

# August 2025

## Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

Lee Fire becomes 5th-largest on record for CO

Minimum daily temperature (24°F in Hebron & Cowdrey)

Exceptional (D4) drought conditions develop in western CO for the first time since 2021

Maximum daily temperature (109°F in Las Animas & Lamar)

Maximum daily precipitation (5.02" in Walsh)

U.S. Drought Monitor  
Aug. 26, 2025

### Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for August 2025

(based on 1895-2025 data)

17<sup>th</sup> warmest (above average) ■ 52<sup>nd</sup> wettest (near average)



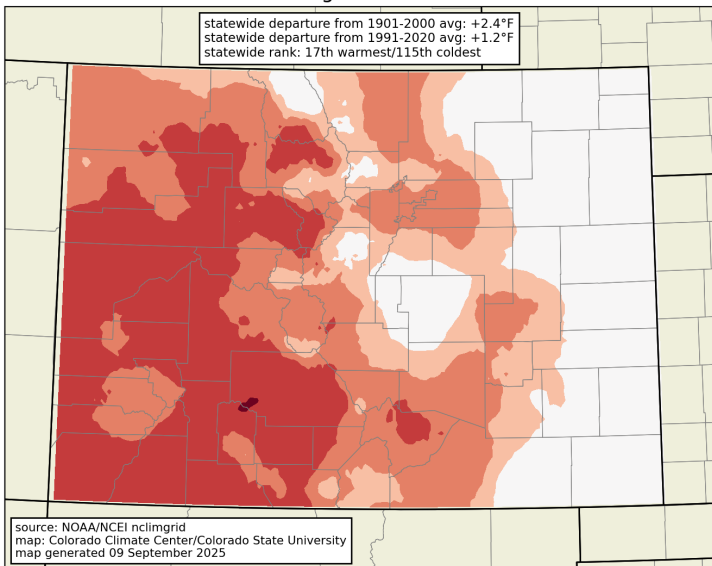
Photo from Calypso Cascades, RMNP



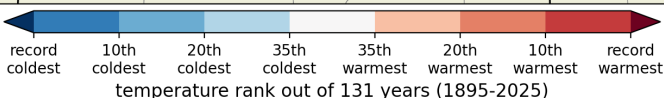
# temperature

average temperature rank  
August 2025

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +2.4°F  
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +1.2°F  
statewide rank: 17th warmest/115th coldest



source: NOAA/NCEI nclimgrid  
map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University  
map generated 09 September 2025

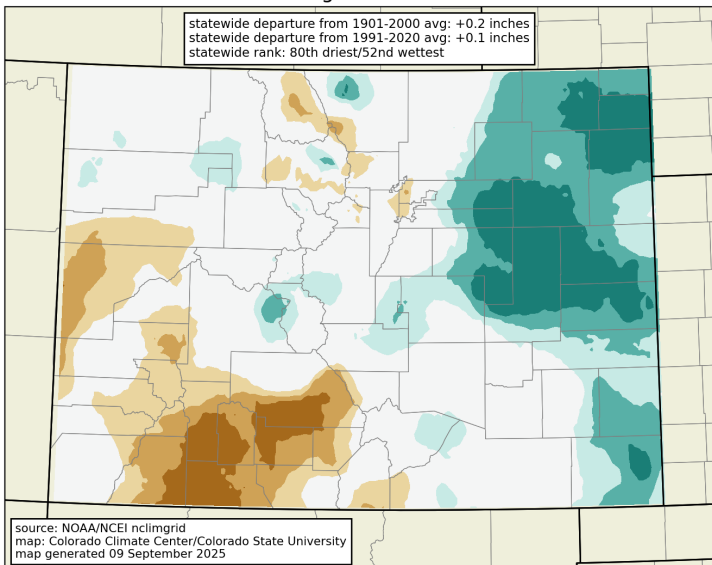


August was again warmer than average, especially across western Colorado where it was among the top 10 warmest Augusts on record in many areas. In contrast, the eastern Plains saw temperatures closer to the August average. Statewide, it was the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive month that was warmer than average.

