



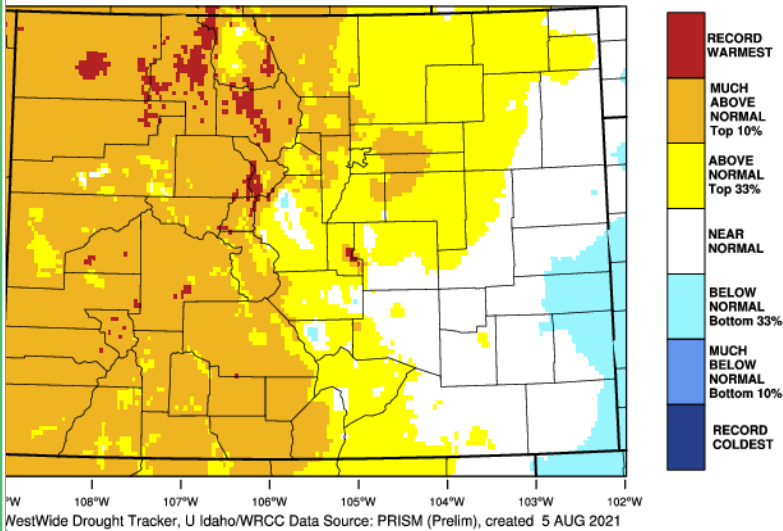
July 2021 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature

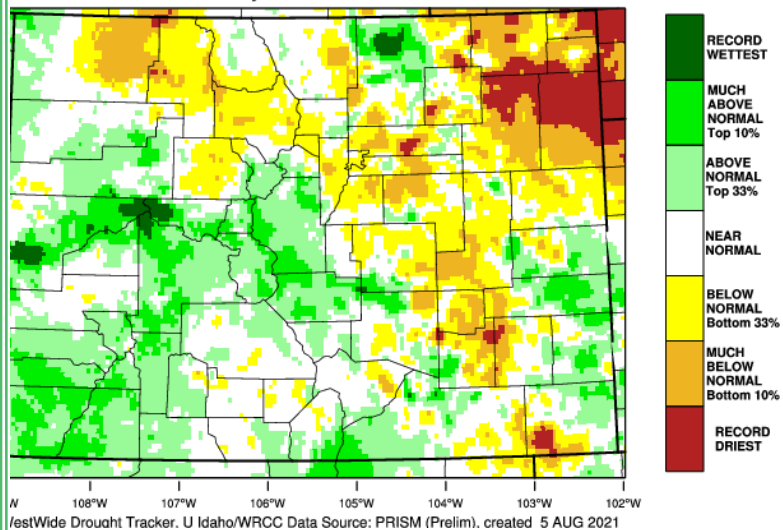
Colorado - Mean Temperature
July 2021 Percentile



Temperatures ranked in the top 33rd percentile for the majority of the state in July. Some below normal temperatures were observed in eastern CO. West of the Continental Divide, temperatures were extremely warm, ranking in the top 10% of all years. Some areas in northern CO experienced a record warm July.

precipitation

Colorado - Precipitation
July 2021 Percentile



With the onset of an active monsoon pattern, wetter than average conditions in July show up over portions of southern and western CO. Some dry pockets show up over northwest CO, along the Front Range urban corridor, and on the eastern plains. Some portions of northeast CO experienced a record dry July.



