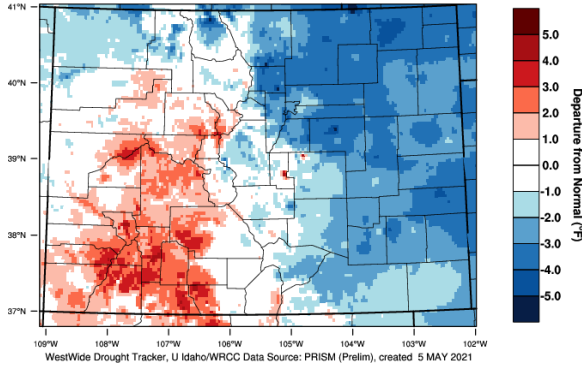
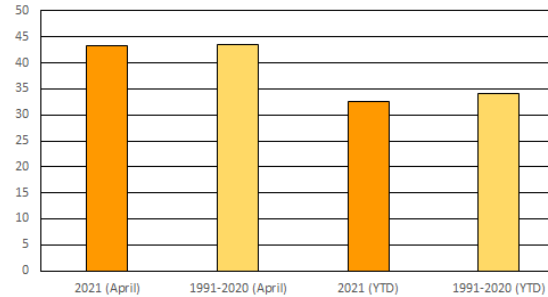


April 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

Colorado - Mean Temperature
April 2021 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal

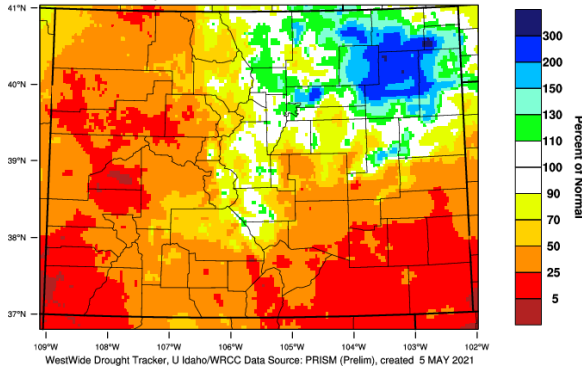


Average Daily Temperature (°F)

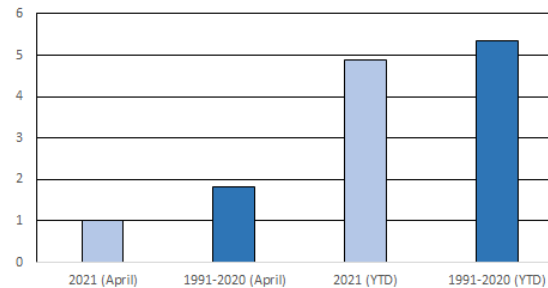


The statewide average temperature for April 2021 was 43.2°F, which is 0.4°F colder than the 1991-2020 normal of 43.6°F. Average temperature for the year to date is 32.6°F, which is 1.4°F below the 1991-2020 normal of 34.0°F. April 2021 is the 62nd warmest April on record. So far, 2021 is the 50th warmest year on record. It should be noted that statewide averages for this month are deceiving, as April dealt Colorado a meteorologically mixed bag. For example, the Platte Drainage region was 1.8°F degrees cooler than normal while the Colorado Drainage region was 0.9°F degrees warmer than normal. San Juan County experienced its 11th warmest April on record.

Colorado - Precipitation
April 2021 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal



Average Precip (Inches)



The statewide average precipitation for April 2021 was 1.02", which is 0.8" below the 1991-2020 normal of 1.82". Average accumulated precipitation for the year to date is 4.88", 0.47" below the 1991-2020 normal of 5.35". April 2021 is the 18th wettest April on record and so far, 2021 is the 43rd wettest year on record. As with average temperature, mother nature did not provide an even spread of precipitation to our state. Once again, the Platte Drainage was the winner with a perfectly normal amount of precipitation while the Colorado Drainage suffered its driest month on record and its driest 12-month period on record.

Daily Records (Tied | Broken) Total

High Max T

(59 | 234) **293**
Highest Temp: 91°F,
Lamar, April 26th

Low Max T

(19 | 87) **106**

High Min T

(21 | 137) **158**

Low Min T

(18 | 113) **131**
Lowest Temp: -9°F,
Deadman Hill Snotel, April 20th

Precipitation

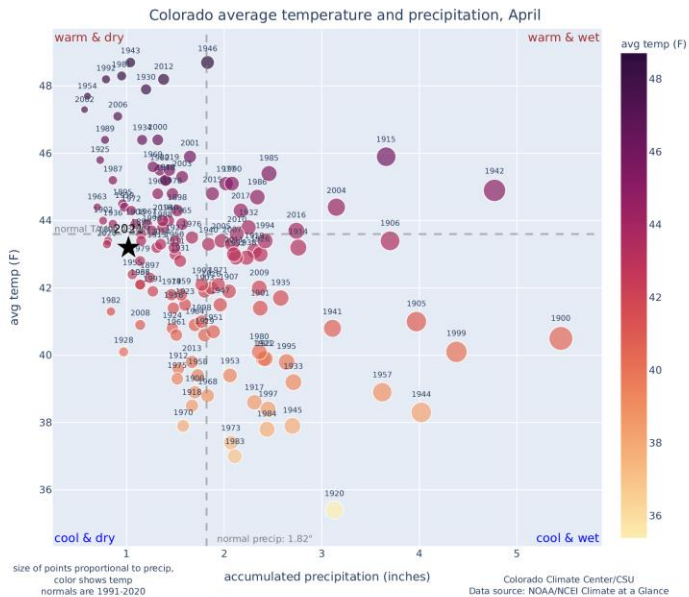
(6 | 32) **38**
Greatest Daily Precip: 4.33",
Haxtun, April 28th

