

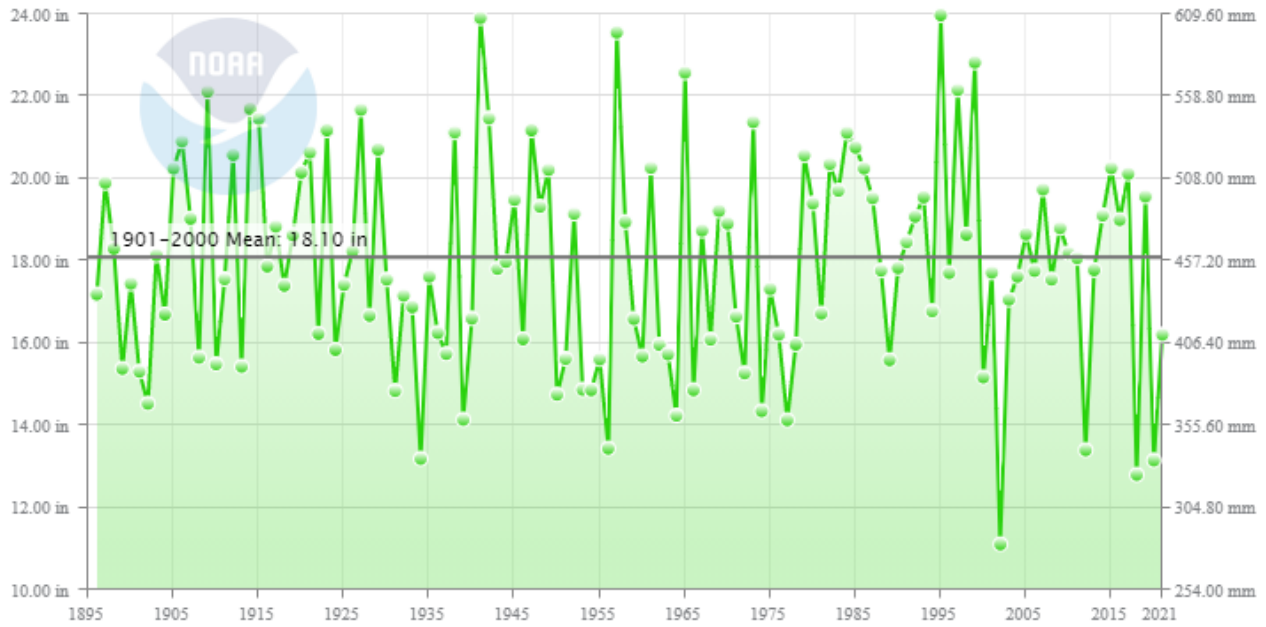


Water Year 2021 in Colorado



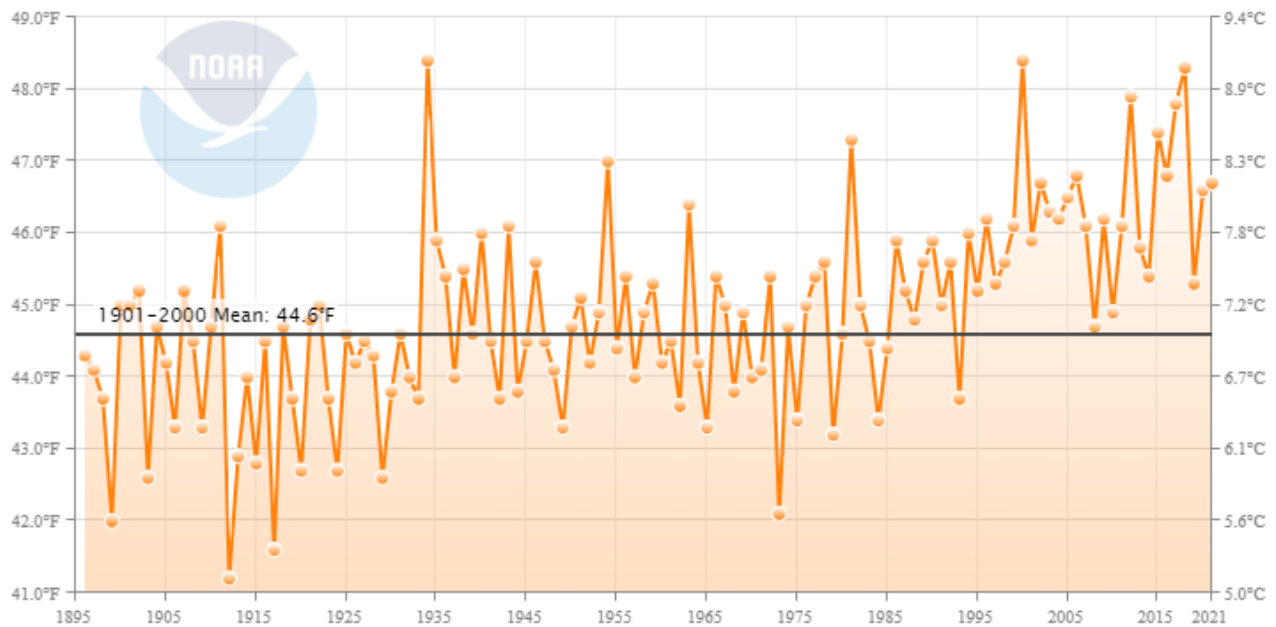
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Colorado Precipitation October–September

