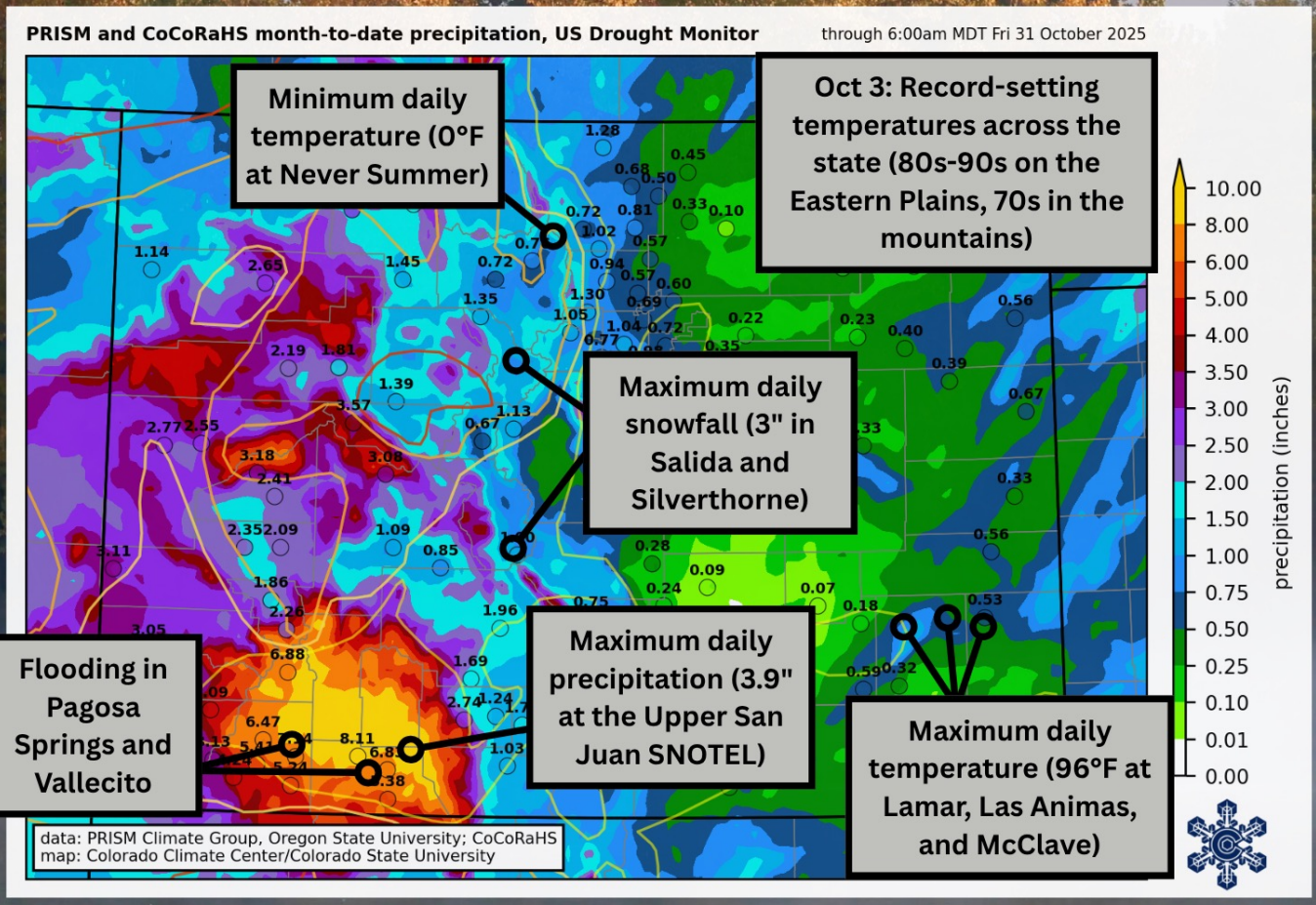
October 2025
Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



October 2025 Precipitation (from PRISM and CoCoRaHS)

Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for October 2025

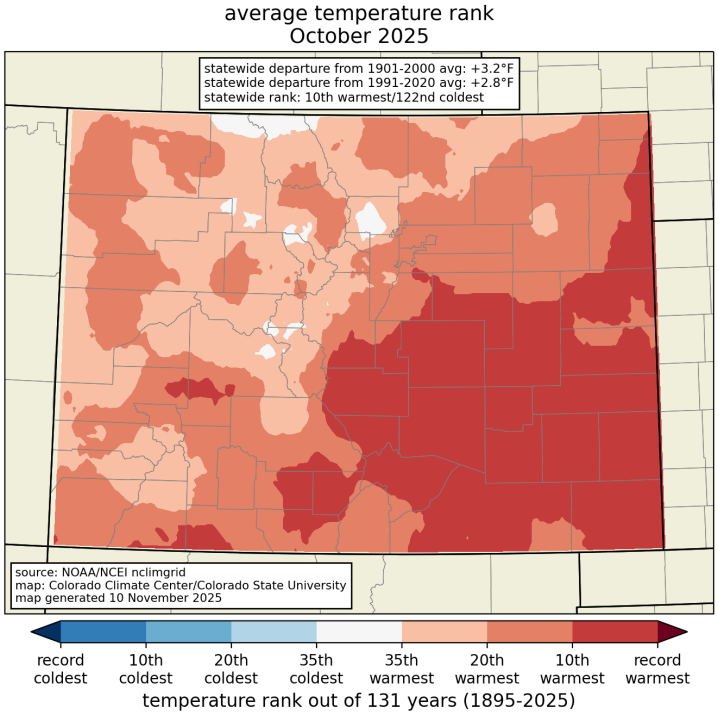
(based on 1895-2025 data)

10th warmest (above average) ■ **46th wettest (above average)**

COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER

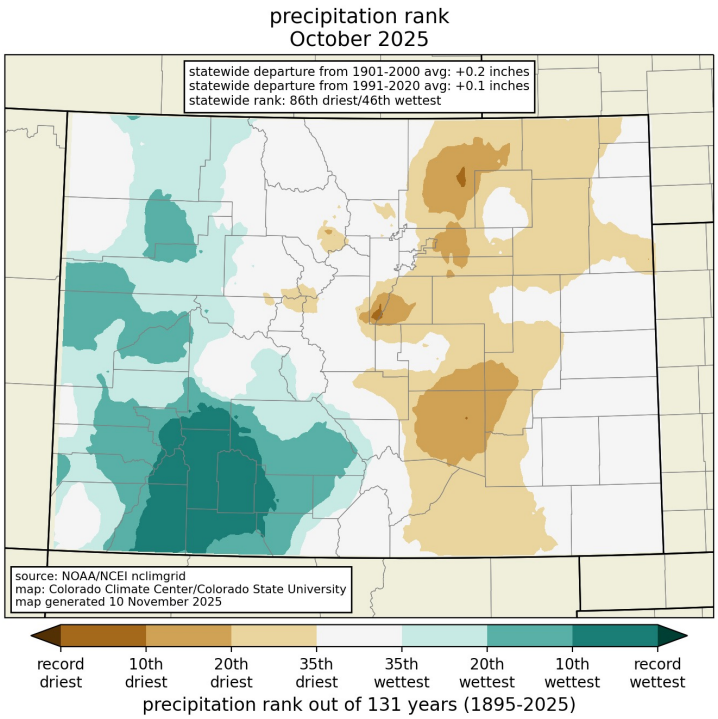
Photo by Russ Schumacher

temperature



The streak of warmer-than average months continued in October. It was the 9th consecutive month with above-average temperatures for Colorado. All corners of the state were warm, but southeastern Colorado was the warmest, where it was in the top 10 warmest Octobers and temperatures more than 4°F above average were observed.

precipitation



October had a distinct west-east split for precipitation. Southwestern Colorado had one of its wettest Octobers on record, with moisture from two tropical systems bringing heavy rain and flooding (more on that below). In contrast, eastern Colorado was drier than average for October, with the 2nd half of the month especially dry. Parts of Pueblo County had no precipitation at all in October.

