



Drought Information Statement for South Central and Southeast Colorado

Valid December 12th, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pueblo, Colorado

Contact Information: nws.pueblo@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by January 16th, 2025 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/pub/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
-
- Abundant Fall moisture erases drought conditions across southern Colorado.





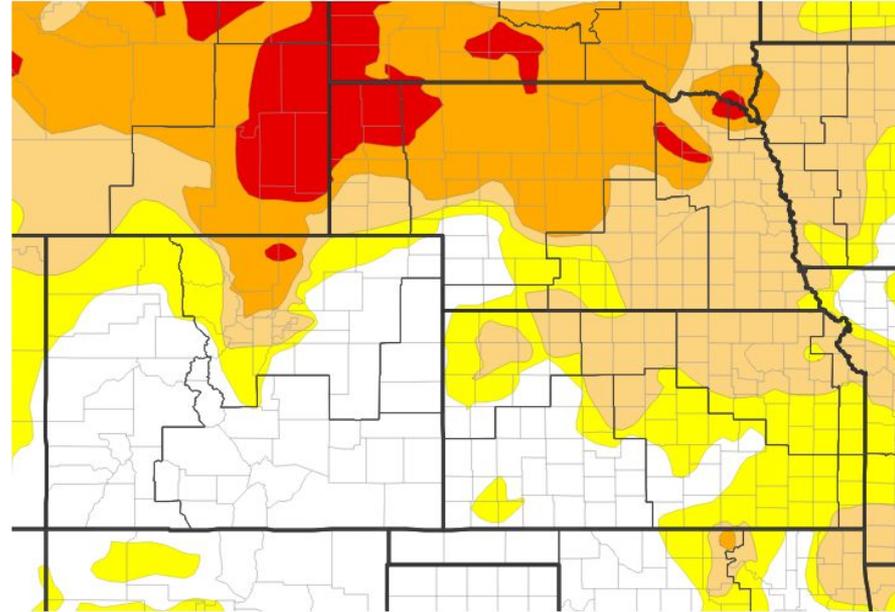
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Colorado

Valid December 10th, 2024

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** N/A
 - **D3 Extreme Drought:** N/A
 - **D2 Severe Drought:** NA
 - **D1 Moderate Drought:** NA
 - **D0: Abnormally Dry:** Extreme western portions of Teller county.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 12/10/24





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:** NA
- **No Change:** NA
- **Drought Improved:** 1 to 2 category improvements across southern Colorado.

