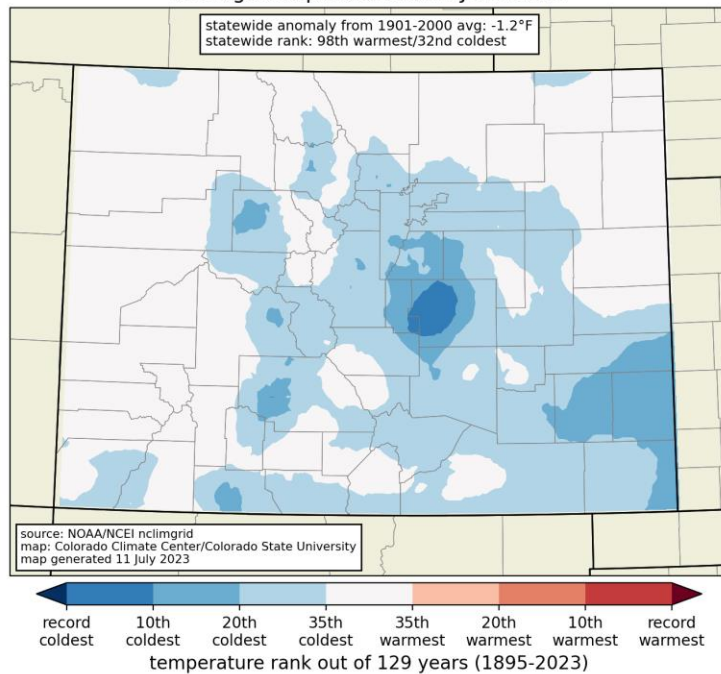




June 2023 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

temperature

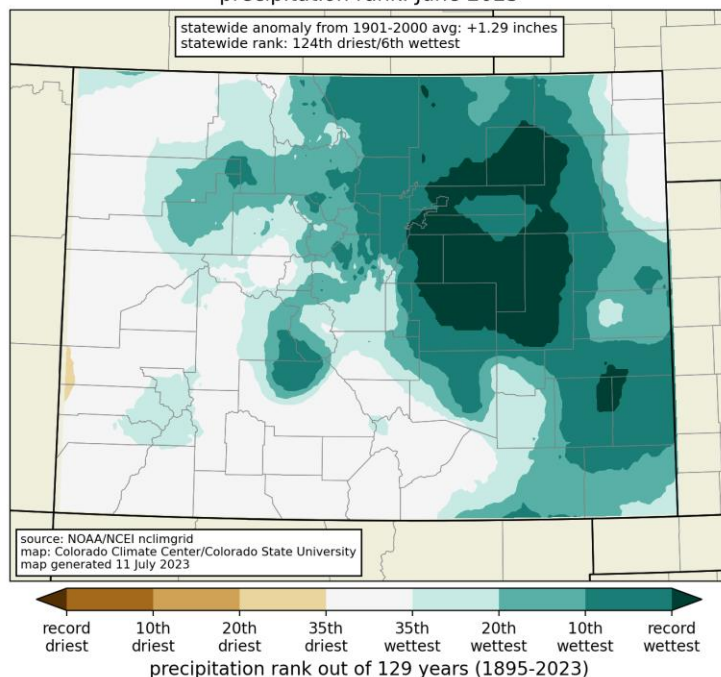
average temperature rank: June 2023



June was near average to cooler than average across Colorado, with parts of El Paso County observing a top-10 coolest June. Daytime high temperatures were much below normal, while nighttime lows were actually slightly warmer than the 20th century average. The cloudy, humid, rainy June weather kept days cool but nights relatively warm.

precipitation

precipitation rank: June 2023



June was another extremely wet month across eastern Colorado, with relentless heavy rainfall throughout the month. Elbert, Morgan, Lincoln, Douglas, and El Paso Counties all experienced their wettest June on record. Keep reading the summary for more superlatives about June's rainfall!