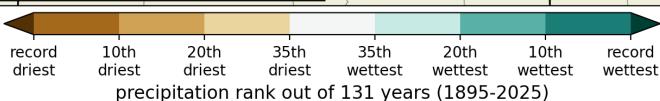
# precipitation

precipitation rank  
August 2025

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +0.2 inches  
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +0.1 inches  
statewide rank: 80th driest/52nd wettest



source: NOAA/NCEI nclimgrid  
map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University  
map generated 09 September 2025

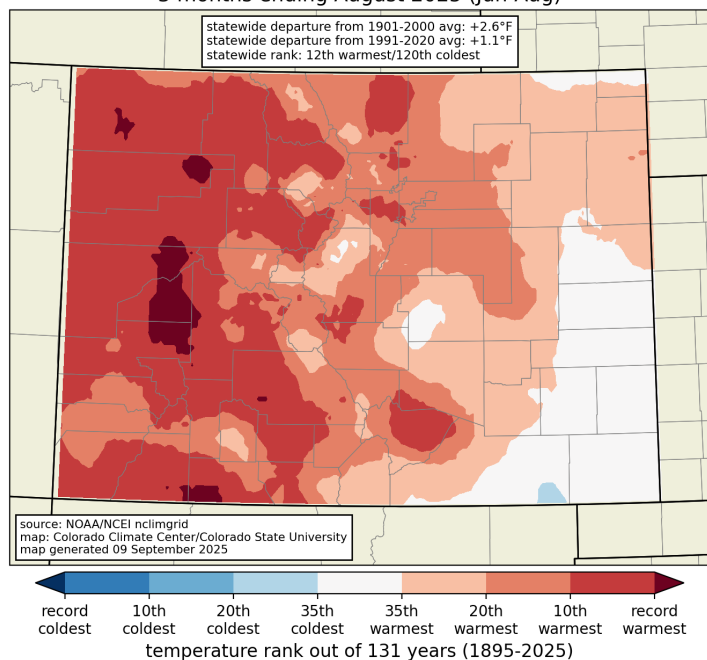


The precipitation map for the month of August is rather misleading: it represents about 3 weeks of extreme dryness, followed by one wet week that brought the monthly totals to near or above average in northwestern Colorado. The eastern Plains had consistent thunderstorm activity, and most locations ended the month much wetter than average.



# temperature: summer

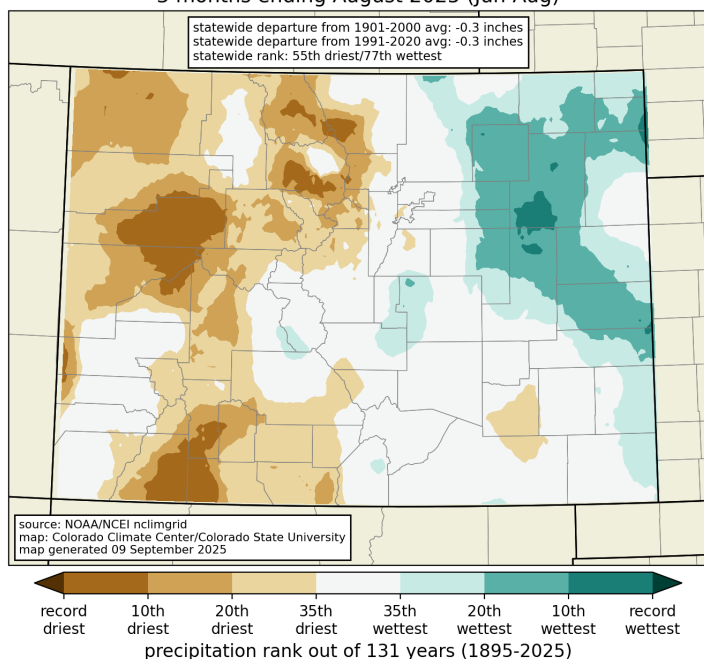
average temperature rank  
3 months ending August 2025 (Jun-Aug)



Climatological summer (June-July-August) was warmer than average for nearly all of Colorado. Western Colorado experienced its 5<sup>th</sup>-warmest summer on record. The one part of the state that was relatively cool with respect to the summer average was southeastern Colorado.