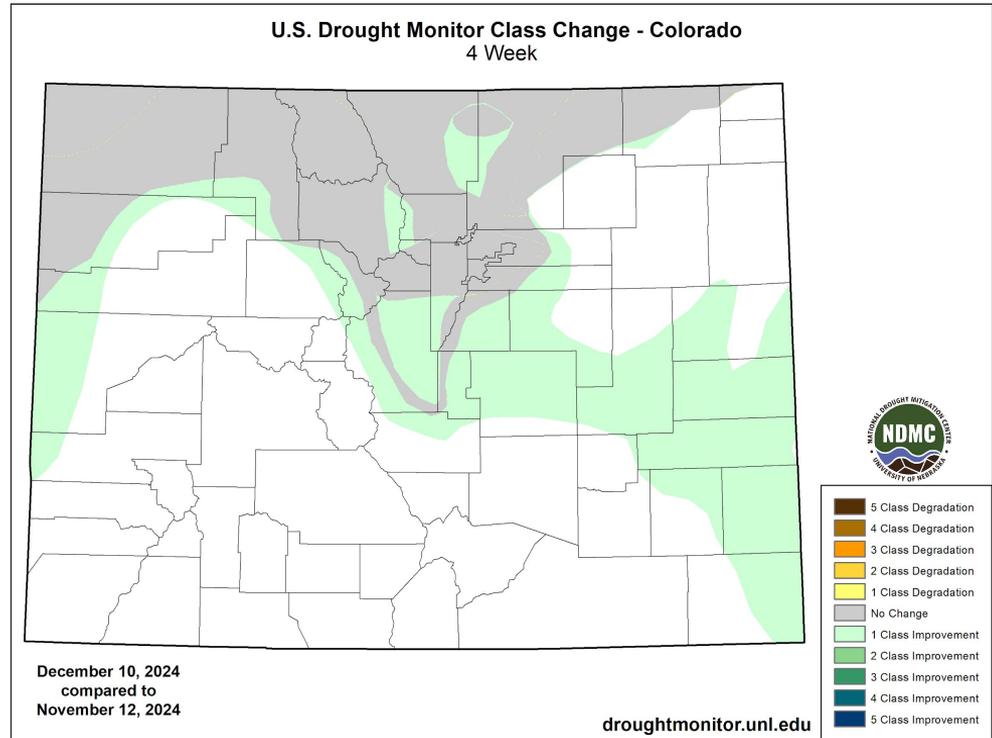


Image Caption: [Drought Monitor Colorado 4 Week Change Map](#)
valid December 10th, 2024



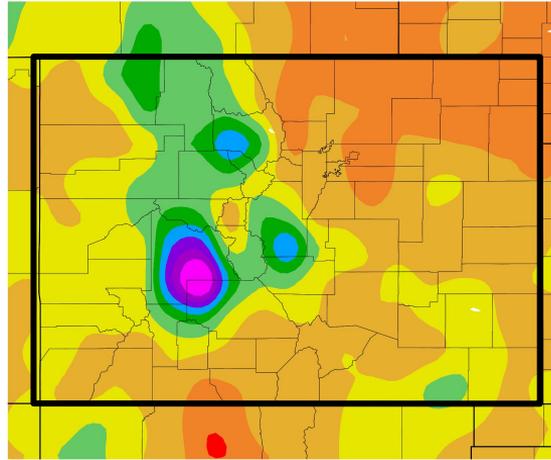


Month to Date Temperature and Precipitation Departures

Links to the latest [HPRCC Temperature](#) and [Precipitation](#) departure from normal for December

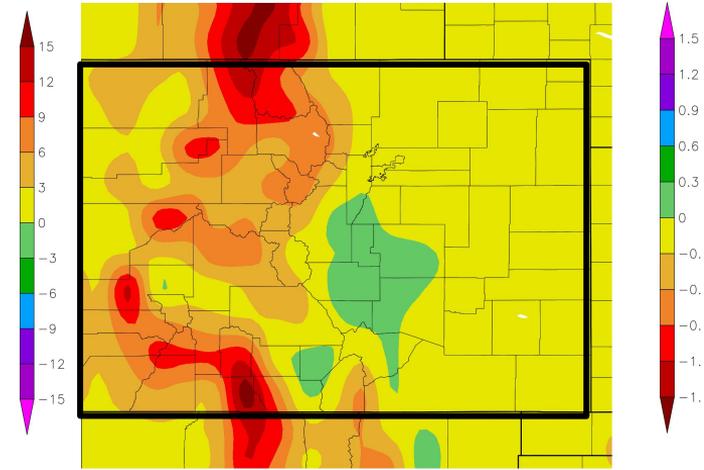
- December thus far, has seen at and above normal temperatures and generally below normal precipitation, save for above normal precipitation across portions of the southeast mountains and immediate adjacent plains.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2024 – 12/11/2024



12/12/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/1/2024 – 12/11/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center



