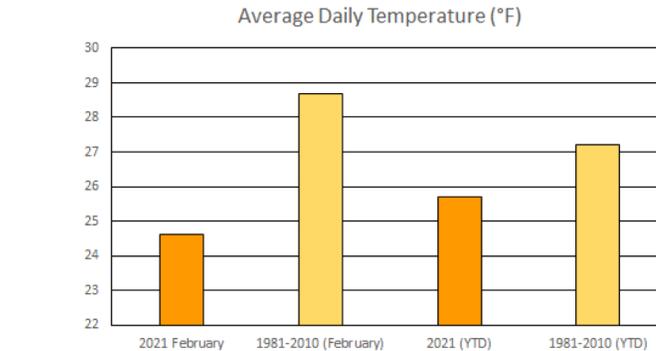
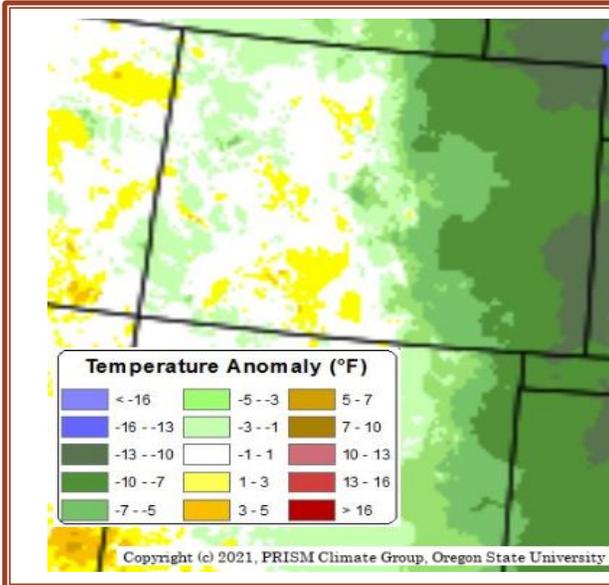
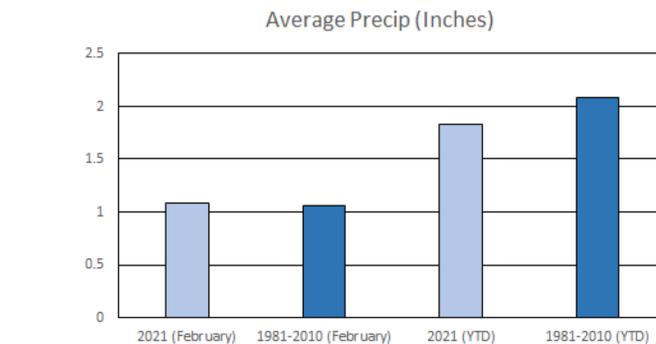
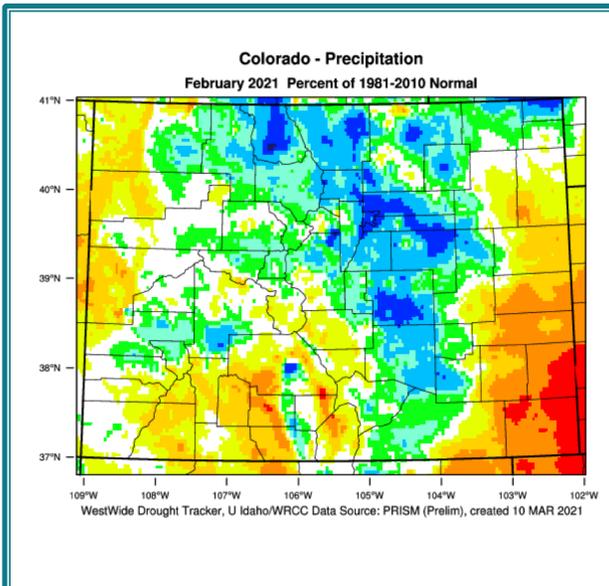


# February 2021 Monthly Climate Summary



The statewide average temperature for February 2021 was 24.6°F, which is 4.1°F colder than the 1981-2010 normal of 28.7°F. Average temperature for the year to date is 25.7°F, which is 1.5°F below the 1981-2010 normal of 27.2°F. February 2021 is the 25th coolest February on record. So far, 2021 is the 57th coolest year on record. Limon, Ordway, and the Jon Martin Dam all experienced their coldest temperatures on record (-28°F, -29°F, and -27°F, respectively) during the mid-month cold snap! Meanwhile in Gateway, temperatures climbed above 50°F on 17 days and never got lower than 16°F.



The statewide average precipitation for February 2021 was 1.08", which is 0.02" above the 1981-2010 normal of 1.06". Average accumulated precipitation for the year to date is 1.83", 0.25" below the 1981-2010 normal of 2.08". February 2021 is the 59th wettest February on record and so far, 2021 is the 41st driest year on record. Buffalo Pass was the wettest area of the state in February. A SNOTEL station in the area had reported 10.60" of total precipitation by the end of the month. However, many places in the San Luis and Lower Arkansas Valleys experienced less than 0.2" inches of precipitation throughout the month.

