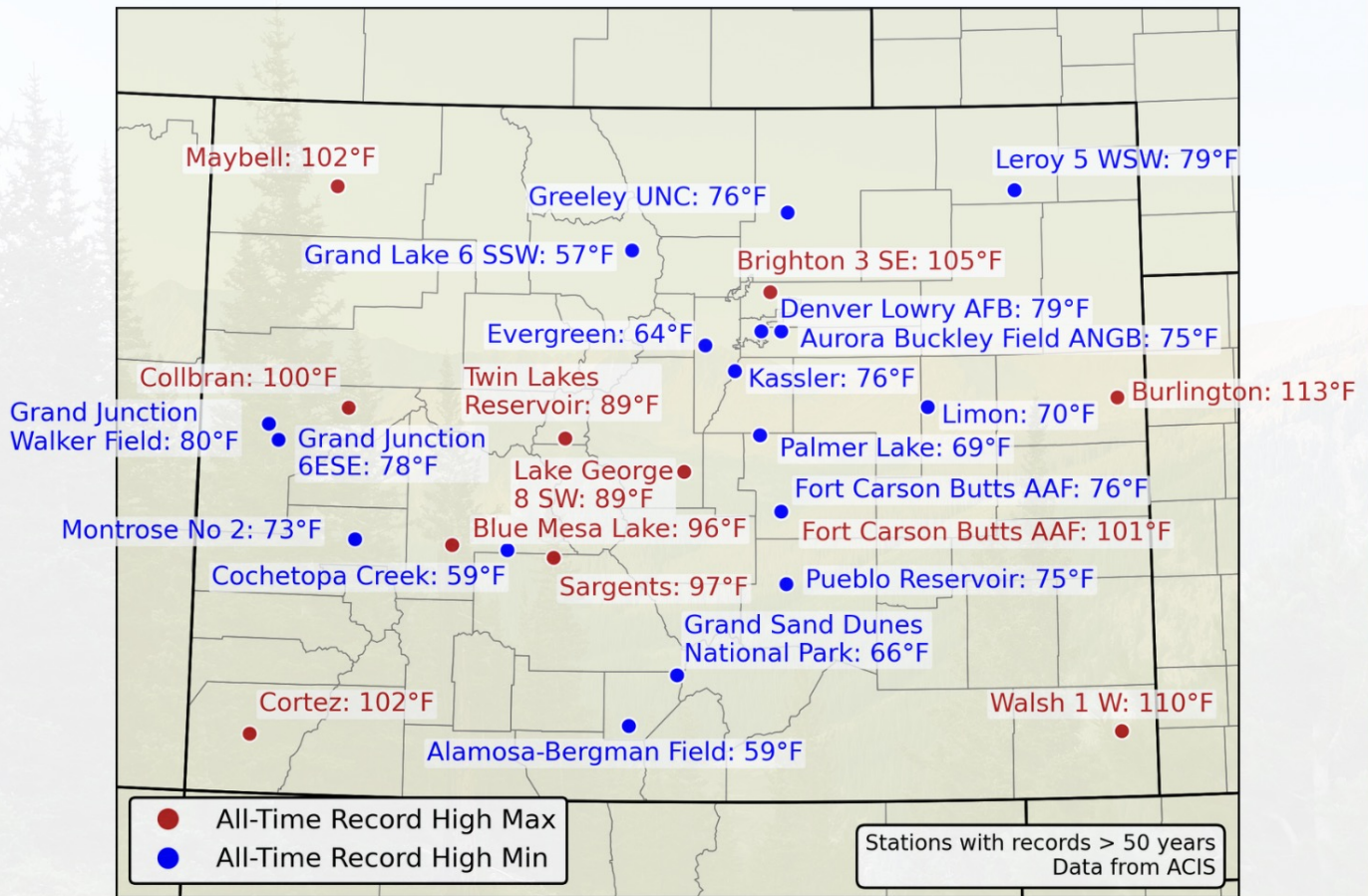


July 2026

Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



All-time record temperatures tied and broken in July 2026

Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for July 2026

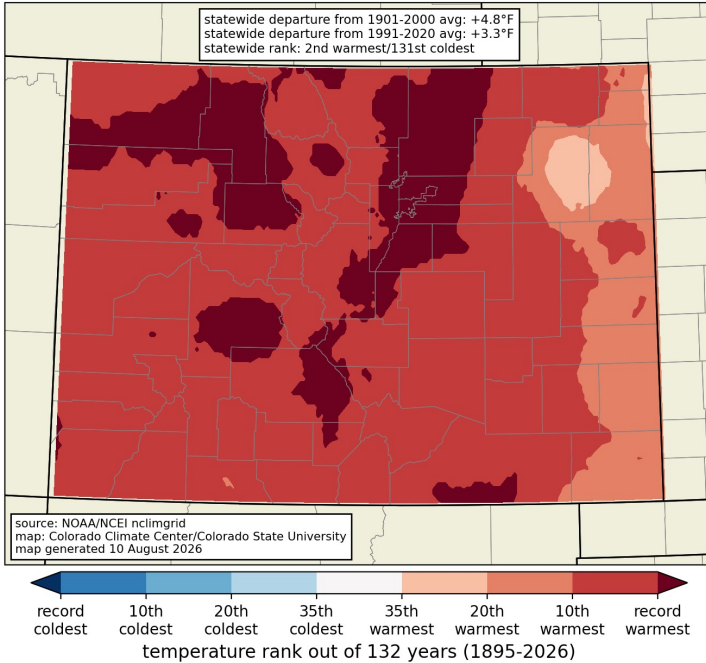
(based on 1895-2026 data)

2nd warmest (above average) ■ **45th driest (near average)**

temperature

average temperature rank
July 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +4.8°F
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +3.3°F
statewide rank: 2nd warmest/131st coldest

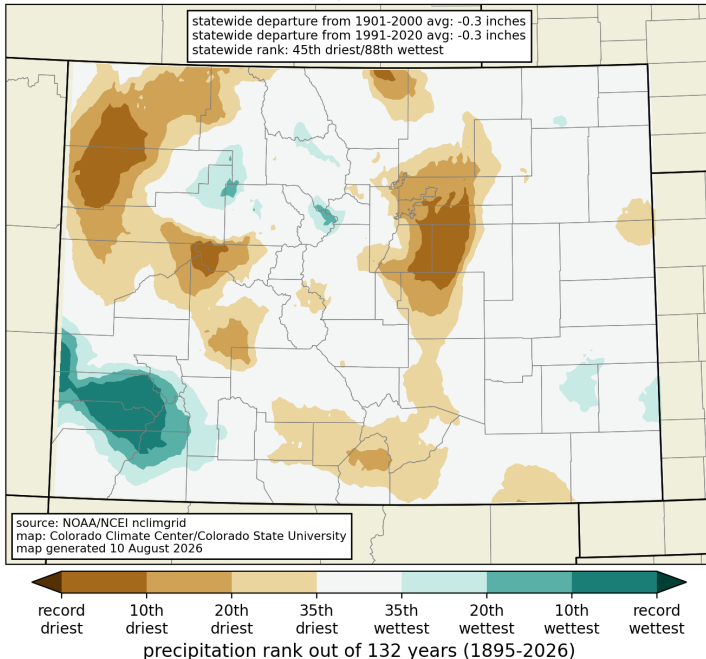


July is the hottest month of the year in Colorado, and July 2026 was an especially hot one. The entire state had above-average temperatures, and some areas along the Front Range, in the high country, and in northwestern Colorado had their hottest July in 132 years of records. It was the 14th consecutive month of above-average temperatures in Colorado.

precipitation

precipitation rank
July 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: -0.3 inches
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: -0.3 inches
statewide rank: 45th driest/88th wettest



The North American Monsoon finally set in during July, but as is often the case, rainfall was spotty. Some areas like southwestern Colorado received repeated heavy rainstorms and flash floods, and finished the month with well-above-average precipitation. Other spots, like the Front Range, northwestern Colorado, and parts of southern Colorado, missed out and had a very dry July.



