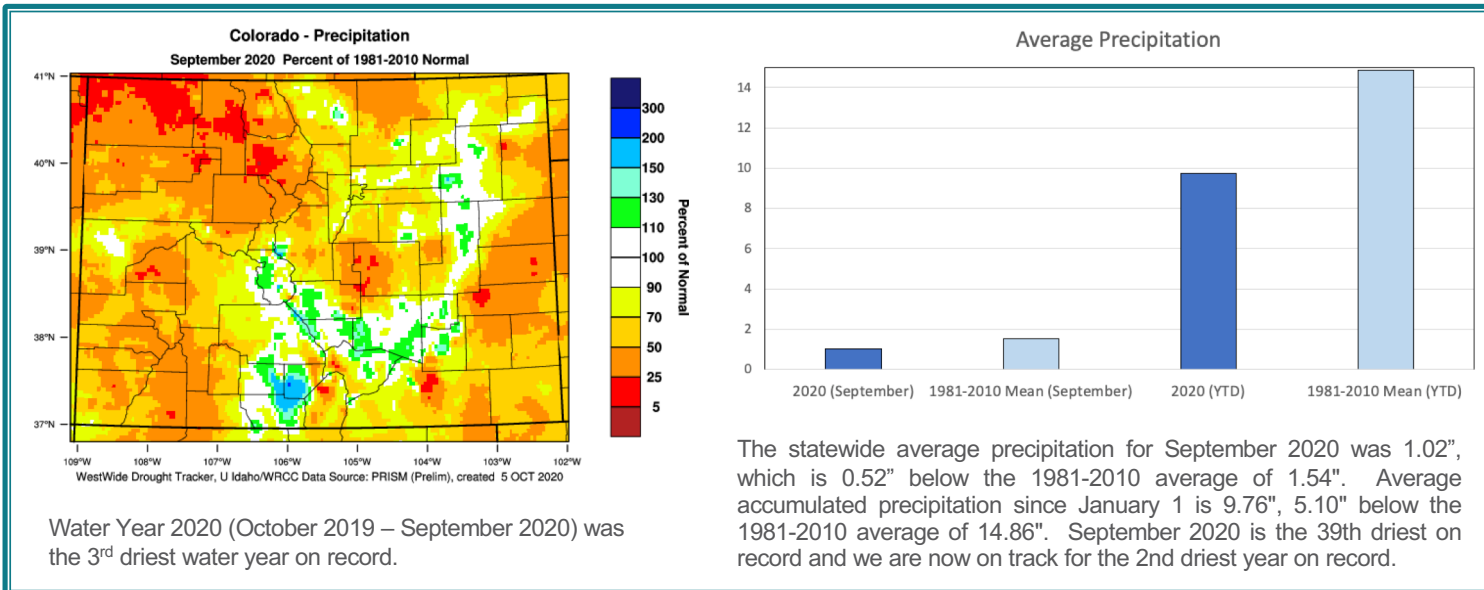
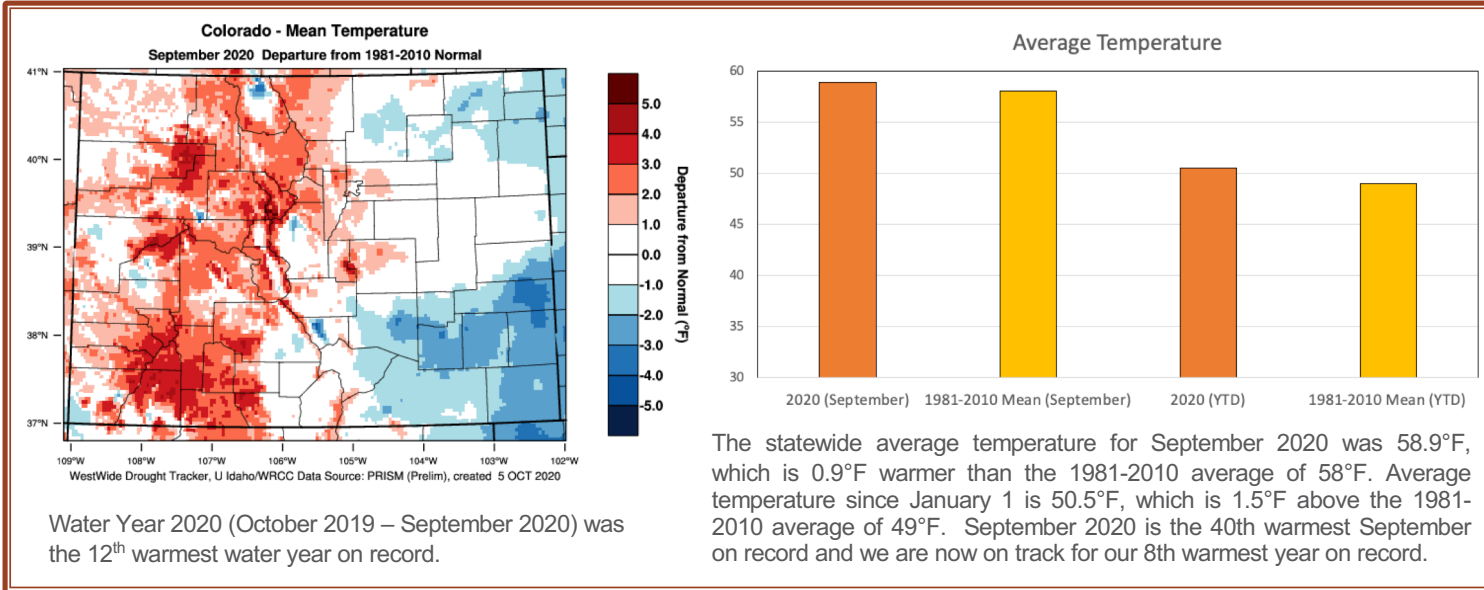