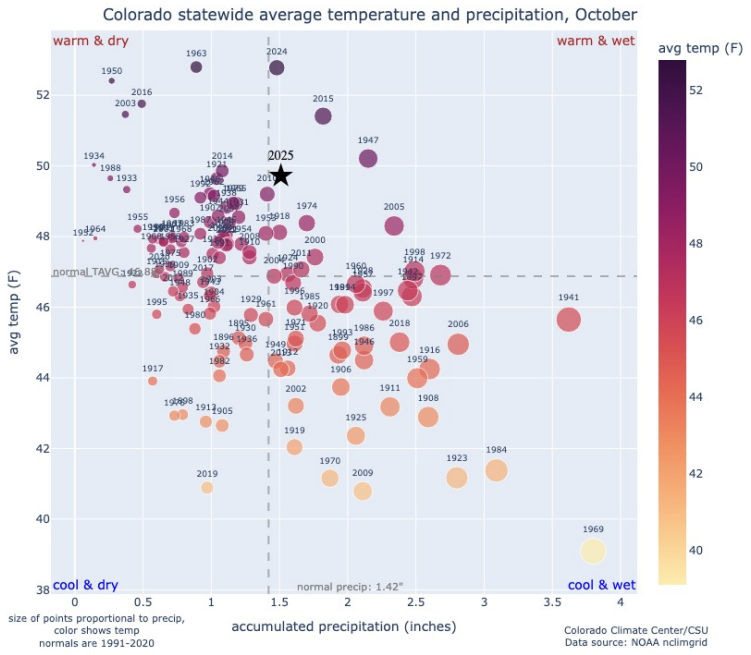
quadrant charts

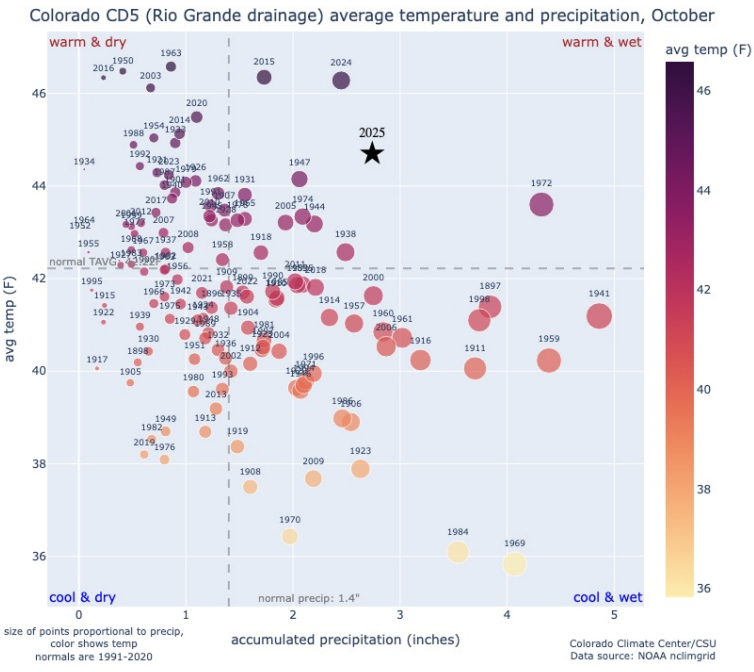
Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Averaged across the state, October 2025 ended up much warmer and slightly wetter than average. It was the 10th-warmest October, at 2.8°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average and 3.2°F above the 20th-century average. Precipitation was 0.1” above the statewide 30-year mean of 1.42” and was the 46th-wettest October in 131 years of records.

In the Rio Grande basin in southern Colorado, it was the second straight October that was both much warmer and much wetter than average. Those years stand out as unusual on the quadrant chart, as typically in the fall, there is a strong anticorrelation between temperature and precipitation, with warm Octobers being dry and vice versa.

