The images above use daily precipitation statistics from NWS COOP, CoCoRaHS, and CoAgMet stations. From top to bottom, and left to right: most recent 7-days of accumulated precipitation in inches; current month-to-date accumulated precipitation in inches; last month's precipitation as a percent of average; water-year-to-date precipitation as a percent of average.

**Last Week Precipitation:**

- Precipitation was mainly confined to higher elevations of Colorado and Wyoming.
- The northern mountains of Colorado saw the highest amounts between Jackson and Larimer counties with widespread precipitation amounts of 0.26-1.15" over the week.
- The central and southern mountains in Colorado received slightly less
precipitation in the range of 0.26" up to 1" in isolated areas.
- Utah saw very little precipitation over the past week.
- Precipitation on the plains of Colorado originated from an upslope event and amounted to 0.11-0.25" over the past week on a NW-SE transect from northern Wyoming down through Kiowa county in Colorado.

**December Precipitation:**

- For the month of December, the UCRB saw mainly average to above average precipitation.
- The Green River basin saw precipitation above 90% of average for most locations with the exception of a dry area near Sublette, Fremont and Sweetwater counties with less than 50% of average precipitation in that area.
- Northern Utah received variable precipitation in December with the Wasatch and Uintahs showing areas less than 50% of average as well as areas with above average precipitation. NE Utah and NW Colorado had above average moisture in December which stretched down into the lower Colorado River basin through Grand, Emery, Wayne and Garfield counties in Utah.
- SW Colorado in the San Juans saw near to above average precipitation in the mountains, with lower lying areas receiving less than 50% of average.
- East of the divide was well below average for December with widespread areas on the plains receiving less than 50% of average for the month.

**Water Year Precipitation:**

- Much of the UCRB has seen near and above average precipitation through the first three months of WY2014.
- The driest areas for the water year through December are the Wastach mountains in northern Utah which has received 20-90% of average, depending on location.
- The Four Corners area has seen water year precipitation 50-90% of average through December.
- East of the divide, the plains have seen lower than average precipitation through December with widespread areas receiving 30-70% of average for the water year.
- The majority of the rest of the UCRB and Colorado received average to above average precipitation from Oct-Dec.

**SNOTEL AND SNOWPACK**

http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/current_assessment.php
The top left image shows the Natural Resources Conservation Service's SNOTEL water-year-to-date precipitation percentile rankings. The top right image shows sub-basin averaged snow water equivalent accumulations as a percent of average. The images below show accumulated snow water equivalent in inches (green) compared to average (blue) and last year (red) for several different sub-basins across the UCRB (and were created by the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center).

**SNOTEL Precipitation Percentiles:**

- The Wasatch range in Utah is showing the lowest precipitation percentiles for this point in the water year. They range from the 3rd to 18th percentile and improve as you move east into the Uintah range where percentiles range from the 12th to 52nd percentiles.
- The Upper Green river basin shows a fairly large contrast along the Sublette/Fremont county line (Wind River Range) with the east side showing much higher precipitation percentiles (3rd to 76th) than the west side (7th to 22nd). The Wyoming range is showing percentiles between the 16th and 52nd.
- The Yampa/White/and Colorado river basins are showing precipitation percentiles above the median at
the majority of sites ranging from 6th to 81st.
• The Gunnison basin is showing slightly lower percentiles ranging from 15th to 53rd.
• The San Juan basin is driest basin in Colorado with percentiles between 9th to 27th percentiles.

**Basin-wide Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Percent of Normal:**

• The westwide product shows SWE in the Pacific Northwest well below average for this time of the water year compared to the more eastern and southern basins which are more near normal for this time of year.
• The SWE percentage for the UCRB are variable across the basin. Northern Utah and SW Colorado are the lowest and range from 57 to 84% of normal.
• The SW Wyoming and Northern Colorado basins are mainly above average and range from 82 to 105 percent of normal.

