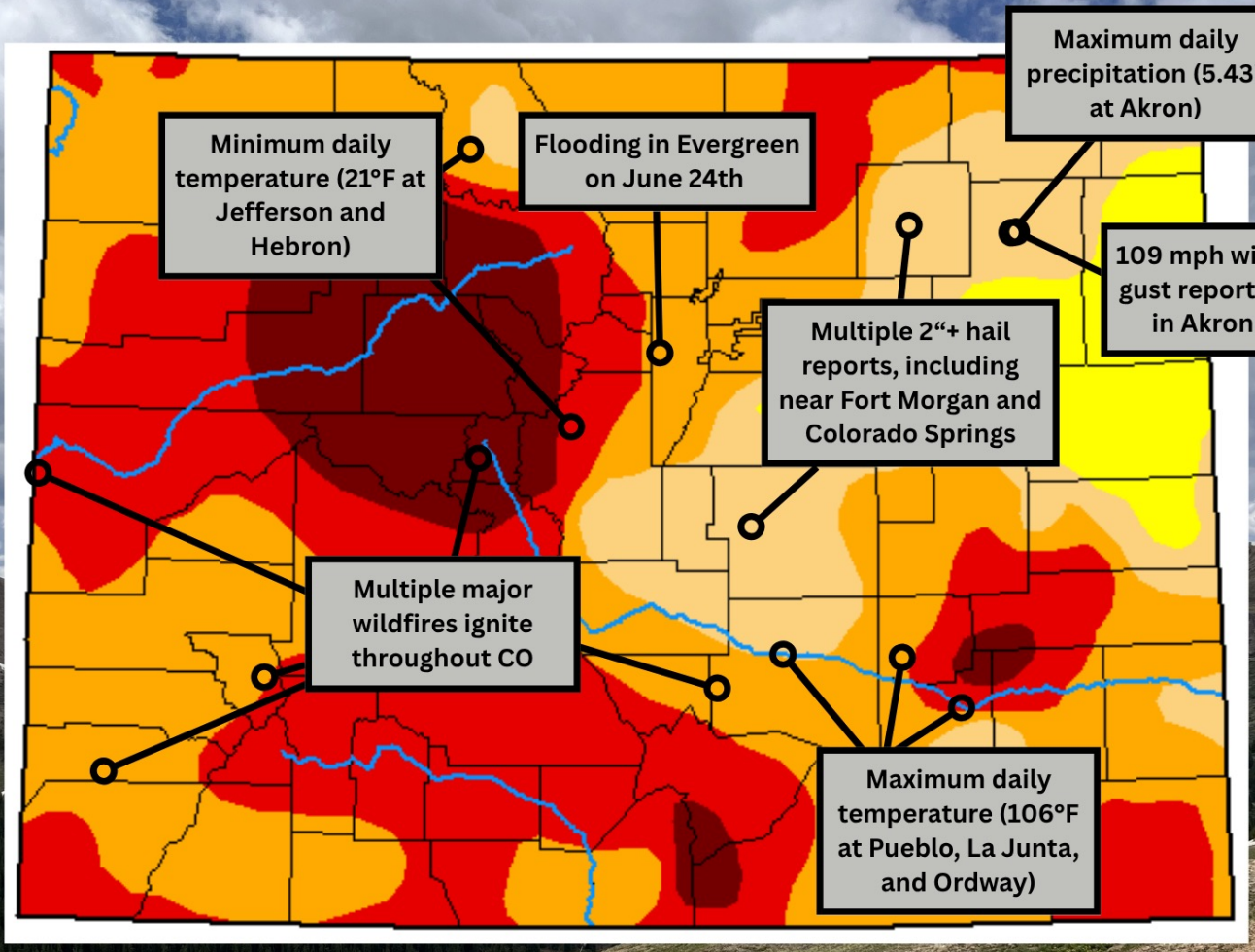
June 2026
Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



