



# February 2024 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

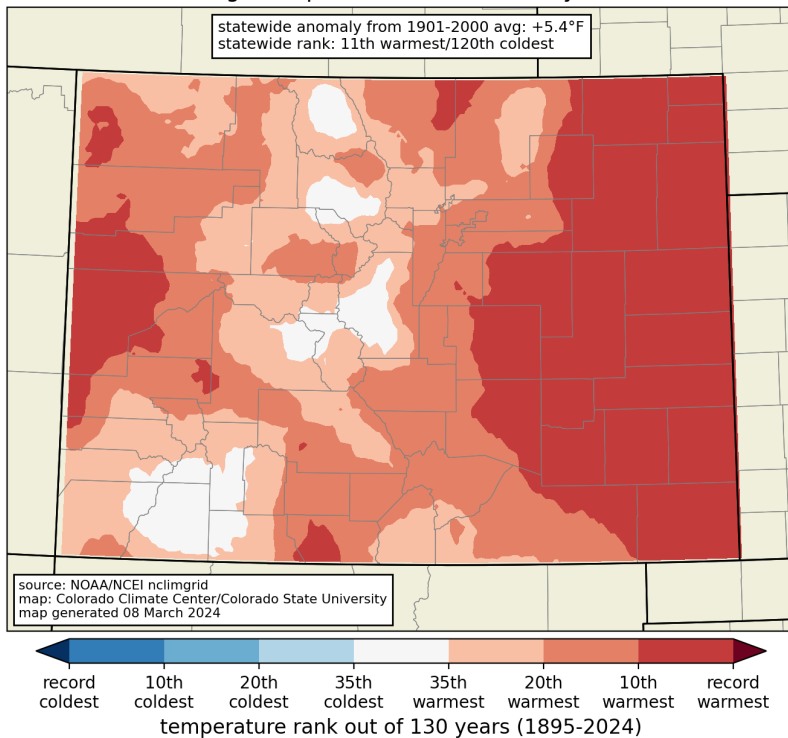
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ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# temperature

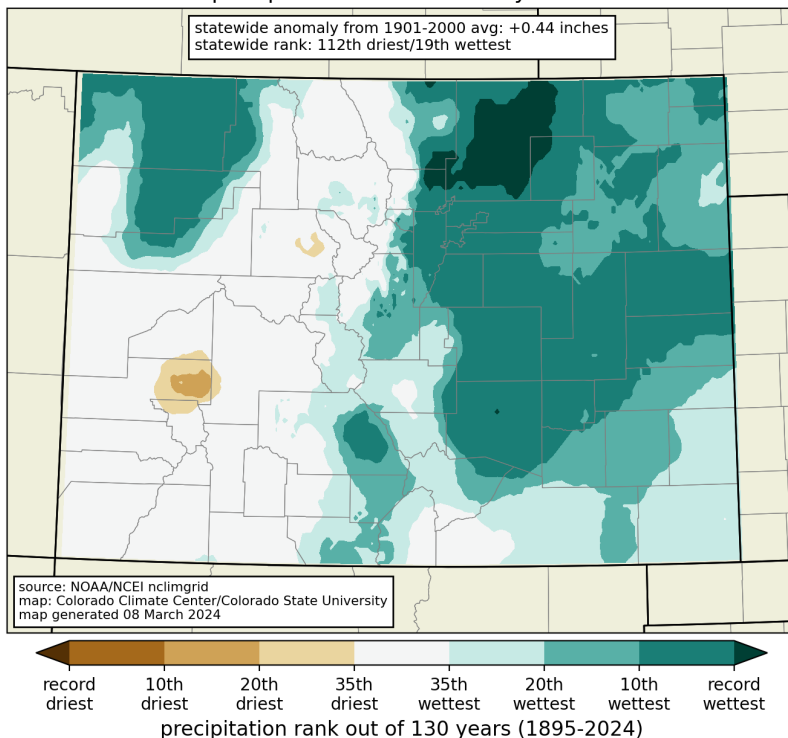
average temperature rank: February 2024



February 2024 was warm across Colorado, with the largest departures from average on the western slope and the eastern plains. Those parts of the state saw a top-10 warm February. It was the 8<sup>th</sup> straight month that was warmer than the 20<sup>th</sup> century average.