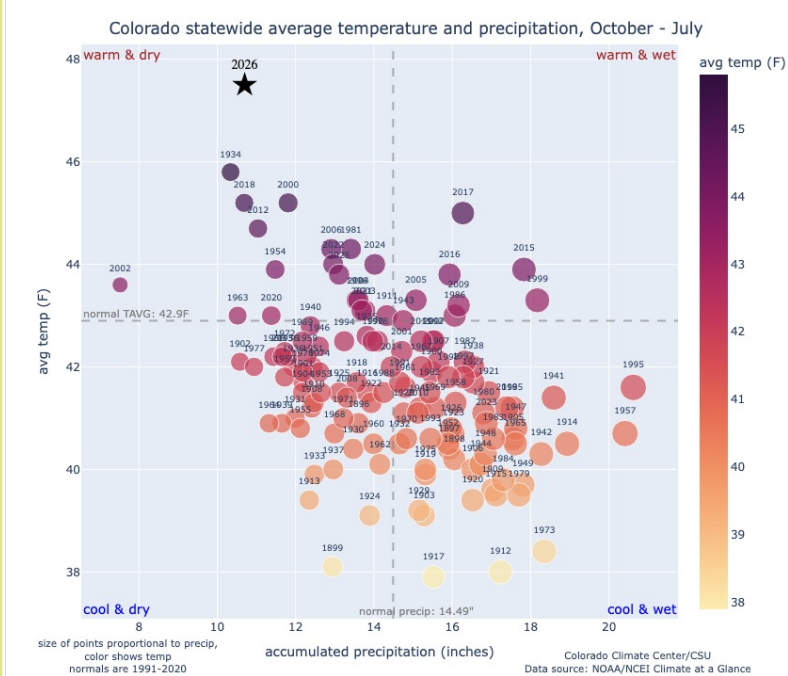
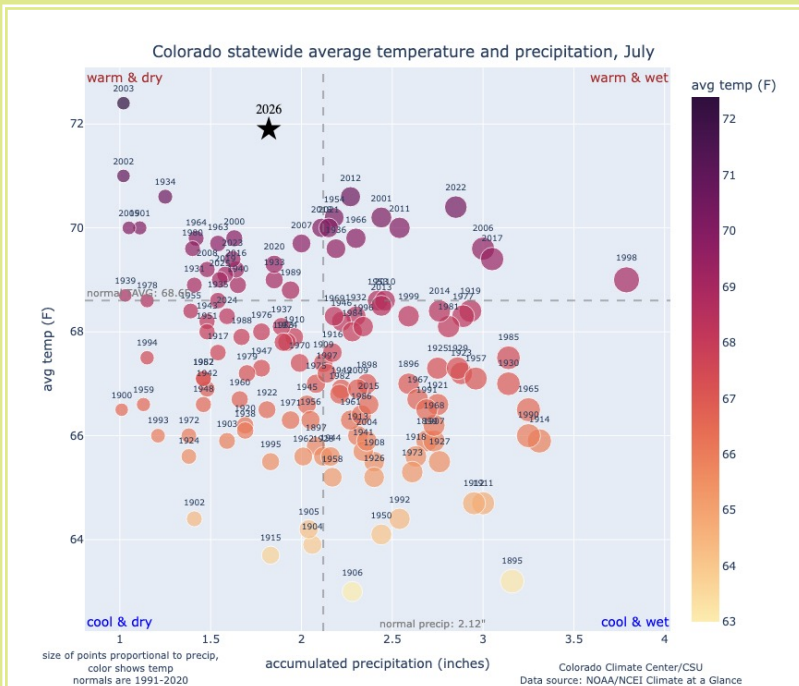
quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

July 2026 was extremely warm, and also a bit drier than average. Averaged across the state, **it was the 2nd-warmest month in 132 years of records, behind only July 2003**. It was 4.8°F warmer than the 20th-century average and 3.3°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average. It was the 45th-driest (88th-wettest) July, with statewide precipitation 0.28” below the 30-year average.

Water year 2026 continues to be the warmest on record by a large margin. Statewide average temperature has been 6.2°F higher than the 20th-century average, 4.6°F above the 1991-2020 average, and **1.7°F warmer than any previous October through July period**. So far it is the 6th driest water year, 3.94” below average for precipitation statewide.

[view all quadrant charts](#)



	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	118/279	0/4	177/534	3/4	24/68	0/0
Monthly	20/21	0/0	19/31	0/0	1/2	0/0
All-time	16/14	0/0	16/18	0/0	0/0	0/0