# precipitation: summer

precipitation rank  
3 months ending August 2025 (Jun-Aug)



In addition to being hot, most of western Colorado was also dry for the summer of 2025. Some locations had a top-10 dry summer, with the only significant rains coming at the very beginning (early June) and very end (late August) of the season. The northeastern Plains, in contrast, were much wetter than average for the climatological summer.



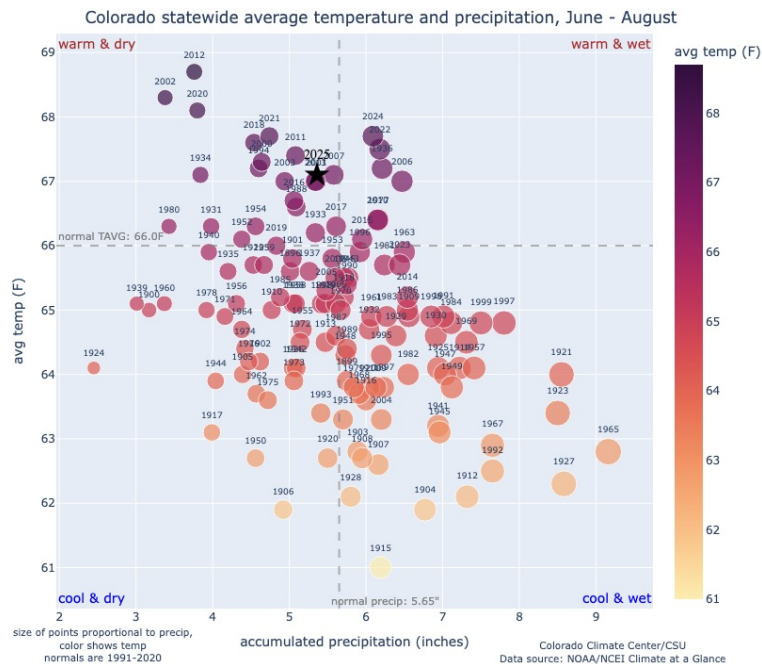
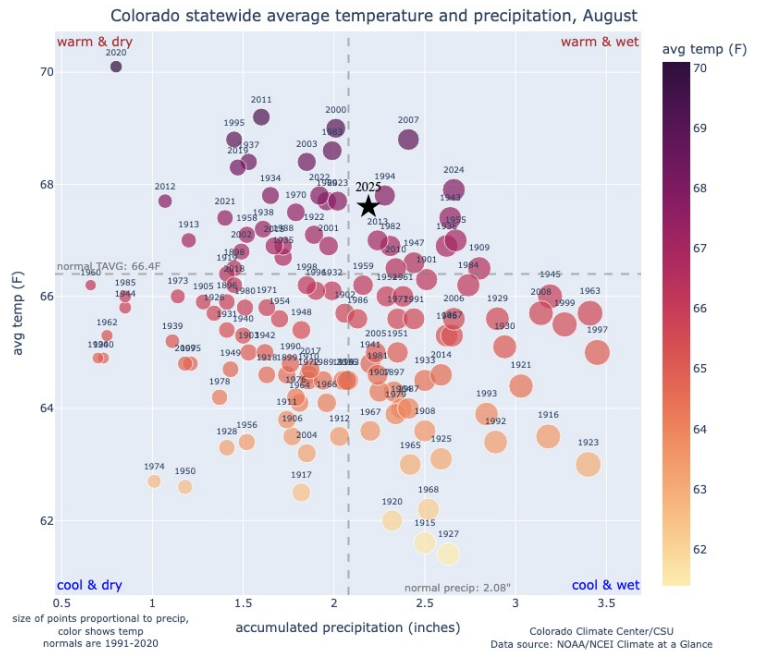
# quadrant charts

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, August 2025 was warmer and slightly wetter than average. It was the 17<sup>th</sup> -warmest August, at 1.2° F warmer than the 1991-2020 average and 2.4° F above the 20<sup>th</sup>-century average. August precipitation was 0.16” above the statewide 30-year mean of 2.03” and was the 52<sup>nd</sup>-wettest/80<sup>th</sup> driest August in 131 years of records.