US Drought Monitor for June 30, 2026

Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for June 2026

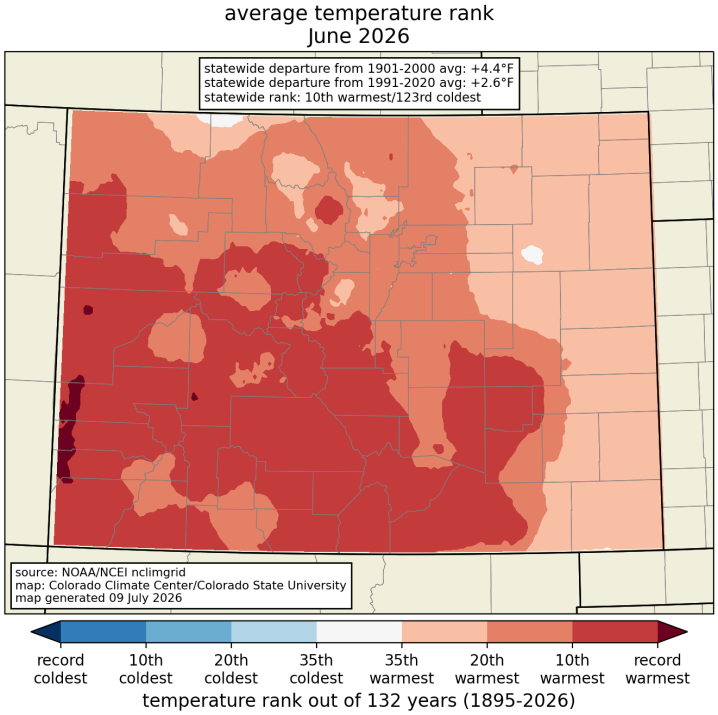
(based on 1895-2026 data)

10th warmest (above average) ■ 17th driest (below average)

COLORADO CLIMATE CENTER

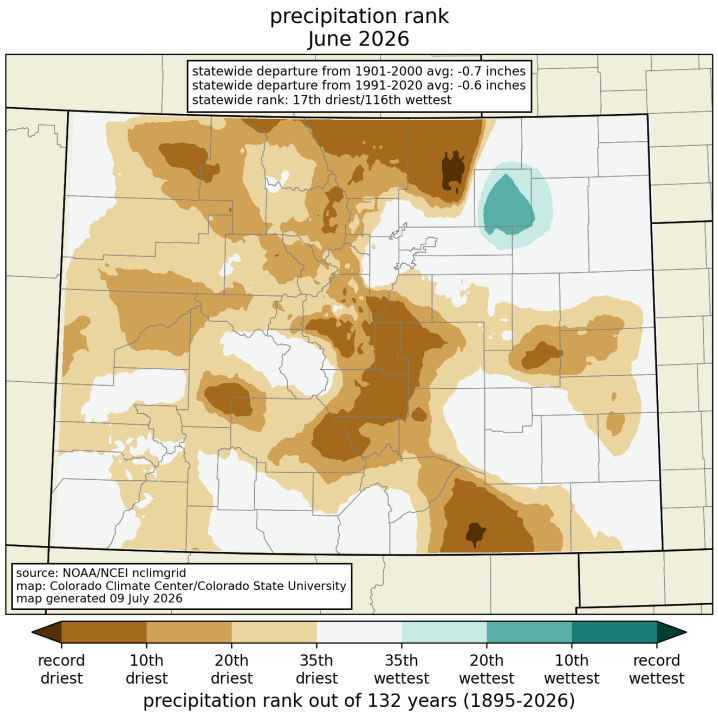
Independence Pass
June 14, 2026

temperature



June was again warmer than average across Colorado. Southern and western Colorado were much warmer than average, with those parts of the state experiencing a top-10 warm June. Eastern Colorado was not so extreme, with temperatures only a degree or two above average. It was the 13th consecutive month of above-average temperatures in Colorado.

precipitation



With the exception of some northeastern plains areas that saw heavy thunderstorm rainfall, June was very dry across the state. The Northern Front Range, high country, and Western Slope saw very little rainfall in June, which led to continued drought conditions and set the stage for numerous fast-growing wildfires that started in June.