**SWE Timeseries Graphs:**

• Little snow fell in the high elevation areas over the past week with SWE time series staying steady.
• The Upper Green river basin is reporting SWE as 93% of the median with little accumulation since mid-January.
• The Duchesne river basin is reporting SWE as 70% of median with little accumulation since mid-January.
• The Yampa basin is reporting SWE as 105% of median with little accumulation since mid-January.
• The Upper Colorado basin is reporting SWE as 103% of median with little accumulation since mid-January.
• The Gunnison basin is reporting SWE as 91% of median with very little accumulation since early January.
• The San Juan basin is reporting SWE as 81% of median with only small accumulations since early December.

### STANDARDIZED PRECIPITATION INDEX


![90 Day SPI 10/29/2013 - 1/26/2014](http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/current_assessment.php)
Standardized Precipitation Index standardizes precipitation accumulations for a specified time period into percentile rankings. -1.0 to -1.5 is equivalent to a D1 to D2. -1.5 to -2.0 is equivalent to a D2 to D3. -2.0 and worse is equivalent to a D3 to D4. 30- and 60-day SPIs focus on short-term conditions while 6- and 9-month SPIs focus on long-term conditions. SPI data provided by High Plains Regional Climate Center.

**Short Term (30-day):**

- SPI's are split on a NW/SE line through Wyoming and Colorado on the short term.
- SW Wyoming shows SPI's between -1.5 and +2 with a sharp contrast along the Fremont/Sublette county line.
- Utah and western Colorado are showing dry SPI values that range from 0 to -2.5 with lowest SPI's in the Mesa and Delta county area in Colorado.
- The four corners SPI's range from -1 to -2.
- Northern Colorado and east of the divide SPI's are slightly dry to wet and range from 0 to +1.5.

**Long Term (6-month):**

- The longer term SPI of 6 months shows a completely different picture than the short term SPI does. This points to the fact that dryness in the west part of the basin is a short term issue coming off fairly wet Sept-Nov period.
- The driest areas on the longer term are in the Wasatch range in Utah where SPI's range from +1 to -2.0 and SE Colorado in the Crowley/Otero county area where SPI's range from -2 to +2 over a fairly small area. NE Colorado in Phillips and Sedgwick counties is just slightly dry on the long term with SPI's between 0 and -1.
- The rest of the UCRB is showing wet conditions on the longer term with SPI's from 0 to +2.5.
- The rest of the area east of the divide is also showing near normal to
wet conditions with SPI's from 0 to +3.

STREAMFLOW

The top left image shows 7-day averaged streamflows as a percentile ranking across the UCRB. The top right image shows 7-day averaged discharge over time at three key sites around the UCRB: The Colorado River at the CO-UT state line; the Green River at Green River, UT; and the San Juan River near Bluff, UT. All streamflow data provided by United States Geological Survey.

Streamflow Statistics:

- Only 37 stations are not affected by ice and reporting streamflow data.
- 35% of gages are reporting in the below to record low category. 5% are reporting record low flows.
- 49% of gages are in the normal range.
- 16% of gages are in the above normal to high ranges with 3% reporting record high flows.
- The Colorado River at the state line and the Green River gage at Green River are both ice affected.
- The San Juan River near Bluff, UT is recording flows at 42% of normal (9th percentile).

SURFACE WATER

The top left image shows VIC modeled soil moisture as a percentile ranking. The top right image shows satellite-derived vegetation from the VegDRI product (which updates on Mondays).
The above image shows last month's and this month’s current volumes of the major reservoirs in the UCRB, with percent of average and percent of capacity.

**VIC (Total storage-includes SWE):**

- Much of the UCRB is showing near normal to wet soil moisture conditions.
- SW Wyoming and NE Utah are the driest areas in the UCRB with soil moisture percentiles ranging from the 2nd to 30th.
- SW Colorado is showing pockets of dry soil moisture in the 20th to 30th percentile range.
- East of the divide in SE Colorado continues to show dry soil moisture conditions with percentiles ranging from 0 to 30th over much of the area.