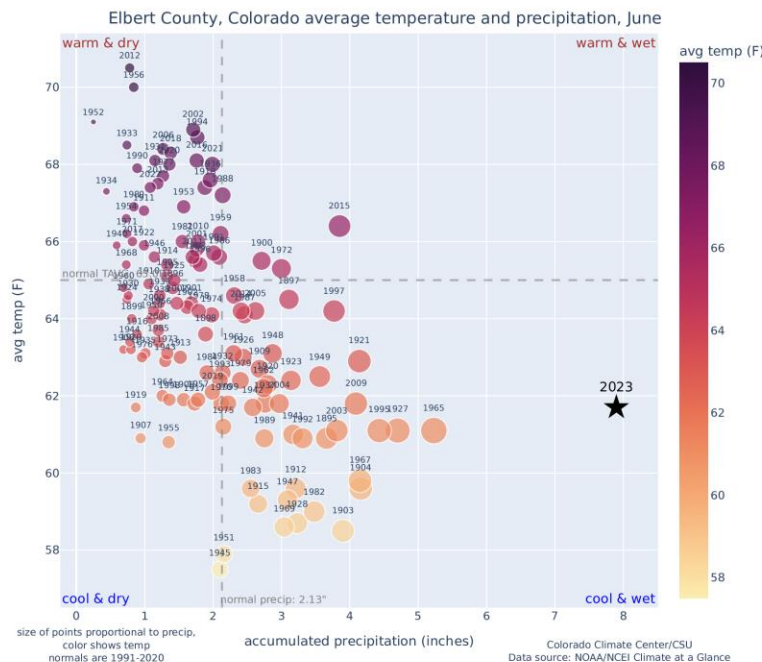
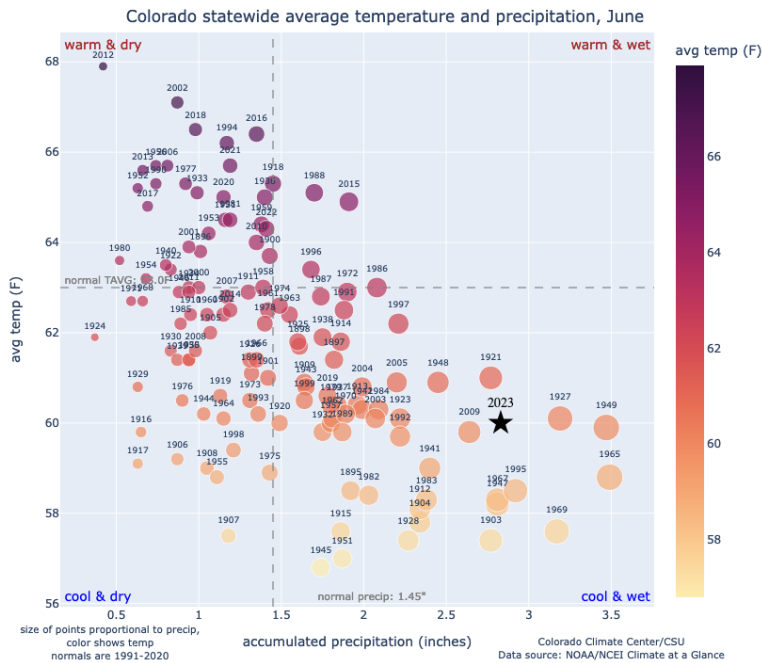
quadrant charts

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, Colorado was in the cool and wet quadrant during June. It was the 6th wettest June on record (wettest since 1995) and tied for the 30th coolest June (coolest since 2009). Precipitation on the western slope was near to below normal, which kept the statewide average from setting records for rainfall.

For Elbert County, the June rainfall was truly extreme: the wettest June on record, far exceeding June 1965. Considering all months in the record (not just June), it was the 2nd-wettest month for Elbert County, just shy of the value from May 2015.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

