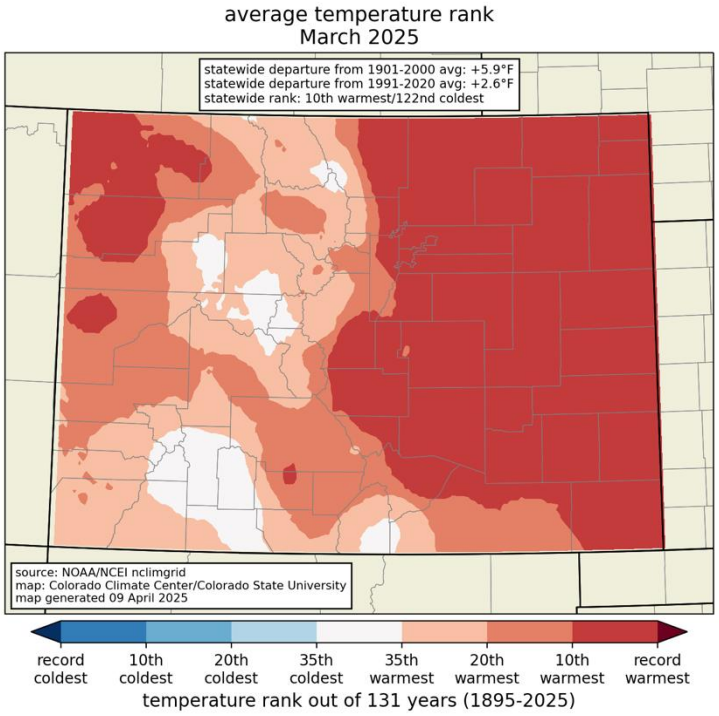
March 2025 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER

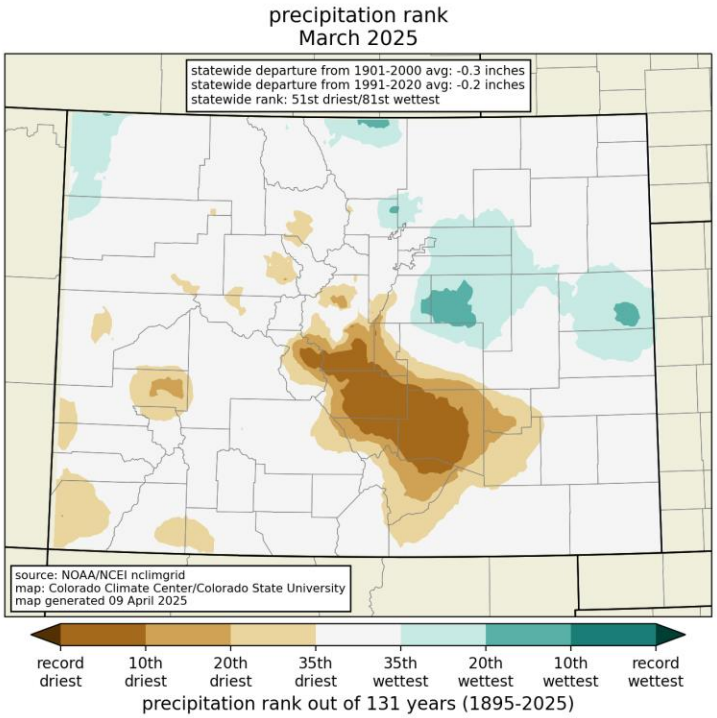
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature



Eastern Colorado was very warm during March 2025, with temperatures more than 4°F above average and ranking among the top 10 warmest Marches on record. The mountains and western slope were also warmer than average, though generally not by quite as much as the eastern plains. Since 1895, March has warmed the most of any month in Colorado, and that trend continued this year.

precipitation



Precipitation for March ended up near average for most of the state. It was dry for much of the month, but a late-March storm brought welcome precipitation to many areas. The exception was in the upper Arkansas River valley, which missed out on the storms and had a top-10 dry March.

