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:**

- The UCRB and the rest of Colorado was much drier last week than in many recent weeks.
- The Upper Green River basin saw between 0.25 and 1.00" with some isolated areas of 1.00-2.00" of precipitation in Lincoln, Sublette, and Uinta Counties.
- Northeast Utah saw 0.10 to 1.00" of precipitation with the majority in the 0.50-1.00" range. The driest areas were in the Duchesne River Basin. Spotty areas of Wasatch and Duchesne Counties picked up less than 0.25".
- Conditions were drier farther south in Utah. Precipitation totals were less than 0.50". Along the Colorado River between Moab and Lake Powell precipitation totals were under 0.10".
- Southwest Colorado was the wettest over Ouray, and eastern San Miguel Counties where precipitation totals...
were between 0.50 and 1.00". Most of the area received less than a quarter of an inch of precipitation.

- The San Luis Valley was dry as per usual with precipitation totals mostly under 0.25" for the week.
- The Central Rockies were also dry, and received less than 0.50" in most areas. The largest dry area was in Park and Chaffee Counties where totals for the week were under 0.10".
- Northwestern Colorado picked up 0.25-1.00" of precipitation over the past week. Eastern Rio Blanco County, and northern Routt County near Buffalo Pass received 1.00-2.00" of rainfall.
- Northeast Colorado saw a mixed bag of dry to moist conditions over the past week. The wettest areas were up against the Palmer Divide in Elbert and El Paso Counties where totals were between 1.00 and 2.00".
- Southeast Colorado also experienced a mixed bag of dry to moist conditions. The wettest areas were in Las Animas and Pueblo Counties where totals were between 1.00" and 2.00" for the week. Part of southern Pueblo County picked up over 2.00".

**May Precipitation:**

- May was a very wet month across the entirety of Colorado and the Upper Colorado River Basin.
- There was less of an elevation gradient in precipitation than is climatologically normal. The high elevations of the Wasatch, Uintah, and Rocky Mountain Ranges picked up between 90 and 150 percent of their May average places, but lower elevations were above 300 percent of May average precipitation in many areas.
- The Upper Green River Basin in Wyoming received mostly above normal May precipitation. Higher elevations were between 90 and 150 percent of normal. Lower elevations were generally 150-300+ percent of normal for the month.
- Eastern Utah was nearly unanimously way above normal for the month of May. Higher elevations in the Wasatch and Uintah Ranges as well as parts of Grand and Emery County received a smaller fraction of their average precipitation than other areas in eastern Utah, but were still between 90 and 200% of May normals. The bulk of Duchesne, Uintah, and San Juan Counties were over 300 percent of normal for the month of May.
- Western Colorado percents of normal decrease with elevation, and increase from north to south. The San Juans picked up over 300 percent of normal for May across most of the range. In northwest Colorado May percents of average were more typically between 150 and 250 with isolated areas higher or lower.
- The central and north central Rockies received lower precents of May average precipitation than surrounding areas. In Lake and Summit Counties precipitation was between 70 and 200 percent of normal.
- The Rio Grande Basin received by and large over 300% of their average May precipitation.
- East of the Divide, precipitation percentages of normal were over 200 pretty much across the board. This is especially impressive as May is one of the wettest months across eastern Colorado, and the wettest month climatologically in some areas. Parts of Douglas, Jefferson, Boulder, and Larimer Counties that are a little higher in elevation only picked up 150-200% of May average precipitation.