quadrant charts

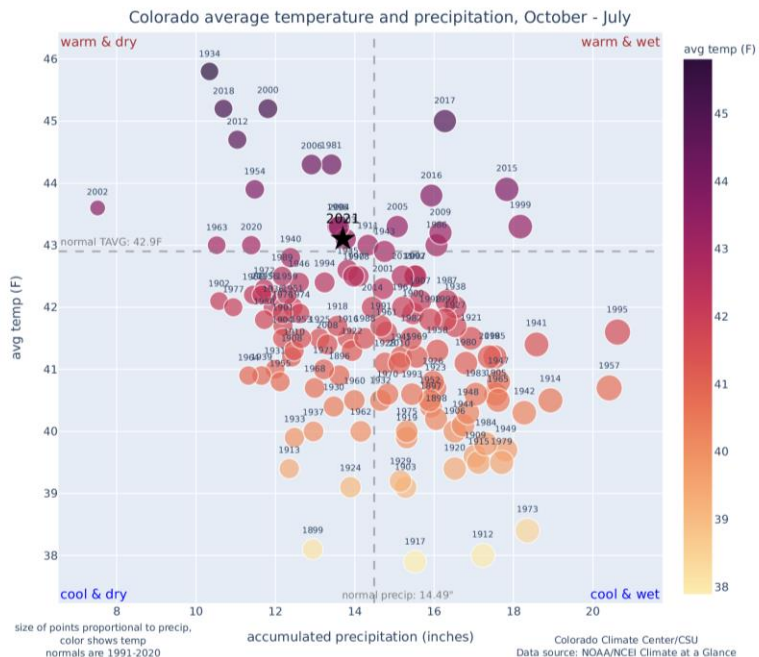
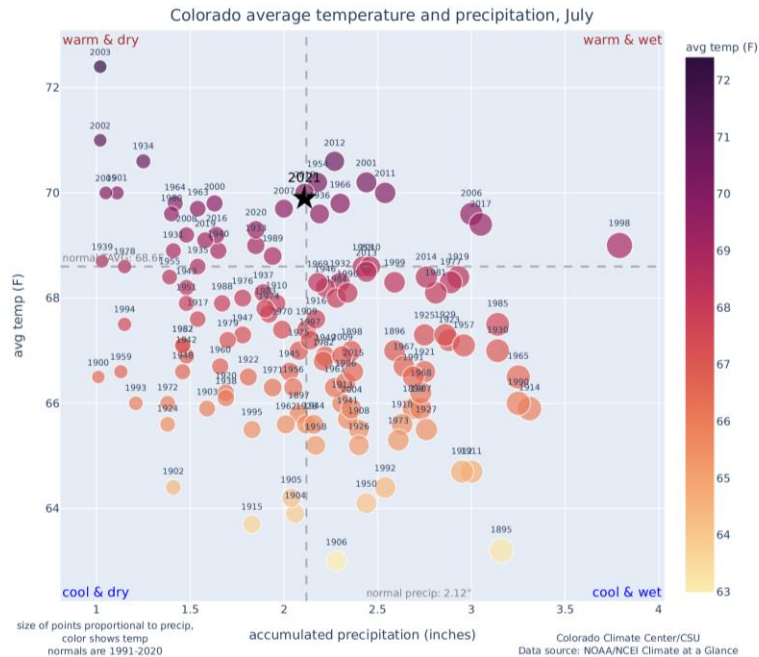
Each dot plots the precipitation on the x-axis and the temperature on the y-axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. Long-term averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Statewide, July 2021 was the 11th warmest July in the 127-year record, and near normal range for precipitation. In the quadrants, you can see the warm anomaly with very near-average precipitation.

Most notable for July – western CO experienced their warmest minimum temperatures in the 127-year record.

Extending out to the water-year-to-date (bottom right) conditions show up very slightly warmer and drier than average. This averages out the large differences between the west side and east side of the state, where conditions have been much drier to the west and wetter to the east.

[view all quadrant charts](#)



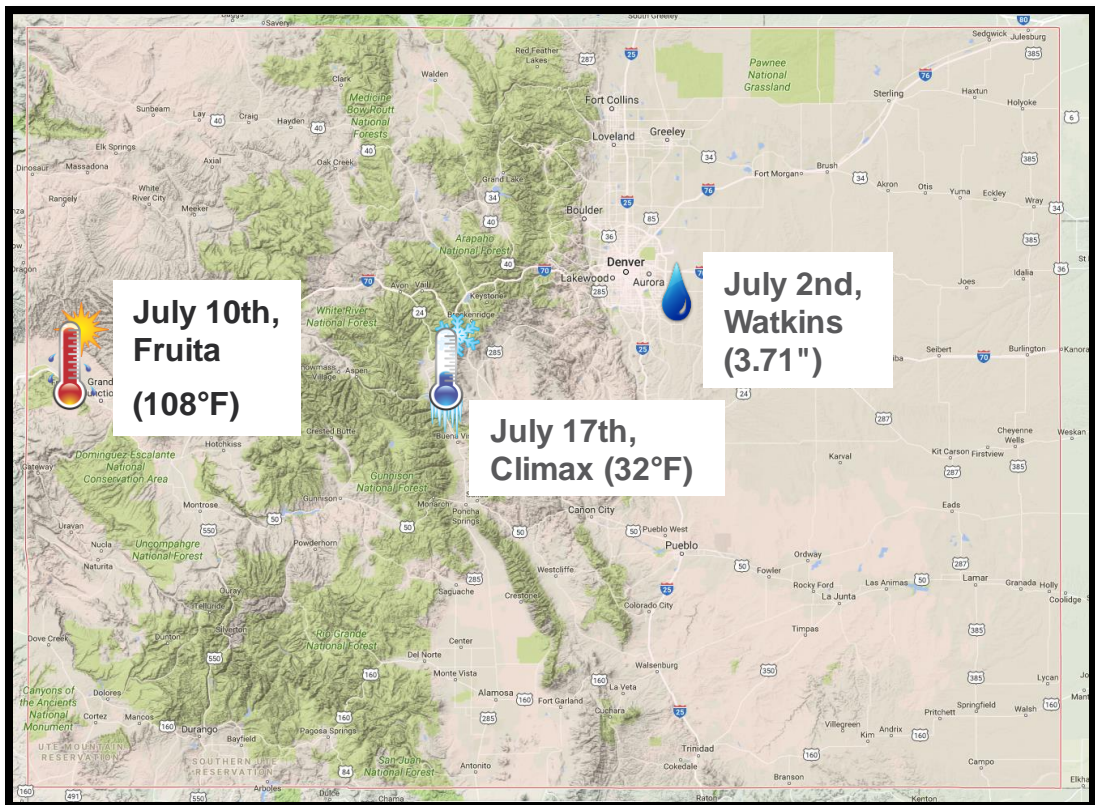
records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	61/110	3/16	96/320	4/12	36/133	0/0
Monthly	4/5	1/0	5/17	0/1	0/6	0/0
All-time	3/5	0/0	7/7	0/0	0/1	0/0

