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.

**Standardized Precipitation Index**
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.

**Snotel and Snowpack**
The above 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).
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.

**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 graphs shown below are plots of reservoir volumes over the past full year and current year to date (black). The dashed line at the top of each graphic indicates the reservoir’s capacity, and the background color-coded shading provides context for the range of reservoir
levels observed over the past 30 years. The data are obtained from the Bureau of Reclamation. Some of the reservoir percentiles don't line up at the new year due to differences in reservoir levels at the beginning of 1985 and the end of 2014. Dead storage has been subtracted. Note: Lake Granby data are obtained from the Colorado Division of Water Resources, and only goes back to the year 2000.

Evaporative Demand

1-week EDDI categories for February 2, 2018

1-month EDDI categories for February 2, 2018

http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/current_assessment.php
The above images are available courtesy of NOAA's Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI). Drought classification listed is a function of the depth of reference evapotranspiration accumulated over a given period of record with respect to a climatology of 1981-2010. The drought categories displayed are in line with the US Drought Monitor's Percentile Ranking Scheme. Data used to generate these maps come from the North American Land Data Assimilation System Phase-2 (NLDAS-2) project, which assimilates observations of temperature, wind speed, radiation, and vapor pressure deficit. The date indicates the last day of the period of record, and the week number indicates the window size for the period of record.

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.
Map of current condition monitoring reports submitted to CoCoRaHS in the last week overlaid on the current U.S. Drought Monitor depiction. Specific impacts reports from local experts listed below.
Southwest CO Extension

Winter season conditions are very bad. Winter wheat crops in the area look to be at a total loss.

Grand Junction area Extension

SNOTEL is not quite capturing how little snow there currently is at the mid-elevations. The highest ridges look fairly decent. Mid-elevation (around 9,000 ft) are in very poor condition, with little to no snow.

Northeast CO Extension

Winter wheat looks pretty good.

Southeast CO Extension

While conditions are not good right now, it doesn't sound as bad as the southwest or the San Luis Valley portions of the state.

Outlook
The top two images show Climate Prediction Center's Precipitation and Temperature outlooks for 8 - 14 days. The middle image shows the Weather Prediction Center's Quantitative Precipitation Forecast accumulation for seven days. The bottom left image shows the 3-month precipitation outlook from Climate Prediction Center, and the bottom right image shows the Climate Prediction Center's most recent release of the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook.

Summary and Recommendations
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: February 6, 2018

Last week brought a continuation of the dominant cold season La Niña pattern to the Intermountain West (IMW) where the northern mountains were favored with precipitation and the southern mountains missed out. The northeast plains also received beneficial moisture last week, while the southeast plains received very little to no precipitation. February has brought much above average temperatures to most of the IMW, with more seasonal temperatures along the eastern plains.

Snowpack throughout the IMW continues to show a north-south, as well as elevational, gradient. In western WY, snowpack is in good condition, and it is probable that the region will see near average peak snowpack. In the northern mountains of CO, it's a little bit less than average, but there is still a chance (with a couple very good accumulating events) that they could
recover and get near average peak snowpack in the spring. The southern mountains of CO and into NM, and the UT mountains are much below average. The highest elevations are faring better, but for many of the mid-elevation locations, the ground is bare and the chances of making up the seasonal snowpack deficits are minimal.

Water supplies remain in good condition, thanks to previous wetter water years. Most other indicators point to short-term, and moving into long-term, drought conditions. As spring approaches, we can expect to see streamflow percentiles decrease to drought levels, and soil moisture percentiles will also begin to reflect those dry conditions.

The short-term outlook shows that below average precipitation is likely for the IMW, and that warmer than average temperatures are likely to continue. The seasonal outlook (going into the spring) also shows that most of the region has an increased likelihood of warmer and drier than average conditions. If these outlooks verify, we would likely see the expansion of D3 drought in the southern portion of the IMW, with an introduction of D3 drought imminent for the Four Corners region and along the CO/NM border.

Recommendations

**UCRB:** Status quo is recommended. The current U.S. Drought Monitor author has slightly tweaked the D1 and D2 lines in western CO. Further changes are not recommended at this time. This region is being closely monitored for possible future degradations. While many indicators (3-month and 6-month SPI, snowpack, EDDI, impacts) point to D3 or worse conditions, we are still in the midst of the big accumulating snow season. How storms pan out over the next couple of weeks will be very telling of what the spring holds for us. Near average storms would not allow for any improvements. Below average accumulating events or no accumulating events would likely mean we'll begin pushing for introduction of D3 around the Four Corners, into the San Juan Mountains, possibly into the San Luis Valley and along the Sangre de Cristo mountains. For now, we're taking a "wait and see" approach.

**Eastern Colorado:** A slight improvement from D1 to D0 is recommended in northeast CO (green shape). In this region, 3-month SPIs still show slightly negative, but the 6-month SPIs are in good condition. January precipitation was near to slightly above average, and the last week brought a half to 1 inch of moisture to the area. Extension in the area has reported that the winter wheat looks to be in good condition. This recommendation could impact the D1 depiction in parts of Nebraska and Kansas, so we leave that to other local experts and to the USDM author.

The USDM author also slightly expanded D2 in southeast CO. We are in support of this change, but we want to emphasize that we recommend

http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/current_assessment.php
holding off on any D3 expansion into southeast CO at this time. Conditions to the west are much worse, so we likely won't recommend or support any D3 in southeast CO before an introduction of D3 to the west has occurred (barring any big surprises over the next couple of weeks).