[view all quadrant charts]



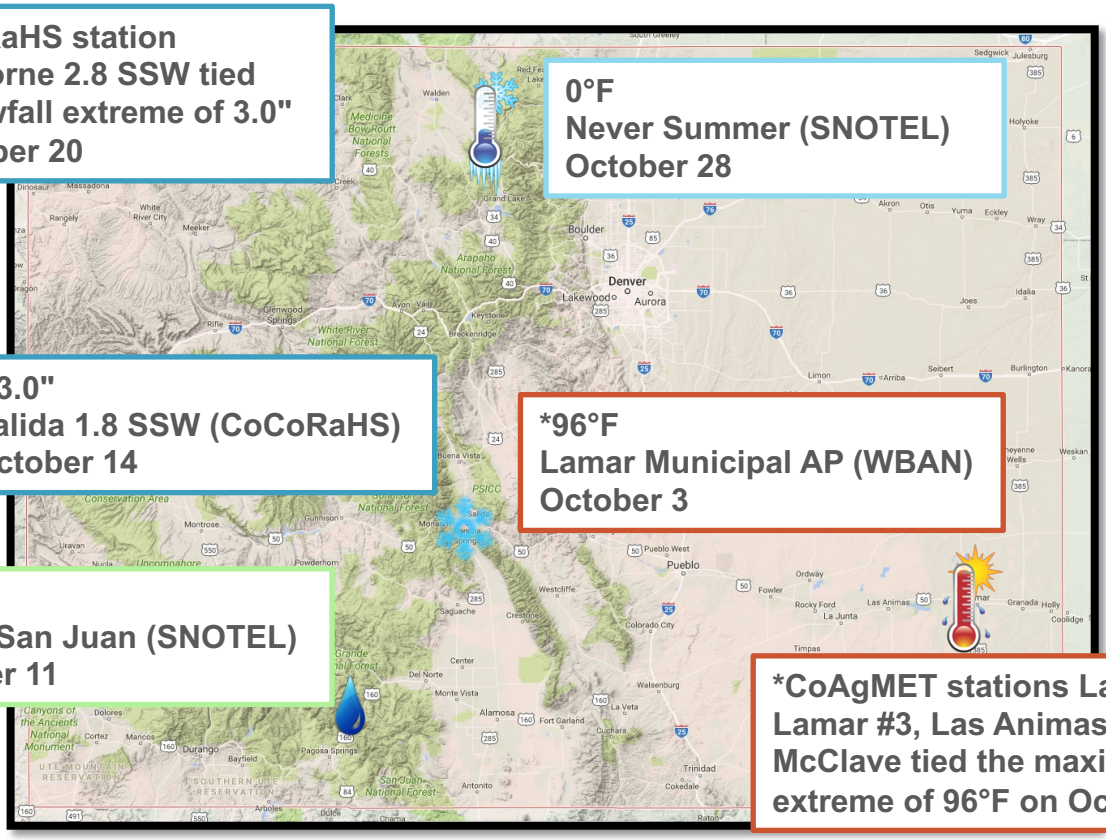


	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	22/**26**	0/**1**	58/**350**	0/**1**	21/**109**	0/**0**
Monthly	1/**1**	0/**0**	7/**6**	0/**0**	3/**9**	0/**0**
All-time	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	1/**0**	0/**0**

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

state extremes

****CoCoRaHS station Silverthorne 2.8 SSW tied the snowfall extreme of 3.0" on October 20**



0°F
Never Summer (SNOTEL)
October 28

****3.0"**
Salida 1.8 SSW (CoCoRaHS)
October 14

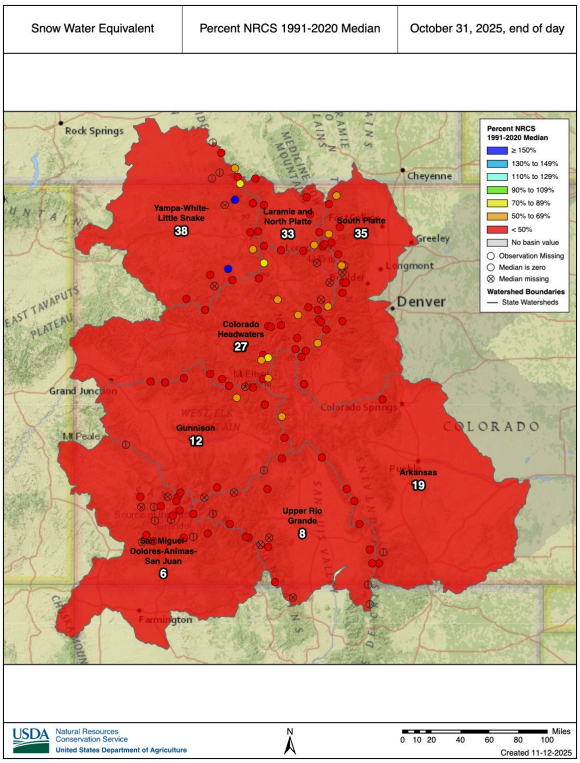
***96°F**
Lamar Municipal AP (WBAN)
October 3