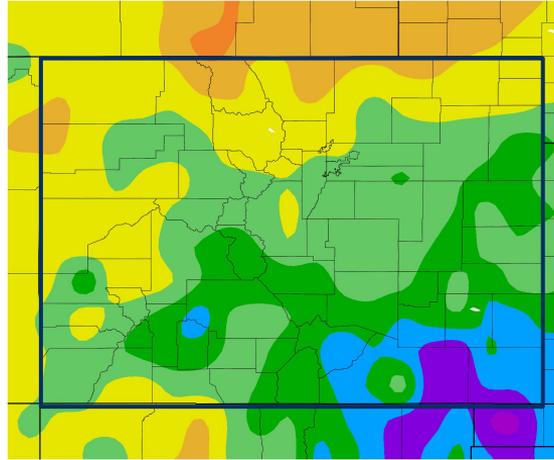


Fall of 2024 Precipitation and Temperature Summary

Links to [HPRCC Departure from Normal Precipitation](#) and [Departure from Normal Temperature](#) for Fall of 2024

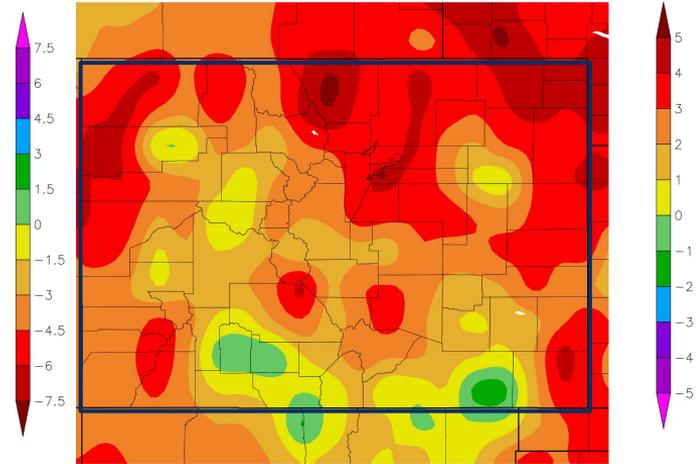
- After a warm September and very warm October, below normal temperatures were experienced across the region in November.
- Above normal fall precipitation was bolstered by a slow moving weather system across the Rockies in the middle of October, as well as another slow moving weather system in the beginning of November.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/1/2024 – 11/30/2024



Generated 12/10/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2024 – 11/30/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows at to above normal across south central and southeast Colorado.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is at to well above seasonal levels across south central and southeast Colorado.
([CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Abundant moisture and snowpack has curtailed fire danger.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.



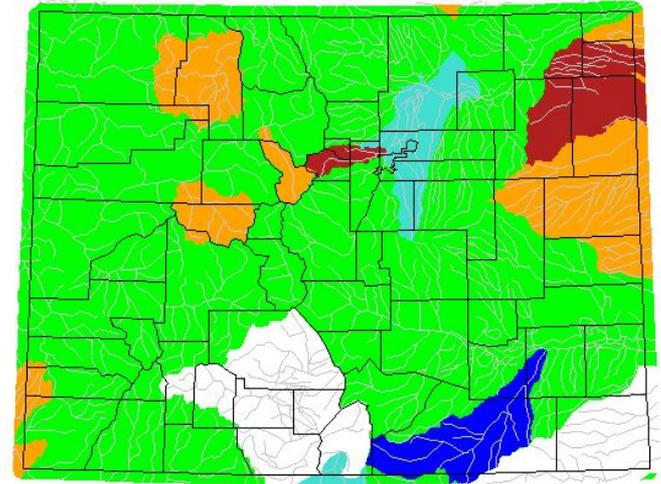


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Links to [Current NRCS Mountain Precipitation](#) and [NRCS StreamFlow Forecast \(January-June\)](#)

- Latest 7 day average stream flows are at to well above normal across south central and southeast Colorado.
- NRCS data indicates **statewide mountain precipitation** for the month of November was at 143 percent of median, as compared to 61 percent of median at this time last year. This brings statewide Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 118 percent of median, as compared to 70 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, November precipitation came in at 236 percent of median, as compared to 73 percent of median at this time last year. This brings Arkansas basin Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 158 percent of median, as compared to 73 percent of median at this time last year,
- In the **Upper Rio Grande basin**, November precipitation came in at 144 percent of median, as compared to 71 percent of median at this time last year. This brings Upper Rio Grande basin Water Year 2025 to date precipitation to 144 percent of median, as compared to 60 percent of median at this time last year.

