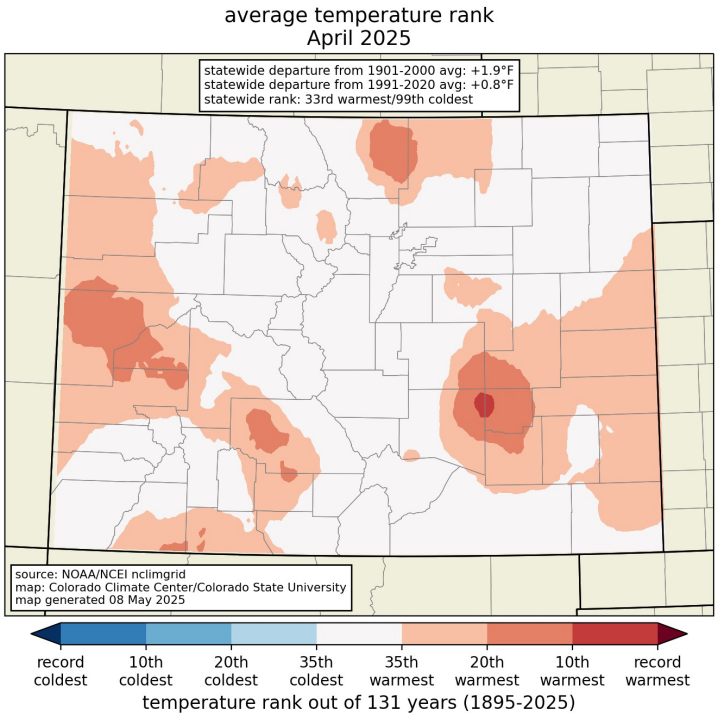
April 2025 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER

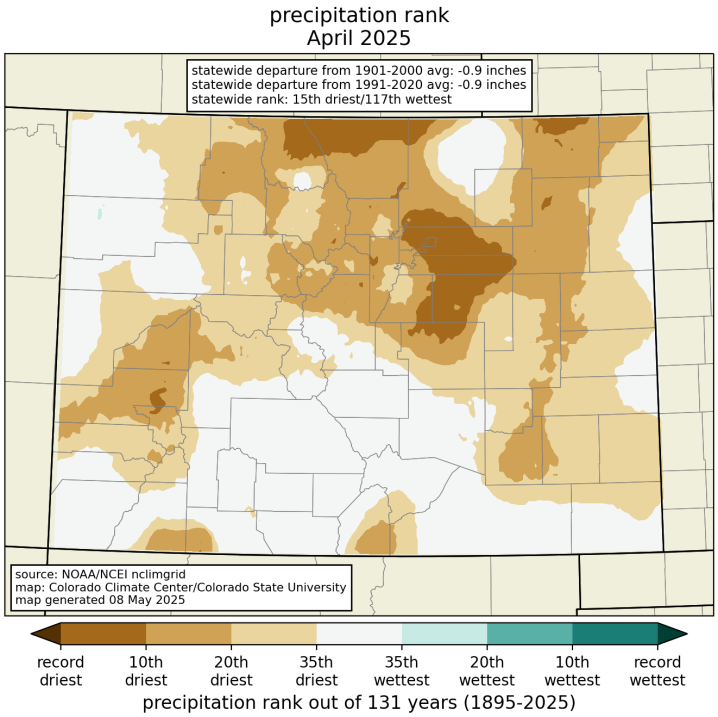
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

temperature



The temperature map for April looks fairly unremarkable, with a few spots slightly warmer than normal and much of the state closer to average. But this masks some huge temperature swings during the month, including a strong cool snap in early April and record-breaking warmth in the middle of the month (discussed further below).

precipitation



It was a dry April for much of Colorado, and in fact the seventh straight April that was drier than average statewide. The northern Front Range, eastern Plains, and parts of the western slope were especially dry, with several areas seeing a top-10 dry April.