**Water Year 2015 Precipitation (Oct-May):**

- Following a very wet May in which lower elevations in the UCRB and eastern Colorado picked up lots of precipitation, and following a dry winter, the water year to date precipitation map looks similar to a topography map. This is because, for the most part, higher elevations have not received as high a fraction of their normal precipitation for the water year to date as low elevations.
- The Upper Green river basin shows a very mixed bag of conditions. Eastern Uinta and Lincoln Counties have received over 300% of their normal water year to date precipitation. Northeast Sublette County and northwest Lincoln County, however, have only received 50-70% of their normal water year to date precipitation.
- Over northeastern Utah the Wasatch and Uintah Mountain Ranges have by and large received only 50-90% of their normal water year to date precipitation. Lower elevations of eastern Utah show a wider variety of conditions all the way from western Grand County, which has picked up 70-90% of normal precipitation for the water year to date to southcentral Wayne County, which has picked up over 250% of normal precipitation for the water year to date. The most common percents of normal for the water year to date in eastern Utah are 90-150.
- Much of Western Colorado is still on the dry side with the most area in the 70-90% of normal range. Some of the areas that still show up very dry are in western Gunnison County, northern Delta County, and northern Mineral County where only 30-50% of normal precipitation for the water year to date has been received. There are wet areas as well such as eastern San Miguel County, which has had 170-200% of normal precipitation for the water year to date.
- Much of Western Colorado has seen below normal precipitation, with much of the area in the 50%-70% of normal range, and some spots through the basin seeing less than 50% of normal. Portions of Moffat, Routt,
and Rio Blanco counties are near or slightly above normal.

- The Rio Grande Basin is still on the dry side at higher elevations. The Sangre de Cristo Range is hovering in the 50-90% of average ballpark for the water year to date, but the valley in western Costilla County is above 200% of average.

- Eastern Colorado is now above average for the water year to date across the board following a very wet May. Most of the region is between 130 and 200 percent of the normal for the water year to date. Morgan County is at over 250 percent of average for the water year to date following record rains in May. The driest area of eastern Colorado with respect to average is Phillips, northern Yuma, and eastern Washington Counties where only 110-130 percent of normal precipitation has been received for the water year to date.

Additional Precipitation Links: (will take you to an outside website)

- AHPS Precipitation
- High Plains Regional Climate Center's ACIS Maps
county border.
- The Wasatch and Uintahs are still very dry with percentiles ranging from the 0 to 70th, but mostly in the 0-20 range.
- The northern mountains in Colorado continue to struggle west of the continental divide where percentiles range from 4th to 76th.
- The lower elevations of the Colorado and Gunnison are still seeing percentiles below the 33rd percentile, however sites along the divide are more near normal.
- The San Juans are reporting mostly below the 40th percentile, northern Hinsdale County is doing the best in the region at the 63rd percentile.
- The Sangre de Cristo mountains in SE Colorado are near average with percentiles ranging from 39th to 75th.
- The South Platte stations are all mainly at or above the median.

SWE Timeseries Graphs:

- All sub-basins are well into the melt season.
- The peak snowpack was 85% of normal.
- The peak snowpack was 63% of normal.
- The peak snowpack was 68% of normal.
- The peak snowpack was 79% of normal.
- The peak snowpack was 70% of normal.
- The peak snowpack was 67% of normal.

Additional SNOTEL and Snowpack Links: (will take you to an outside website)

- CBRFC Snow Conditions Map
- NOHRSC Regional Snow Analyses: Central Rockies
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):**

- All but one SPI are showing up positive in the UCRB on the 30-day timescale (-1 to 0 in Western Mesa County). All SPI's are above normal in eastern Colorado on the 30-day timescale.
- The Upper Green river basin is showing wet SPI's between +1.5 and +2.5
- Northeast Utah is showing wet SPI's between +1 and +2.5
- Southeast Utah is showing wet SPI's between +1 and +2.5
- Northwest Colorado is showing wet SPI's between -1 and +2.5
- Southwest Colorado is showing wet SPI's between +1 and +2.5
- North central Colorado is showing wet SPI's between 0 and +2.5.
- South central Colorado is showing wet SPI's between 0 and +3.
- East of the divide, all SPI's are wet, between 0 and +3 on the 30-day timescale.

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

- On the 6-month timescale SPI's are more of a mixed bag for the UCRB, but generally wet, with some of the higher elevations sites slightly dry.
- The Upper Green has SPI's ranging from 0 to +2.5.
- NE Utah shows some longer term dryness with SPI's ranging from -1 to +1.5
- Southeast Utah has been in the normal range, and is reporting SPI's between 0 and +1.5
- Western Colorado saw some improvement with the majority if SPI's between -1 and +2. The driest are in Rio Blanco, Routt, Gunnison, Grand and Summit counties.
- In central Colorado SPI's are generally very positive between +1.5 and +3. Freemont County is above +3.
- East of the divide, all SPI's are wet, even on the 6-month timescale. They range from 0 to +2.5.
- The Rio Grande basin is wet for long term SPI's, +1 to +2.5