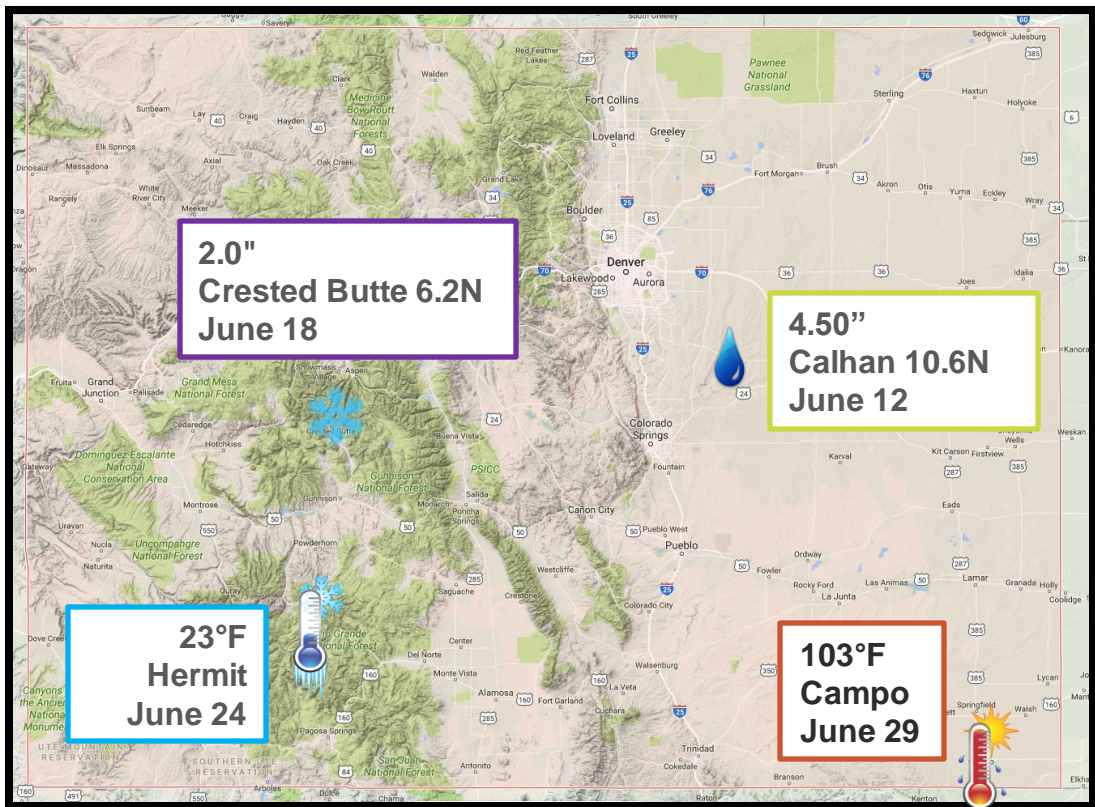


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	2/1	19/88	10/24	9/10	64/117	5/0
Monthly	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/6	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

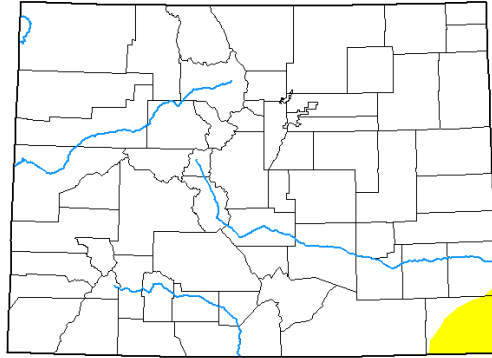
state extremes



drought

For the first time since the summer of 2019, Colorado went drought free in June 2023. At the end of June, 2% of the state remained in D0 (abnormally dry). This was a significant improvement from 3 months earlier when 36% of the state was in D1 to D4 drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



June 27, 2023
(Released Thursday, Jun. 29, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	98.11	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 06-20-2023	96.93	3.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-28-2023	51.97	48.03	35.94	9.05	2.24	0.43
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	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 06-28-2022	1.17	98.83	86.07	44.87	5.90	0.23

Intensity:
 None (White) D2 Severe Drought (Orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (Red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