# precipitation

precipitation rank: February 2024

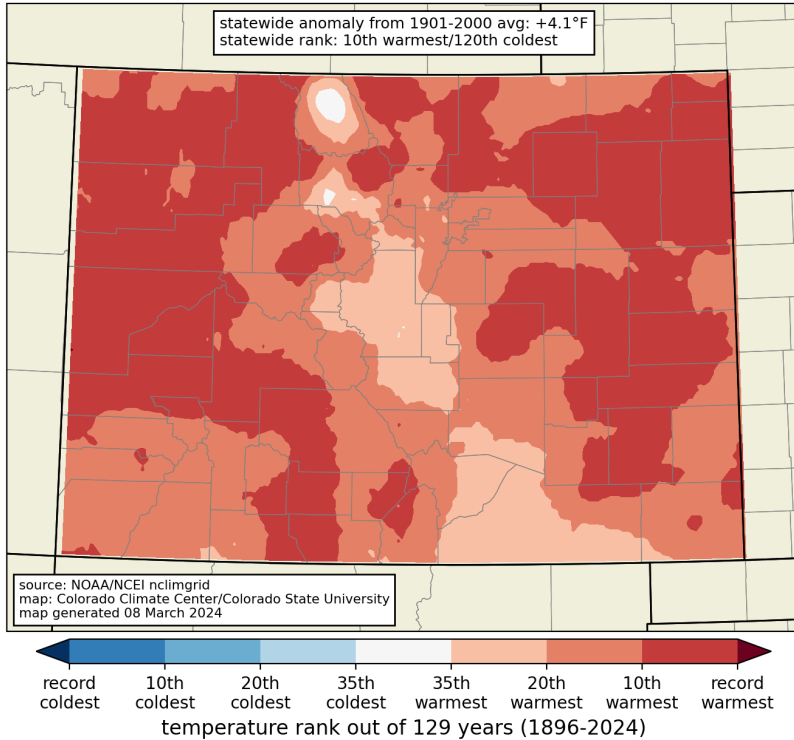


Eastern Colorado was much wetter than average in February, driven largely by major storms that brought a mix of rain and snow on February 2-3 and 9-10. Parts of Larimer, Boulder, Weld, and Morgan Counties had a record-wet February. Northwest Colorado was also wet, while the mountains were near average for precipitation in February.



# temperature: winter

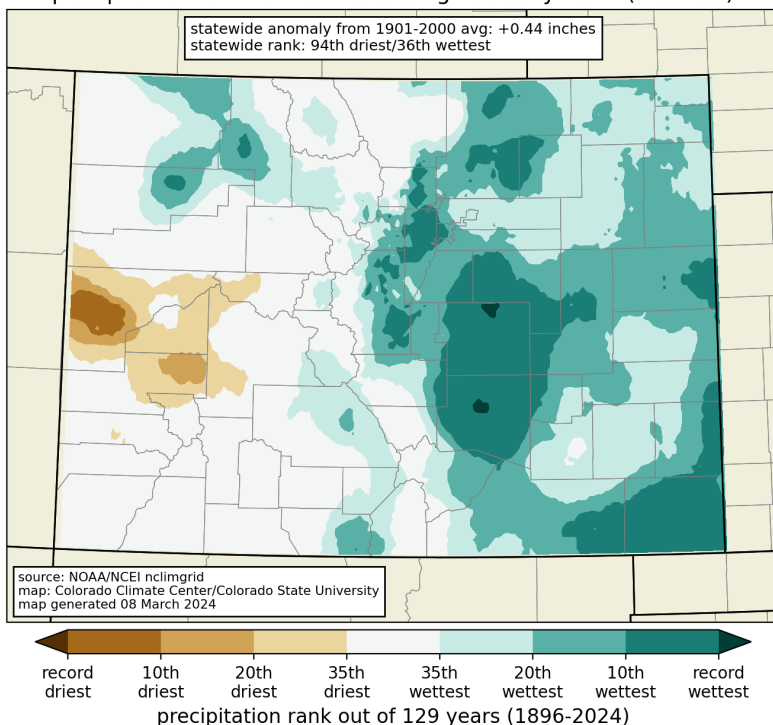
average temperature rank: 3 months ending February 2024 (Dec-Feb)



Climatological winter (December, January, February) was very warm across Colorado. Broad areas in both the west and east had a top-10 warmest winter. Mid-January had the only [significant cold wave](#) of the winter, with persistent warmth (by winter standards) characterizing the rest of the season.