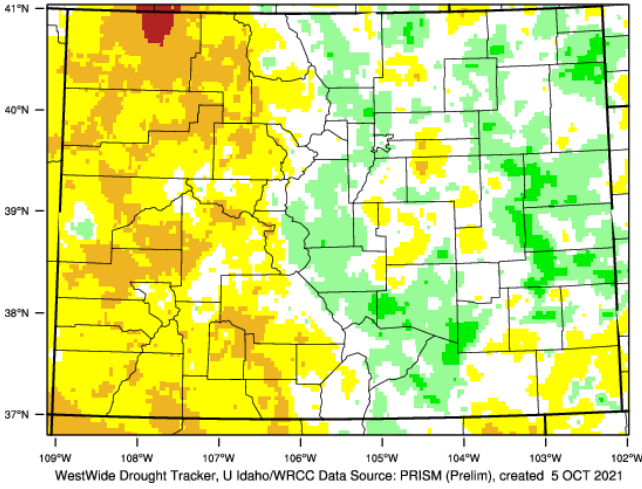


In NOAA's 127-year record, Water Year 2021 ranked as 35th driest and 11th warmest on record for Colorado. Statewide precipitation was 16.21", 1.89" below the long-term average. Statewide precipitation deficit for the last 5 years is about 9 inches. Statewide temperature was 46.7°F, 2.1°F above the long-term average. Seven out of the last 10 water years have been warmer than the 1991-2020 average.

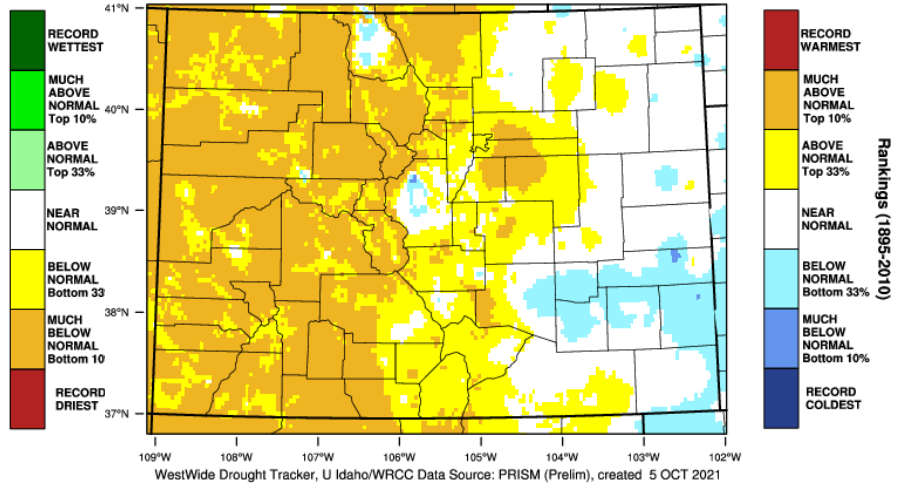
Colorado Average Temperature October–September



Colorado - Precipitation
October-September 2021 Percentile



Colorado - Mean Temperature
October-September 2021 Percentile



WY2021 was warmer and drier for western CO, record driest in Moffat County. Most notable of each month's ranks were May 2021 at 11th wettest and September 2021 at the 3rd warmest.

