



May 2017 Drought Update

Water Availability Task Force Co- Chairs

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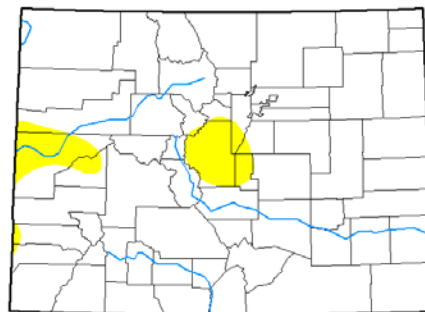
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Cool and wet conditions across much of Colorado throughout May have resulted in widespread elimination of drought conditions, abnormally dry conditions are present in Mesa and Park counties and will continued to be monitored. Water providers have no immediate concerns and expect reservoirs to fill. Some crops have been lost as a result of freeze, but will be replanted.

- Statewide water year- to- date snowpack as of May 25th is at 149% of normal, however this time of year small amounts of snow accumulation can result in large percentile increases. All basins have seen their peak accumulation for the year and begun to melt out.
- Reservoir storage statewide remains high at 112% of normal and all basins are at or above normal, with the highest storage levels in the Gunnison (126 percent) and the lowest in the Upper Rio Grande (98 percent).
- While the higher elevations were a bit drier in April (89% of average precipitation), the statewide average April precipitation was 117% of average, primarily due to the large amounts that accumulated at the end of the month in southeast Colorado.
- Given recent precipitation both streamflow forecasts and the Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) are expected to rise in the June 1 update.
- The June-August forecast from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) supports the possible development of an El Nino with more moisture than average through the growing season. The temperature outlook indicates warm conditions in the south and west with equal chances of below, normal and above average temperatures in the east and north.
- The Flood Threat Bulletin began May 1st and can be found at <http://www.coloradofloodthreat.com/>

Currently only 6 percent of Colorado is classified as abnormally dry, the lowest amount since July of 2016. Recent precipitation has helped to eliminate drought conditions across the state. However, portions of western Colorado remain abnormally dry.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



May 30, 2017
(Released Thursday, Jun. 1, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

| | Drought Conditions (Percent Area) | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
| Current | 94.30 | 5.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Last Week 05-23-2017 | 94.30 | 5.70 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago 03-29-2017 | 48.04 | 51.96 | 36.92 | 1.84 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2017 | 31.88 | 68.12 | 37.21 | 2.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year 09-27-2016 | 70.49 | 29.51 | 2.45 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago 05-31-2016 | 96.17 | 3.83 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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NCEI/NESDIS/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

NOTE: The next Water Availability Task Force Meeting will be held on June 21, 2017 at Colorado Parks and Wildlife Broadway Office; Additional information can be found at www.cwcb.state.co.us or by contacting Ben Wade at Ben.Wade@state.co.us