## Daily Records (Tied | Broken) Total

### High Max T

(8 | 26) **34**  
Highest Temp: 76°F,  
Kassler, February 7th

### Low Max T

(17 | 224) **241**

### High Min T

(13 | 51) **64**

### Low Min T

(21 | 154) **175**  
Lowest Temp: -34°F,  
Paoli, February 15th

### Precipitation

(22 | 79) **101**  
Greatest Daily Precip: 1.80",  
Bayfield, February 14th

### Snowfall

(8 | 56) **64**  
Greatest Daily Snowfall: 19.0",  
Grand Mesa, February 14th



# February 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

Colorado average temperature and precipitation, December - February



**Temp/Precip Plots (left):** Each dot plots the winter (December-February) for average temperature and precipitation statewide in Colorado, going back to 1895. From left to right, accumulated precipitation is shown, where the wettest years are plotted furthest to the right. Dot sizes are proportional to precipitation amounts. From bottom to top, average temperature is shown, where the warmest years are plotted towards the top. The dots are also color coded with darker colors indicating higher temperatures. The horizontal and vertical dotted lines indicate the 1981-2010 normals.

The 2021 winter was slightly cooler and drier than average.

Colorado CD2 (Colorado drainage) average temperature and precipitation, February



These maps are for February 2021 for the Colorado basin (left) and the Platte basin (right). For western CO (Colorado basin), precipitation was near average and temperatures were only slightly cooler than average. But for the Platte basin covering the northeast quadrant, we can see that temperatures were cooler than average and precipitation was wetter than average.

Colorado CD4 (Platte drainage) average temperature and precipitation, February



# February 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

## February Headlines

### News stories featuring Climate Center staff:

- [CSU's Ski Area Management helps industry combat climate change](#)
- [The story of verifying Colorado's all-time record low temperature](#)
- [How to protect yourself, your home and your pets as Fort Collins faces frigid cold snap](#)
- [Snowpack improves, but drought remains](#)
- [High Country snowpack improves, but a lot more snow is needed](#)

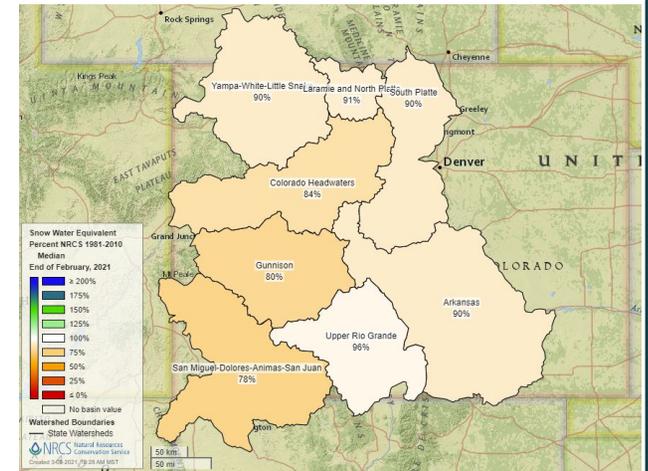
## Website Feature of the Month

### Educational Resources

Check out our new [Virtual Water Festival](#) presentation on YouTube. This presentation meets national standards for grades 3-5 and covers the atmosphere, the water cycle, weather vs. climate, and how scientists measure precipitation. Visit our educational resources page for other virtual activities.

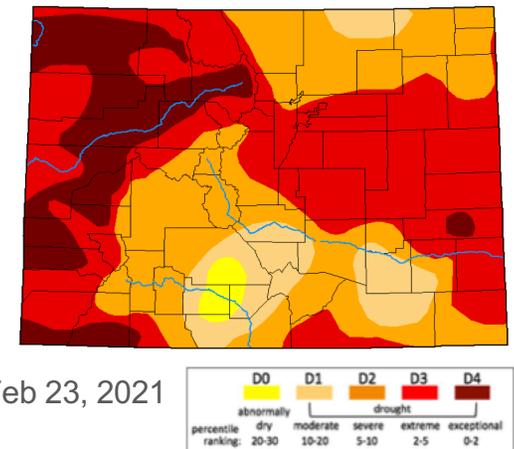
## February Snowpack

Snowpack at the end of February ranges from around 80%-90% of the 30-year median in most of the western watersheds. The Arkansas and Upper Rio Grande basins decreased from last month. The San Juan Basin is the driest at 78% of average. Water supply forecasts for the spring are below average.



## Drought continues

During the month of February, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed improvement in drought across much of western CO, south of the Denver Metro area and in northeast CO. D4 coverage decreased from 25% to 16%, and extreme drought (D3 or worse) decreased from 73% to 57%. Over 98% of the state is still in a drought category.



<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