Wednesday, December 11, 2024



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes						
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	No Data

Image Caption: [USGS 7 day average streamflow for Colorado](#) valid December 11th, 2024





Hydrologic Conditions Colorado Snowpack

Link to [USDA NRCS Colorado Water Supply Outlook Report \(January-June\)](#)

- Although it's very early in the season, [Colorado Statewide Snowpack](#) was at 105 percent of median, as of December 11th, 2024. The above median snowpack is being bolstered by the southern basins.
- Although it's very early in the season, [Arkansas basin](#) snowpack was at 144 percent of median, as of December 11th, 2024.
- Although it's very early in the season, [Upper Rio Grande basin](#) snowpack was at 123 percent of median as of December 11th, 2024.

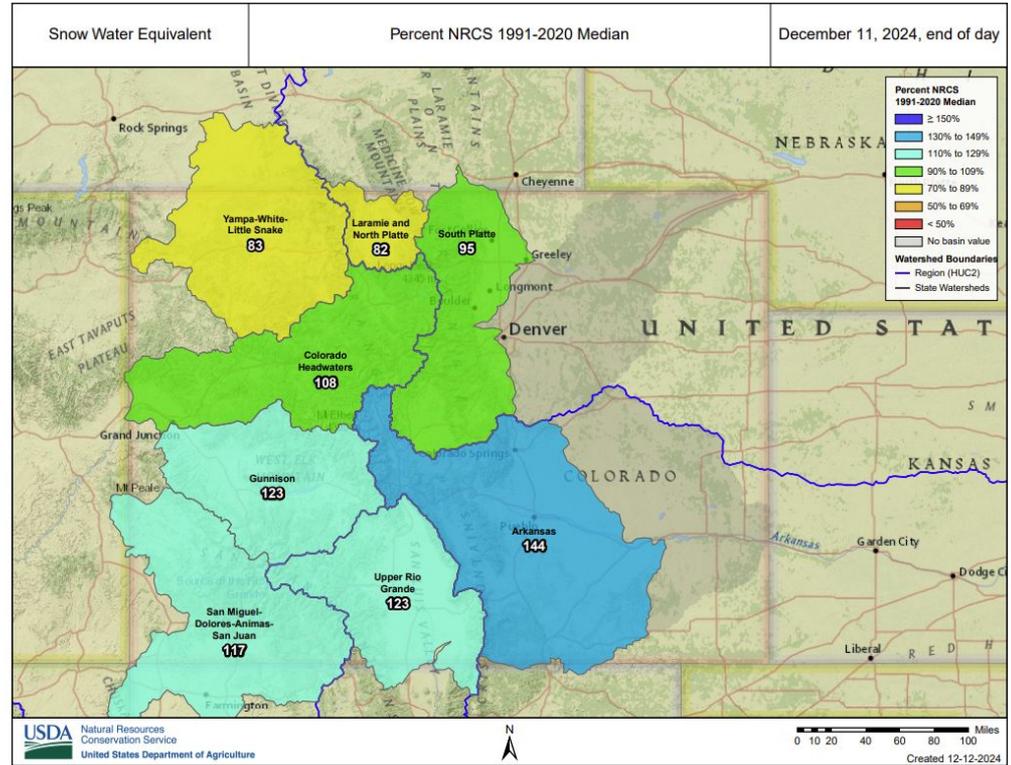


Image Caption: Current [USDA NRCS Colorado SNOWTEL SWE % of Normal](#)





Agricultural and Water Storage Impacts

Link to the latest [USDA Colorado Crop Progress and Condition Report](#)

- Latest CPC data indicates soil moisture is running at to well above seasonal norms across south central and southeast Colorado.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
DEC 11, 2024

