



COLORADO

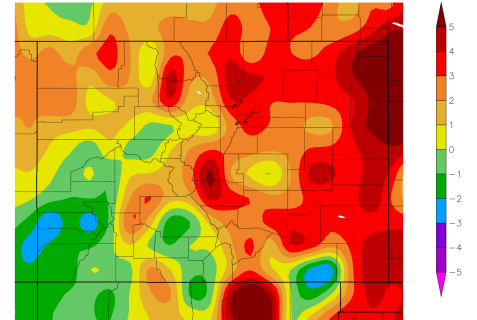
Department of Natural Resources

March 25, 2025 Water Conditions Summary - WY 2025

Observed temperature

- Temperatures in the first five months of Water Year 2025 (Oct 2024 - Feb 2025) have been above normal, ranking **21st warmest** in the 130 year record.
- **February 2025** was the state's **35th warmest** February on the 130 year record.
- So far, average temperatures in **March 2025** have been much above normal across the East Slope, with parts of northeastern Colorado experiencing temperatures 5°F above normal. Temperatures have been slightly below normal in southwestern Colorado. See map on the right.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/1/2025 - 3/23/2025



Generated 3/24/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Observed precipitation

- WY 25 has been among the driest on record in southwestern Colorado.
- **February 2025** was slightly drier than normal from a statewide perspective, ranking **49th driest** February on the 130-year record. However, last month was very dry in southern Colorado.
- So far, **March 2025** precipitation accumulation has been relatively normal across the West Slope, with much drier than normal conditions along the northern Front Range and the lower Arkansas valley. Despite decent snowpack accumulation this month in western Colorado, it's not nearly enough to make up snowpack deficits from winter.

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

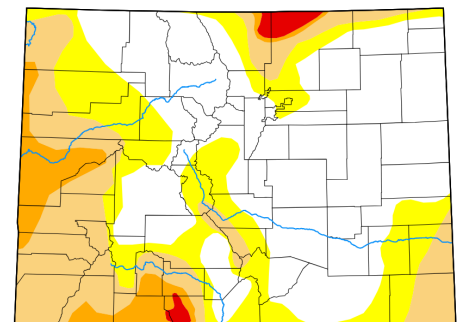
- Average statewide snowpack (or snow water equivalent) is 93% of the median.
- Snow accumulation has stayed right around 100% of the median in the northern basins and below normal in the southern basins. The North Platte sits at 104% of the median and the Upper Rio Grande sits at 71% of the median. Snowpack accumulation in the Upper Rio Grande is akin to that of 2018, a bad drought year for that region.
- Average statewide reservoir storage is currently at 94% of the median.

Streamflows & Soil Moisture

- Statewide streamflow forecasts as of March 1st project near normal streamflows in northern and eastern Colorado. The further southwest you go throughout the state, the lower the streamflow forecasts become compared to the median.
- Soil moisture at one meter depths is much wetter than normal across southern Colorado, the San Luis Valley, and the Eastern Plains. Despite below average snowpack this year, this provides some positive news.

Intensity

None D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought



Drought conditions

- Since the last WCMC meeting in February 2025, drought conditions have degraded across the Sangre de Cristo mountains and in the southeastern corner of the state. However, drought conditions improved in Larimer and Jackson counties last month, though D3 conditions remain.

Seasonal outlook

- There is relatively strong confidence that April will be warmer and drier than normal across the state. The seasonal outlook (April-May-June) indicates even stronger confidence that late spring into early summer will be warmer and drier than normal, especially along the West Slope. USDA outlooks for wildfire potential show near-normal wildfire risk across Colorado through May, then increased risk of wildfire in the southwest in June. La Niña is on its way out, and neutral conditions are likely to return for the next few months.

The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on April 22, 2025.

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

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

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