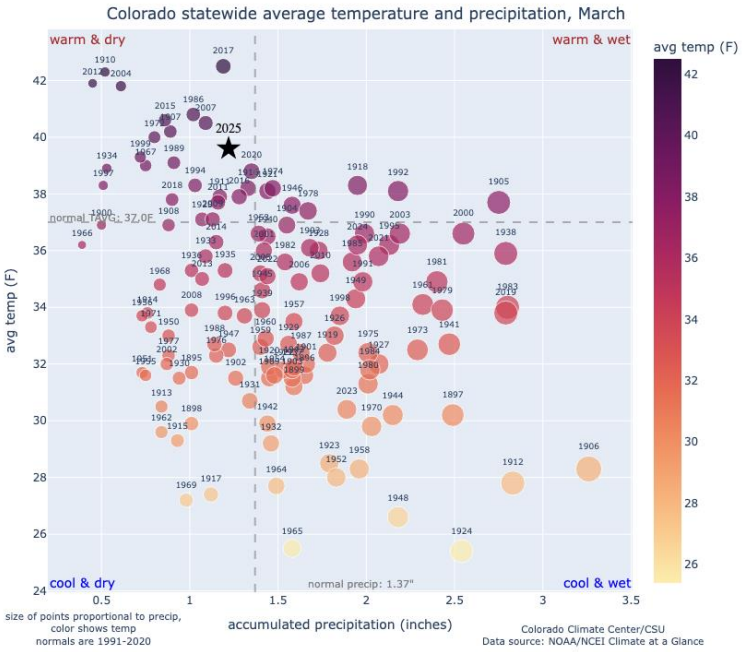
quadrant charts

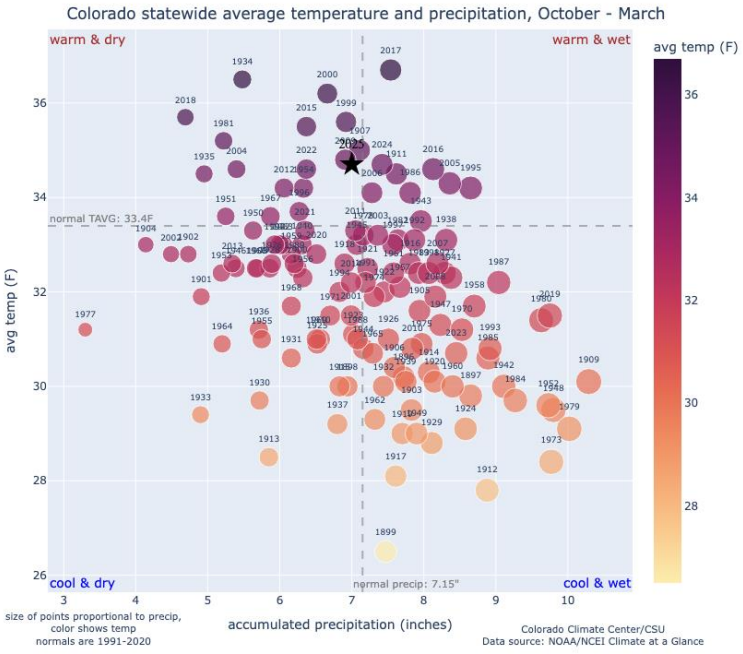
Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Averaged across the state, March was in the warm and dry quadrant. Statewide it was the 10th warmest March in 131 years of records, 2.6°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average and 5.9°F above the 20th-century average. It was tied for the 50th driest/82nd wettest March statewide at 0.30" below average.

Water year 2025 is now halfway over, and it has been another warm start to the water year. The first six months of the water year were tied (with WY2024) for the 10th-warmest, 1.3°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average and 3.0°F above the 20th-century average. Precipitation has been just 0.14" below average statewide, the 58th driest/73rd wettest start to a water year

[view all quadrant charts]