3.90”
Upper San Juan (SNOTEL)
October 11

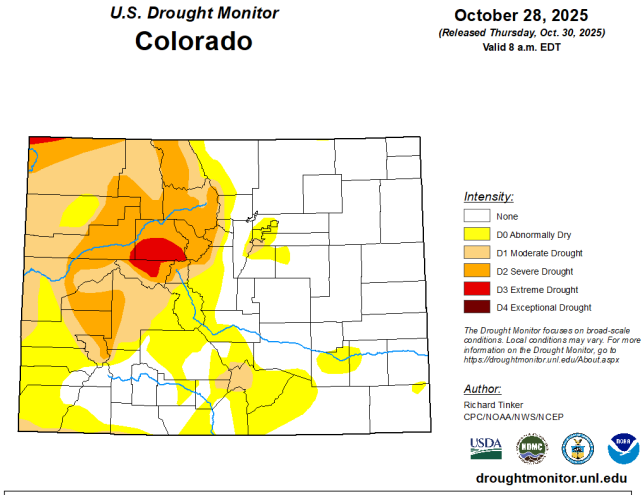
***CoAgMET stations Lamar #1, Lamar #3, Las Animas #2, and McClave tied the maximum extreme of 96°F on October 3**

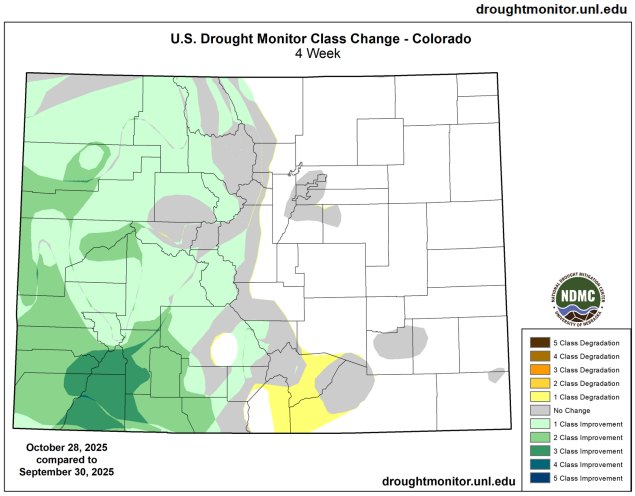
drought & snowpack

Seasonal snowpack is off to a slow start across CO. All basins are running below-average, but the worst conditions are in the southwest. The San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan and Upper Rio Grande basins currently have 6% and 8% (respectively) of their average water-year-to-date snowpack. While these numbers look grim, snow water equivalent values are generally small at this time of year (median 30-year snow water equivalent values typically average ~0.5-1.0” at the end of October across the basins).