For climatological summer, Colorado was warmer and slightly drier than average. It was tied (with 1934 and 2007) for the 12<sup>th</sup> warmest summer in 131 years of record, at 2.6° F warmer than the 20<sup>th</sup>-century average and 1.1° F above the 1991-2020 average. Summer precipitation was 0.31” below average, for the 55<sup>th</sup>-driest summer on record statewide.

[view all quadrant charts](#)



	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	106/355	17/64	85/298	22/33	22/84	0/0
Monthly	19/10	0/1	13/18	1/0	0/8	0/0
All-time	2/0	0/0	2/1	0/0	1/1	0/0

Tied/Broken, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

## state extremes

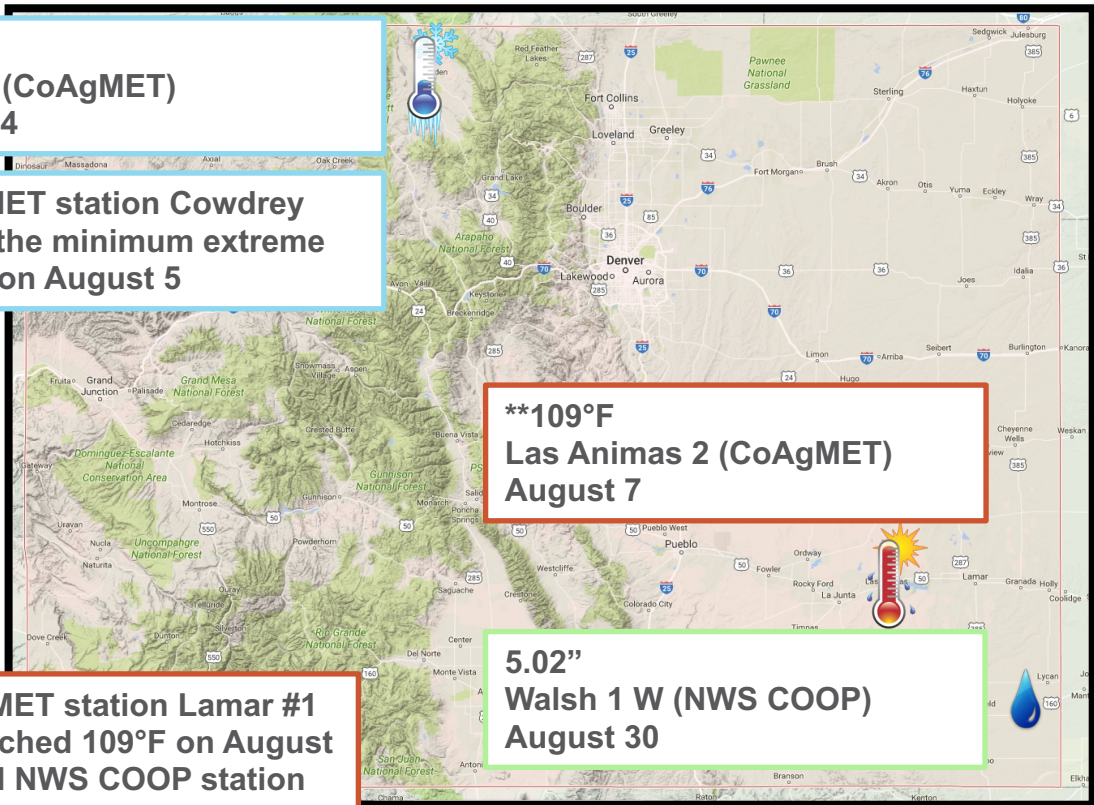
**\*24°F**  
**Hebron (CoAgMET)**  
**August 4**