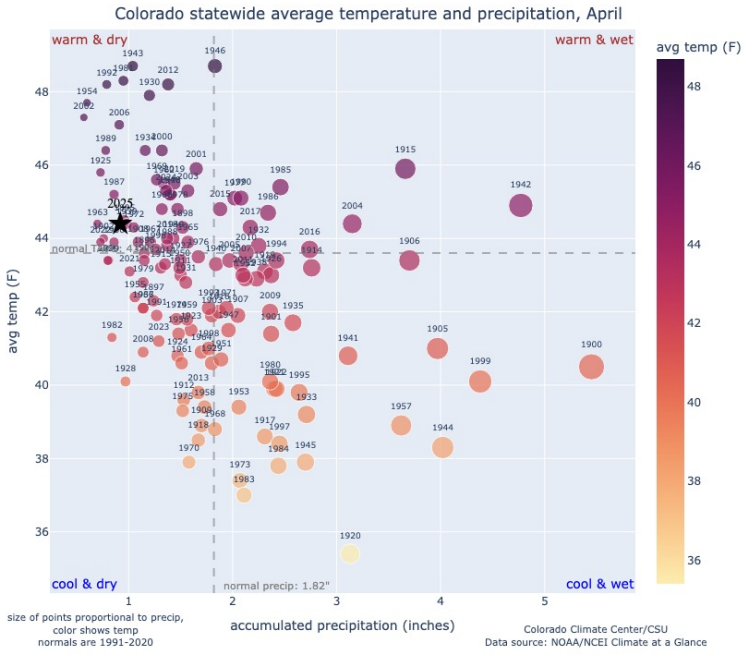
quadrant charts

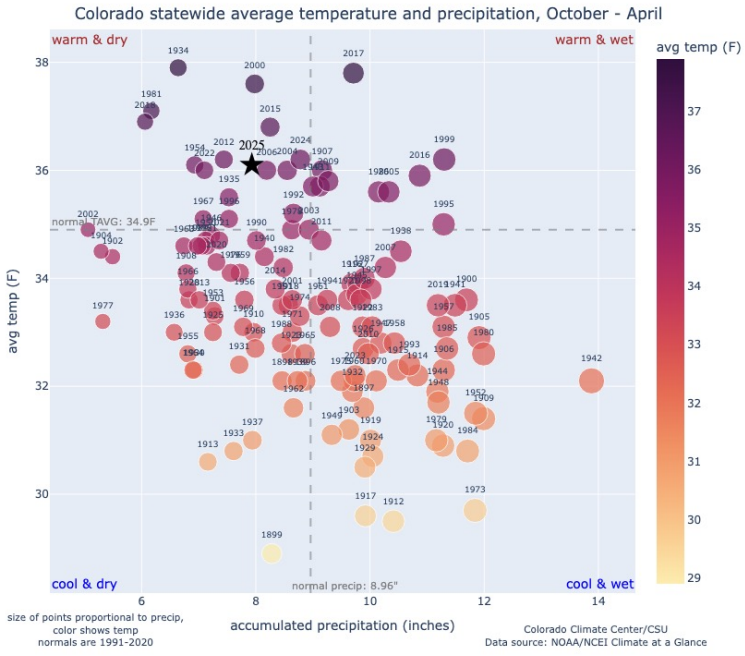
Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

Averaged across the state, it was tied for the 33rd warmest April in 131 years of records, at 0.8°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average and 1.9°F above the 20th-century average. It was the 15th-driest April, at 0.92" below average statewide. This was the driest April since 2022.

For the first seven months of the water year, Colorado has been in the warm and dry quadrant. It's tied for the 10th-warmest start to a water year; 1.2°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average and 2.9°F above the 20th-century average. It's been the 40th-driest start to a water year statewide, with precipitation 1.05" below average.

[view all quadrant charts]



