Colorado Water Year 2017 Climate Summary

Annually, temperatures were warmer than average across the state, with record warmth in the higher elevations. WY2017 tied for the 3rd warmest water year on record for the state. The WY average temperature is 45.7°F, and WY2017 was 2.2°F warmer.

Graph from NOAA/NCEI
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WY2017 Precipitation

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WY2017 was the 30th wettest water year on record. The WY average precipitation is 18.61”, and WY2017 was 1.46” wetter.

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Water Year 2017 Significant Events

- Fort Collins reports its fifth consecutive May with snow.
- Estes Park receives 3 feet of snow in a May snowstorm. *photo courtesy Adna Akyuz
- After one of the bleakest starts to the snowpack season in recorded history, high elevation snow came on strong in Dec-Jan. Crested Butte recorded 152" of snowfall, 6 feet over their Dec-Jan average! *Photo courtesy Denver Post
- The costliest hailstorm in CO history pummeled the Denver area on May 8. Estimated at over $1.4 Billion in damage, it closed down the Colorado Mills mall for several months. *photo courtesy Jeremy Bell/KGO
- A late season blizzard at the end of April helped relieve drought conditions, but resulted in widespread and devastating livestock casualties. *photo courtesy Brian Allmer
- 39 stations top out over 80°F, and 61 stations report over 70°F in mid-February. *photo courtesy 9News

Percent of state in drought according to U.S. Drought Monitor.
Drought conditions were minimal in WY2017 and nearly disappeared in the summer.
The table shows the number of stations around the state with a daily report that broke a record for that day or for an entire month.

Warmest minimum temperatures were the most common record broken, while record cold temperatures were uncommon.