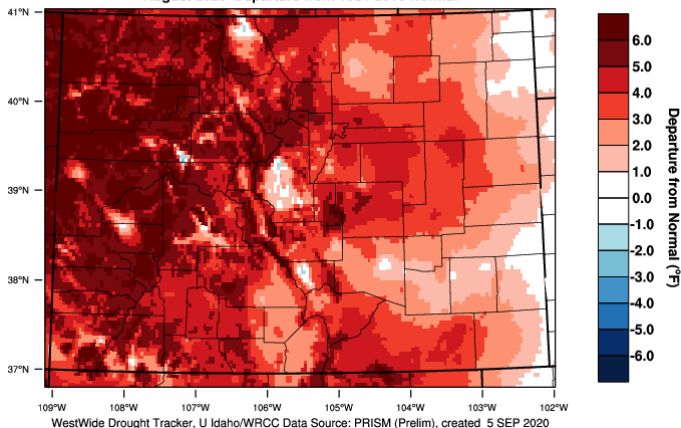
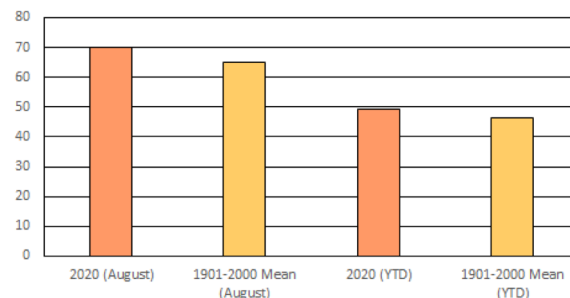


August 2020 Monthly Climate Summary

Colorado - Mean Temperature
August 2020 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal

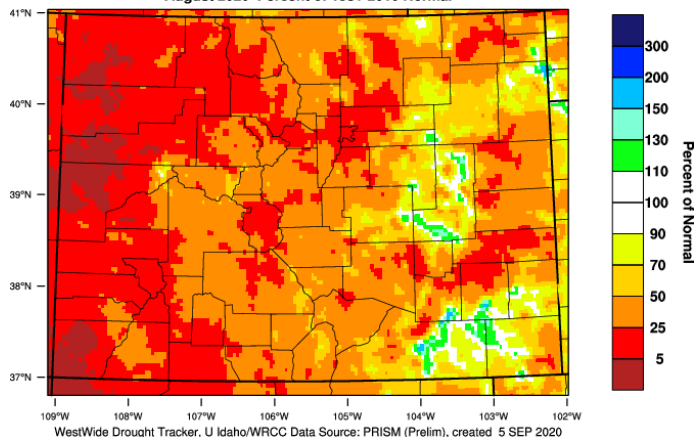


Average Daily Temperature (°F)

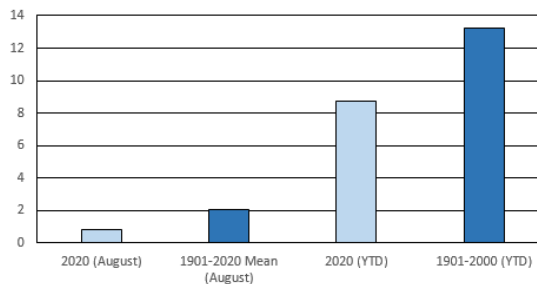


The statewide average temperature for August 2020 was 70.0°F, which is 4.8°F warmer than the 1901-2000 average of 65.2°F. Average temperature since January 1 is 49.5°F, which is 2.9°F above the 1901-2000 average of 46.6°F. August 2020 is the warmest August on record and we are now on track for our 7th warmest year on record. June – August 2020 was the 3rd warmest summer on record for the state.

Colorado - Precipitation
August 2020 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



Average Daily Precip (Inches)



The statewide average precipitation for August 2020 was 0.8", 0.23" below the 1901-2000 average of 2.03". Total precipitation since January is 8.72", which is 4.48" below the 1901-2000 average. August 2020 is the 5th driest on record and we are now on track for the 3rd driest year on record. Also worth note, the 12-month period of Sep 2019 – Aug 2020 ranks as the 2nd driest such period on record. The 2002 drought was the last time a Sep – Aug period has been this dry.