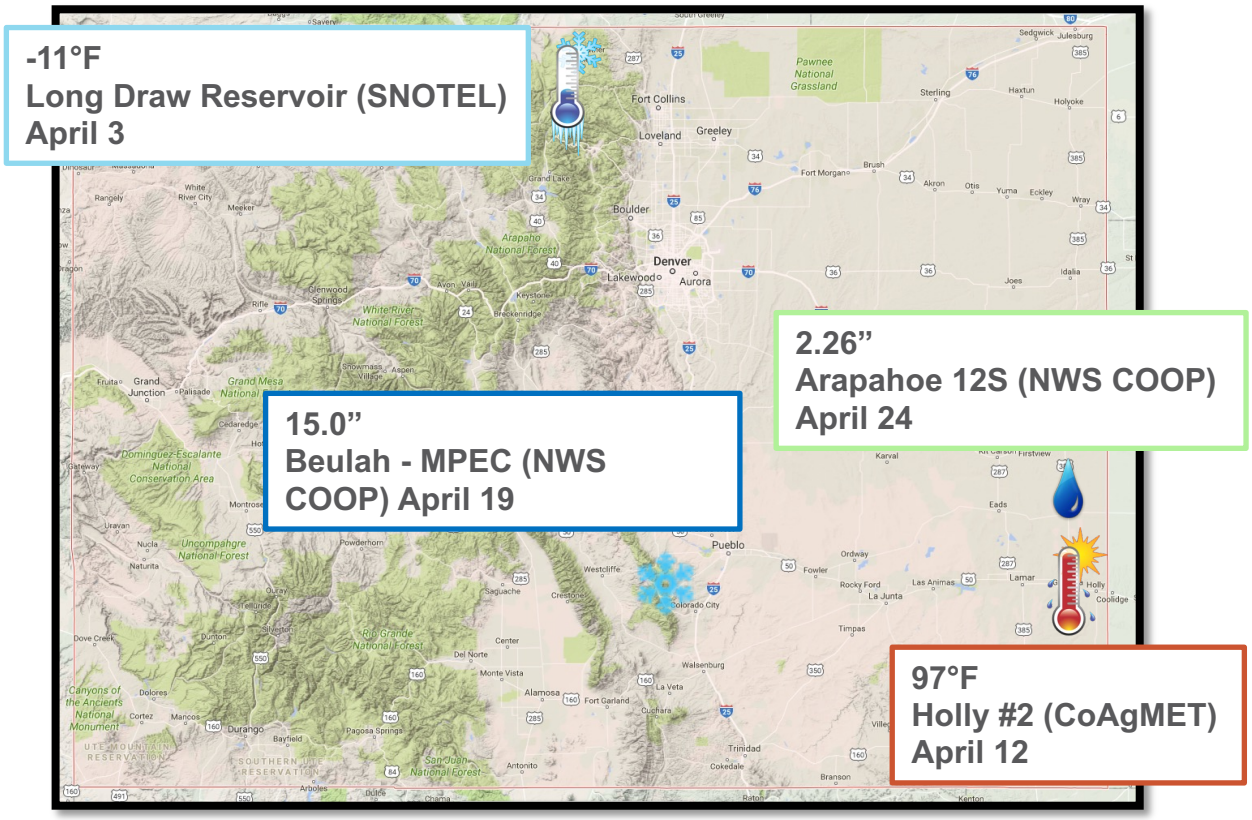


records tied and broken

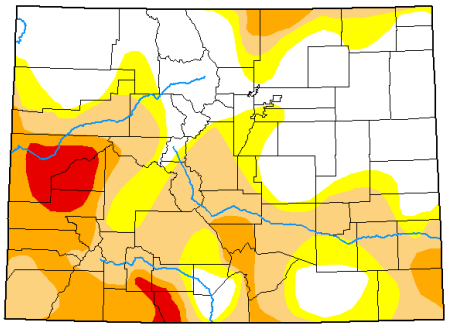
	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	54/**149**	20/**133**	37/**180**	15/**56**	6/**31**	2/**19**
Monthly	10/**0**	1/**0**	2/**3**	0/**1**	0/**0**	0/**0**
All-time	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**

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

state extremes



drought & snowpack



U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado

April 29, 2025
(Released Thursday, May. 1, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	38.54	61.46	43.74	17.27	3.81	0.00
Last Week 04-22-2025	43.76	56.24	38.09	14.66	0.77	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-28-2025	61.15	38.85	17.11	4.82	0.98	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	71.40	28.60	10.78	4.08	0.98	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	48.27	51.73	24.40	4.62	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-30-2024	58.74	41.26	7.73	0.00	0.00	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

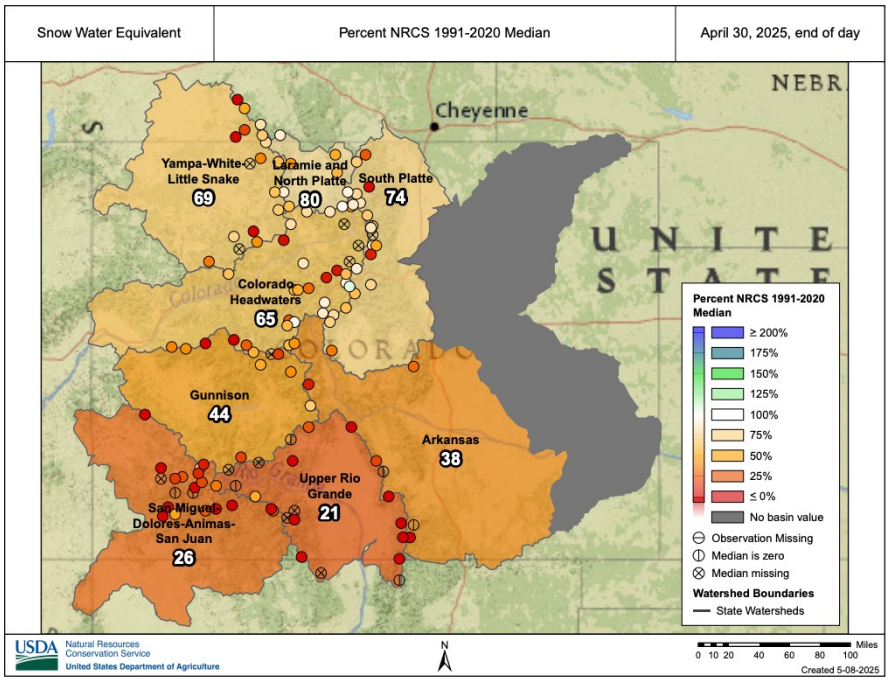
Author:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought conditions worsened throughout April for most parts of the state. Along the West Slope, one- to two-class drought degradations occurred, and a new area of D3 (extreme drought) was introduced across Mesa, Delta, and Montrose counties. D2 (severe drought) conditions also expanded across the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In Southeast Colorado, D1 (moderate drought) conditions developed. Drought status remained mostly unchanged across northern Colorado. As of April 29, ~44% of the state is experiencing drought conditions (up from 31% at the beginning of April).