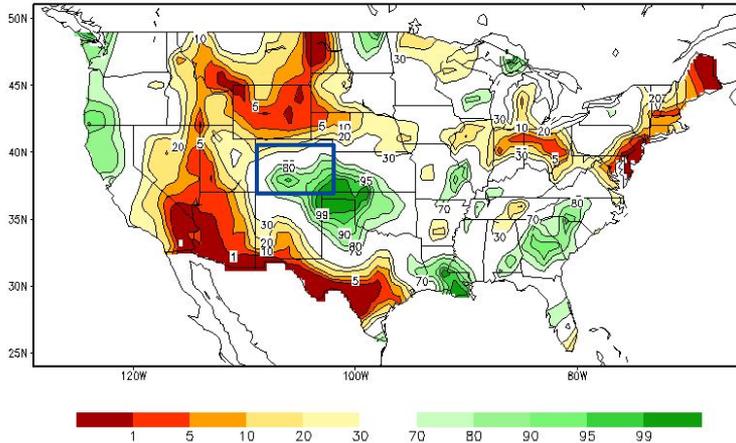


Image Caption: [CPC Daily Soil Moisture Ranking](#)
valid December 11th, 2024

- NRCS data indicated [statewide Colorado Reservoir Storage](#) was at 92 percent of median at the end of November, as compared to 100 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Arkansas basin**, reservoir storage was at 118 percent of median at the end of November, as compared to 114 percent of median at this time last year.
- In the **Rio Grande basin**, reservoir storage was at 125 percent of median at the end of November, as compared to 125 percent of median at this time last year.





Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

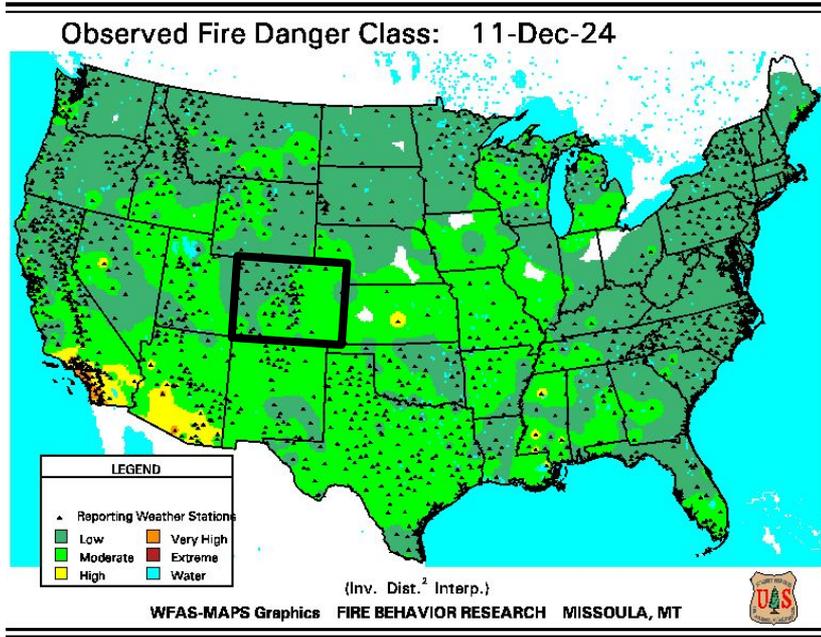


Image Caption: [Wildland Fire Assessment System Observed Fire Danger](#) valid Dec 11th, 2024

Link to [Latest Fire Restrictions across the state of Colorado](#)