September 2020 Monthly Climate Summary



Daily Records
(Tied | Broken) Total

High Max T
(78 | 293) **371**
Highest Temp: 108°F,
La Junta, September 6

Low Max T
(13 | 315) **328**

High Min T
(40 | 199) **239**

Low Min T
(39 | 259) **298**
Lowest Temp: 8°F,
Grand Lake, September 28

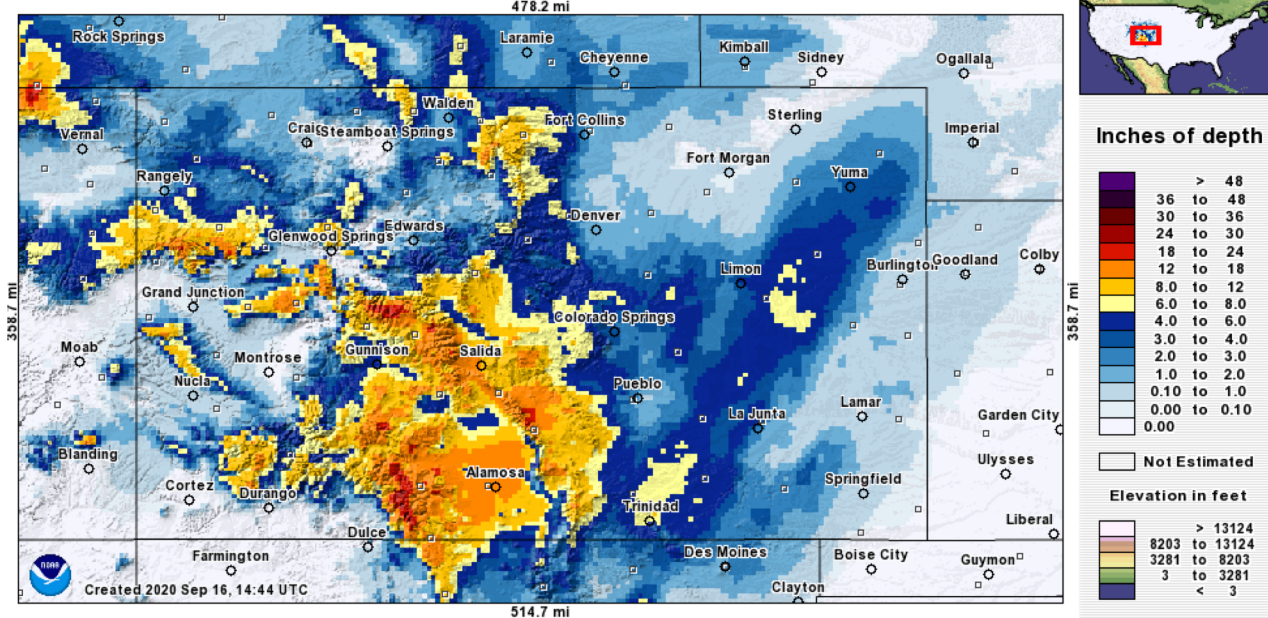
Precipitation
(17 | 56) **73**
Greatest Daily Precip: 2.20",
Hayden Pass, September 6

