



Observed temperature

- **Temperatures in Water Year 2026 (Oct 2025 - February 2026) have been the warmest start to the water year on the Colorado Climate Center's 131-year record.**
- **February 2026** was the warmest February statewide on the 131 period of record.
- So far, temperatures in **March 2026** have been very warm (up to 10°F above normal), with a major heatwave projected to close out the month that could bring 90°F weather to the Front Range area.

Observed precipitation

- As of March 16, precipitation accumulation is **81%** of the median statewide.
- **February 2026** was the **37th driest February** on the 131 year record statewide. The Denver Metro Area experienced the driest February on record.
- So far, **March 2026** precipitation accumulation has been well below normal.

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

- **Statewide snow water equivalent in WY26 is currently the lowest on the period of record.**
- **Although we'd normally continue gaining snowpack through early April, it is possible that many places in Colorado have already reached peak snowpack.**
- Statewide snow water equivalent is at 59% of the median.
- In Colorado's major basins, SWE ranges from 46% of the median in the Upper Rio Grande basin to 74% of the median in the North Platte basin.
- Statewide reservoir storage is at 87% of median.

Streamflows & Soil Moisture

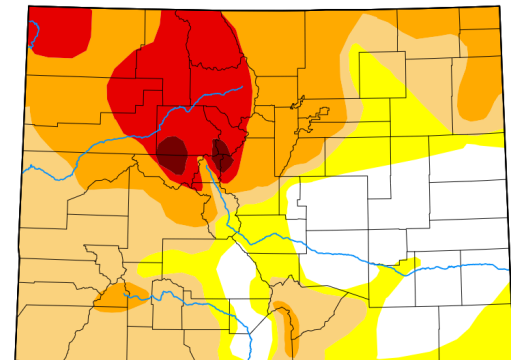
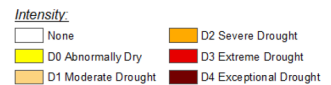
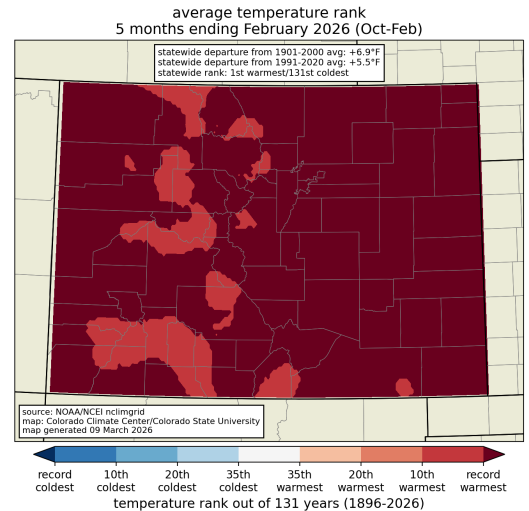
- Streamflow forecasts are released monthly. The March streamflow forecasts project extremely low runoff in most basins (55% to 60%), with the exception of the South Platte (74%). These estimates will likely drop in the April 1 forecast due to the lack of snowpack we've received this winter.
- Soil moisture is high at both 8 inch and 20 inch sensors, which indicates meltout is already occurring at high and mid elevation levels.

Drought conditions

- Extreme drought (D3) continues to persist in the headwaters of the Colorado mainstem, extending into northwest Colorado. Exceptional drought (D4) encompasses portions of Eagle, Pitkin, Park, Lake, and Summit Counties.
- About 37% of the state is currently in severe drought (D2) or worse.

Seasonal outlook

- The warm and dry trend is expected to continue into late spring and early summer.
- La Niña is on its way out, with ENSO-neutral conditions expected through spring and early summer. El Niño conditions are expected to emerge in late summer into fall, which tends to favor slightly wetter conditions.



The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on April 21, 2026.

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

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

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