



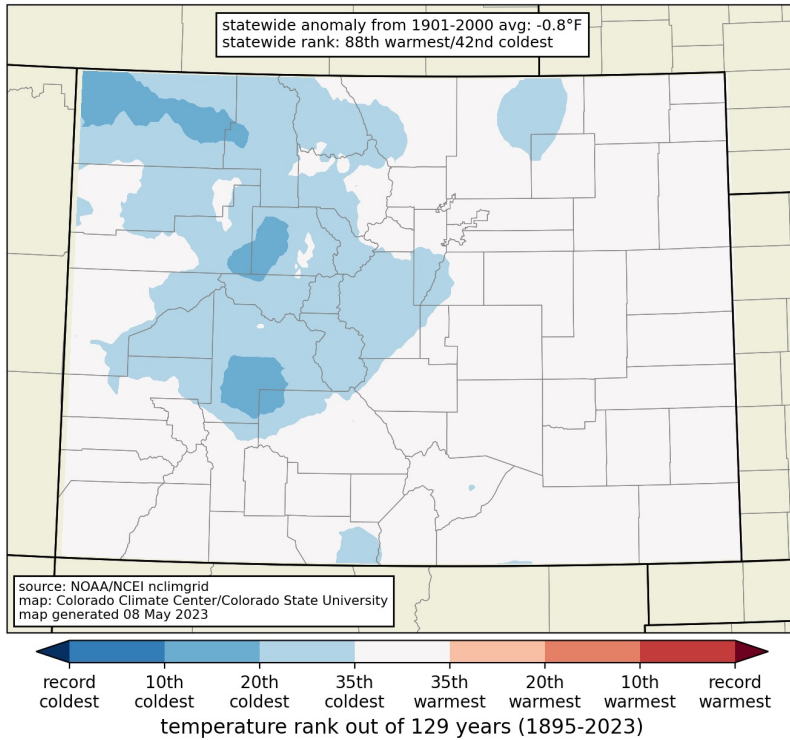
April 2023 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature

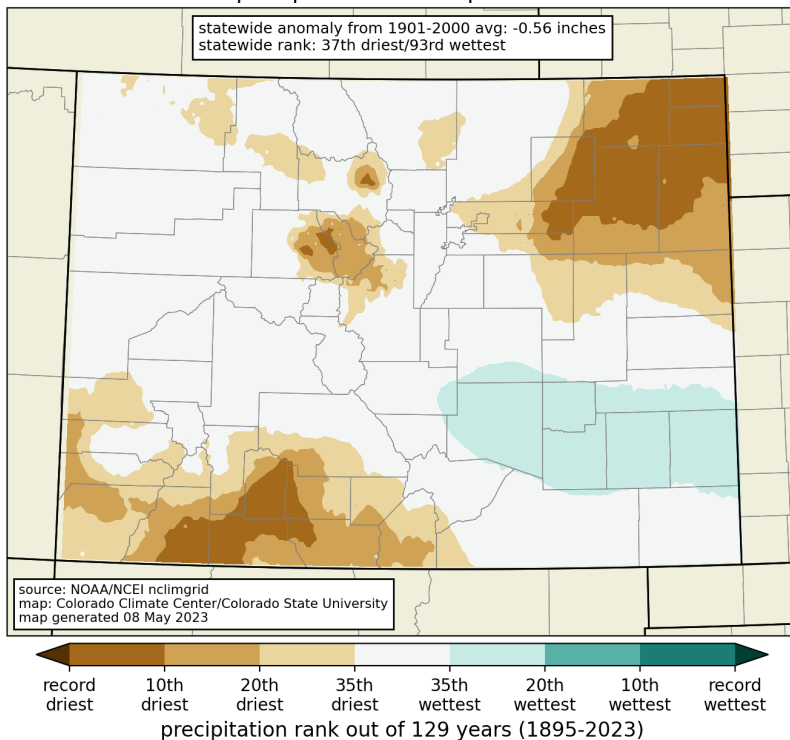
average temperature rank: April 2023



April continued the streak of below-average temperatures across Colorado: it was the 6th straight month that was cooler than the 1991-2020 normal statewide. It was especially cool in northwest Colorado and through the northern and central mountains.

precipitation

precipitation rank: April 2023



April was quite dry in northeast and southwest Colorado, ranking among the top 10 driest Aprils in those areas. Fortunately, a big storm system at the end of the month brought some much-needed rain to southeastern Colorado, and they ended April with above-average precipitation.