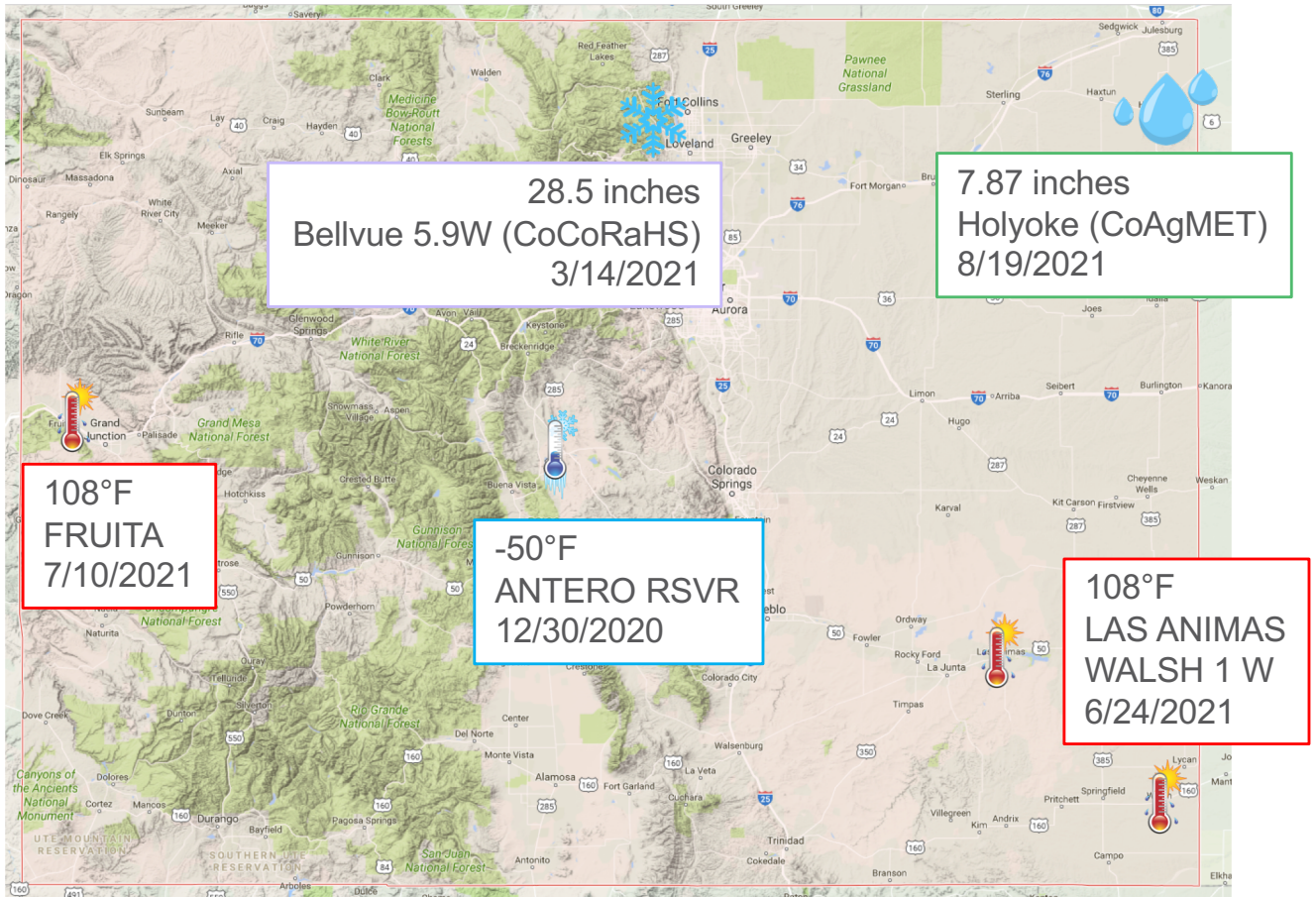
Month	P Rank (of 127 years)	Above, below, or near 20 th century avg?	Month	T Rank (of 127 years)	Above, below, or near 20 th century avg?
Oct	16 th driest	below	Oct	52 nd warmest	near avg
Nov	44 th driest	near avg	Nov	7 th warmest	much above
Dec	59 th driest	near avg	Dec	46 th warmest	near avg
Jan	38 th driest	below	Jan	33 rd warmest	above
Feb	71 st driest	near avg	Feb	26 th coolest	below
Mar	20 th wettest	above	Mar	46 th warmest	near avg
Apr	18 th driest	below	Apr	69 th warmest	near avg
May	11 th wettest	much above	May	50 th warmest	near avg
Jun	50 th driest	near avg	Jun	6 th warmest	much above
Jul	64 th driest	near avg	Jul	11 th warmest	much above
Aug	19 th driest	below	Aug	15 th warmest	above
Sep	53 rd driest	near avg	Sep	3 rd warmest	much above