Additional SPI Links: (will take you to an outside website)
- WestWide Drought Tracker SPI Maps
- HPRCC's SPI Maps
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:

- 142 gages in the UCRB are currently reporting. Following some higher temperatures a greater percentage of gages are back in the normal range.
- 69% of the gages in the UCRB are reporting in the normal to much above normal range for 7-day average streamflow.
- 31% of the gages are recording below normal for 7-day average streamflow, 5% in the much below normal.
- No gages are showing record high or low flows.
- Streamflow on the Colorado River near the CO-UT state is continuing to recover. It is now at the 37th percentile, 77% of average.
- The Green River at Green River, UT has shown a slight decrease in flow. Currently the Green is flowing at the 32nd percentile, or 72% of average.
- Flows along the San Juan have leveled out over the past week, and are still low. Right now the San Juan near Bluff is reporting at the 13th percentile, or 32% of average.

Additional Streamflow and River Links: (will take you to an outside website)
- USGS Streamflow Drought
- CBRFC Peak Flow Forecast Conditions Map
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).

### VIC:

- Soils are mostly wetter than average for this time of year in the Upper Green River Basin. Much of Sublette, Lincoln, and Uinta Counties are above the 70th percentile. A blemish of dry soil in the 5th-30th percentile range still shows up in southeastern Sweetwater County.
- Soils in northeastern UT are mostly in the average range. The southern part of Wasatch range is showing wetter soils, in the 70th to 90th percentile.
- Southeast Utah is also showing soil moisture mostly in the normal range. There is one dry spot in eastern Emery and Wayne Counties in the 10-30th percentile range.
- Western CO soils are mainly in the normal to above normal range. Most of Mesa, Garfield, and Rio Blanco Counties are above the 70th percentile.
- The San Juan Mountain region is now completely in the normal range.
- The San Luis Valley is mostly in showing some wet soils, in the 70th to 90th percentile.
- Eastern Colorado is showing almost completely wet soil conditions. Much of NE Colorado has soil moisture percentiles above the 80th percentile, with a large area in NE Colorado above the 98th percentile focused in Arapahoe, Adams, Morgan, and Weld Counties. Soils over SE Colorado are now above the 70th percentile, with a small area of normal soil moisture.

### VegDRI:

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.
The VegDri shows moist conditions over central and western Sweetwater County.
The Upper Green River Basin shows mostly normal vegetative health conditions with some isolated areas of pre to moderate drought.
The Wasatch Mountains are depicted in pre to severe drought. The Uintah Mountains are doing better now, and have rebounded mostly into the normal range, with some pre-drought in the northern part of the range.
The VegDRI indicates a mixed bag of drought to moist conditions in the Duchesne River Basin.
In southeast Utah vegetative health is depicted mostly in pre-drought. This area doesn't have a lot of vegetation.
VegDRI is shown in the pre-drought range in most of far western Colorado.
In northwest Colorado, vegetative health is primarily depicted in the normal range, but starting to show some pre drought conditions, especially in Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties. There is now some pre and moderate drought showing up along the border of Jackson and Routt Counties as well.
The high mountain valleys in central Colorado are depicted as especially moist. This includes Chaffee, Park, Teller, Fremont, and Custer Counties. This area of very moist vegetation extends onto the Front Range mainly along the Palmer Divide into El Paso, Elbert, Douglas, Jefferson, Adams, and Arapahoe Counties.
East of the Divide, northeastern Colorado is primarily showing moist vegetation with the exception of Sedgwick and Phillips counties where conditions are shown as pre drought to normal.
In southeast Colorado conditions are now mostly moist now. Southern Lincoln County is mostly in the normal range with some very spotty pre and moderate drought.

Reservoirs:

- Flaming Gorge is 100% of the June average.
- Green Mtn is 84% of the June average.
- Lake Granby is 113% of the June average.
- Blue Mesa is 94% of the June average.
- Navajo is 87% of the June average.
- McPhee is 81% of the June average.
- Lake Powell is 60% of the June average and is 47% full, up from 46% full from last week.