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>

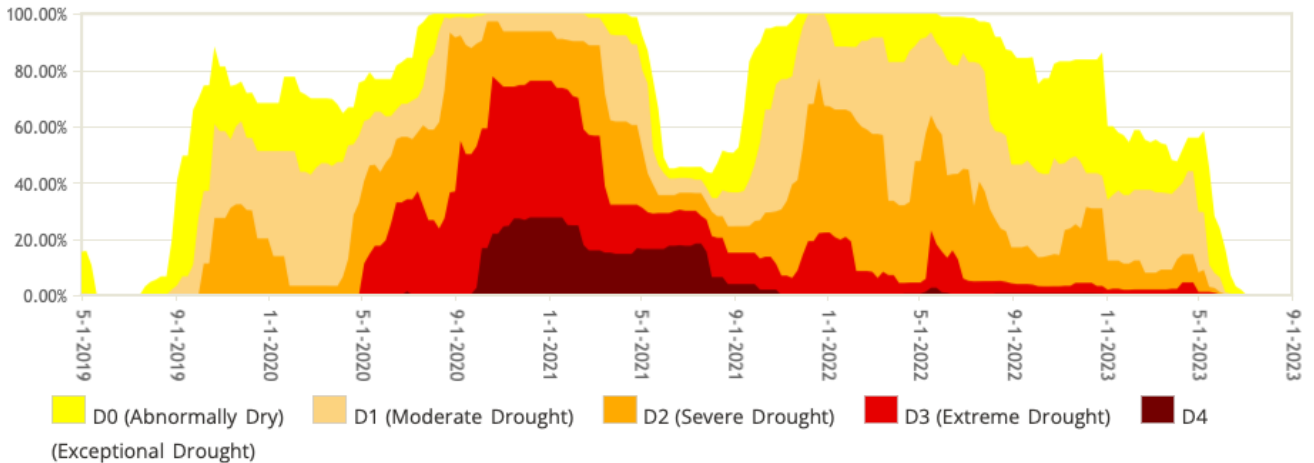
Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

Colorado Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



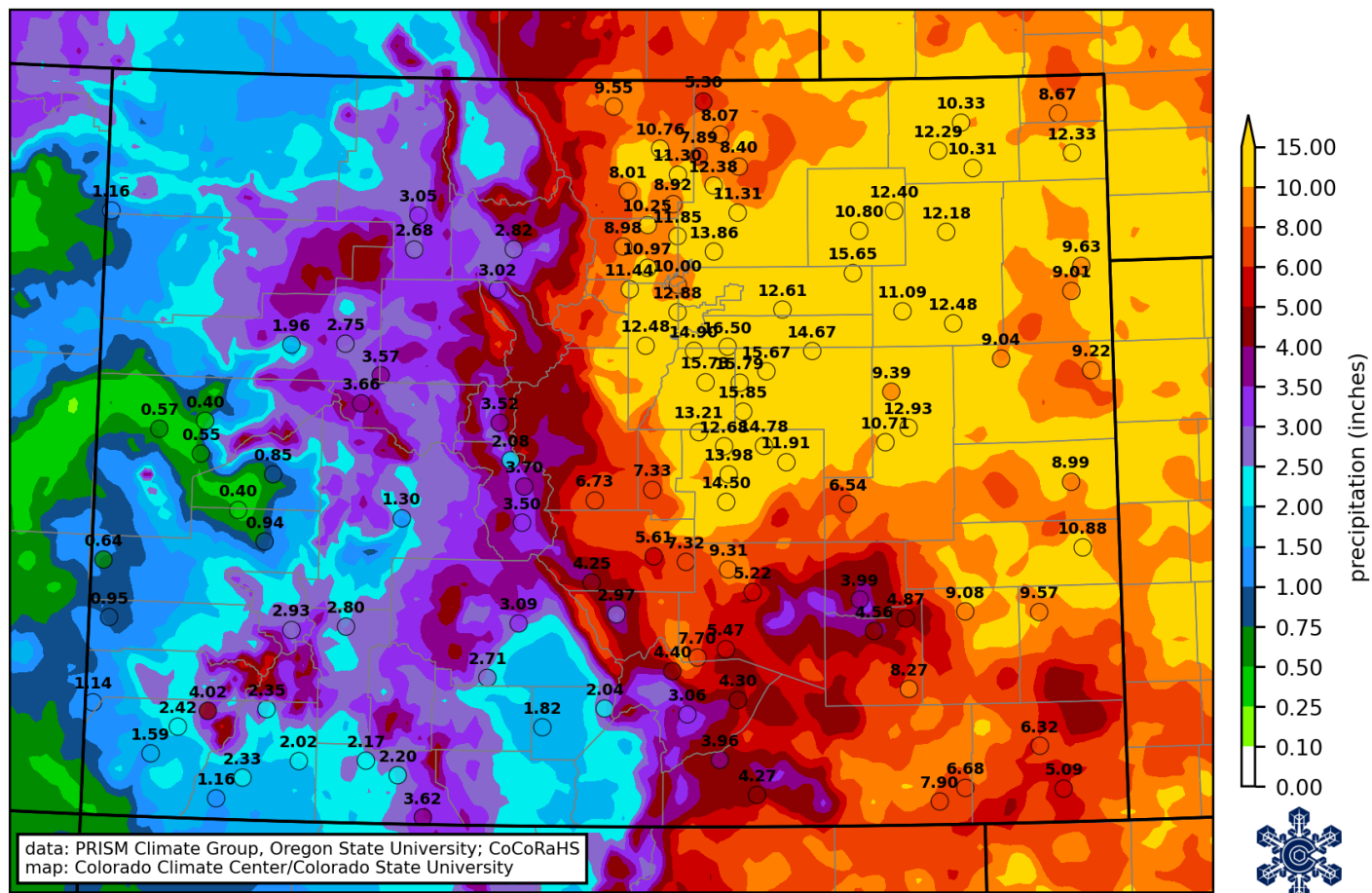
From August 2019 to June 2023, drought has been present in the state, including 3 full years of D3-D4 drought.