Tied/**Broken**, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

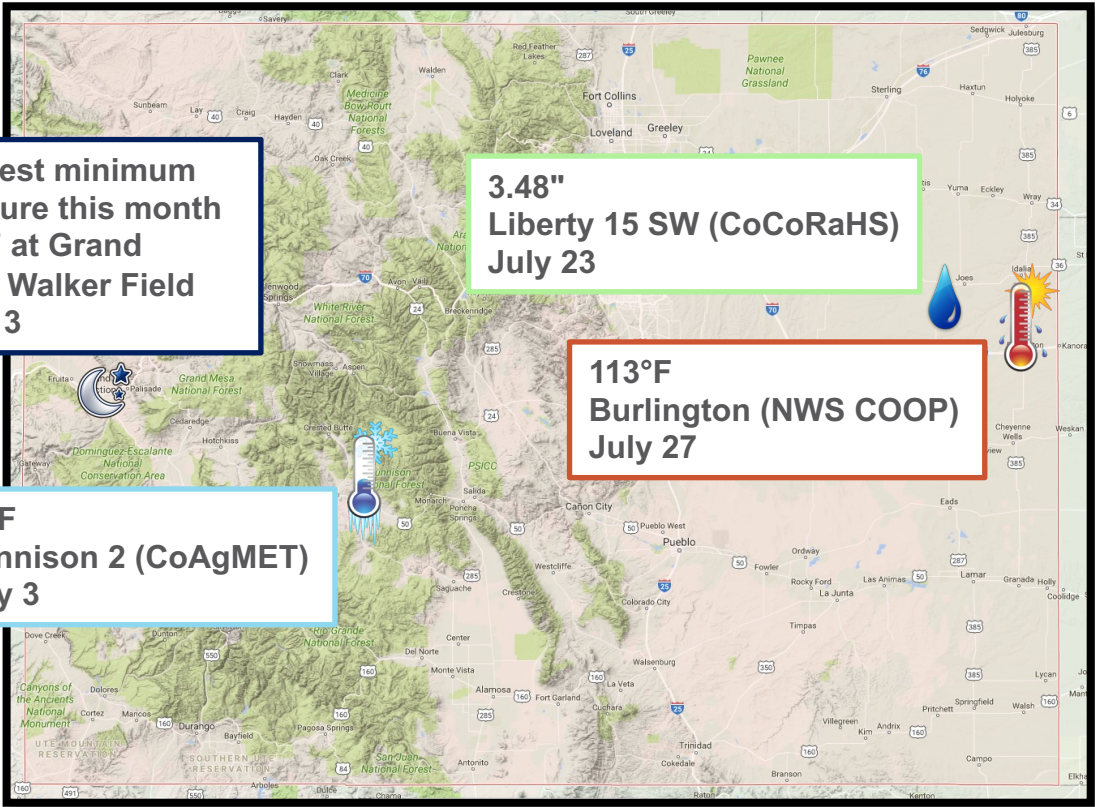
state extremes

The highest minimum temperature this month was 80°F at Grand Junction Walker Field on July 13

3.48" Liberty 15 SW (CoCoRaHS) July 23

113°F Burlington (NWS COOP) July 27

23°F Gunnison 2 (CoAgMET) July 3



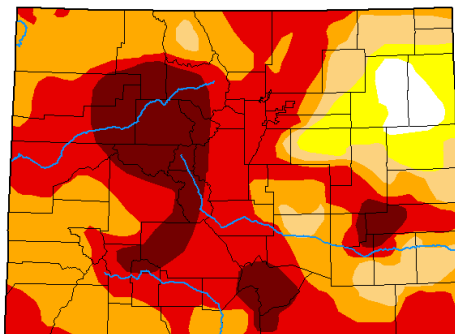
drought

Colorado Drought Update Page

Colorado's widespread drought continued in July. At the end of the month, ~98% of the state was experiencing at least abnormally dry conditions, and ~91% of the state was classified under some form of drought. Exceptional drought (D4) persisted across similar areas (the north-central mountains, Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and part of the southeastern Plains) and expanded further south towards the San Juan Mountains. The extreme drought (D3) area east of the Continental Divide also grew, now including much of the Front Range Urban Corridor and greater portions of the Eastern Plains.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

July 28, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jul. 30, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2.50	97.50	91.12	81.62	50.76	13.89
Last Week 07-21-2026	2.86	97.14	90.63	81.16	49.34	12.17
3 Months Ago 04-28-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	89.78	58.54	17.69
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	25.96	74.04	46.22	15.77	4.35	0.67
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34	0.00
One Year Ago 07-29-2025	45.79	54.21	44.09	31.38	11.87	0.00

Intensity:

