



Colorado CoCoRaHS

Because Every Drop Counts!

June 2015
Volume 3, Issue 3

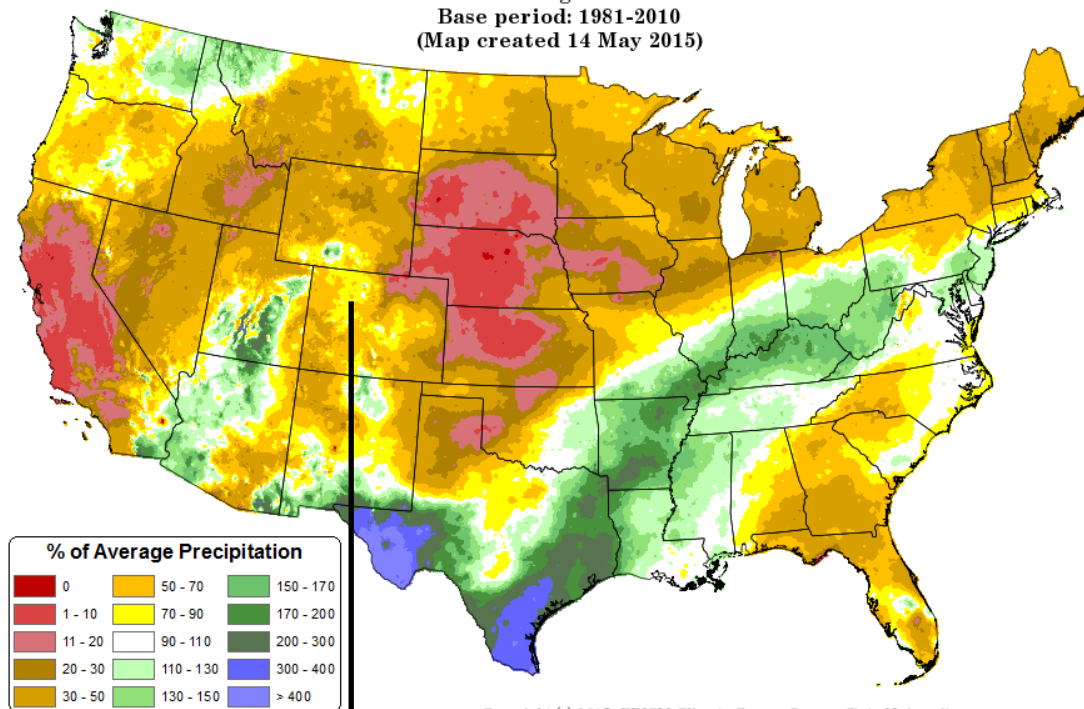
March 2015 was fairly dry across the lower 48 United States with a few wet pockets in the Pacific Northwest and the Desert Southwest. There was a larger area of wetter-than-normal conditions that extended from Texas into the Ohio River Valley. Colorado was below normal in just about all locations with a few exceptions, such as Aspen, which ended just slightly above the monthly norm.

Total Precipitation Anomaly: March 2015

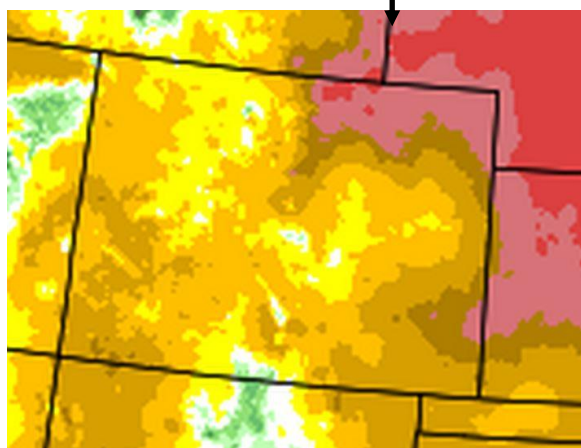
Period ending 31 Mar 2015

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 14 May 2015)



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	Mar. Precip (in.)	Departure From Average
Alamosa	0.40	-0.13
Aspen	1.36	+0.04
Co. Springs	0.81	-0.19
Denver	0.79	-0.13
Durango	0.56	-0.69
Fort Collins	0.21	-1.38
Grand Junction	0.27	-0.65
Lamar	0.19	-0.65
Pueblo	0.57	-0.36