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

Noteworthy: Grand Junction set a new all-time record high temperature (107°F) on July 9th

state extremes

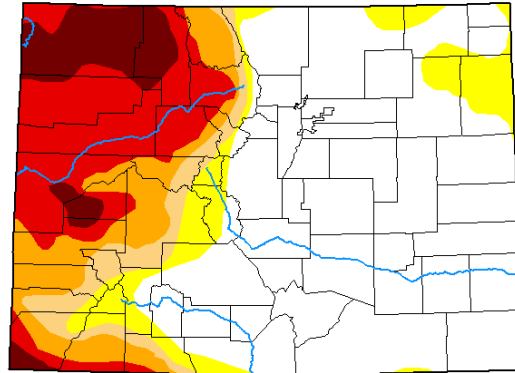


drought

Widespread improvements have been made across western Colorado thanks to the active monsoon pattern. Dryness in northeast CO has resulted in the introduction of D0

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

August 3, 2021
(Released Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	56.64	43.36	34.52	29.61	20.96	6.38
Last Week 07-27-2021	56.19	43.81	38.16	32.98	26.82	15.43
3 Months Ago 05-04-2021	7.84	92.16	79.86	51.85	31.01	16.39
Start of Calendar Year 01-25-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.73	76.17	27.60
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.29	89.35	52.88	2.64
One Year Ago 08-04-2020	0.00	100.00	85.88	58.79	26.64	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:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

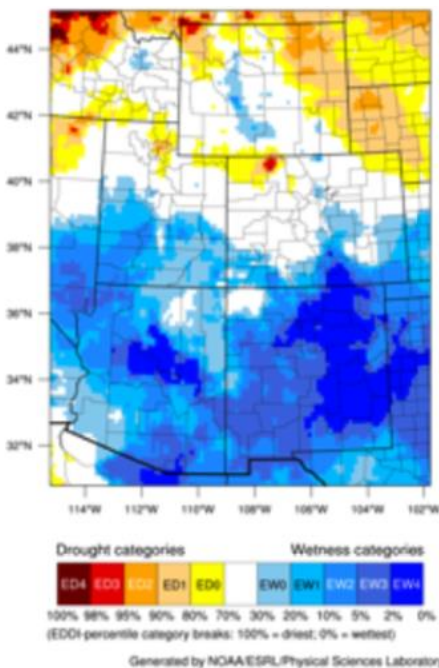


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

evaporative demand

1-month EDDI for July



Evaporative demand depicts how much moisture the atmosphere wants to take from the ground. High evaporative demand is typical for CO in the summer. But it has not been higher than average, and in some cases low, which helps reduce the severity of drought. It has also helped with minimizing the risk of wildfires spreading out of control.



significant events

Although heavy monsoon rainfall in western Colorado has improved the drought situation, it has also brought destructive and deadly flash flooding, especially on burn scars from last year's fires