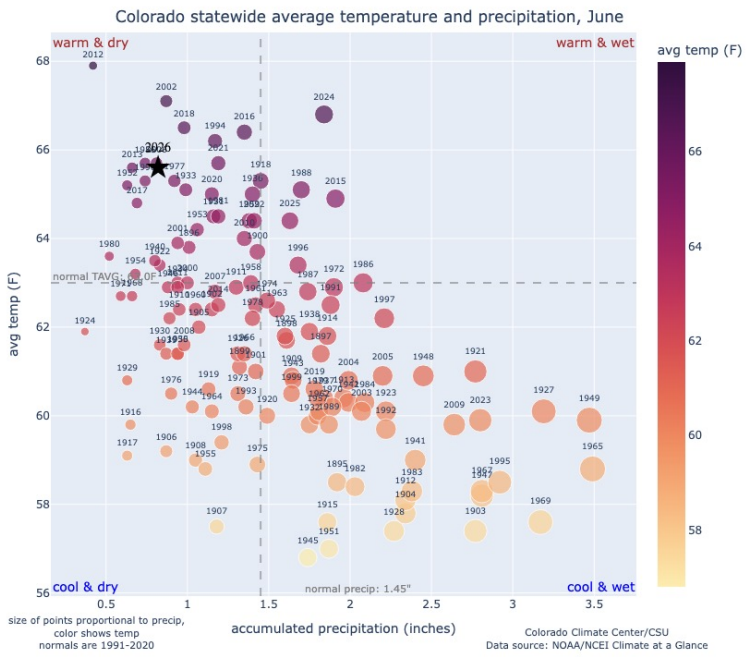
quadrant charts

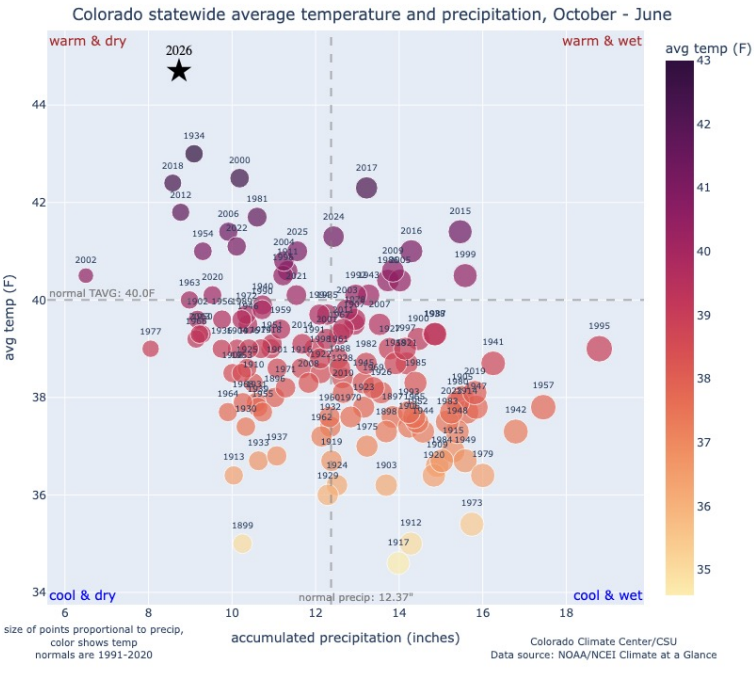
Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

June 2026 was squarely in the warm and dry quadrant. Averaged across the state, it was tied for the 10th-warmest June in 132 years of records, 4.4°F warmer than the 20th-century average and 2.6°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average. It was the 17th-driest June, with statewide precipitation 0.63" below the 30-year average (only 56.6% of average).

Water year 2026 continues to be the warmest on record by a large margin. Statewide average temperature has been 6.3°F higher than the 20th-century average, 4.7°F above the 1991-2020 average, **and 1.7°F warmer than any previous October through June period**. It is the 4th driest start to a water year, 3.64" below average for precipitation statewide.

