

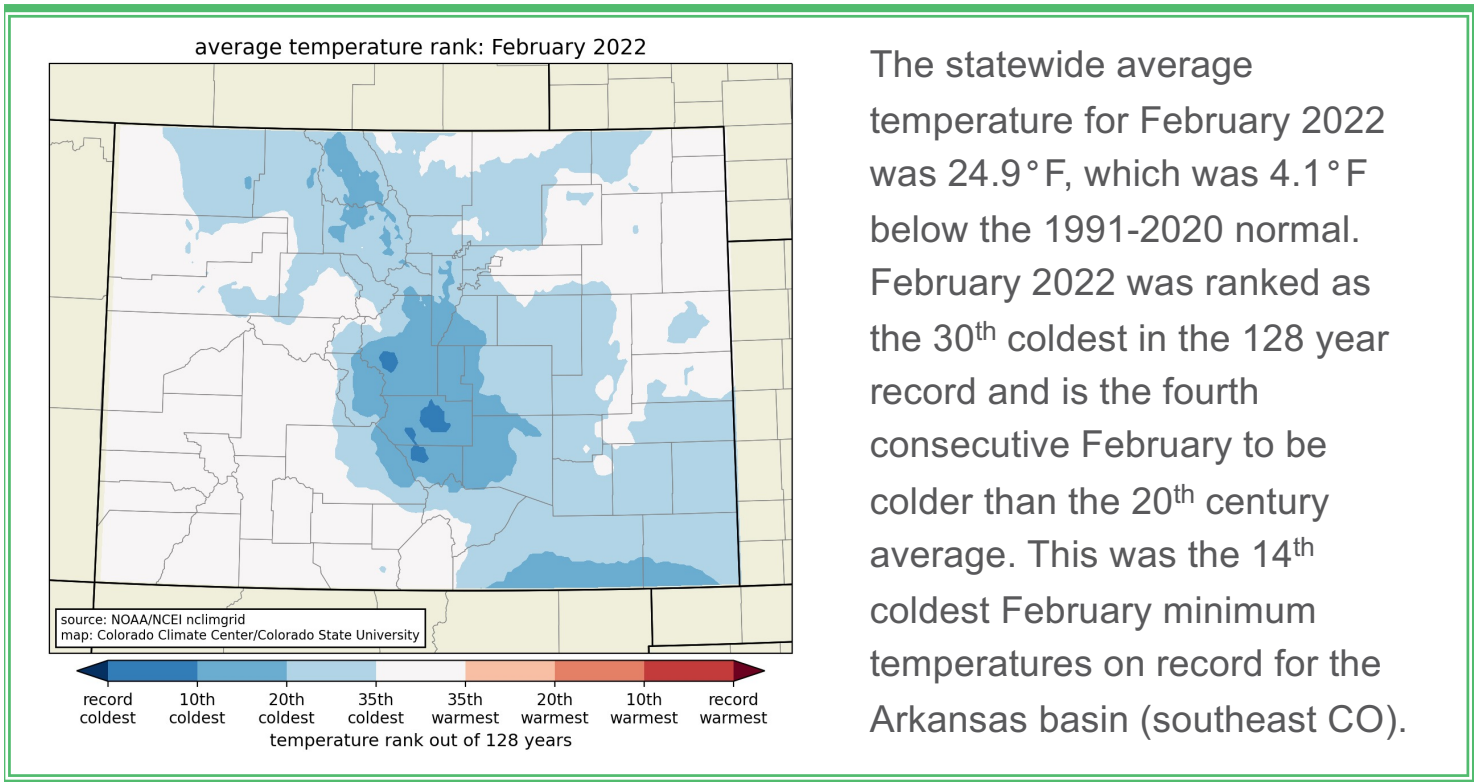


February 2022 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

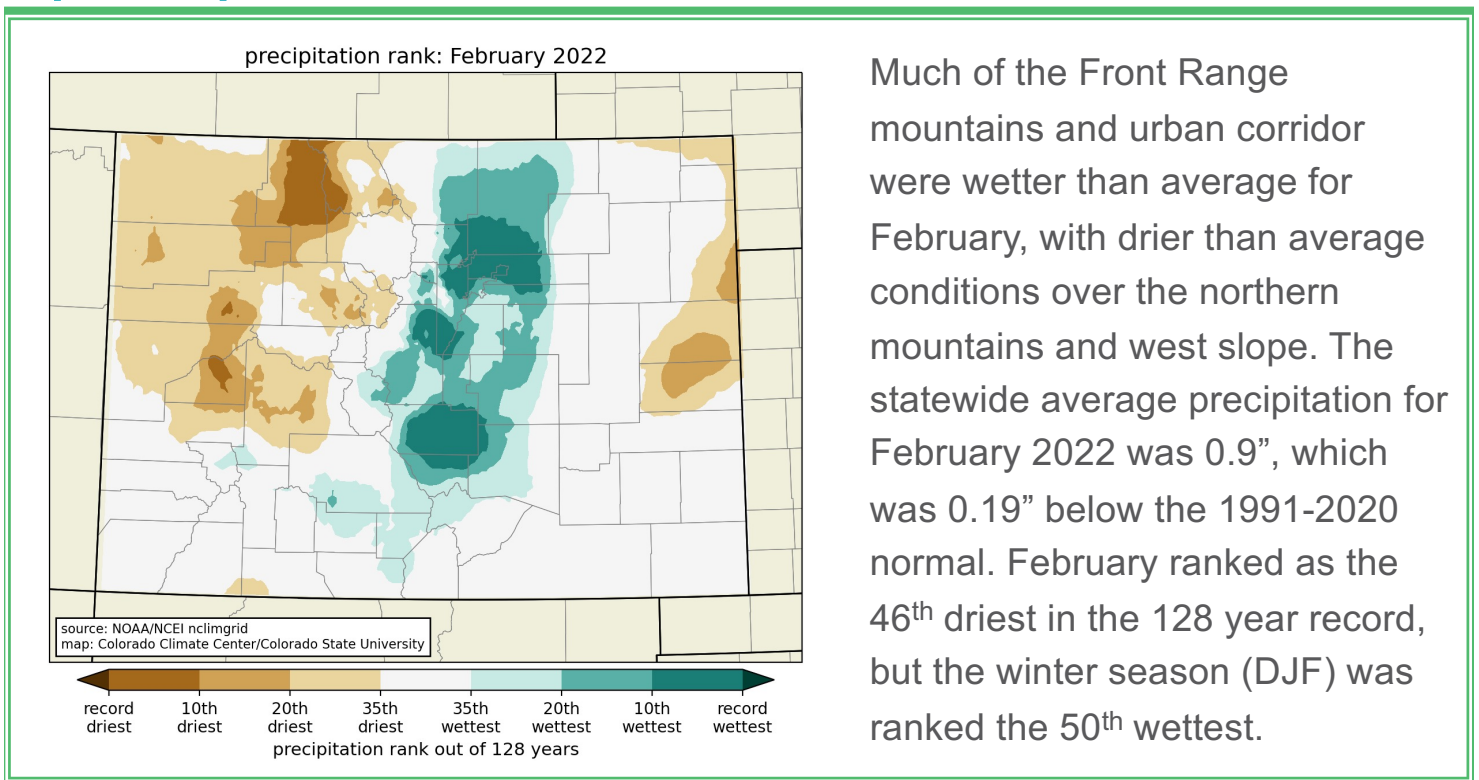


ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature



precipitation



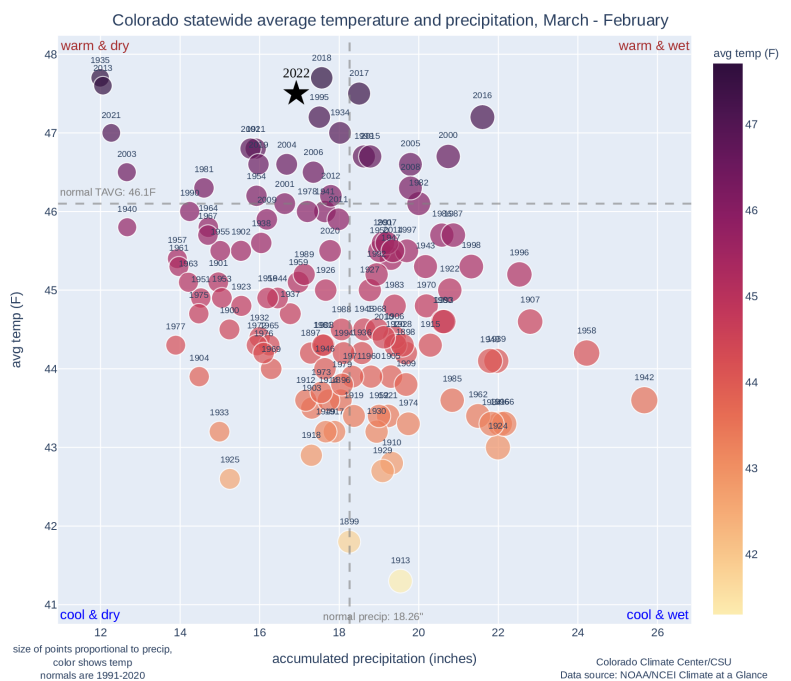
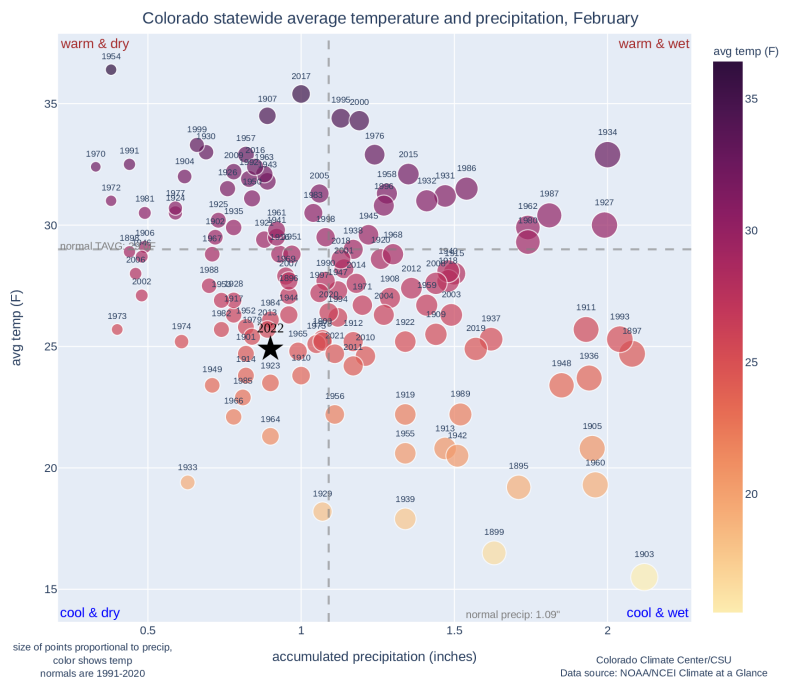
quadrant charts

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.

February 2022 continued the trend from January 2022, falling into the cool and dry quadrant. Extending to the 3-month time period (i.e. the winter season), shifts the current year into the warm and wet quadrant.