**\*CoAgMET station Cowdrey**  
**shared the minimum extreme**  
**of 24°F on August 5**

**\*\*109°F**  
**Las Animas 2 (CoAgMET)**  
**August 7**

**\*\*CoAgMET station Lamar #1**  
**also reached 109°F on August**  
**7, as did NWS COOP station**  
**Las Animas on August 8**

**5.02"**  
**Walsh 1 W (NWS COOP)**  
**August 30**



# drought

U.S. Drought Monitor  
Colorado

August 26, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	34.66	65.34	52.62	41.96	28.53	7.05
Last Week 08-19-2025	30.40	69.60	54.15	42.29	28.92	7.05
3 Months Ago 05-27-2025	33.85	66.15	49.27	25.36	6.17	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	4.02	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-27-2024	50.86	49.14	8.53	1.22	0.00	0.00

**Intensity**

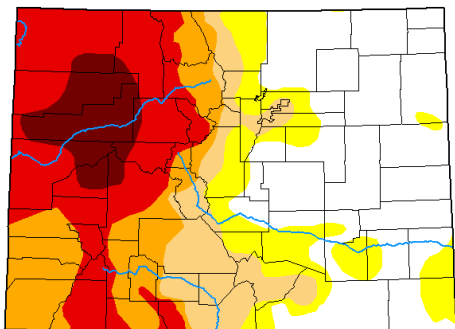
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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>

Author:  
Brad Rippey  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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

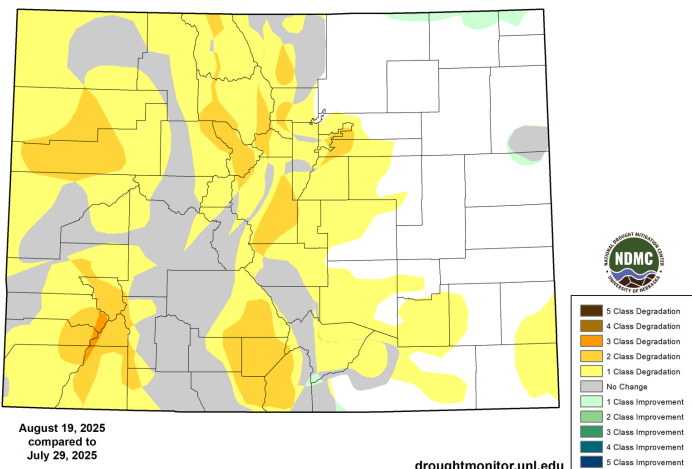


Drought worsened and expanded across western Colorado during most of August, with ~29% of the state experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions (compared to ~12% at the end of July). The last time that exceptional drought conditions occurred in western Colorado was October 2021.

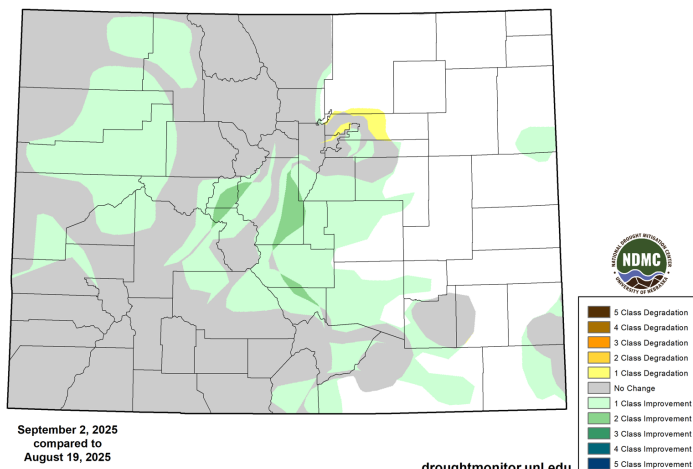
## Colorado Drought Update Page

The drought landscape looked very different for the first and second half of August. In early through mid-August, drought worsened for many locations west of the Continental Divide, with some locations in northwestern Colorado reaching D4 (or exceptional) drought conditions. Meanwhile, in the last couple of weeks of the month, monsoon-driven precipitation finally brought some drought relief to the state. Central Colorado made the greatest progress towards drought amelioration, and exceptional drought conditions were eradicated on the West Slope by early September. Outside of the Denver Metro area and a small part of Las Animas county, the Eastern Plains remained drought-free thanks to regular showers and thunderstorms.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado  
3 Week