**Reservoirs:**

- The northern reservoirs are all near their January averages, ranging from 93% (Flaming Gorge) to 110% (Dillon) of average.
- The southern reservoirs are all below January average, although some have seen some improvement over the past couple months. They range from 58% (Lake Powell) to 78% (Blue Mesa) of average for January.
- Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, and McPhee have seen volume increases.
since the beginning of the month

- Most reservoirs normally decrease this time of year, but none of the reservoirs are currently showing larger decreases than what is expected

TEMPERATURE

All images show temperature departures from average over different time periods (last 7 days on top left; month-to-date on top right; last full month on bottom). Temperature departure maps provided by HPRCC ACIS.

Last Week Temperatures:

- Over the past week, much of Wyoming saw temperatures 0-12 degrees above normal with the exception of far western Wyoming where temperatures were by contrast 0-9 degrees below normal.
- The Wasatch, Uintahs, Northern/Central mountains and the San Luis valley all saw below normal temperatures from 0 to 12 degrees below
normal with the San Luis valley being the coldest area due to snowcover in the valley.

- East of the divide in Colorado saw temperatures normal to 6 degrees above normal.
- The 4 corners area saw slightly above to slightly below normal temperatures depending on location.

**Last Month Temperatures:**

- The month of December brought below normal temperatures across much of the UCRB and CO.
- The coldest anomalies are present in eastern Utah, Mesa county in Colorado and the San Luis valley in CO. These areas saw temperatures 6 to 15 degrees below normal for the month. The low temperatures in these areas were mainly driven by the presence of snow cover.
- The northern portion of the UCRB saw temperatures 3 degrees above to 15 degrees below normal for December.
- The southern portion of the UCRB saw very cold temperatures in low lying valleys. The San Juan/Gunnison temperatures were more moderate ranging from 0 to 6 degrees below normal for the month.
- East of the divide in Colorado saw temperatures 3 degrees above to 6 degrees below normal for December.

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**FORECAST AND OUTLOOK**

[Maps showing forecast and outlook]
The top two images show Climate Prediction Center’s Precipitation outlooks for 8 - 14 days (top left) and 3 months (top right). The bottom left image shows the Hydrologic Prediction Center’s Quantitative Precipitation Forecast accumulation for the five days between Tuesday 12Z and ending Sunday 12Z. The bottom right image shows the Climate Prediction Center’s most recent release of the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook.

**Short Term:**

- With a cold air mass in place, breezy NW winds will continue over high elevations. On Wednesday, expect deep Pacific moisture to enter the region with the northern and central mountains in Colorado forecast to see up to 2 feet of snow through Friday. Winds are expected to remain and create blowing snow with hazardous travel conditions through the mountains.
- Two precipitation bullseyes are forecast for the Wasatch mountains in Utah and Northern/Central mountains in Colorado. These amounts are forecast to be up to 3.3" of liquid equivalent.
- Additional snow accumulations are expected in the mountains at the beginning of next week.

**Longer Term:**

- The 8-14 day precipitation outlook shows a good probability for wetter than normal conditions across the northern tier of the UCRB and eastern plains of Colorado. Normal precipitation is expected over the southern tier of the basin.
- The CPC 3-month outlook shows greater chances for drier than normal conditions across the southern part of the UCRB, with equal chances for wet, dry, or near normal conditions across the northern part of the basin and the rest of CO and WY.
- The seasonal drought outlook shows a probability of drought persisting.
across the western portion of the basin and across southeast CO and northern UT

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**U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR**

Above is the most recent release of the U.S. Drought Monitor map for the UCRB region. Below shows the proposed changes for this week, with supporting text.

**Summary: January 28, 2013**

**Recommendations**

**UCRB:** With the San Juan Mountains drying out, and SNOTEL precipitation percentiles and snowpack percent of normals decreasing, it is recommended the D nothing in southwestern CO be degraded to D0.

**Eastern Colorado:** Northeastern CO has seen below average precipitation
for much of November through January and dry conditions have been accompanied with high winds. There have been reports of dry topsoil and blowing dust in Washington County, however some of this is due to management of the fields. With the dry SPIs showing up for the last 30 and 90 days in the area, it is recommended to degrade to D0 in southern Logan County, Washington County and northern Lincoln County.