Colorado Drought Update Page



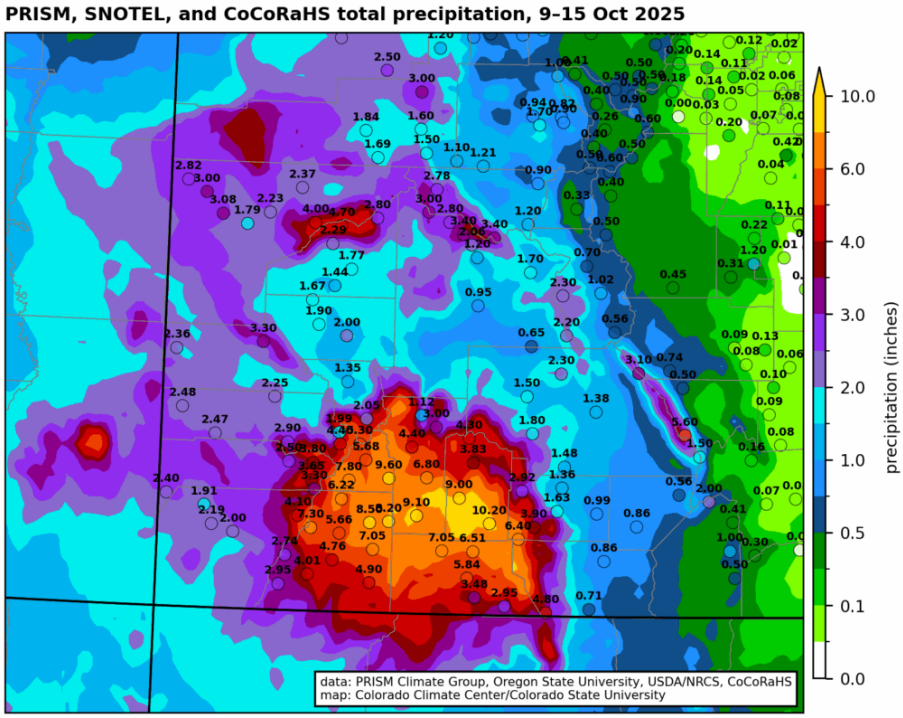


October drought improvements were significant across western CO after abnormal moisture from the remnants of two tropical systems brought heavy rainfall across the western half of the state. Most locations west of the Divide saw at least one-category improvements during the month, and up to three-category improvements were seen in southwestern CO, where flooding occurred in some locations. Total drought coverage in the state dropped from ~45% at the beginning of October to ~29% by the end of the month, and most of that area remains limited to the western CO. Only ~1.3% of the state remains in extreme drought (down from ~14% at the start of the month). October drought degradations were limited to small area in and around the Sangre de Cristos.

significant events

The biggest weather story of the month was the heavy rainfall and flooding that affected parts of western Colorado. Rich tropical air from the remnants of two back-to-back tropical systems, Hurricane Priscilla and Tropical Storm Raymond, brought several days of significant precipitation to the state. The most intense rain fell in southwest Colorado, prompting evacuations in Vallecito and urban flooding in Pagosa Springs. The San Juan River reached major flood stage twice.

Flooding in Pagosa Springs on Oct. 14 (photo by Gwen Dunn/Sherpa Real Estate, obtained via the Denver Gazette).



Precipitation from the PRISM dataset (shading) observations from CoCoRaHS and SNOTEL (labeled points) for October 9-15, 2025.

Over the course of ~a week, areas near Durango and Pagosa Springs saw precipitation totals in excess of 6". And at higher elevations throughout the San Juans, 8-10+" totals were recorded by a handful of stations. The Upper San Juan SNOTEL site recorded 10.2": its 3rd-largest 7-day precipitation total on record (dating back to 1978). For more details on this remarkable event, check out our blog post from earlier this month.

CCC in the news

- ❑ **October 15, 2025:** Rare rain quantities keep rising
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel
- ❑ **October 16, 2025:** "The water's eating the land": Flood evacuees prepare to reenter neighborhoods in southwestern Colorado
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Colorado Sun
- ❑ **October 16, 2025:** Hurricanes in the Pacific Ocean caused floods in southwestern Colorado. Is Climate Change behind it?
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Aspen Public Radio
- ❑ **October 16, 2025**: Drought conditions improve across Colorado after record rainfall
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in CBS News
- ❑ **October 16, 2025**: It's been over 100 years since a storm brought this much moisture to Colorado
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in CBS News
- ❑ **October 17, 2025**: Northern Colorado may benefit from La Niña, New Mexico gets some drought relief
  - Featuring Peter Goble in The Fence Post
- ❑ **October 20, 2025:** Could the Western Slope see more weather impacts this winter season?
  - Featuring Peter Goble in the Western Slope Now
- ❑ **October 28, 2025**: Here's the winter weather forecast for Colorado and how a La Niña pattern impacts snowfall
  - Featuring Peter Goble in the Coloradoan

In case you missed it, check out our summary of Water Year 2025. And let's hope next month is filled with articles about how much snow we received! ;)