U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado  
2 Week



# significant events

Wildfires continued to ignite and grow across the western half of the state throughout early-mid August as hot, dry, breezy conditions persisted. The Lee Fire, located southwest of Meeker, grew to be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest wildfire on record for Colorado at over 137,000 acres burned ([nearly the size of the 2002 Hayman Fire](#)). 2025 has been the most active wildfire season for Colorado since the record-breaking 2020 season.



*Lee Fire viewed from Meeker, CO on August 4th (photo via Kristie Davis).*

Towards the end of August, moisture from the North American Monsoon finally brought precipitation to the state. Much of western Colorado received enough precipitation to put a dent in the worsening drought, and the rainfall helped tame wildfire activity, though it also led to localized debris flows along the Lee Fire burn scar.

Eastern Colorado also received substantial precipitation during August, with widespread totals of 4-5 inches along the Palmer Divide and the northeast Plains. At CSU's Plainsman Research Center in Walsh, 5.02" of rain was recorded on August 30, which is the wettest single day in the history of that station, with records dating back to the late 1960s.



*Flooding at the CSU Plainsman Research Center, Walsh, CO (photo via Zane Jenkins).*

# CCC in the news

- ❑ **August 6, 2025: [Drought blankets most of the Intermountain West, including Colorado – and will likely get worse](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in CPR News
- ❑ **August 9, 2025: [Drought worsens in Colorado as hot, dry, windy weather fuels wildfire behavior - and risk - on Western Slope](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Summit Daily
- ❑ **August 9, 2025: [Drought worsens in Intermountain West](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Fence Post
- ❑ **August 9, 2025: [Lee Fire grows to fifth-largest in state history](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher on 9News
- ❑ **August 15, 2025: [Western Colorado is at the 'epicenter of drought' as a hot, dry summer saps water supplies - and fuels wildfires](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Denver Post
- ❑ **August 15, 2025: [Dry weather conditions impact the Western Slope](#)**
  - Featuring Peter Goble on KKCO 11 News – Grand Junction
- ❑ **August 16, 2025: [Drought hits 'exceptional' levels on Western Slope near wildfires as forecasters remain 'optimistic' about long-term outlook in Colorado](#)**
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Summit Daily
- ❑ **August 21, 2025: [Welcome moisture returns, but perhaps not for long](#)**
  - Featuring Peter Goble in the Telluride Daily Planet
- ❑ **August 22, 2025: [Incoming weather to reduce wildfire risk](#)**
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in KKCO 11 News – Grand Junction



# CCC in the news

- ❑ **August 23, 2025:** [Will recent rainfall help reverse Western Colorado's extreme drought conditions?](#)
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Summit Daily
- ❑ **August 25, 2025:** [Western Slope braces for exceptional drought](#)
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Western Slope Now
- ❑ **August 27, 2025:** [Low river flows trigger calls, closures, stressed fish](#)
  - Featuring Peter Goble in Aspen Journalism
- ❑ **August 27, 2025:** [Monsoonal rains are dousing western Colorado wildfires. They also come with serious flood concerns](#)
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Colorado Sun
- ❑ **August 28, 2025:** [Colorado's water year has been well below normal. Now a dry fall and winter are forecast](#)
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in Water Education Colorado
- ❑ **August 29, 2025:** [Fires are getting bigger and burning faster in Colorado](#)
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in CPR News
- ❑ **August 30, 2025:** [Town of Telluride implements outdoor watering restrictions](#)
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Telluride Daily Planet
- ❑ **August 31, 2025:** [Exceptional drought and a ring of fire for northwest Colorado](#)
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Aspen Journalism

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