# precipitation: winter

precipitation rank: 3 months ending February 2024 (Dec-Feb)



Winter was wetter than average across eastern Colorado, with parts of southern and southeastern Colorado seeing top-10 wettest winters. The mountains were generally near to above average for precipitation, while a pocket around Grand Junction had a top-10 driest winter.



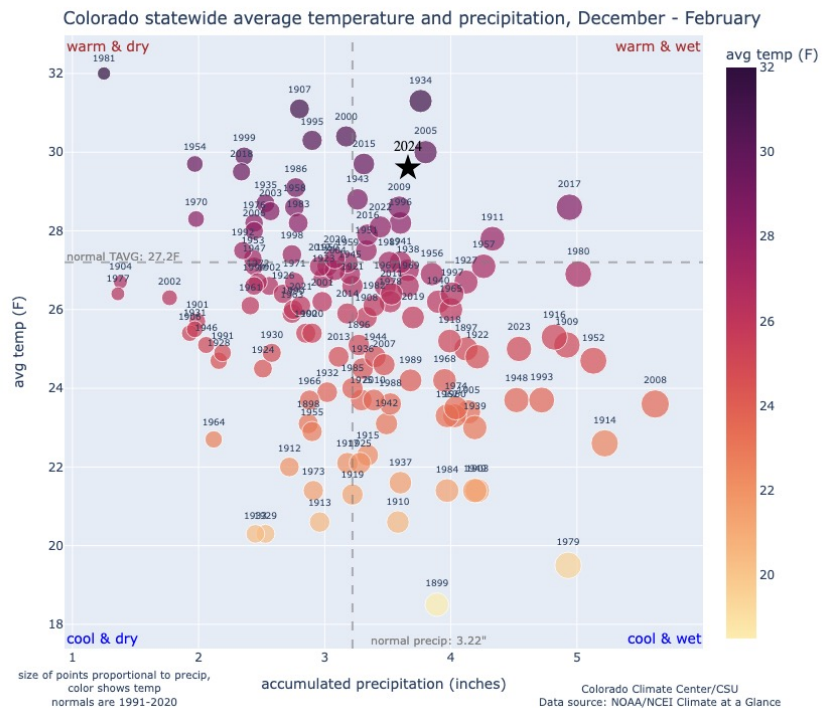
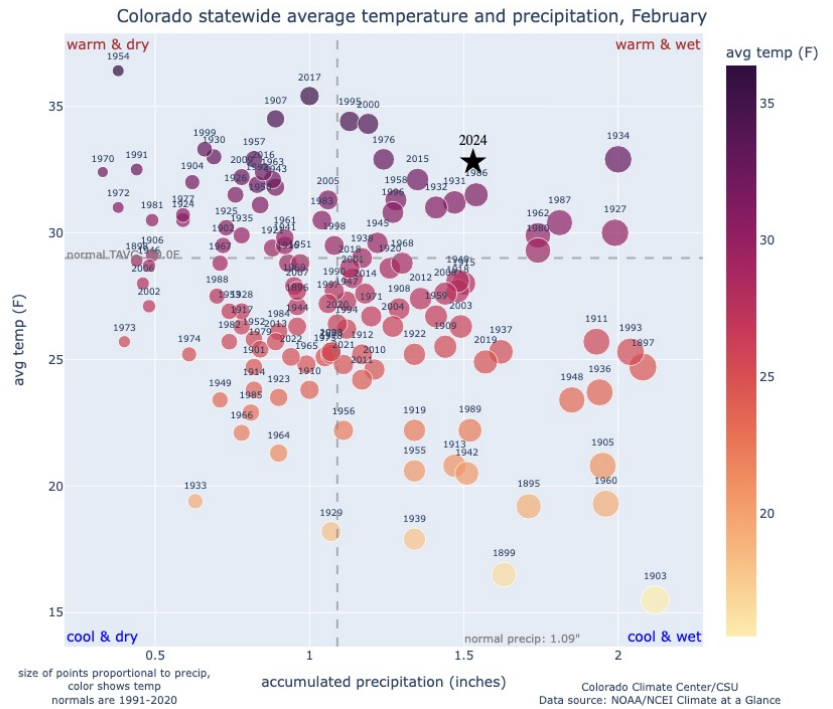
# quadrant charts

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.

