



# COLORADO

Department of  
Natural Resources

August 27, 2024

## Water Conditions Summary - WY 2024

### Observed temperature

Temperatures during the 2024 water year (October - July) rank **8th warmest** in the 129-year record. Temperatures in **July 2024 were near average, ranking 45th warmest July on the 129-year record.** Only portions of the West Slope experienced well above average temperatures in July 2024; temperatures across the rest of the state were near average. Temperatures in August 2024 so far have been hotter than normal across most of the state, especially in southern Colorado.

### Observed precipitation

Precipitation this water year has been slightly below average, ranking **59th wettest** in the 129-year record. The Rio Grande basin has been wetter than normal and northern Weld and Larimer counties have been drier than normal. **July 2024 was drier than normal, ranking 37th driest July on the 129-year record.** Currently, statewide precipitation is at 104 percent of the median, ranging from 113 percent of the median in the Gunnison basin to 96 percent of the median in the South Platte basin. So far, August 2024 has been much wetter than normal in the western half of the state and drier than normal in the southeastern corner of the state.

### Drought conditions

The US Drought Monitor indicates worsening and improving drought conditions in different areas of the state. Drought conditions have worsened in Denver County but improved in Larimer County. Drought conditions in the lower Arkansas basin but improved in the upper Arkansas basin. D0 drought (Abnormally Dry) has expanded across much of the Western Slope.

### Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

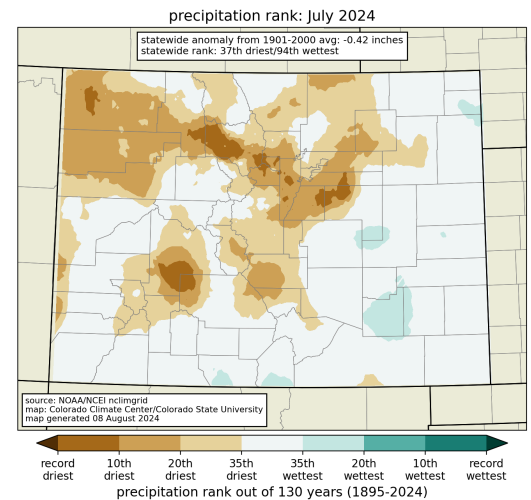
Snowpack has officially melted out at all SNOTEL stations. The Upper Rio Grande basin had the lowest snowpack in the state this water year, while the Arkansas basin finished the snow season with the highest peak snowpack in the state. The South Platte basin maintained the most consistent snowpack throughout the water year. The average reservoir storage statewide is 94 percent of median.

### Streamflows & Soil Moisture

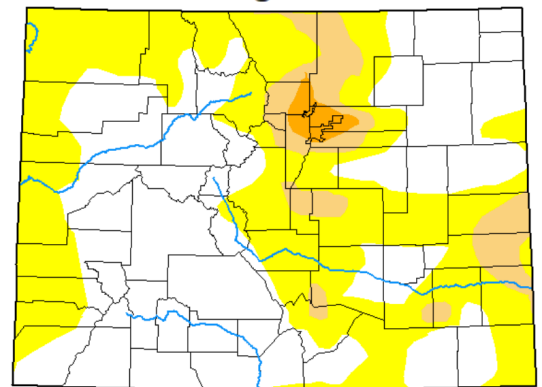
Streamflows in the SMDASJ and high elevations of the South Platte basins were well below normal throughout July 2024. Across the rest of the state, streamflow gauges detected near normal flows. Throughout the August monsoon season, streamflows have really improved in the southwest quadrant of the state, but the South Platte gauges are still reading below normal. Elsewhere in the state, streamflows are near normal. Soil moisture at 1 meter depth is well above normal in the Rio Grande basin, and above normal across most of the West Slope. Soil moisture is below normal in much of the Arkansas basin and in much of Boulder and Adams counties.

### Seasonal outlook

It's likely that fall will be warmer and drier than normal, according to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. The La Niña has come slower than originally anticipated, but it is likely to arrive this 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 fall could mean drought development is likely statewide.



### U.S. Drought Monitor



**The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on September 24, 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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