third warmest June on record.** There were a few pockets of the state where June 2024 was the hottest on record. Temperatures in July 2024 so far have been slightly below normal for most areas in the state, especially on the eastern plains.

### Observed precipitation

Precipitation this water year has been slightly below average, ranking **65th wettest** in the 129-year record with especially wet conditions in the Rio Grande basin and in the central mountains. June 2024 was a mixed bag across the state, ranking 39th wettest June on record. The northern Front Range and Weld County were much drier than normal. However, the whole southwest quadrant of the state was wetter than normal, and there were areas in the Rio Grande that were the wettest June on record. Currently, statewide precipitation is at 101 percent of the median, ranging from 111 percent of the median in the Arkansas basin to 95 percent of the median in the San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan (SMDASJ) basin.

### Drought conditions

The US Drought Monitor indicates worsening drought conditions in some areas and improved conditions in other areas. Drought conditions in the northern Front Range have worsened, especially in Larimer and Boulder counties that have degraded to D2. Elsewhere in the state, drought conditions have improved. In the southwest, drought conditions have improved two classes over the past three months. With warmer temperatures, drought is projected to continue to develop across the east slope over the course of the summer.

### Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

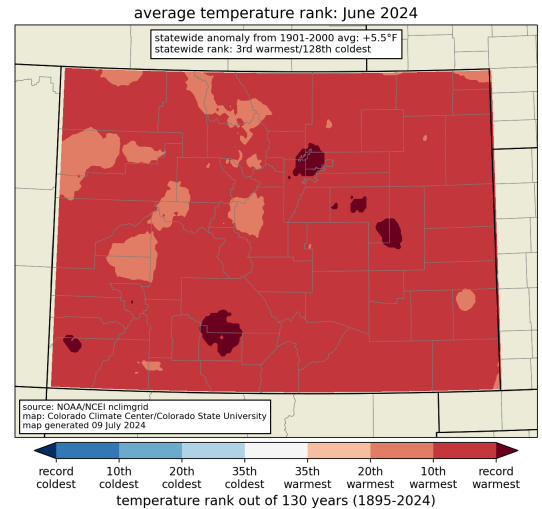
Snowpack has officially melted out at all SNOTEL stations. The Upper Rio Grande basin had the lowest snowpack in the state, while the Arkansas basin finished with the highest peak snowpack in the state. The South Platte basin maintained the most consistent snowpack throughout the water year. Average reservoir storage statewide is 95 percent of median.

### Streamflows & Soil Moisture

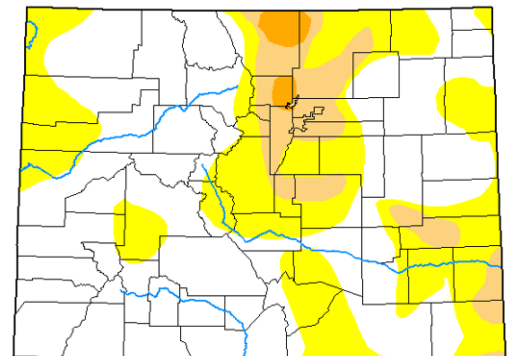
The streamflow forecast as of June 1 have been close to observed streamflow up to this point. At most major river basin gauges, streamflows are at or below normal. Streamflows are now in recession after a near normal runoff to this point. Streamflows in the southwest part of the state and along the northern Front Range are well below normal with some gauges near Boulder, Colorado indicating all-time record low flows. Flows are near or above normal flows in the Colorado Headwaters and Yampa-White-Green basins. Soil moisture at 1 meter depth is a tale of two slopes: on the west slope, soils are much wetter than normal, especially in the Rio Grande basin; on the east slope, soils are much drier than normal, especially in the northeastern part of the state.

### Seasonal outlook

It's likely that the rest of summer and early fall will be warmer and drier than normal, according to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. Almost all of NOAA's ENSO models indicate neutral conditions for the rest of summer. La Niña becomes most probable in mid fall. In Colorado, fall La Niña conditions typically indicate increased risk of warmer and drier conditions. This combined with projected drier than normal conditions for this summer could mean drought development is likely statewide.



### U.S. Drought Monitor



**The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on August 27, 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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