[view all quadrant charts]

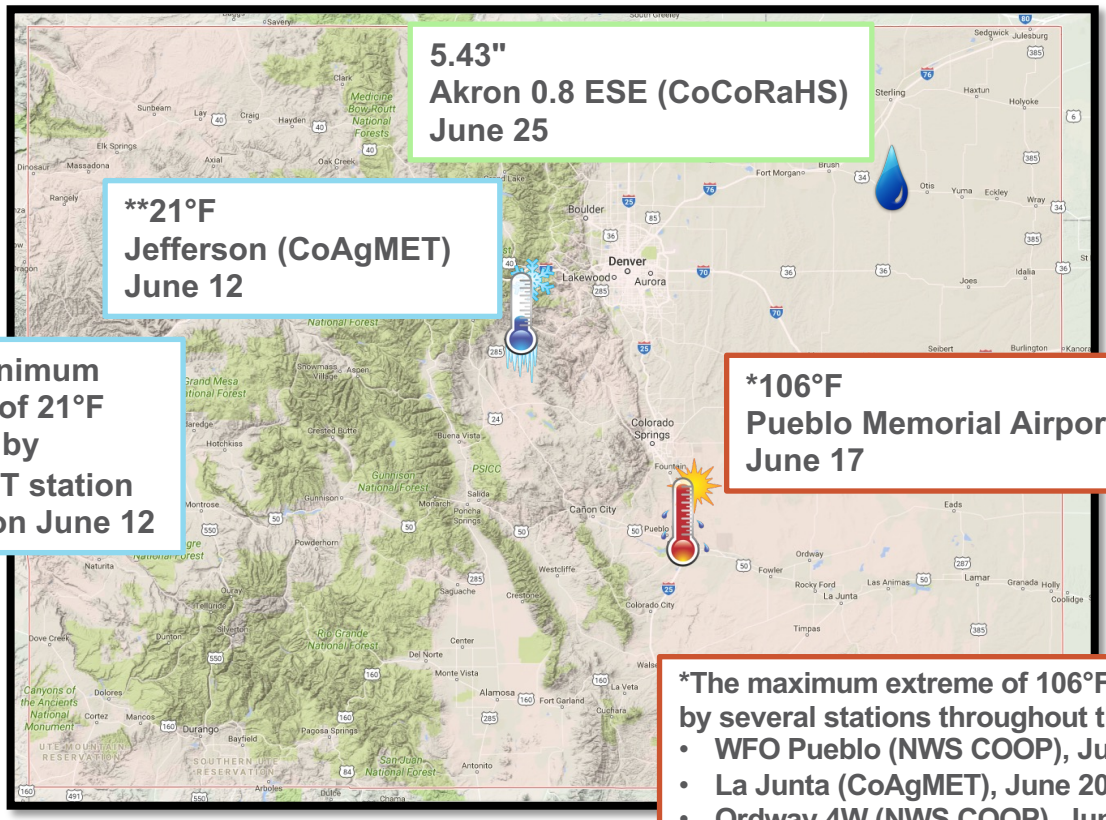




	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	33/**43**	2/**4**	35/**126**	12/**45**	21/**34**	0/**0**
Monthly	2/**0**	0/**0**	5/**8**	0/**1**	0/**3**	0/**0**
All-time	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**4**	0/**0**	0/**0**	0/**0**

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

state extremes



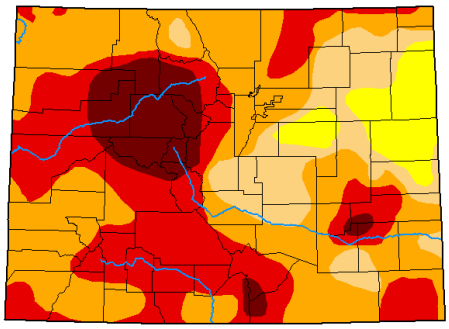
**The minimum extreme of 21°F was tied by CoAgMET station Hebron on June 12

*The maximum extreme of 106°F was tied by several stations throughout the month:

- WFO Pueblo (NWS COOP), June 17
- La Junta (CoAgMET), June 20
- Ordway 4W (NWS COOP), June 21

drought & streamflow

Widespread drought persisted throughout Colorado in June. As of June 30, all of the state is at least “abnormally dry” (D0), and ~93% of Colorado is experiencing some form of drought (a similar percentage to the beginning of the month). Worsening drought conditions were mostly concentrated across southwest Colorado, while scattered improvements were made to areas that saw locally heavy precipitation (predominantly the northeast quadrant of the state).