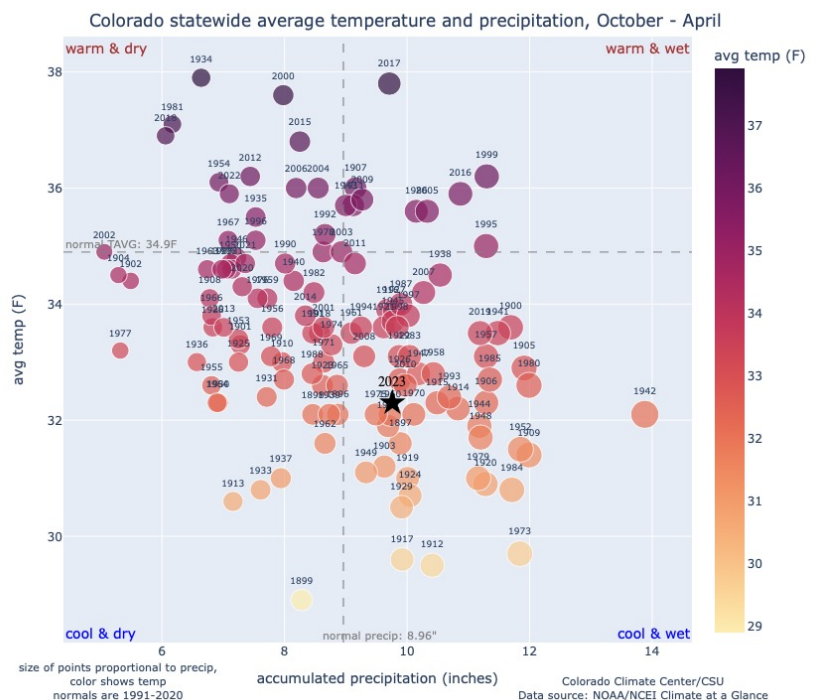
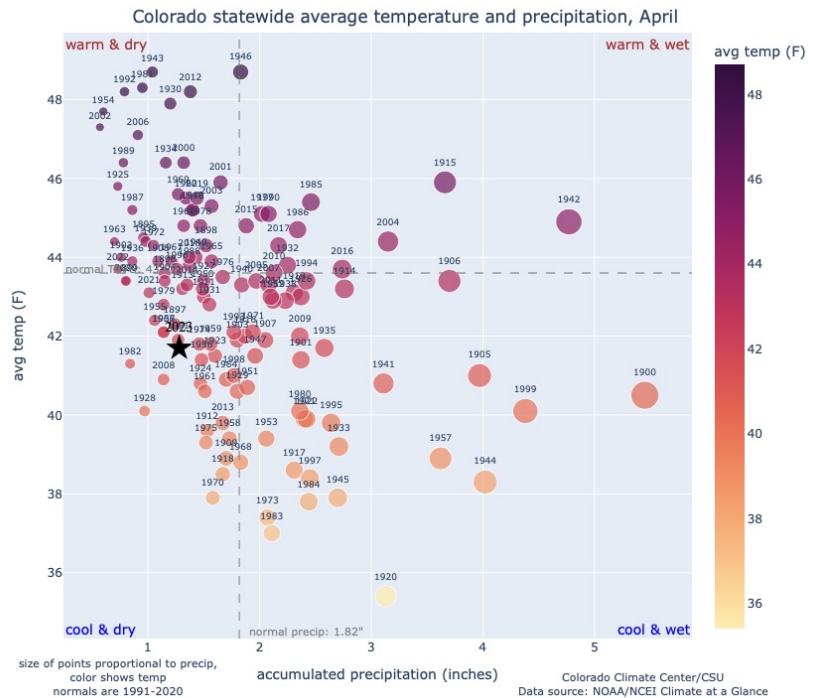
quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the x-axis and the temperature on the y-axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. Long-term averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Statewide, April appeared in the cool and dry quadrant. It was tied for the 41st coolest April, and was the coolest since 2013. It was the 37th driest April on record, with an average deficit of just over half-inch statewide.