Averaged across the state, February 2024 was the 11<sup>th</sup> warmest February in the 129-year record, at 3.8° F above the 1991-2020 average and 5.4° F above the 20<sup>th</sup> century average. It was the 19<sup>th</sup> wettest February, at 0.44" above average statewide.

2023-24 was the 10<sup>th</sup> warmest climatological winter for Colorado, the warmest since 2015. The statewide average temperature was 4.2° F warmer than the 20<sup>th</sup> century average. It was tied for the 36<sup>th</sup> wettest winter statewide.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

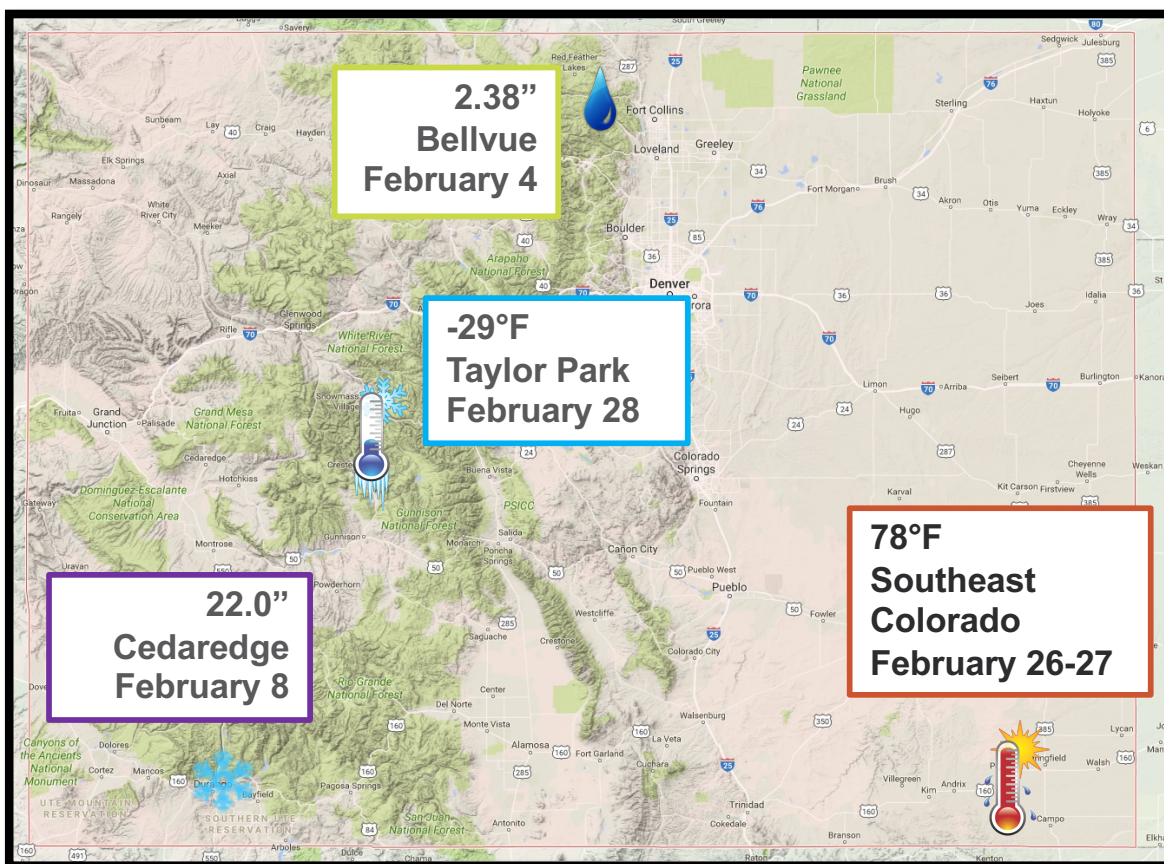


# records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	8/10	2/3	30/152	1/0	27/122	10/23
Monthly	0/0	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/15	0/2
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0