Snowfall
(1 | 59) **60**



September 2020 Monthly Climate Summary

Interpolated Observed Snowfall Analysis during 72h preceding 2020 September 11, 12:00 UTC



A weather roller coaster

A rapid change in the weather in early September grabbed the attention of Coloradans as well as the national media. Record-hot conditions during the first week of September, with many locations seeing their latest-ever 100° readings. Then, a very strong cold front swept through the state on September 8, bringing some of the earliest snow on record, including over a foot of snow in the San Luis Valley!

- La Junta Municipal AP recorded the hottest September temperature for the state with 108° on September 6.
- Earliest snow on record for Fort Collins with 2.3" on Sept. 8. Previous earliest snow was Sept. 12.
- Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo have all had the most 90° days recorded in 2020.
- Monte Vista reported 14 inches of snow in 2 days, toppling all September records and even counting as one of the top ranked snowiest events in all months.
- Two stations tied national record for shortest period between 100° and snowfall.
 - La Junta: 101° Sept. 7, 3.4" Sept. 9
 - Ordway 1 ENE: 104° Sept. 7, 3.9" Sept. 9
- According to NOAA NCEI records, 28 stations have set records for highest September temperature.

Early
September
extremes,
by the
numbers



September 2020 Monthly Climate Summary

Headlines

<https://www.npr.org/2020/09/08/910677557/in-48-hours-colorados-wild-weather-sets-records-for-both-heat-and-snow>



Photos on Sept. 7 (left) and Sept. 8 (right) in Fort Collins, courtesy of Scott Denning

<https://www.kunc.org/2020-09-10/we-broke-a-lot-of-records-state-climatologist-reflects-on-recent-extreme-weather-in-Colorado>

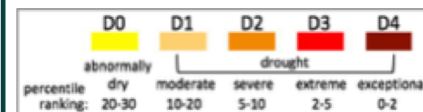
<https://weather.com/storms/winter/news/2020-09-06-rockies-front-range-snowstorm-september-Denver>

<https://denver.cbslocal.com/2020/09/26/cameron-peak-fire-damage-growth/>

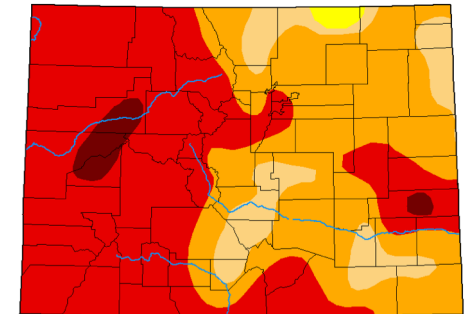
<https://kiowacountypress.net/content/extreme-drought-continues-expansion-colorado>

Exceptional Drought Expands

By the end of September, nearly 100% of the state was experiencing some level of drought, up from 51% since the beginning of the calendar year. Areas in the mountains and Western Slope worsened with expansions of D3 and the introduction of D4 in Garfield, Mesa and Delta Counties.



US Drought Monitor as of September 29, 2020.
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Wildfire Season Continues

- ✓ Pine Gulch Fire 100% contained in September.
- ✓ Cameron Peak Fire grows to become the state's third largest wildfire in recorded history. The area did receive around 10 inches of snow in early September, but hot, dry, and windy conditions increased the fire activity again.
- ✓ A new fire in Wyoming, the Mullen Fire, started on September 17th and quickly grew to over 150,000 acres, crossing into northern Colorado.