Over the last 12 months (March 2021 – February 2022) Colorado is in the warm and dry quadrant. Precipitation for the last 12 months ranks as 41st driest, and a 1.34" anomaly. Temperature for the last 12 months has been 1.4° F above the 1991-2020 normal and ranks as the 4th warmest March-February period.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

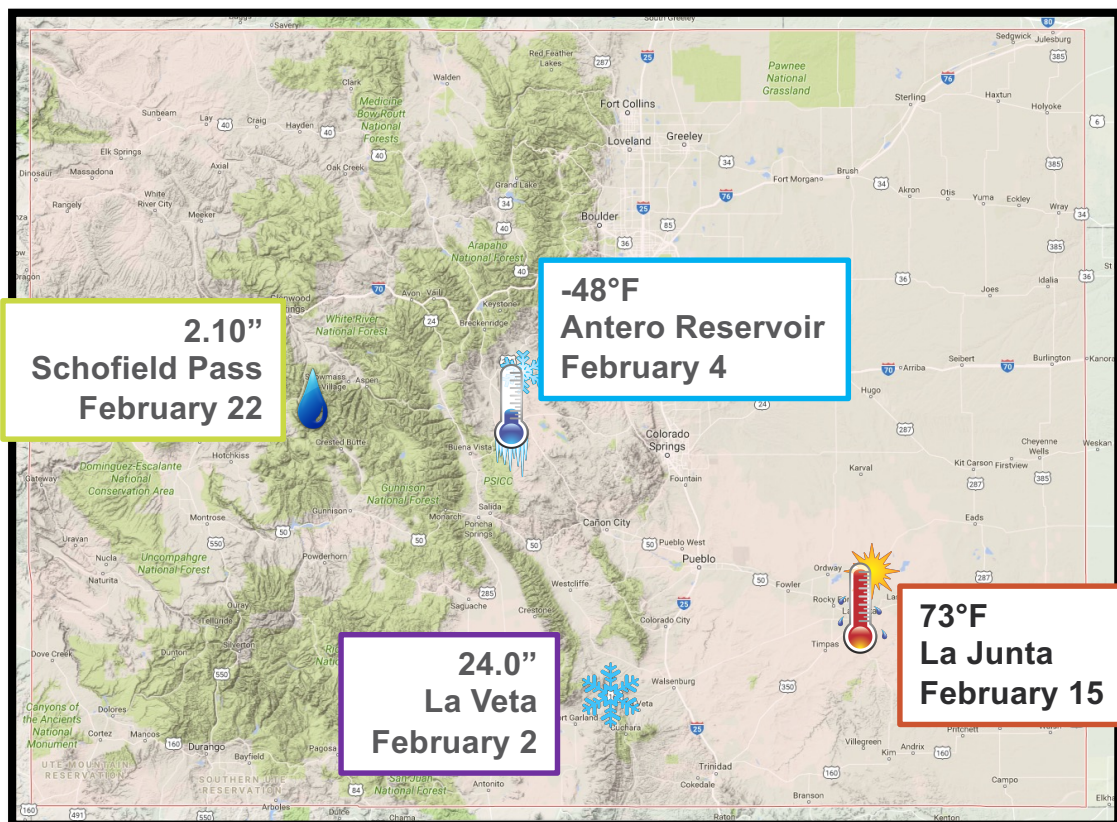


records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	4/13	29/142	4/6	28/188	17/61	14/48
Monthly	0/1	0/1	0/0	0/0	1/2	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0

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

state extremes

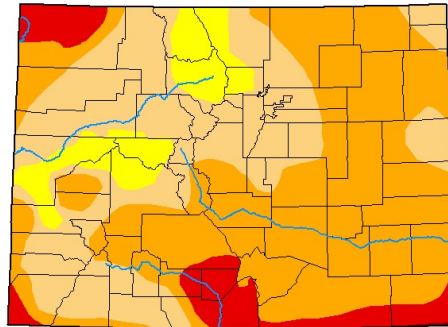


drought

Widespread improvements were made across the northern Front Range and into northeast CO. The Sangre de Cristos also saw some improvement.