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

# state extremes

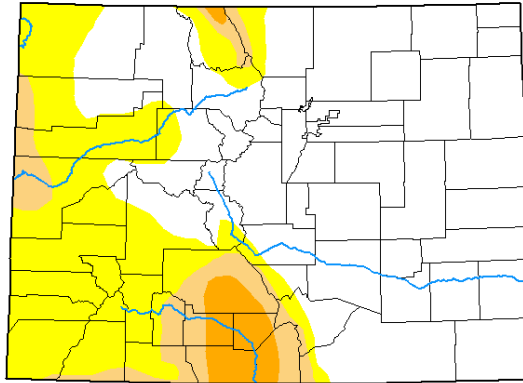


# drought

Large scale improvements in drought conditions occurred across much of the state in February. An early, wet February storm chipped away at the dry conditions in northeast CO. Additional improvements were made over southwest CO and northern mountains.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

February 27, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	63.34	36.66	10.68	3.52	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-20-2024	63.34	36.66	10.68	3.52	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-28-2023	32.94	67.06	27.27	8.32	2.05	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	34.65	65.35	29.59	8.85	2.05	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	65.71	34.29	17.43	2.77	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 02-28-2023	45.67	54.33	37.42	7.94	2.00	0.16

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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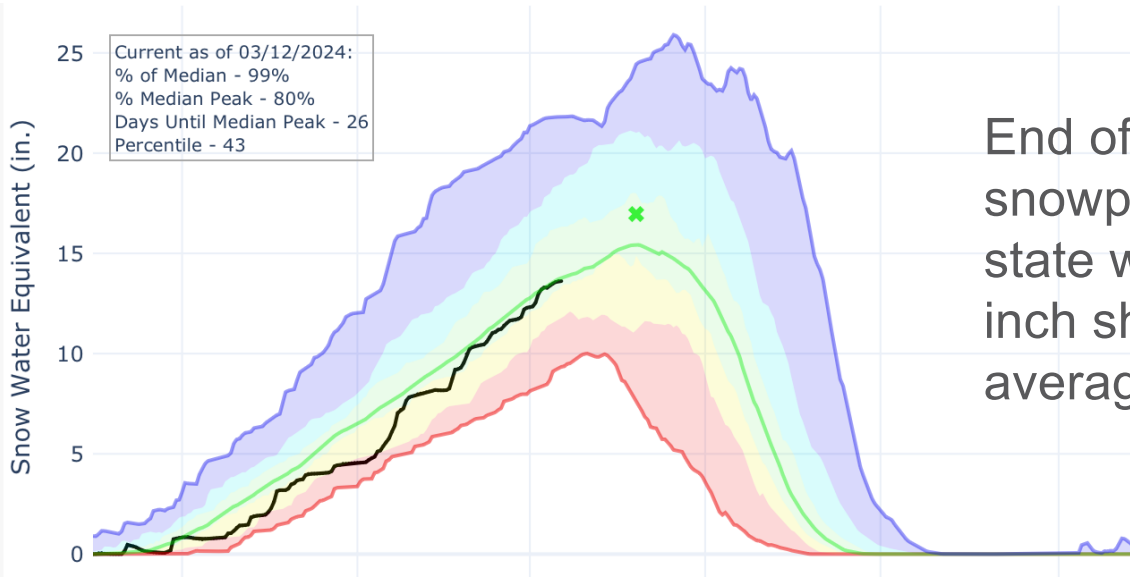


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

At the end of February, about 11% of the state remained in drought.

## [Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

# snowpack



End of February snowpack for the state was just half an inch shy of the average.