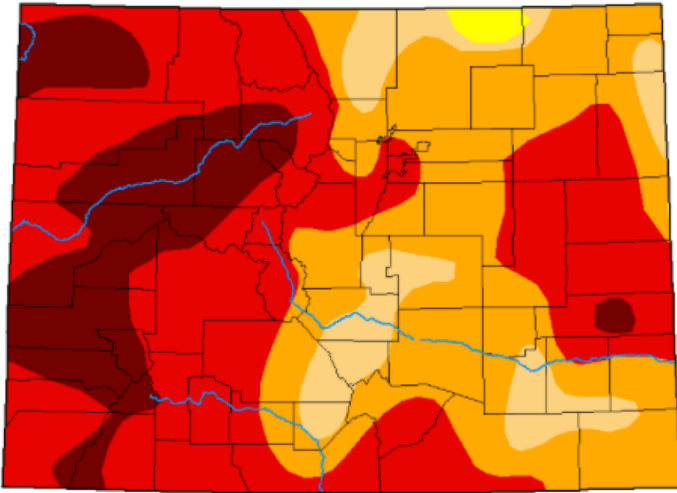
daily records broken

Month	High max T	High min T	Low max T	Low min T	Precipitation	Snowfall
October	437	365	233	374	35	42
November	352	388	31	13	64	9
December	216	70	33	22	60	27
January	35	69	20	14	72	31
February	34	64	241	175	101	64
March	63	85	24	20	140	64
April	293	158	106	131	38	39
May	86	139	83	29	127	26
June	679	450	131	15	85	0
July	110	320	16	12	133	0
August	63	149	4	85	9	0
September	447	249	30	2	55	0
TOTAL	2815	2506	952	892	919	302
	warm records: 5321		cold records: 1844			