U.S. Drought Monitor
Colorado

June 30, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jul. 2, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	92.96	79.52	39.20	9.32
Last Week 06-23-2026	0.00	100.00	96.56	84.69	37.94	9.34
3 Months Ago 03-31-2026	0.00	100.00	88.62	64.36	48.33	21.59
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	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 07-01-2025	42.28	57.72	44.30	23.25	8.15	0.00

Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

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

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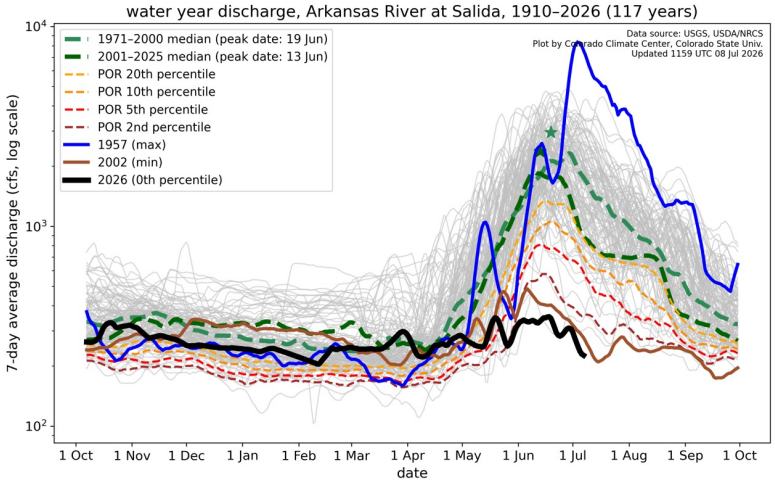
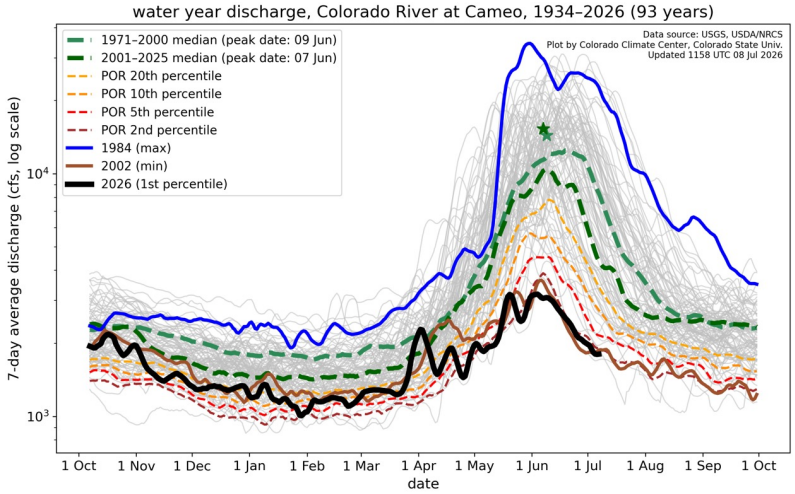
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Colorado Drought Update Page





Streamflow continues to be at or near record lows across many of Colorado’s major rivers. For example, the Arkansas River at Salida (top graph on the left) has reported record-low streamflow for most of the summer, tracking below the previous minimum in 2002 (brown line). Records at this site date back to 1910. Streamflow at the Colorado River at Cameo (bottom graph) is also poor, with current discharge only slightly higher than the record minimum. Other rivers reporting streamflow below the 5th percentile include the White, Yampa, Rio Grande, Gunnison, Roaring Fork, Animas, and Poudre rivers (all at sites with data records that are at least 100 years long).

significant events

Smoke plume and pyrocumulus clouds from the Aspen Acres fire. Photo from July 1, obtained from Watch Duty.

Multiple wildfires ignited and began rapidly spreading in late June. These include the Aspen Acres fire (southwest of Pueblo), the Gold Mountain fire (near Ouray), the Ferris Fire (in Dolores County), the Willow Fire (near Leadville) and the Snyder Fire (west of Grand Junction). Tragically, three firefighters lost their lives in the Knowles Fire on June 28.