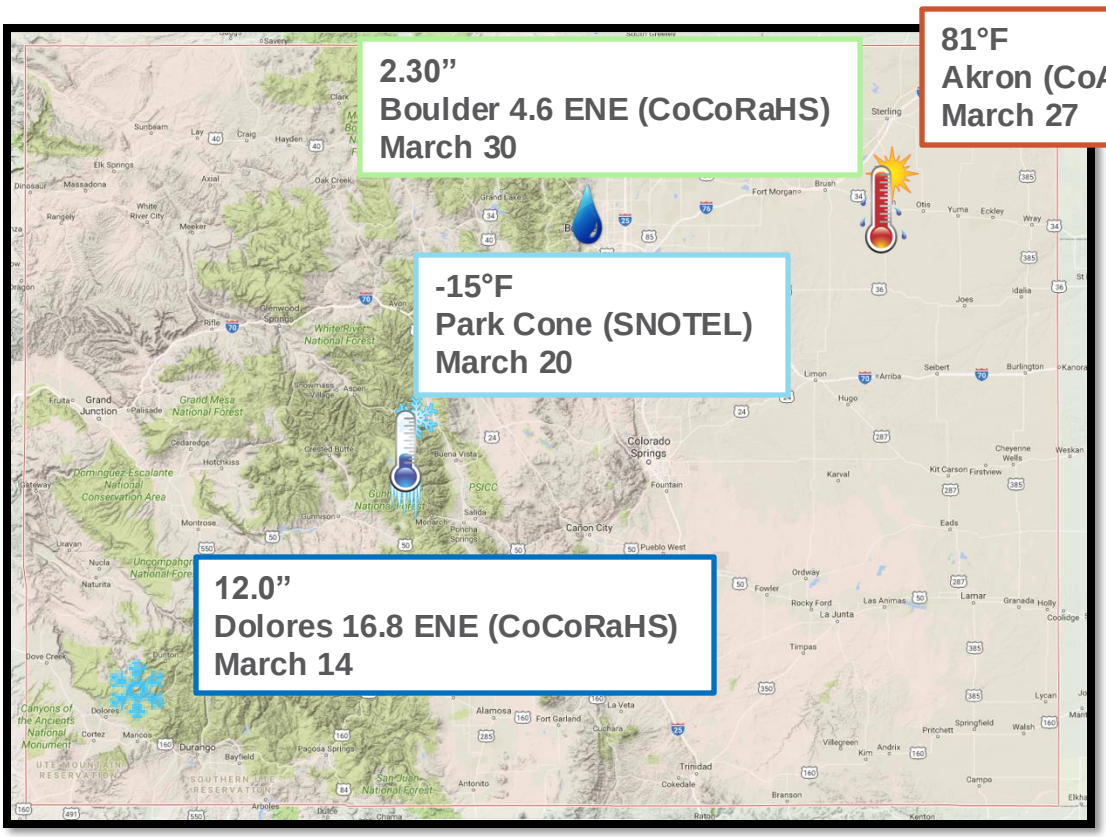


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	52/**112**	12/**111**	51/**104**	11/**27**	26/**61**	1/**5**
Monthly	2/**0**	0/**0**	5/**1**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**
All-time	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**

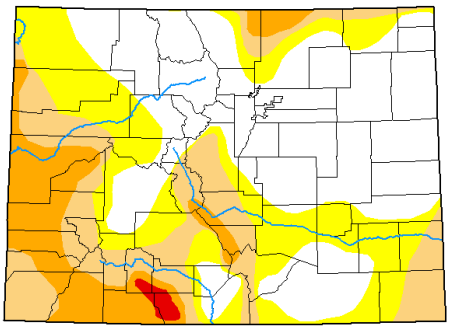
Tied/**Broken**, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes



drought & snowpack

U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado



April 1, 2025
(Released Thursday, Apr. 3, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	44.61	55.39	31.39	12.60	0.66	0.00
Last Week 03-25-2025	37.74	62.26	28.79	8.37	1.24	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-31-2024	75.05	24.95	10.15	4.08	0.98	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	71.40	28.60	10.78	4.08	0.98	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	48.27	51.73	24.40	4.62	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-02-2024	70.44	29.56	7.44	0.00	0.00	0.00

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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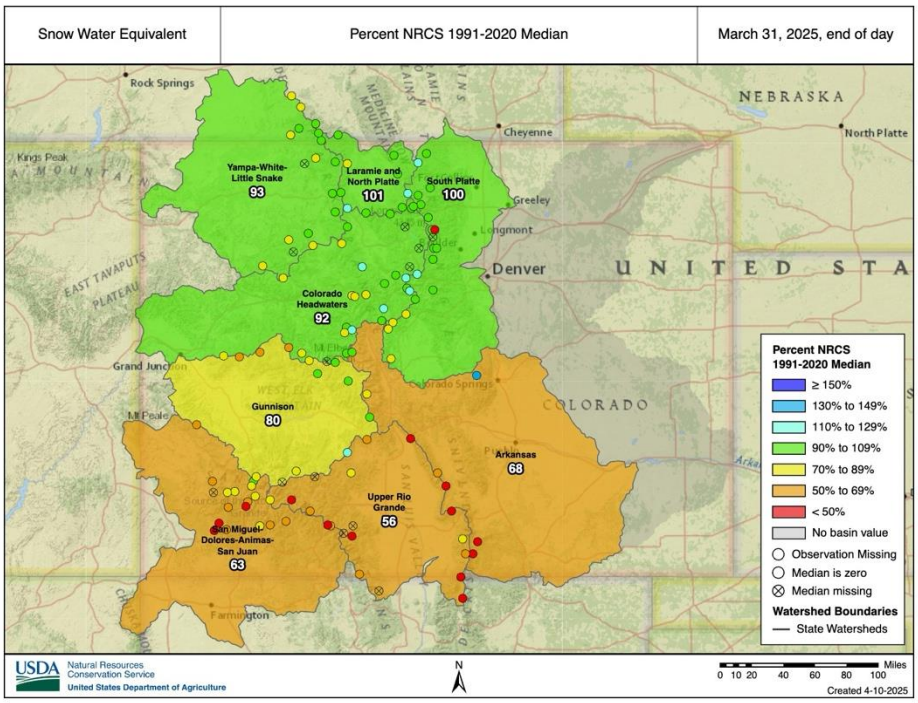
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought conditions have continued to worsen and expand across southern, western, and parts of central Colorado. D1 conditions have broadened over the Sawatch Range and Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and areas of D2 (severe drought) and D3 (extreme drought) have expanded across the San Juans. D1 conditions have also developed in Southeast Colorado. Meanwhile, recent precipitation improved drought conditions over the northern Front Range Foothills and adjacent plains. As of April 1, approximately 31% of the state is experiencing drought conditions (up from 25% at the beginning of March).