Over 91% of the state is still in a drought category with 8% of the state experiencing extreme (D3) drought conditions. This makes 97 consecutive weeks of D3 in Colorado.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



March 1, 2022
(Released Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	91.57	57.26	8.27	0.09
Last Week 02-22-2022	0.00	100.00	90.41	58.82	8.55	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-30-2021	0.00	100.00	95.45	52.30	14.34	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2022	0.00	100.00	95.49	67.08	22.25	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2021	12.72	87.28	46.42	26.30	15.05	3.91
One Year Ago 03-02-2021	0.00	100.00	98.57	88.76	56.66	15.89

Intensity:
 None (White) D2 Severe Drought (Orange)
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow) D3 Extreme Drought (Red)
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange) D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

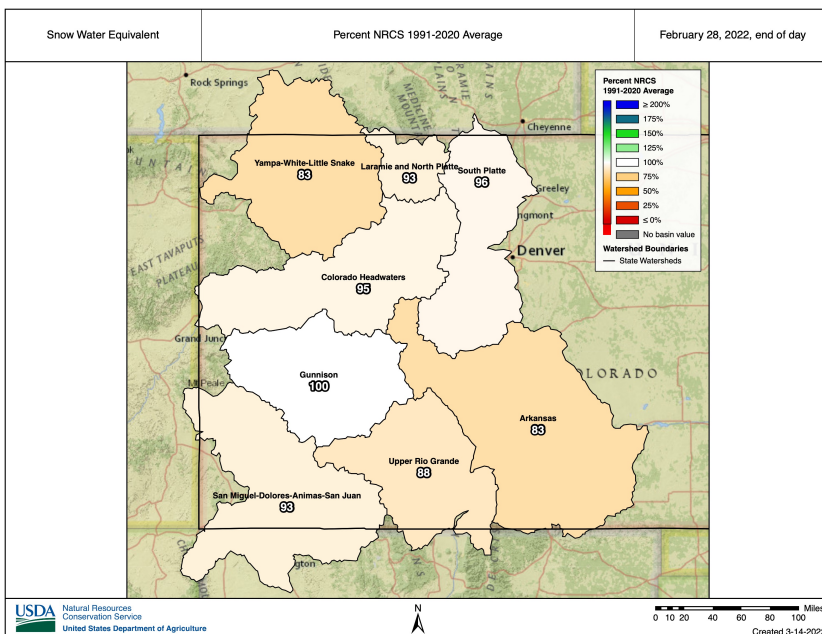
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



[Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

snowpack



Statewide snowpack was 95% of average on February 28, 2022, marking a significant decrease in percent of average since the beginning of the month. This was due to lack of storm activity across much of the high elevations. The Yampa-White and Arkansas basins were the lowest, each at 83% of average, while the Gunnison was doing the best at 105% of average.

CCC in the news

- ❑ ['Make Or Break' Time For Colorado Snowpack: Why The Next 2 Months Are Critical For Colorado Water In 2022](#)
 - CBS Denver, February 28, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Fort Collins weather: Brace yourselves for a one-two punch of bitter cold and snow this week](#)
 - The Coloradoan, February 21, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Long Range Outlooks Unchanged](#)
 - Radio 570 WNAX, February 21, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Megadrought likely to continue in Western Colorado and across the West for years, scientists say](#)
 - The Denver Post, February 19, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Colorado snowpack drops, why experts aren't too concerned yet](#)
 - KOAA, February 18, Peter Goble and Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Peter Goble Climatologist and Drought Specialist on CO Snow Pack](#)
 - KOA Radio, February 17, Peter Goble
- ❑ [A devastating blaze picked a fight with scientists](#)
 - ClimateWire, February 14, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [As Colorado warms, dry soil sucks up more water. That's bad news for rivers and farmers](#)
 - Colorado Sun, February 6, Peter Goble and Russ Schumacher