Additional Surface Water Links: (will take you to an outside website)
- NLDAS Drought Monitor
- Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado River Basin Teacup Diagrams

The above images are of reference evapotranspiration (ET) from CoAgMet sites across Colorado. Reference ET assumes the amount of water that will evaporate from a well-irrigated crop. Higher ET rates occur during hot, dry, and windy conditions. Lower ET rates are more desirable for crops. See a map of locations for the above ET sites.
Reference Evapotranspiration:

- Olathe: ET started the growing season at record levels. It tapered instead of accelerating through late April and early May. Now it is tracking at a record low.
- Cortez: ET began a little above normal, but has been tracking below normal since early May.
- Center: ET started at a record high and has slowed considerably, to near average.
- Avondale: ET began just above average, but has slowed to below normal.
- Idalia: ET started near average, and has fallen below average and approaching the record low year of 2009.
- Holyoke: ET started around normal and has dropped below normal since the second week of May.
- Lucerne: ET has been tracking lower than the previous record low year in 2009 since the second week of June.

Last Week Temperatures:

- The majority of the UCRB had below normal temperatures over the past week.
- The Upper Green Basin saw temperatures 0 to 8 degrees below normal. The coolest temperature anomaly was in western Sweetwater County.
- Eastern Utah was mostly 2-6 degrees below normal for the week. In the far west portion of the basin temperatures were less than 2 degrees cooler than normal. There was one small pocket in western Grand County that was 6-8 degrees below normal for the week.
- Western Colorado was also mostly 2-6 degrees below normal for the last week. Eastern Moffat and central Rio Blanco Counties were the closest to normal at just 0-2 degrees down from average. The coolest temperature anomalies in the region were in Mesa, Delta, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties.
- East of the divide temperatures were also mostly 2-6 degrees below normal. The coolest anomalies were in
northeast Weld and northern Las Animas Counties where temperatures were 6-8 degrees below normal.

May Temperatures:

- The month of April saw mostly below normal temperatures across the UCRB. Sublette County, and northern Lincoln County were 0 to 2 degrees above normal, but the rest of the basin was below normal.
- Eastern Utah experienced temperatures 0 to 4 degrees below normal for the month of May. Temperatures were closest to normal in the far west of the basin along the Wasatch Range. A small area of eastern Utah near Lake Powell was 4-6 degrees below normal for the month.
- Western Colorado was 0-4 degrees below normal for the month of May with temperatures closes to normal close to the continental divide.
- East of the Divide temperatures for the month of May were 2-6 degrees below normal. The coolest temperature anomalies were along the northern Front Range and in Crowley and Otero Counties in southeastern Colorado.
- There is one area in southern Gunnison and northern Saguache Counties that is showing above average temperatures for the month of May. This is believed to be caused by a malfunctioning weather station.
The top two images show Climate Prediction Center's Precipitation and Temperature outlooks for 8 - 14 days. The middle image shows the 3 months Precipitation outlook. 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: (6/2)

- Today is likely to be the warmest day of the week for much of Colorado and the Upper Colorado River Basin with mostly clear skies and warm air flowing in from the southwest. Some isolated thunderstorms are likely for northeast Colorado and the Upper Green River Basin in southwest Utah today, but no heavy rain-producers are expected.
- Tomorrow and Thursday high pressure is expected to stay in place with warm and mostly clear conditions dominating in the UCRB. Northeast Colorado is likely to see some thunderstorm activity tomorrow evening as a cool front out of the northeast skims the region. Some of these thunderstorms could be severe. Thunderstorms are also likely to form off of the Uintah Mountain Range tomorrow afternoon, but will not be severe in nature. The UCRB will be dry on Thursday with another round of Thunderstorms expected to develop east of the divide in Colorado.
- On Friday a wetter pattern is expected to develop across the UCRB. This will bring 10-15 degree cooler temps and widespread areas of over a quarter of an inch of precipitation to the southern portion of the basin for
Friday and Saturday. The Upper Green, White, and Yampa basins farther north will see a smaller swing in temperature and smaller precipitation totals. East of the divide temperatures are expected to cool 5-10 degrees with fewer opportunities for severe storms, but higher probability of widespread thunderstorms. Precipitation totals are expected to be 0.25-0.50" in northeast Colorado and 0.10-0.25" in southeast Colorado.

