



# COLORADO

## Department of Natural Resources

# January 22, 2025 Water Conditions Summary - WY 2025

### Observed temperature

Temperatures so far in Water Year 2025 (October 2024 - December 2024) are tied for **5th warmest** in the 130-year record. **December 2024 was the 3rd warmest December on the 130-year record.** Average temperatures in January 2025 have been well below average. In fact, temperatures this month have been 6 to 10°F below normal across most of the state. A small portion of northwestern Colorado has experienced above average temperatures this month.

### Observed precipitation

Precipitation accumulation so far in Water Year 2025 (October 2024 - December 2024) has been slightly wetter than normal, thanks to late fall snowstorms in November 2024 that brought near record breaking snow to much of the Eastern Plains. However, December 2024 was very dry, ranking **12th driest December** on the 130-year record. So far, January 2025 has been wetter than normal on the East Slope and much drier than normal in the southwest corner of the state.

### Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

We are now midway through the snow accumulation period. The average snowpack statewide is 90% of normal, which is down from higher numbers back in early December. There has been better snow accumulation in the South Platte basin (101%), and lackluster snowpack in the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan basins (72%). Average statewide reservoir storage is currently at 93% of the median.

### Streamflows & Soil Moisture

Spring streamflow forecasts as of January 1st project near normal streamflows for most basins with the highest forecasts at 107% of the median for the Arkansas basin and the lowest forecasts at 82% of the median for the North Platte basin. Because streamflow forecasts are released monthly, these projections are likely to change when the next forecasts are released on February 1st. Soil moisture is wetter than normal in the Upper Rio Grande basin and in the southeastern Plains. Soils are drier than normal in northcentral Colorado.

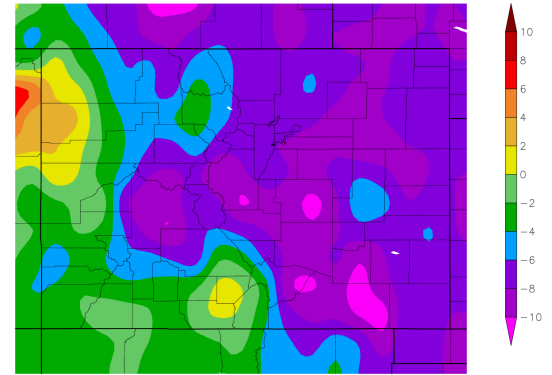
### Drought conditions

Since the last WCMC meeting in November 2024, drought conditions have improved in the Eastern Plains and in the headwaters of the South Platte, specifically in Jefferson, Park, and Clear Creek counties. Drought conditions have degraded in the southwest. Montezuma, La Plata, and Archuleta counties are now experiencing D1 drought conditions. D3 drought remains in parts of Larimer and Weld counties. The image to the right depicts drought class changes since mid-November 2024.

### Seasonal outlook

The La Niña conditions have finally arrived. La Niña tends to favor more snow in the northern mountains and less in the southern mountains overall. According to NOAA, this La Niña is less likely to result in conventional winter impacts and is expected to wane by spring. NOAA's spring seasonal outlook for temperature and precipitation is concerning for the southwestern US due to strong signals predicting a warmer and drier than normal spring. However, take these outlooks with a grain of salt because it is difficult to predict conditions that far out in advance.

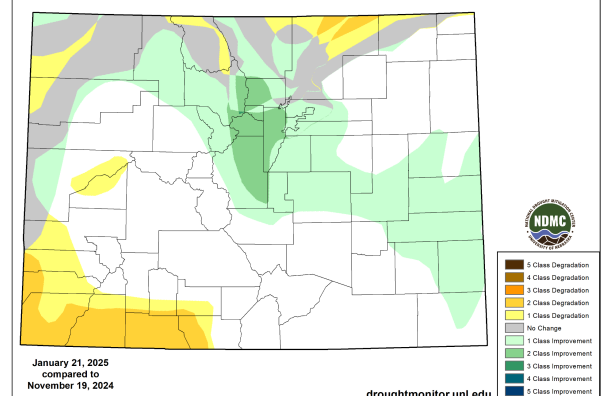
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/1/2025 - 1/22/2025



Generated 1/23/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado  
9 Week



### The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on February 25, 2025.

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

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

Special thanks to Russ Schumacher, Colorado Climate Center and Brian Domonkos, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services