For the water year so far (going back to October 2022), the statewide temperature has been much below normal, with precipitation just a bit above normal. The temperature for the water year is tied for the 31st coolest on record, and the coolest since 1984.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

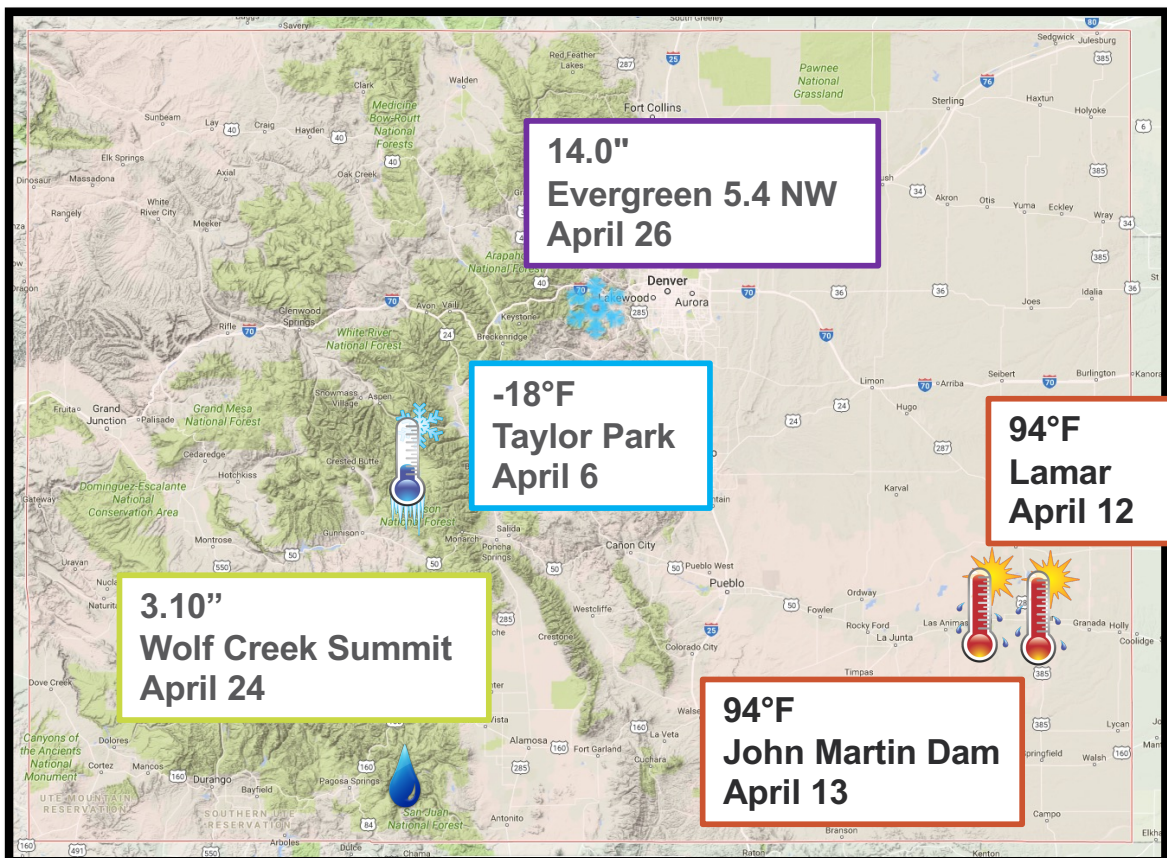


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	19/109	2/6	12/105	5/8	12/49	4/22
Monthly	0/0	0/0	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

Tied/**Broken**, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes

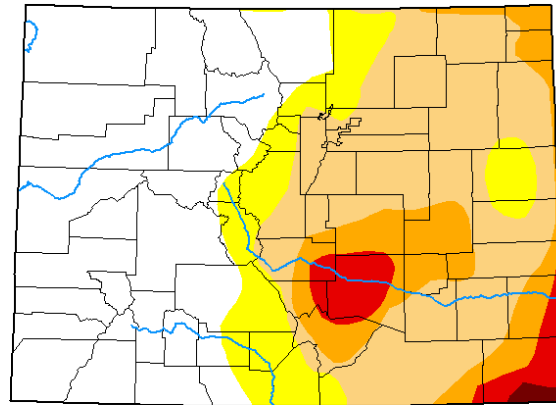


drought

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

April 25, 2023
(Released Thursday, Apr. 27, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Worsening drought conditions expanded across southeast CO in April. At the end of the month, 44% of the state was in drought, and 4% in D3-D4 drought, with the worst categories in the far southeast corner and around Pueblo.