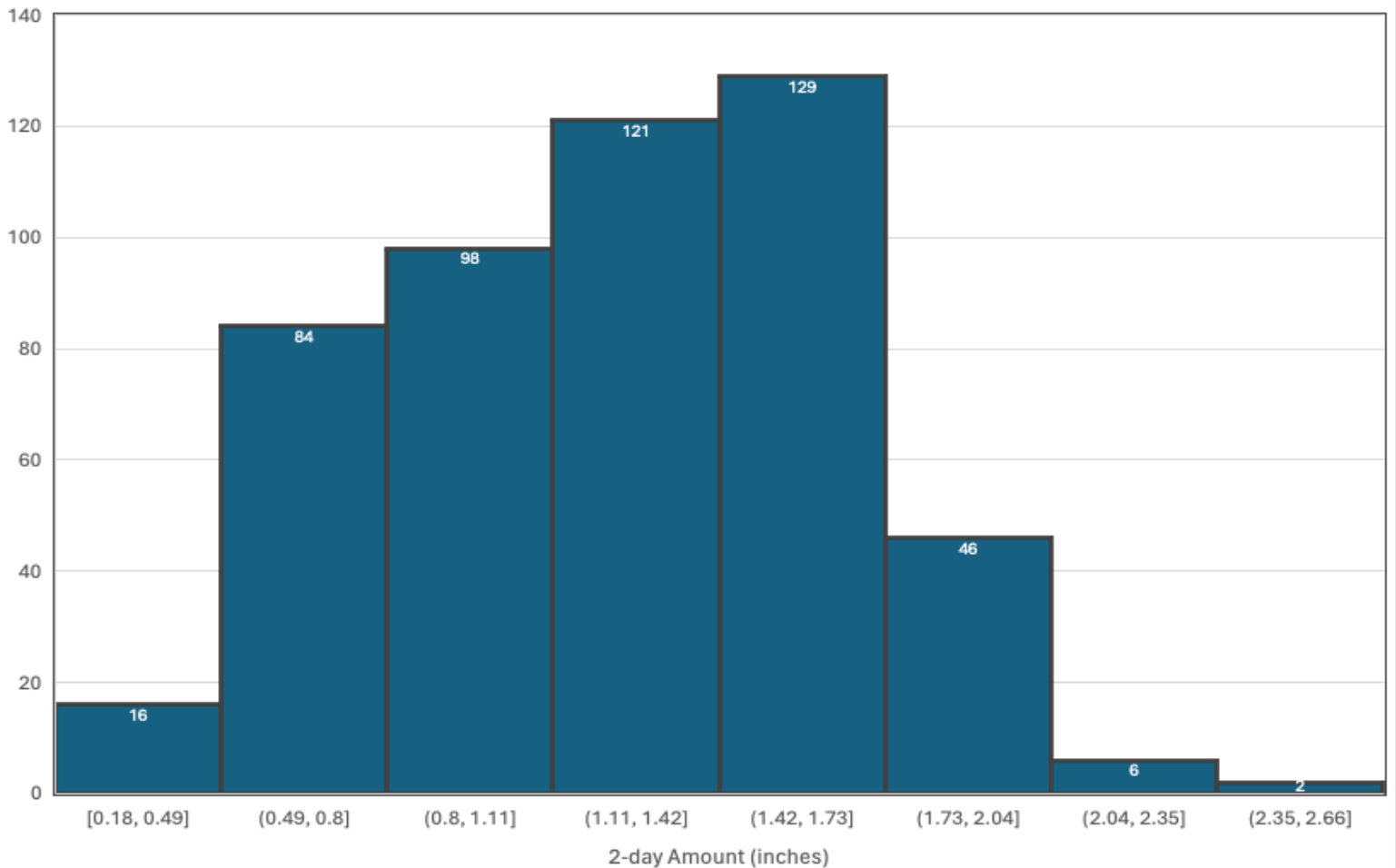
February snow activity in the high elevations was consistent and steady throughout the month. This kept snowpack near average accumulations.



# significant events      A wet winter storm!

In early February, a storm with lots of moisture brought rain and snow to much of the state. While February snow is very common, February rain isn't quite as common. And precipitation totals in excess of 1.5 – 2" with a significant portion falling as rain is almost unheard of in Colorado!

Distribution of record 2-day event totals February 3-5, 2024



In total, 466 CoCoRaHS volunteers observed their wettest 2-day February precipitation total. 28 COOP sites also broke records, including Boulder (1.74"), Fort Collins (1.63"), and down south at Walsenburg (1.58").

The above chart shows the number of station records binned by precipitation totals. 143 stations observed 1.42" or more. Several CoCoRaHS observers even reported over 2" over two days! For more insights into winter rains, check out our recent [blog post here](#).

# CCC in the news

- ❑ [Lake Mead levels continue recovery due to conservation, professor says.](#)
  - Fox 5 Las Vegas, February 20, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [How California's Atmospheric Rivers Will Change the Colorado River.](#)
  - Newsweek, February 7, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [State climatologist: 'Warming is going to have impacts on our snow in the winter and our water supply in the summer'.](#)
  - Alamosa Citizen, February 7, Russ Schumacher