Snowfall

(4 | 35) **39**
Greatest Daily Snowfall: 16.2",
Allenspark, April 20th

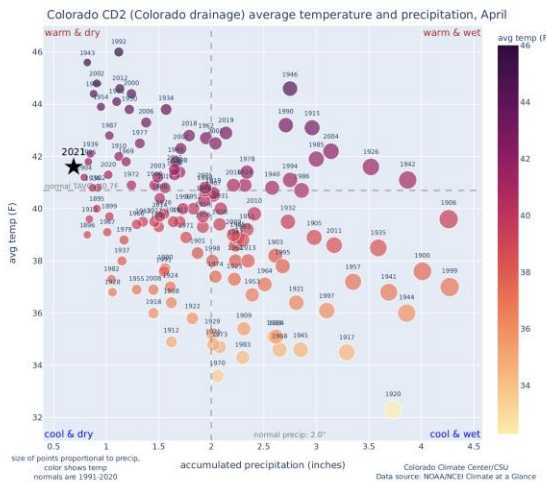


April 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

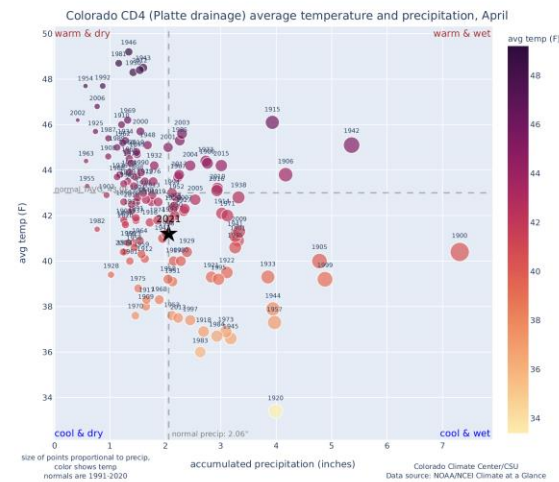


Temp/Precip Plots (left): Each dot plots the April 2021 average temperature and precipitation statewide in Colorado since 1895. From left to right, accumulated precipitation is shown, where the wettest years are plotted furthest to the right. Dot sizes are proportional to precipitation amounts. From bottom to top, average temperature is shown, where the warmest years are plotted towards the top. The dots are also color coded with darker colors indicating higher temperatures. The horizontal and vertical dotted lines indicate the 1991-2020 normals.

The star indicates April 2021 – wetter than average but near normal for temperature.



These plots for April 2021 depict the Colorado basin (left) and the Platte basin (right). For western CO (Colorado basin), it was slightly warmer than average but was the **driest April on record**. The Platte basin, on the other hand, was colder than average with precipitation near normal.



April 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

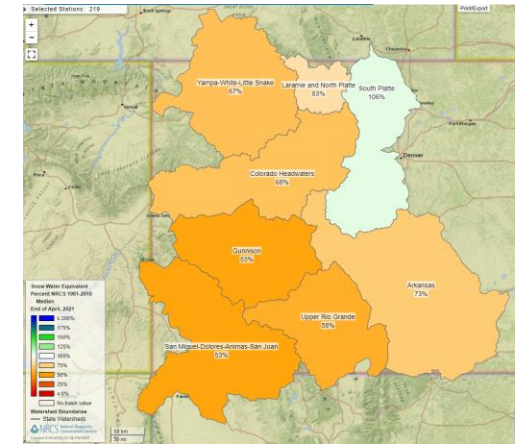
April Headlines

News stories featuring Climate Center staff:

- **April 1:** [Persistent Drought Expected to Continue Through June](#)
- **April 9:** [Water supply, wildfire concerns loom over spring, summer](#)
- **April 12:** [Animas River Days to return this year](#)
- **April 19:** [It's not drought, but what do we call it?](#)
- **April 21:** [Colorado wildfire outlook a grave concern as drought continues](#)
- **April 22:** [More April Snow In Colorado Means Less Chance Of Destructive Wildfires](#)
- **The Conversation:** [Warming is clearly visible in new US 'climate normal' datasets](#)

April Snowpack

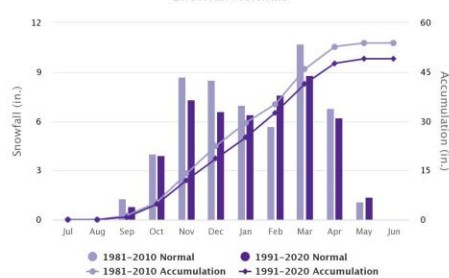
Snowpack at the end of April was still below the 30-year median for all of the basins west of the divide. The South Platte basin is above average thanks to the additional snow this month. The San Juan Basin and Gunnison are tied for the driest at 53%



Website Feature of the Month

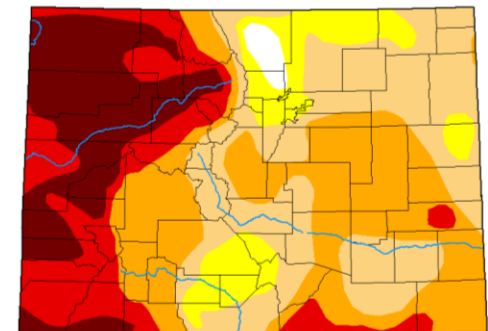
Normals Comparison Tool

Select a station and see how the new normals (1991-2020) compare

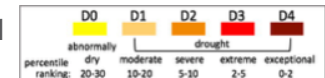


Drought Update

The precipitation in April continued to benefit the northeastern portion of the state and we saw the removal of D0 in portions of Larimar and Boulder counties. The rest of the state remained largely unchanged with western Colorado still suffering extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought.



April 27, 2021



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