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	44.07	55.93	44.01	14.50	4.52	0.43
Last Week 04-18-2023	44.07	55.93	44.01	14.50	4.52	0.43
3 Months Ago 01-24-2023	43.18	56.82	35.58	11.18	1.87	0.04
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	39.97	60.03	33.83	12.28	1.91	0.01
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	15.46	84.54	45.65	15.47	3.73	0.57
One Year Ago 04-26-2022	0.00	100.00	88.57	47.62	4.46	0.53

Intensity

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

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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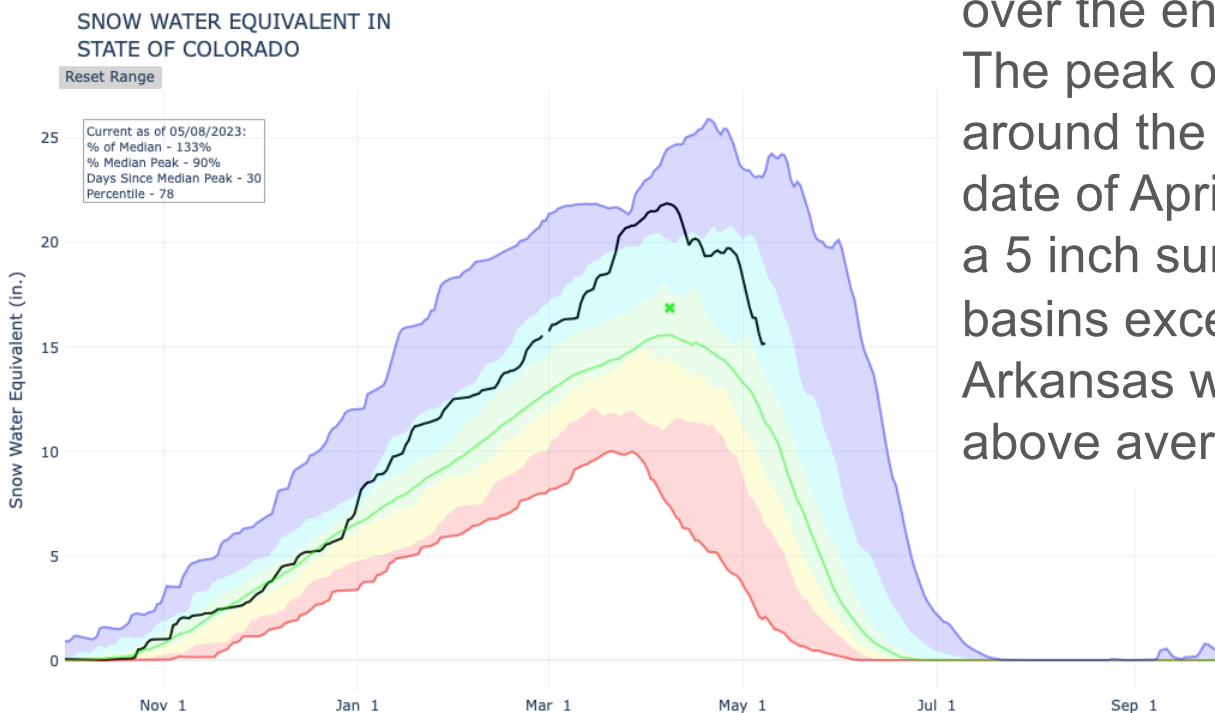