Especially notable was the Aspen Acres fire in Pueblo and Custer Counties, which was discovered on June 29 and had already burned over 35,000 acres by the morning of July 1.

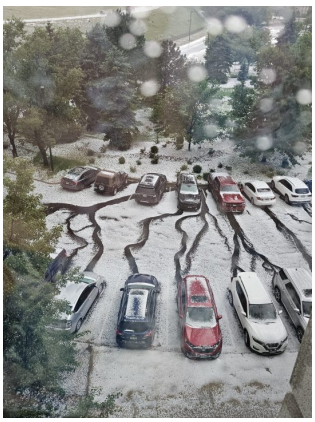
Wind damage in Akron on June 22. Photo from AccuWeather.

June is the climatological peak of severe weather season in Colorado, and thunderstorms brought multiple rounds of significant weather throughout the month. This included a plowable hailstorm in Aurora on June 1, hailstones upwards of 2.5” in and around Colorado Springs on the 23rd, and flash flood-producing rainfall in Evergreen plus severe hail in Fort Morgan on the 24th.

Akron saw some of the most significant weather of the month, when storms brought wind gusts in excess of 100 mph (including a peak gust of 113 mph) on the 22nd, followed by heavy rainfall (over 5”) on the 24th.

Flooding near Evergreen on June 24. Photo from CBS Colorado.

Hail in Colorado Springs on June 23. Photo from CoCoRaHS.



Hail in Aurora, CO on June 1. Photo by Jackie Levell, obtained via Fox 31.

CCC in the news

- ❑ **June 2, 2026:** [What to expect for this summer's weather in Western Colorado]
  - Featuring Peter Goble in KJCT News Grand Junction
- ❑ **June 2, 2026:** [Boulder Hail Season Survival Guide Protect Your Car, Home, and Wallet]
  - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in About Boulder
- ❑ **June 2, 2026:** [Colorado officials call for more state actions to combat impacts of drought]
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Colorado Sun
- ❑ **June 3, 2026:** [Colorado is likely to see drought emergency declared to address widespread impacts]
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Aspen Times
- ❑ **June 4, 2026:** [Colorado is now in a statewide drought emergency]
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Colorado Public Radio News
- ❑ **June 11, 2026:** [Can El Nino turn Colorado's dry pattern around? Here's what forecasters expect]
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in CBS Colorado News
- ❑ **June 11, 2026:** [Colorado Climate Center supports state through alarming drought conditions]
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in CSU's The Source
- ❑ **June 11, 2026:** [Pine Creek Cookhouse hosts event with Colorado's lead climatologist]
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Aspen Times

CCC in the news - continued

- **June 12, 2026:** 95% of Colorado is now in drought and it's getting worse
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in KYGO.com
- **June 13, 2026:** Farmington Hills class asks why mountaintops stay snowy
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in The Detroit News
- **June 14, 2026:** Epic Pass Sales Down 10% For Next Season
  - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in Planet Ski
- **June 15, 2026:** Chances of super El Nino continue to climb. What it means for Colorado
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Coloradoan
- **June 16, 2026:** How did Colorado get here? Understanding the drought emergency in the headwaters state
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Aspen Times
- **June 16, 2026:** It won't end the drought, but Super El Nino expected to boost Colorado moisture
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Colorado Politics
- **June 17, 2026:** NOAA Confirms El Niño - What It Means for Colorado Ski Season
  - Featuring the Colorado Climate Center in Free Skier Magazine
- **June 17, 2026:** Super El Nino expected to boost Colorado moisture, but won't end drought
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Denver Gazette

CCC in the news - continued

- **June 18, 2026:** Will super El Niño bring a wet monsoon season to Colorado?
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Coloradoan
- **June 19, 2026:** El Nino has officially arrived in Colorado, and stronger moisture could be next
  - Featuring Peter Goble in Vail Daily
- **June 26, 2026:** This major US lake just hit its lowest summer level ever. Here's why you should be concerned
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Independent

See more news here:

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