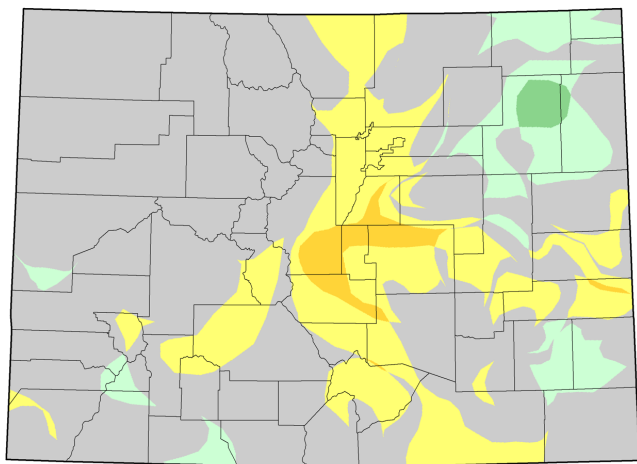
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
David Simeral
DRI/WRCC



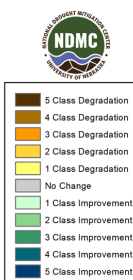
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado
4 Week



July 28, 2026
compared to
June 30, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Drought conditions worsened across the central part of Colorado throughout July, and there were only isolated improvements in areas that saw heavier rainfall. While a small pocket of the northeast Plains became drought-free (an improvement from all of the state being at least abnormally dry at the end of June), the most severe categories of drought expanded in July. By the end of the month, ~51% of Colorado was experiencing extreme drought (D3) or worse conditions, up from 39% at the end of June. All three exceptional drought (D4) areas also expanded in July, bringing the total D4 area to ~14% (compared to 9% at the end of June).



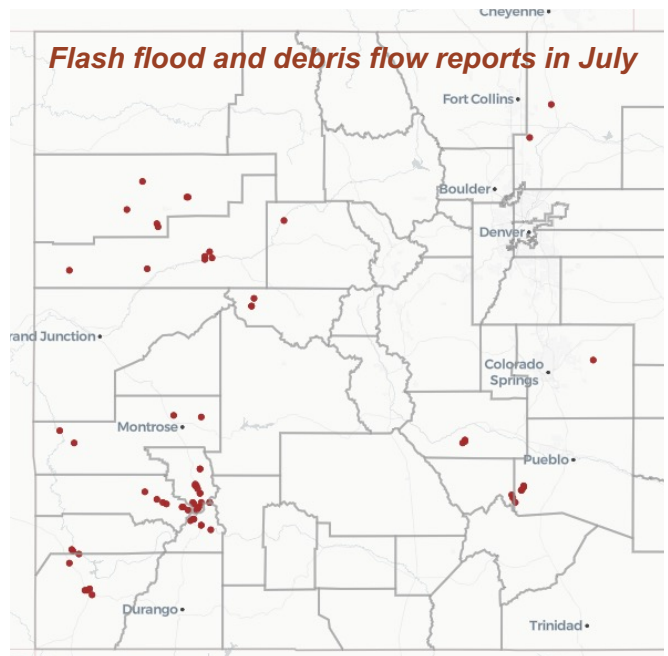
significant events



Firefighting helicopters working around the Ferris Fire. Photo from July 10, obtained from Ferris Fire Information on Facebook.

Large wildfires that started in late June continued to grow through the first part of July. This includes two fires that now rank among the largest in state history in terms of acres burned: the Aspen Acres fire in Pueblo and Custer Counties, which reached 101,964 acres, and the Ferris Fire in Montezuma and Dolores Counties, which reached 64,881 acres. Fortunately, wetter weather in July allowed firefighters to increase containment on many of the state's wildfires, but rainfall also led to flash floods and debris flows on the burn scars.

Late July is the peak of flash flood season in Colorado, and several new burn scars increased the risk this year. Damaging flash floods and debris flows were observed in numerous areas, including in Telluride, Ouray, Silverton, Beulah, Cortez, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and along I-70 between Glenwood Springs and Silt; among other areas.



Palm Theater in Telluride filled with mud on July 17. From [Telluride Fire Protection District](#)



Flooding in Ouray County, July 29. From [Ouray County Government](#).



Debris flow at Curecanti National Recreation Area, July 16. From [Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](#).



significant events

A large reason that July 2026 ended up as the 2nd-warmest month in Colorado records was the occurrence of multiple heat waves.

Using the heat wave definition from the [Climate Change in Colorado report](#), the period from July 25-28 was the most extreme statewide heat wave in the period dating back to 1951.

There were other heat waves from July 6-9, July 12-15, and July 20-23. The July 20-23 heat wave ranked as the 11th hottest 4-day period statewide.