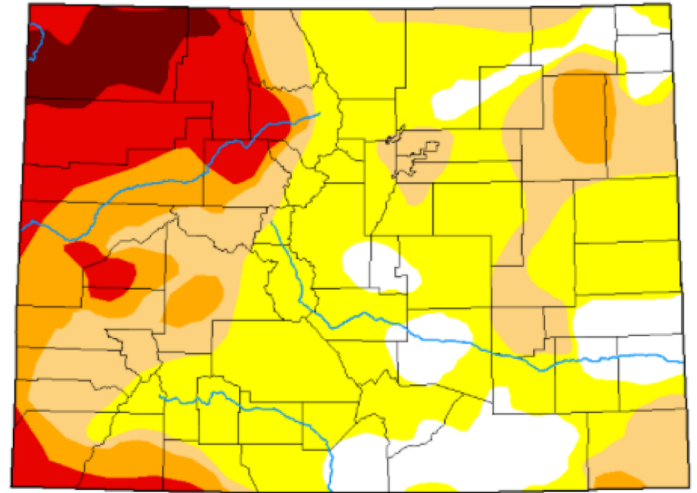
WY2021 extremes around the state



drought



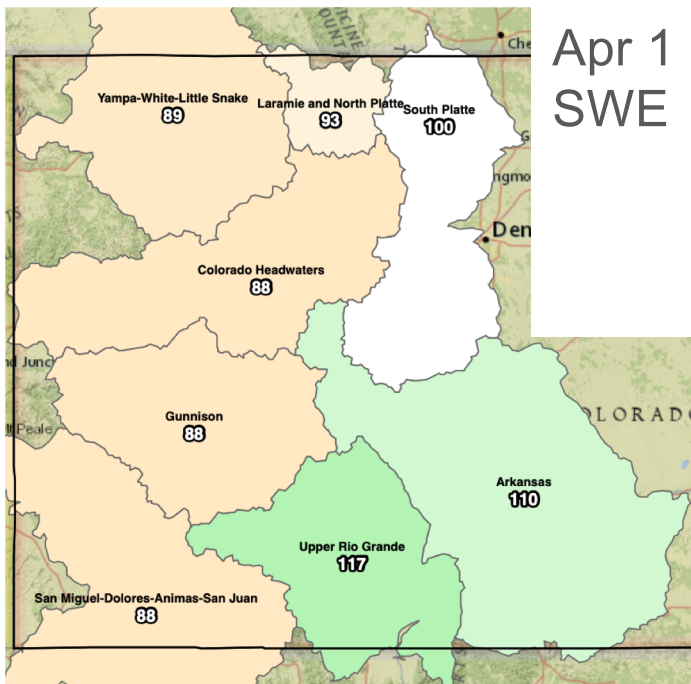
10/6/2020



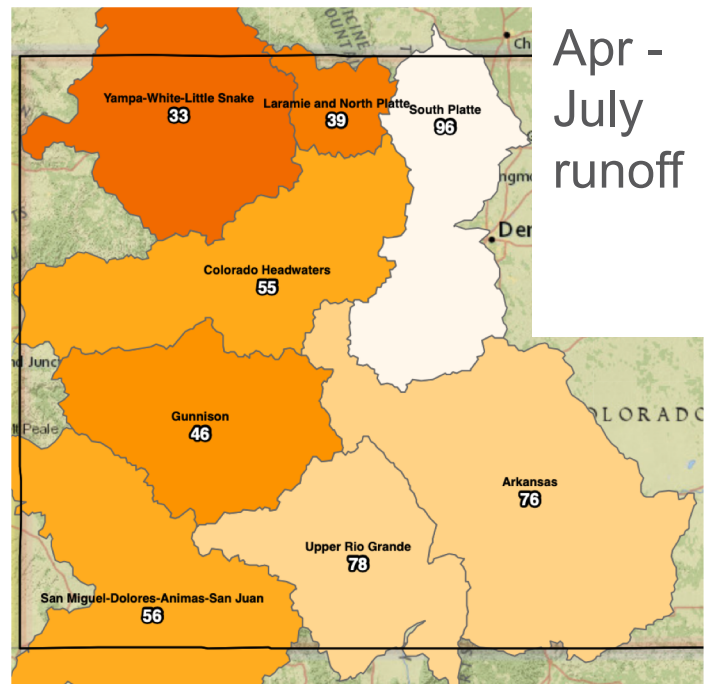
9/28/2021

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
2020-10-06	0.00	100.00	99.30	90.39	59.23	16.72
2021-09-28	12.72	87.28	46.42	26.30	15.05	3.91
Change	12.72	-12.72	-52.88	-64.09	-44.18	-12.81

Drought at the beginning of WY2021, combined with below average snowpack, resulted in very poor water supply recharge in the spring. Basins with the best snowpack saw drought recovery in the spring.



Apr 1
SWE



Apr -
July
runoff



notable events of Water Year 2021

Dates	Description
October 1-25	Record wildfires: Cameron Peak grows to the largest in state history; East Troublesome starts on Oct. 14 and quickly becomes 2 nd largest
October 26-27	Snow brings fires under control; frigid temperatures including the 2 nd straight year of an October hard freeze in Grand Junction
January 14-15	Major wind and dust storm on Eastern Plains
February 14-15	Extreme cold in much of the central US, including eastern Colorado
March 14-15	“Pi Day” storm brings huge snow totals to the Front Range and heavy rains to the eastern Plains
April 2-5	Record-breaking spring warmth
May	Drought-busting rains soak eastern Colorado
late May-early June	Several days with tornadoes on the Plains, including a long-lived, extensively photographed landspout in Weld County on June 7
June 12-19	A scorching week, with record temperatures statewide
July 9	Grand Junction sets its all-time record high temperature (107°F)
July 21-August 3	Heavy monsoon rains lead to deadly and destructive flash floods on the Cameron Peak and Grizzly Creek burn scars
August 19-20	Line of storms with 8-9 inches of rain near Holyoke
September 1	Burlington blowdown: winds estimated up to 115 mph from a microburst



View our Extended Summary

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