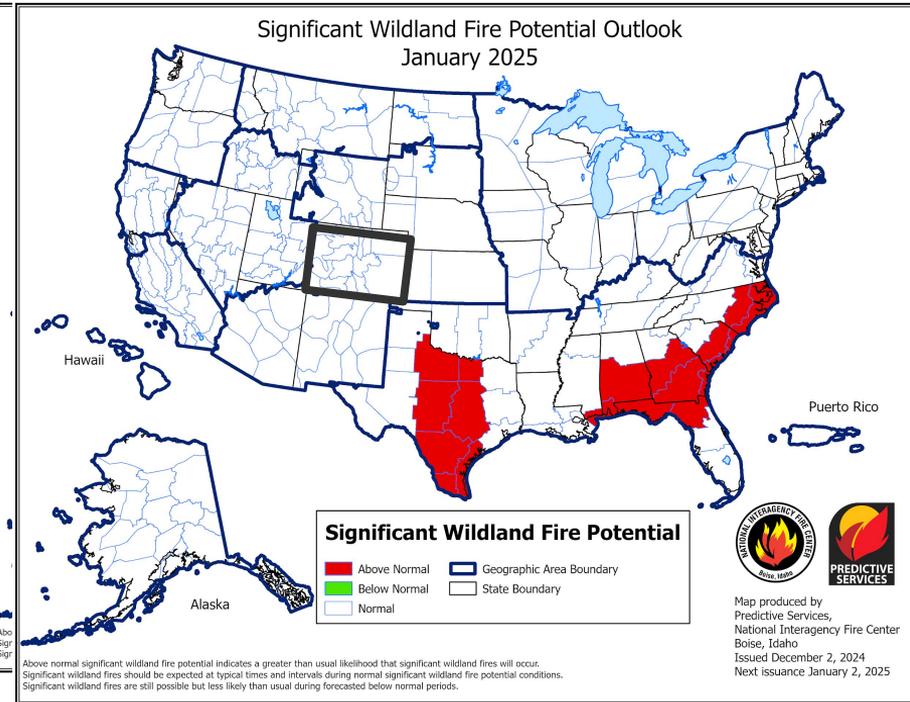


Image Caption: [NIFC Monthly Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) valid for January 2025





Long-Range Three Month Outlook (Dec-Feb)

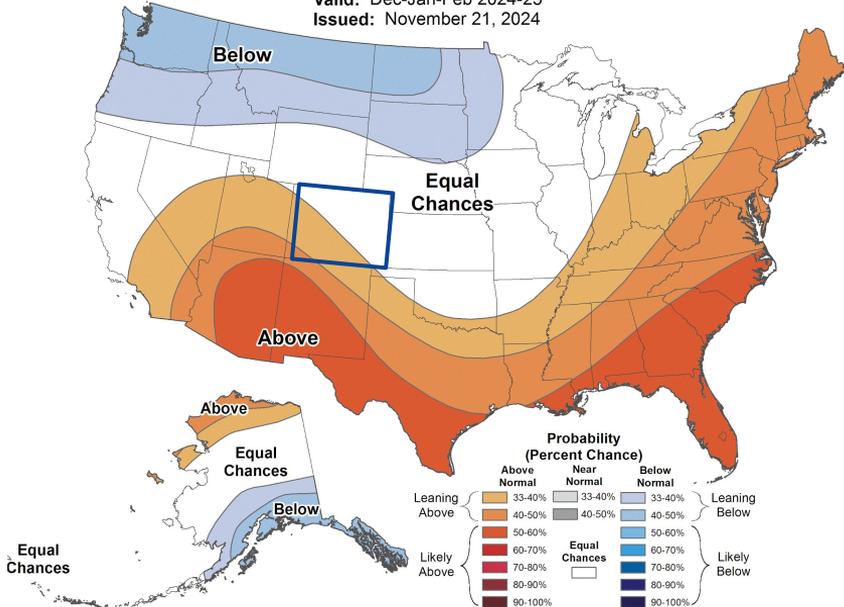
The latest seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



