Precipitation

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. Colors match the different drought categories with the U.S. Drought Monitor. 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.
The above image shows SNOTEL snowpack percentiles for each SNOTEL site in the Intermountain West. 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.

![Reservoir Level Graphs](Image)

### Evaporative Demand

#### 1-week EDDI categories for February 21, 2020

100% DRIEST 99% DRIEST 98% DRIEST 97% DRIEST 96% DRIEST 95% DRIEST 94% DRIEST

#### 1-month EDDI categories for February 21, 2020

100% DRIEST 99% DRIEST 98% DRIEST 97% DRIEST 96% DRIEST 95% DRIEST 94% DRIEST

Generated by NOAA/ESRL/Physical Sciences Division

[https://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/current_assessment.php](https://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.
Condition Monitoring and Impacts

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.
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 25, 2020

Some parts of the Intermountain West received good amount of precipitation last week. Most of Arizona received over half an inch. This half inch plus of moisture also extended into western New Mexico and southern and central Utah. Parts of Colorado mountains saw between a quarter to half an inch as well. A decent storm on the eastern plains dropped half an inch over Kiowa and surrounding counties in eastern CO - which is about what their monthly average is for February. Northwest Utah, most of Wyoming, northeast Colorado, and eastern New Mexico were dry or received less than a tenth of an inch.

Temperature in the northern half of the IMW were colder than average and a little bit warmer to the south. Overall, a lot of February has been a bit cool for the IMW. Snowpack is still in good condition, with the northern basins well over the median for snowpack at this time of year. The central UT mountains, the San Juans, and the southern mountains in Arizona are a bit lower on snowpack, hovering near normal to slightly below normal.
The outlook for the next week shows a continued active pattern with moisture expected for most of the IMW. Higher mountain areas should see more than inch of precipitation with more spotty accumulations expected in the lower elevations. The cold air currently over the region should move out as warm temperatures move in for the weekend, ahead of the next cold air mass early next week.

**Recommendations:**

**UCRB:** Status quo is recommended for the WY/CO/UT portion of the basin. While some precipitation accumulated over the Four Corners area last week, there is still a deficit over the last 30 days. For the central, lower elevation portions of the basin, mid-term SPIs show some wet signal, but shorter term precipitation accumulations have been a bit lower than desired, and long-term SPIs are still dry, so the D1 over much of the basin is still justified. Higher elevation snowpack is mostly still holding at near to slightly above average, so no degradations are needed at this time either. However, mid-to-lower elevation snowpack deficits could become a concern in the next month or so and should be monitored closely.

**Eastern Colorado:** Based on a healthy shot of moisture this past week over the eastern plains, the DM author has proposed a slight trimming of D0 and D1 across the eastern parts of Cheyenne and Kiowa counties. As this brings those areas up to average for the month of February, the improvement is warranted. Keeping D0/D1 in Kiowa County is important at this time as January (and water year) deficits still show up. It's also recommended to slightly trim the D0 along the Custer-Pueblo County Line and into Pueblo County. Although this area is small, it's received 1-2 inches of moisture for February and shows near normal precipitation for the water year.

**Western Utah:** With over an inch of precipitation last week in eastern Washington County (and extending south into Arizona) the DM author has proposed a trimming of the D1 in that area. PRISM depiction shows near normal conditions for October-January and the SNOTELs in that county are in good condition, so we support this suggestion for improvement.