Colorado Drought Update Page

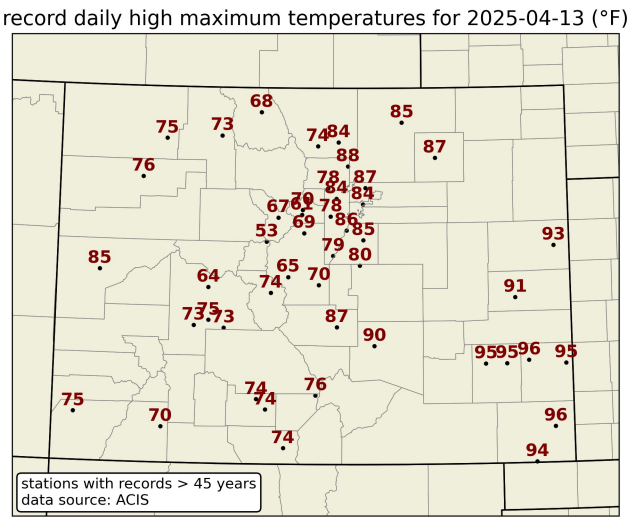
Warm temperatures contributed to early snowpack melt throughout April, and below-average precipitation did little to replenish the losses. All CO basins finished the month with snowpack below the 1991-2020 median levels, but the situation continues to be most dire across the state's southernmost river basins. End-of-month snowpack in the San Juan and Upper Rio Grande basins stood at just 26% and 21% of normal (respectively), foreshadowing a challenging summer for water supply.



significant events

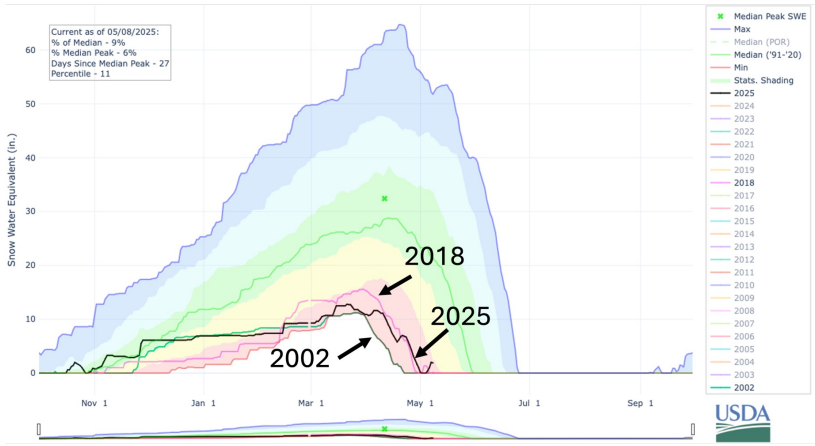
Record-setting warmth occurred across Colorado on April 11-13, when high temperatures climbed to values more than 20°F above average. In records going back to 1951, April 13th was the warmest day ever observed so early in the year across Colorado. On that day, Great Sand Dunes NP recorded its earliest 75°F+ day on record, and Lamar and Walsh each recorded their earliest 95°F+ day on record. Notably, many of the daily records that were broken were set just two years ago (2023) during a warm period over the same three calendar days.

Mid-April Record Heat



New daily record high temperatures set on April 13, 2025.

Southern Colorado's Early Snowpack Melt



Historical and 2025 snow water equivalent (SWE) from the Upper San Juan SNOTEL site. Data from NRCS/USDA.

Winter was abnormally dry across western Colorado, and April offered little relief. Lack of precipitation plus warm temperatures led to unusually early snowpack melt, particularly across southern Colorado. By the end of April, several SNOTEL site across the San Juans and Sangre de Cristos reported total or near-total snowpack loss. For some locations, this melt-out occurred 20-30 days earlier than average.

CCC in the news

- **April 14, 2025**: North/south split for Western Slope snowpack and streamflow forecasts
  - Featuring Peter Goble in the Post Independent
- **April 29, 2025:** Some of Colorado's mountains have no snowpack left after below-average winter
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher with KDVR Denver

In case you missed it, here's a link to our blog post from April 14 about the mountain snowpack situation.

You can now also find links to recent blog posts, and our Bluesky feed, on the Colorado Climate Center homepage!