Daily Records
(Tied | Broken) Total

High Max T

(196 | 512) **712**
Highest Temp: 105°F,
Kit Carson, August 14 & 27

Low Max T

(4 | 13) **17**

High Min T

(108 | 546) **654**

Low Min T

(9 | 11) **20**
Lowest Temp: 20°F,
Jones Pass, August 30

Precipitation

(12 | 20) **32**
Greatest Daily Precip: 2.54",
Security-Widefield, August 6

Snowfall

(0 | 0) **0**



August 2020 Monthly Climate Summary

A fiery end to Summer 2020

After a relatively calm start to fire season in Colorado, fire activity picked up in August. The Pine Gulch Fire started on July 31st by a lightning strike, and on August 27th it became the largest wildfire in Colorado history, beating out the 2002 Hayman Fire. The Grizzly Creek Fire in Glenwood Canyon cut off I-70 for two weeks, and the Cameron Peak Fire continues to shutter much of Highway 14 and threaten Rocky Mountain National Park. By August 31, four major wildfires (including the Williams Fork Fire) in the northwest portion of the state had burned over 206,000 acres.

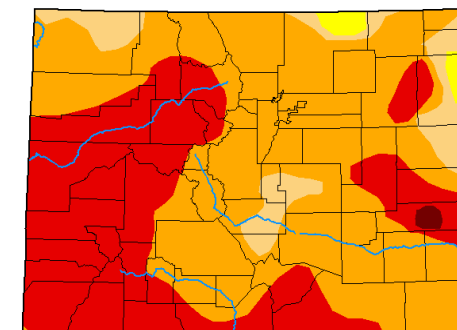


Grizzly Creek Fire seen from the Colorado River
(credit: John Brockmeier)

Drought continues

This August, the monsoon failed to bring any drought relief to Colorado, and drought continued to expand.

By the end of the month, every corner of the state was experiencing some level of drought, with 92% of the state in D2 (severe) drought, or worse. For the first time since 2013, 100% of the state was in a dry category.



US Drought Monitor as of Sept 1, 2020.

From <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

One for the record books

- ✓ A station in the Goose Creek Wilderness (elev. 11,250ft) broke its all-time record high maximum temperature on August 2nd at 85°F, then broke that two days later at 87°F.
- ✓ Having only gotten to 90°F 3 times in previous Augusts, Alamosa topped 90°F 6 times in August 2020, including a monthly high record of 92°F.
- ✓ The Colorado River climate division reported its hottest and driest August in 126 years of record.
- ✓ 18 stations broke their warmest minimum temperature record for August (all at high elevations).
- ✓ Montrose's last three Augusts are the top 3 hottest on record.



August 2020 Monthly Climate Summary

Headlines

August 3, 2020

[Nearly all of Colorado is under some drought status. A year ago, almost none of the state was parched.](#)

August 10, 2020

Peter Goble to NBC News: "Hotter temperatures make drier years hurt more."

[Colorado - the entire state - is in the midst of a widespread drought](#)

Aug 20, 2020

A Colorado Summer: Drought, Wildfires and Smoke in 2020:

<https://www.climate.gov/news-features/event-tracker/colorado-summer-drought-wildfires-and-smoke-2020>

Aug 26, 2020

[Colorado's Farmers and Ranchers hit by Double, Triple Whammy](#)

August 27, 2020

[Exceptional drought reemerges on Colorado's Eastern Plains](#)

Fire and Smoke Resources

Current Smoke Conditions:

<https://fire.airnow.gov>

Incident (Wildfire) Information System:

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

NOAA Experimental Smoke Prediction Tool:

<https://hwp-viz.gsd.esrl.noaa.gov/smoke/index.html>

PurpleAir: Real-time Air Quality Monitoring:

<https://www.purpleair.com/map?mylocation>

Colorado Fire Restriction Information:

<http://www.coemergency.com/p/fire-bans-danger.html>