Seasonal Temperature Outlook



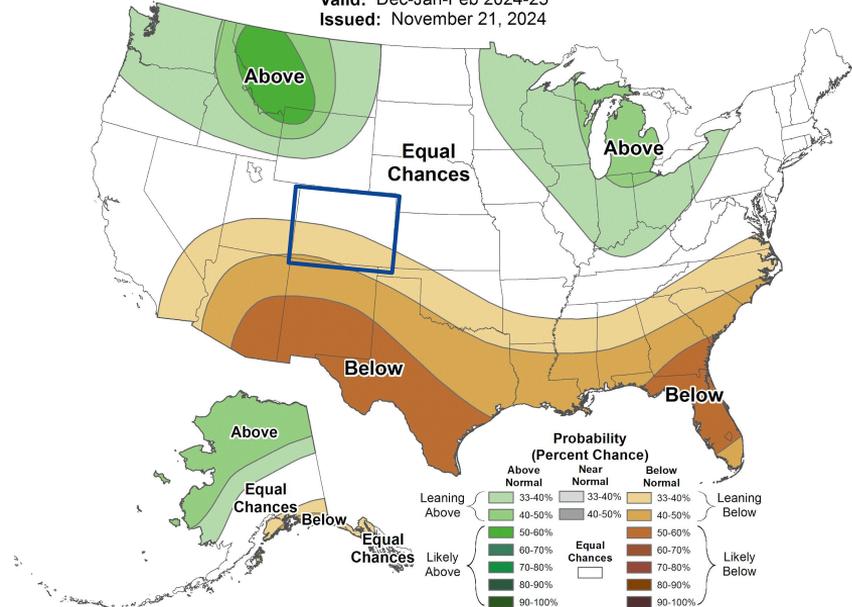
Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25
Issued: November 21, 2024



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25
Issued: November 21, 2024



The CPC outlook for Winter 2024-2025 (Dec-Feb) gives equal chances of above, below and near normal temperatures and precipitation across south central and southeast Colorado, save for a slight lean towards above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across the southern tier.



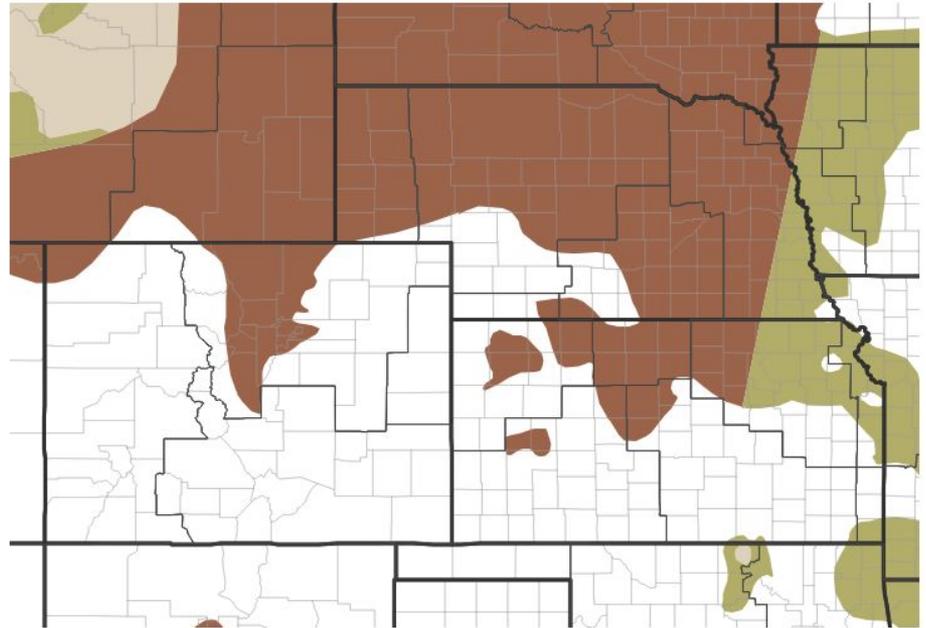


Drought Three Month Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 30, 2024–February 28, 2025

- Drought conditions are not predicted to develop or expand across south central and southeast Colorado through the early Winter.



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center image courtesy of Drought.gov. Last Updated: 11/20/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