significant events

PRISM & CoCoRaHS total precipitation since May 1

through 5:00am MST 30 June 2023



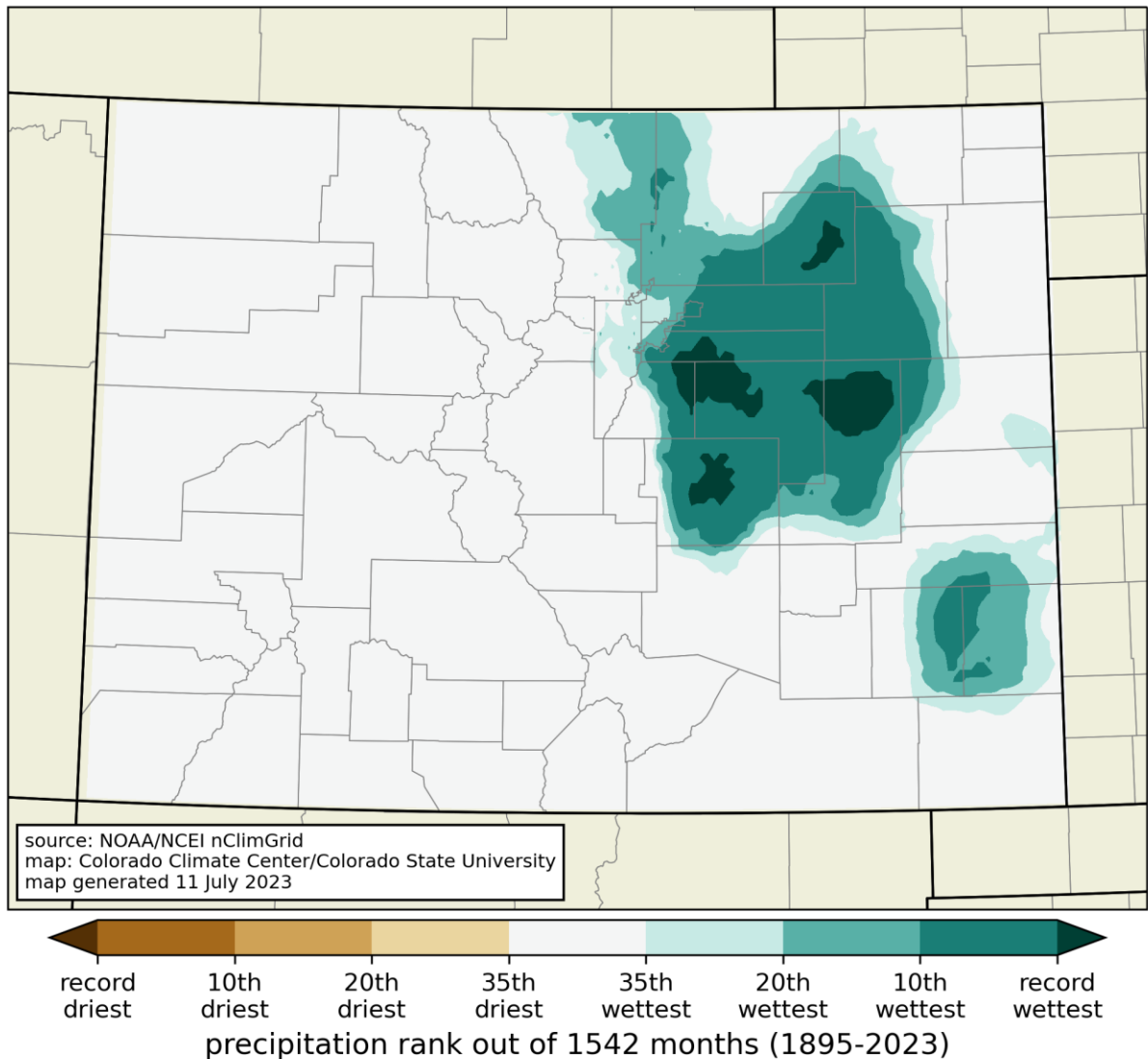
Precipitation from May 1 – June 30, 2023 yielded widespread totals in excess of 10 inches for many areas of the Front Range and Eastern Plains of Colorado. For these areas shaded in yellow in the map above, average annual precipitation ranges between 15 and 20 inches. Many locations nearly accumulated their annual average in 2 months.