Top statewide 4-day heat waves

	Statewide avg temperature (F)	start date	end date
1	76.55	2026-07-25	2026-07-28
2	76.51	2012-06-24	2012-06-27
3	76.13	2005-07-20	2005-07-23
4	75.36	2003-07-16	2003-07-19
5	75.06	1990-06-29	1990-07-02
6	74.87	2003-07-24	2003-07-27
7	74.58	2001-07-05	2001-07-08
8	74.57	2021-06-15	2021-06-18
9	74.45	2006-07-16	2006-07-19
10	74.42	1954-07-11	1954-07-14
11	74.41	2026-07-20	2026-07-23

Top statewide hottest days

	Date	Statewide avg temperature (F)
1	2026-07-27	78.75
2	2005-07-21	77.23
3	2026-07-26	76.93
4	2012-06-26	76.92
5	2012-06-27	76.92
6	2005-07-22	76.54
7	2026-07-21	76.53
8	2012-06-25	76.26
9	2005-07-23	76.24
10	2003-07-26	76.13

July also had some extremely hot individual days. Taking the average of the daily high and low temperature, and averaging that across all of Colorado, **the warmest day, and three of the top 7 days occurred this month.**

July 27 was the warmest day statewide in the period dating back to 1951. Burlington reached 113°F, which is just two degrees shy of the all-time state record, and many locations remained very warm overnight.

Data from NOAA nClimGrid, 1951-present. "Days" in this dataset are defined from 6am-6am, so July 27 is the average of the high temperature on July 26 and the low on the morning of the 27th



CCC in the news

- ❑ July 8, 2026: [As Colorado wildfires rage, monsoon, super El Niño relief approaches](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Coloradoan
- ❑ July 8, 2026: [Monsoon rains are on the horizon, experts say. Will they arrive soon enough to dampen fire risk?](#)
 - Featuring the Russ Schumacher in The Colorado Sun
- ❑ July 9, 2026: [Monsoon rains could ease Colorado's wildfire danger, experts hope](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Axios
- ❑ July 14, 2026: [Fish kill at Fossil Creek Park likely caused by low oxygen](#)
 - Featuring Colorado Climate Center in The Coloradoan
- ❑ July 14, 2026: [Record-breaking heatwave adds to 'compounding extremes' of climate change in Colorado](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in the Post Independent
- ❑ July 17, 2026: [Colorado monsoon rain forecast to start as super El Niño strengthens](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Coloradoan
- ❑ July 18, 2026: [Colorado health officials are tracking toxic algae blooms with warnings of health impacts](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in The Colorado Sun
- ❑ July 20, 2026: [Colorado cities brace for 100-degree heat wave before monsoon arrives](#)
 - Featuring Colorado Climate Center in The Coloradoan



CCC in the news - continued

- ❑ July 22, 2026: [Colorado Springs hosting native plant sale starting Thursday](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in Rocky Mountain PBS
- ❑ July 23, 2026: [Climate horrors in Colorado are no longer just a threat. They've arrived](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in Colorado Newsline
- ❑ July 23, 2026: [Colorado ranchers sell cattle as drought worsens and creeks and reservoirs reach historic lows](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in CBS News Colorado
- ❑ July 24, 2026: [Colorado's largest wildfires this summer could cost a quarter billion dollars, early estimates show](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Colorado Sun
- ❑ July 24, 2026: [Drought Task Force makes formal recommendations to Gov. Jared Polis to reduce water use](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Colorado Public Radio
- ❑ July 25, 2026: [Remembering The 50th Anniversary Of The 1976 Big Thompson Flood](#)
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in Estes Park News
- ❑ July 27, 2026: [Fort Collins breaks multiple heat records](#)
 - Featuring Colorado Climate Center in The Coloradoan
- ❑ July 27, 2026: [How the Big Thompson Flood became a Colorado case study](#)
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Loveland Reporter Herald



CCC in the news - continued

- ❑ July 27, 2026: [Big Thompson's Darkest Night Still Haunts Northern Colorado 50 Years](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in Hoodline
- ❑ July 27, 2026: [Northern Colorado's Average First Snow Is Closer Than You Think](#)
 - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in K99.com
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 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Washington Post
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 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Coloradoan
- ❑ July 31, 2026: [Triple-digit heat returns to Fort Collins this weekend](#)
 - Featuring Colorado Climate Center in The Coloradoan

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