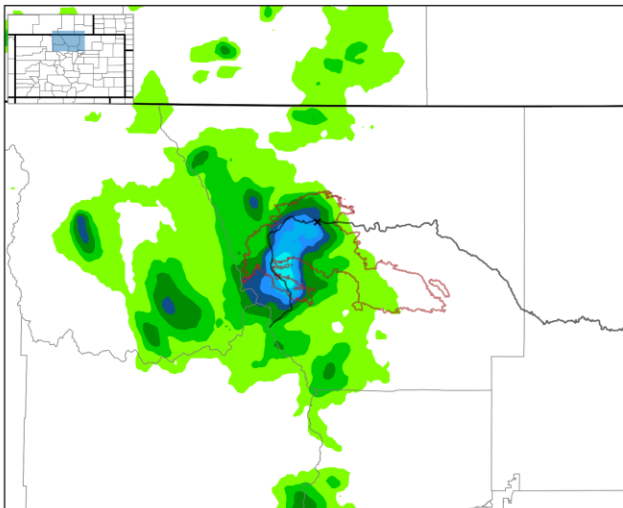


Photo of I-70 in Glenwood Canyon from Colorado Department of Transportation: <https://twitter.com/ColoradoDOT/status/1421978755170410501>

On the evening of July 20, very heavy rain fell on the Cameron Peak burn scar in Larimer County, causing a flash flood that sadly resulted in three fatalities

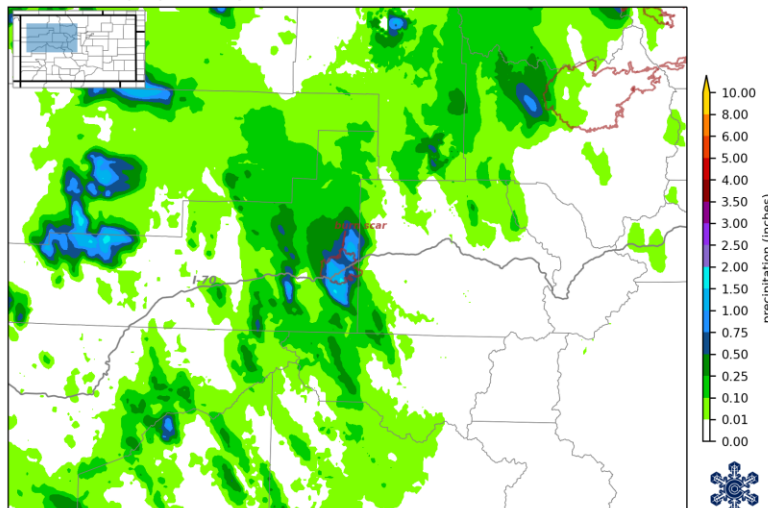
Several flash floods have occurred in Glenwood Canyon from heavy rains on the Grizzly Creek burn scar. On July 29, motorists on I-70 had to shelter in a highway tunnel. I-70 remains closed as of early August.

MRMS multisensor precipitation analysis, Cameron Peak burn scar 2 hrs ending 0000 UTC Wed 21 Jul 2021



Estimated precipitation from Multi-Radar, Multi-Sensor dataset for the two hours ending at 6pm MDT 20 July 2021

MRMS multisensor precipitation analysis, burn scar outlines 3 hrs ending 0500 UTC Fri 30 Jul 2021



Estimated precipitation from Multi-Radar, Multi-Sensor dataset for the three hours ending at 11pm MDT 29 July 2021



CCC in the news

- ❑ [Recent Rain has no Impact on County Drought Conditions](#)
 - Becky Bolinger quoted, July 6, 2021 - Vail Daily
- ❑ [Colorado Ranchers Face not just Drought but Rising Social Pressures](#)
 - Russ Schumacher quoted, July 11, 2021 - France24.com
- ❑ [Colorado Arrives at the Dawn of Megafires](#)
 - Russ Schumacher quoted, July 12, 2021 - Colorado Newswire
- ❑ [County Sees Wet Spring but Autumn Fires Still Possible](#)
 - Becky Bolinger quoted, July 12, 2021 - Parker Chronicle:
- ❑ [The Era of Megafires](#)
 - Russ Schumacher quoted, July 13, 2021 - Summit Daily News
- ❑ [La Nina Watch is On](#)
 - Russ Schumacher interview, July 16, 2021 - Four Corners Public Radio
- ❑ [Colorado Wildfires are a Year-Round Danger](#)
 - Russ Schumacher quoted, July 19, 2021 - Arvada Press
- ❑ [Poudre Canyon Flooding](#)
 - Peter Goble quoted, July 21, 2021 - The Coloradoan
- ❑ [Mudslides Along Colorado Burn Scars Cause Disasters All Summer](#)
 - Becky Bolinger quoted, July 23, 2021 - Colorado Sun
- ❑ [Monsoon Instigates Flash Flooding in Colorado Canyons](#)
 - Peter Goble interview, July 26, 2021 - KUNC
- ❑ [Drought Lessening in Southwest Colorado](#)
 - Peter Goble quoted, July 31, 2021 - The Gazette