Even in the mountains and western Colorado, precipitation totals were well above average for areas that are typically entering their dry time of year. The one exception was focused around Grand Junction, where precipitation accumulations for the 2 months were below 1 inch.



significant events

precipitation rank among all months: June 2023

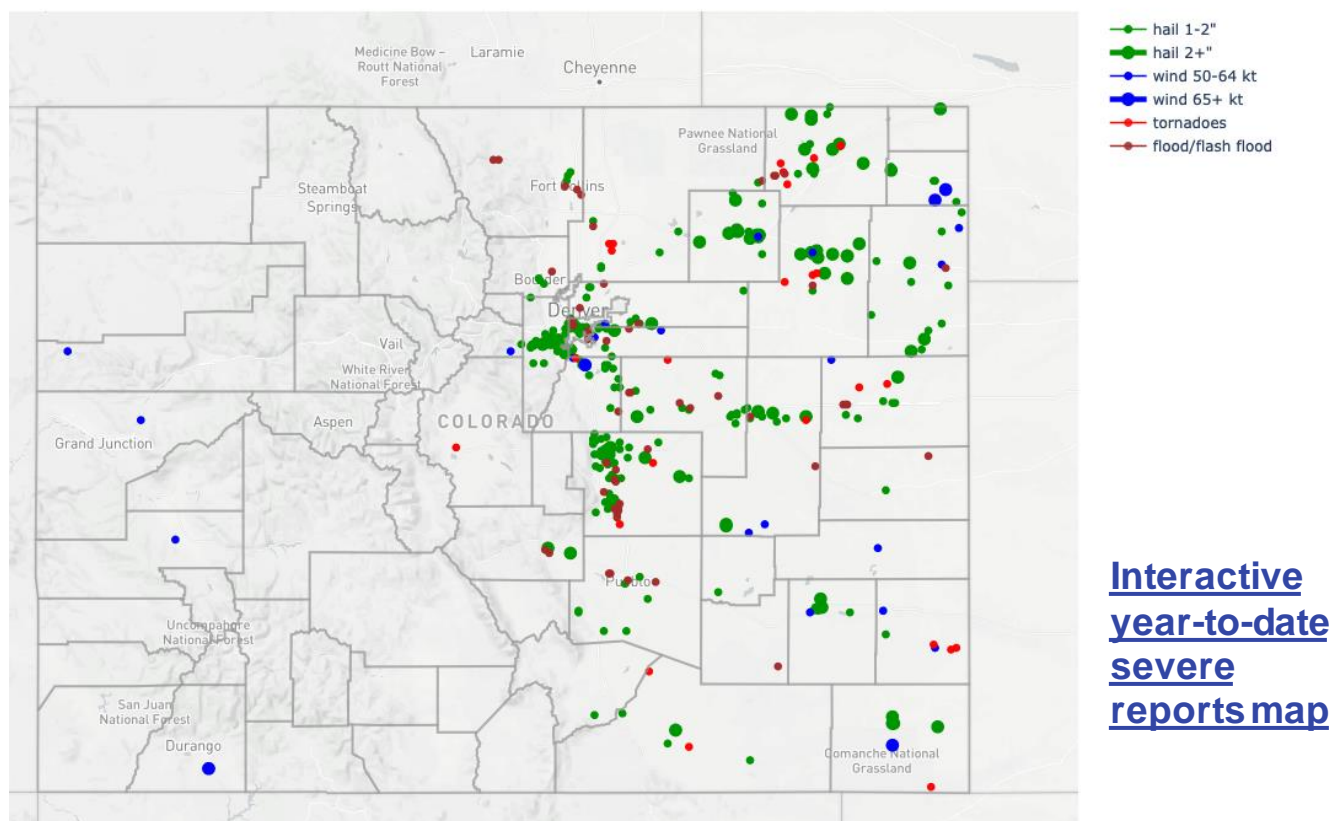


For the Eastern Plains, June is climatologically one of the wettest months of the year. The above map shows how June 2023 precipitation ranks compared to all months in the historic record, back to 1895.

For some areas, June 2023 ranked in the top 10 wettest months on record. For the locations in the darkest green, June 2023 was the wettest month in the 129-year record.

significant events

Colorado PRELIMINARY severe thunderstorm and flood/flash flood reports, June 2023



In addition to all the rain, June 2023 was an extremely active month for severe thunderstorms.

On June 21, 36 tornadoes were observed, the most recorded on a single data in Colorado records ([see the detailed summary from NWS Boulder](#)).

On June 23, an EF-3 tornado caused major damage near Grenada; this was the first EF-3 tornado in Colorado since June 2015.

Numerous hailstorms affected the state in June, including the storm that injured nearly 100 people at Red Rocks on the 21st and a rare late-night storm across the Plains on the 27th. There were 310 preliminary reports of severe hail (at least 1" diameter), which, if confirmed, would be the most in a single month in state records (current most: 229 in June 2018).

CCC in the news

- ❑ [Colorado drought free for the first time in 4 years](#)
 - 9News, June 30, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Fort Collins included in threat of severe weather, tennis-ball size hail, tornado possible](#)