- As of now models have a cutoff low redeveloping over the southwest United States this weekend into next week. If this stays in place it will mean more wet weather, however, widespread totals will not compare to several of our events from the last two months. The western slopes are expected to receive 0.25-0.50" of rain Sunday into Monday of next week with isolated areas with higher totals. Farther west in the basin totals are likely to be lower, but there is still likely to be measurable rain. Totals over the Wasatch and Uintah Ranges may be in the 0.25-0.50" range as well.
- East of the divide widespread totals of 0.25-0.50" are also expected for Sunday into Monday. The wettest area as of now is expected to be southeast Colorado nestled up against the Rockies and the Palmer Divide, or from Colorado Springs out east. Widespread totals of over half an inch are likely in this area.

**Longer Term:**

- The 8-14 day precipitation outlook shows increased chances for above average precipitation for the Upper Colorado River Basin. The rest of the UCRB, and Colorado east of the divide, are forecast equal chances of above and below average precipitation. East of the divide the CPC is showing equal chances of above and below average precipitation over this time frame except for the northern Rockies, which have slightly higher chances of above average precipitation.
- The 8-14 day temperature outlook shows increased chances of above average temperatures for the UCRB with the exception of the extreme southeast portion. Here there are equal chances of above and below average temperatures. East of the divide the CPC is showing equal chances of above and below average temperatures with the exception of the extreme southeast portion of the state. Here there are enhanced chances of below average temperatures.
- The Climate Prediction Center 3-month precipitation outlook shows increased chances for above normal precipitation for the entirety of the UCRB, and the area in Colorado east of the divide for the June to August period. These chances are forecast above 40% for all of Colorado except the four corners, extreme northeast Utah, and the eastern portion of the Upper Green River Basin.
- The seasonal drought outlook indicates that drought removal is likely for the areas of the UCRB in a current drought category of D1 or D0. Areas currently in D2 are forecast to see improvement. Drought removal is also forecast as likely where D0 remains over southeastern Colorado.

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 for June 2, 2015:

It was a cool week across the Upper Colorado River Basin (UCRB) with temperatures mostly 2-6 degrees below normal for the week. It was also a fairly dry week. A couple small pockets in Rio Blanco County, CO, Summit County, UT, and Uinta County, WY received over an inch of precipitation over the last week. The rest of the basin was below an inch with the southern portion being especially dry. This is nothing out of the ordinary for the southern UCRB, in fact, the amount of drought recovery in May was amazing for this region. Things are pretty dry climatologically for the southern UCRB between early Spring and the Summer Monsoon. For that reason the water supply deficits brought on by a low snow year may make widespread D0 and D1 hard to shake in the coming months.

East of the divide conditions were drier than normal for this time of year in most places, but also cooler than normal. Some heavier rains did fall in Las Animas, Pueblo, and Baca Counties as well as in El Paso and Elbert Counties along the Palmer Divide.

Recommendations:

**UCRB:** Status Quo. There were some patchy areas of good moisture in the northern part of the basin, but considering the low streamflows in the basin any improvements in the areas would probably be a bit aggressive. Since temperatures have been cooler and evaporative demand is on the low side for this time of year no degradations are recommended at this time either.

**Eastern CO:** A one category improvement is recommended for southern and eastern Baca County. Temperatures have been below normal again this week, and over half an inch of new precipitation fell, over an inch in some areas. This is always significant where only 15" is expected annually.

**Disclaimer:** The above recommendations are recommendations only, based on data, impacts, and input from local experts. These recommendations are sent to the U.S. Drought Monitor author on Tuesdays. The USDM author has sole discretion on final changes made in the region and can accept, reject, or modify the above recommendations and may have additional modifications. Additionally, any recommendations discussed during the NIDIS webinars that are agreed upon by the local experts and USDM author are still subject to change. Changes are final and official as of Thursday morning, and can be viewed on the official US Drought Monitor website.

Additional Drought Index Links: (will take you to an outside website)
- [Palmer Drought Severity Index for Climate Divisions Updated Weekly](#)
- [WestWide Drought Tracker's PDSI Updated Monthly](#)
- [Surface Water Supply Index](#)

When available, maps and text are updated Tuesday afternoons.

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