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

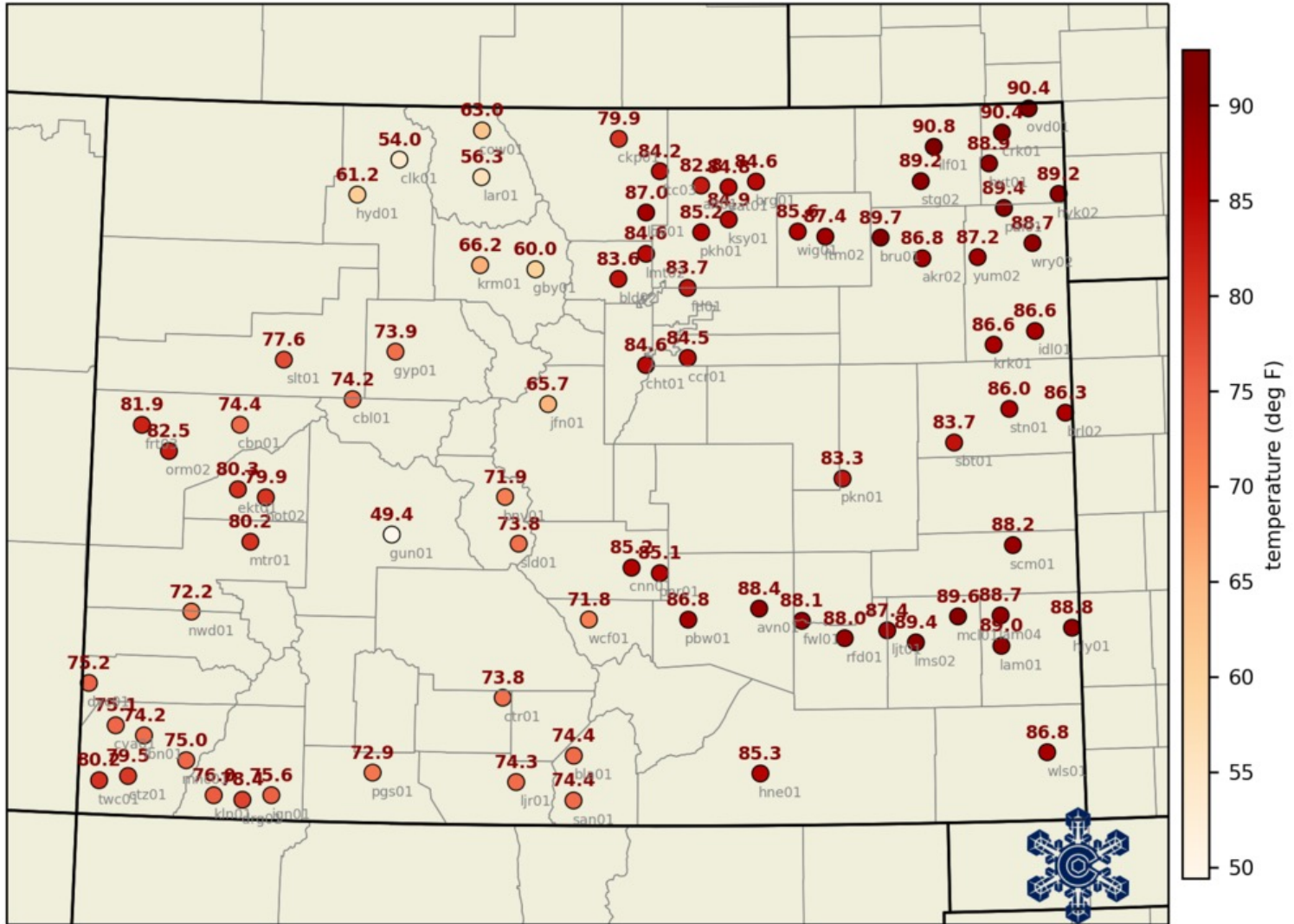
snowpack

Snowpack peaked well above average for the season when averaging over the entire state. The peak occurred right around the normal peak date of April 8, at about a 5 inch surplus. All basins except the Arkansas were near or above average.



significant events

CoAgMET/Northern Water daily maximum temperature (F): 11 Apr 2023



Despite a cooler than average month, a ridge of high pressure did bring anomalous warmth to the state in the second week of April. All of the daily high records broken in April occurred during this warm spell. Temperatures soared to the upper 80s and low 90s for much of eastern CO.

A cool start on April 11, followed by a hot day, resulted in a temperature range from 29° to 91° at the Iliff CoAgMET station in northeast CO.



CCC in the news

- ❑ ['A pretty good monsoon year': Precipitation in Summit County was strong in 2022, lessening drought and wildfire concerns](#)
 - Summit Daily, April 26, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Is it getting windier in Colorado? It's hard to say](#)
 - Alamosa Valley Courier, April 22, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado River Basin sees 'spectacular' snowpack, buying time for big decisions](#)
 - Pikes Peak Courier, April 19, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Warming temps are turning snowpack into major flooding problems](#)
 - Colorado Public Radio, April 16, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Fast-melting snow in Colorado mountains sends water to downriver reservoirs — with flooding along the way](#)
 - Wyoming Tribune Eagle, April 15, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Colorado weather: Fort Collins set to smash record high temperatures](#)
 - The Coloradoan, April 11, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Snowpack is peaking higher than usual](#)
 - Clear Creek Courant, April 11, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Changing of the seasons: How some Colorado counties are preparing for snowmelt and wildfire danger](#)
 - 9News, April 8, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [CoCoRAHS on The Weather Channel](#)
 - The Weather Channel, April 6, Noah Newman