 - The Coloradoan, June 29, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [The knocking on your windows late at night in Colorado could be hail](#)
 - The Denver Post, June 29, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [What Does All This Snowmelt Mean for Coloradans?](#)
 - 5280 Magazine, June 28, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Strong snowpack, wet spring turn around reservoir levels across Colorado](#)
 - The Gazette, June 21, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Fill 'er up: Colorado's reservoirs hit 100% of normal for the first time in 3 years](#)
 - Water Education Colorado, June 21, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [El Niño has officially started. Here's what it could mean for Colorado](#)
 - Colorado Public Radio, June 16, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [2023 is one of Colorado's wettest starts to a year. Here's how much rain has soaked your city.](#)
 - The Denver Post, June 14, Russ Schumacher



CCC in the news

- ❑ [Here's how much rain Fort Collins, Windsor have gotten so far](#)
 - The Coloradoan, June 12, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Every drop counts: Precipitation measuring network celebrates 25 years, with no signs of slowing down](#)
 - CSU Source, June 12, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado's updated climate projections](#)
 - Big Pivots, June 9, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [El Niño may be on its way. Here's what that could mean for Pueblo and southern Colorado](#)
 - Pueblo Chieftain, June 4, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Colorado had an epic year of snowfall. How did Eagle County compare?](#)
 - Vail Daily, June 2, Peter Goble