Colorado Drought Update Page

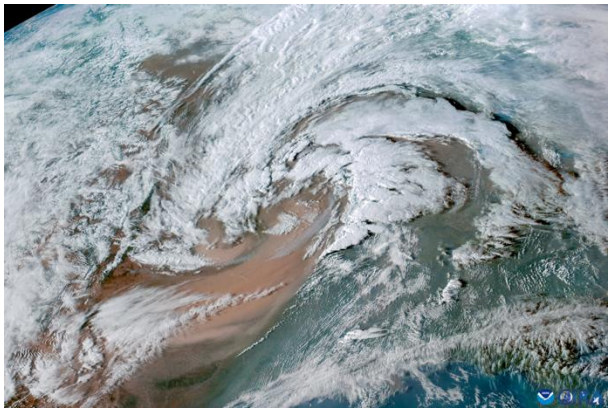
End-of-March snowpack was near-normal across the northern Colorado basins. However, conditions across the state's southern basins were in much worse shape, with the San Juan and Upper Rio Grande basins reporting 63% and 56% of normal snowpack (respectively). Seasonably warm temperatures at the end of the month signaled early season snowpack decline in these areas.



significant events

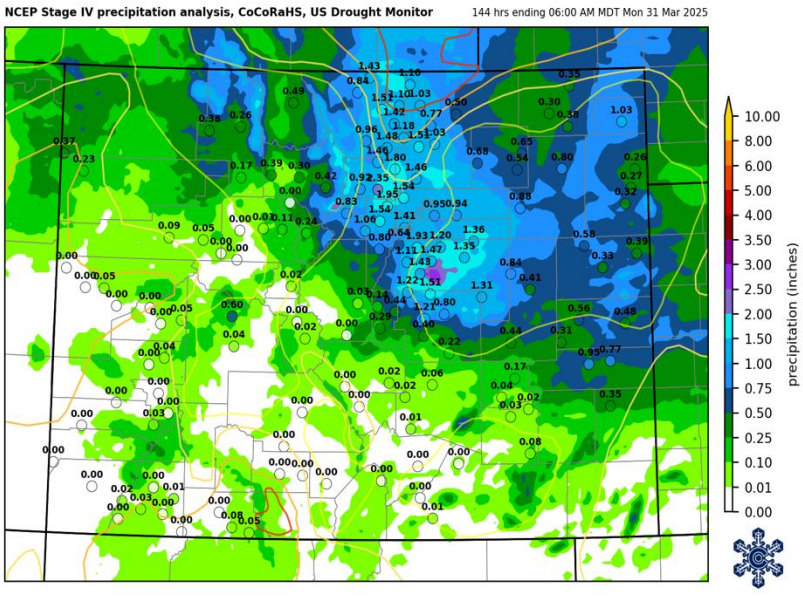
A potent low pressure system brought blowing dust and strong winds to the eastern half of the state—roughly 6 years to the day after the record-setting March 2019 bomb cyclone. While the state record of 970.4 mb set during that event remains intact, Springfield (KSPD) reported a sea level pressure of 977.3 mb, which is among the lowest pressures that we typically see in Colorado. The system later spawned severe storms and aggravated wildfires across the central and eastern U.S..

Mid-March bomb cyclone



GOES-16 visible satellite imagery from March 14, 2025 showing the strengthening low and blowing dust (CSU/CIRA/NOAA).

Precipitation brings *some* drought relief



Precipitation from NCEI Stage IV (shading) and CoCoRaHS (point data) from March 25-March 31. Contours show the US Drought Monitor on March 31.

Portions of northern and eastern Colorado saw much-needed precipitation (mostly in the form of rain over the lower elevations) after several very dry weeks. Widespread totals over 1 inch were recorded across the Front Range foothills, Urban Corridor, and adjacent plains. Southern and western Colorado missed out on this beneficial precipitation however, and drought conditions continue to worsen there.

CCC in the news

- **March 13, 2025**: March megastorm may bring blizzards, tornadoes, flooding and even fires across much of US
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Phys.org
- **March 14, 2025:** Colorado is split into snowpack haves and have-nots, drought report shows
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Colorado Sun
- **March 16, 2025**: Will Colorado see drought conditions start to develop this spring?
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Sky-Hi News
- **March 27, 2025**: Why this March has been among windiest and driest on record in Fort Collins
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in The Coloradoan

In case you missed it, you might enjoy this blog post about the meaning of the seasons, and why spring is a really important season for water in Colorado: https://climate.colostate.edu/blog/index.php/2025/03/14/what-season-is-it-anyway/