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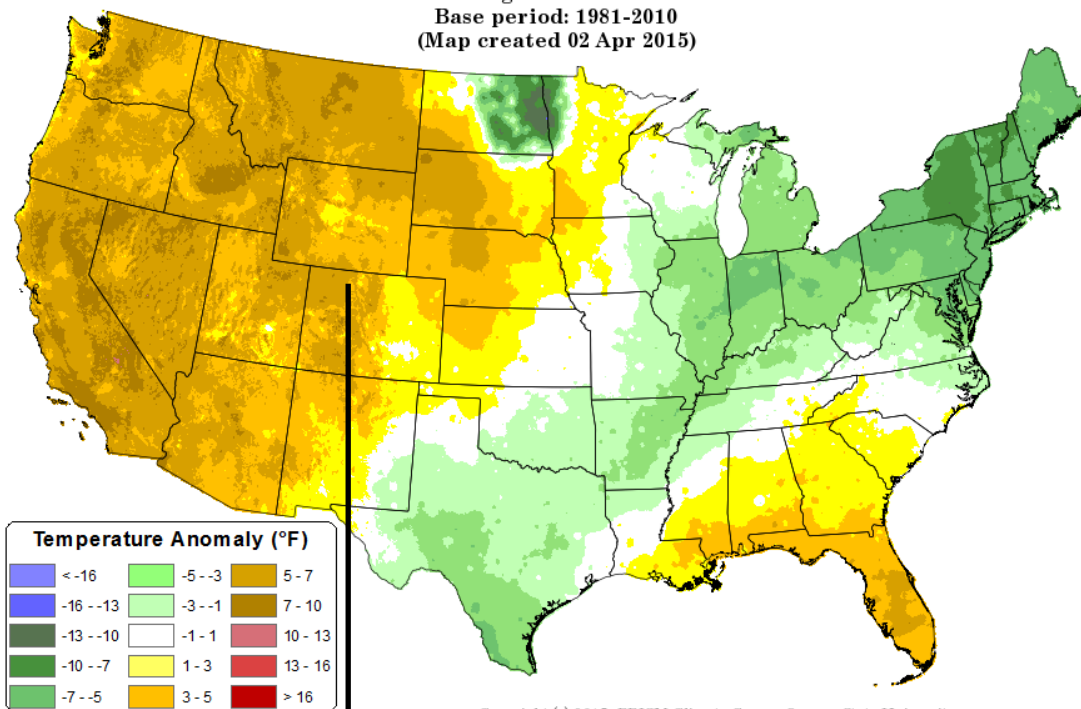
March was a very warm month for the southeast states and the western third of the lower 48 United States. In some places, including Colorado, temperatures ran 3 to 6 degrees above normal. Texas, the Great Lakes and New England ran cooler-than-normal.

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: March 2015

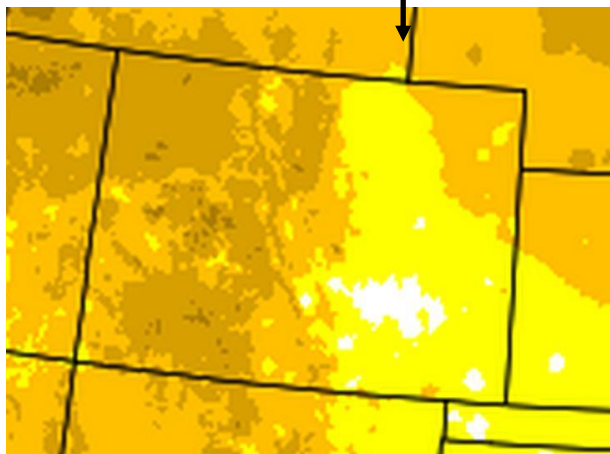
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2015

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 Apr 2015)



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	Mar. Mean Temp. (°F)	Anomaly
Alamosa	39.4	+5.9
Aspen	37.4	+6.5
Co. Springs	43.1	+4.0
Denver	45.0	+4.6
Durango	42.5	+5.1
Fort Collins	45.8	+4.4
Grand Junction	47.8	+3.9
Lamar	46.3	+3.8
Pueblo	45.1	+2.8



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March 2015
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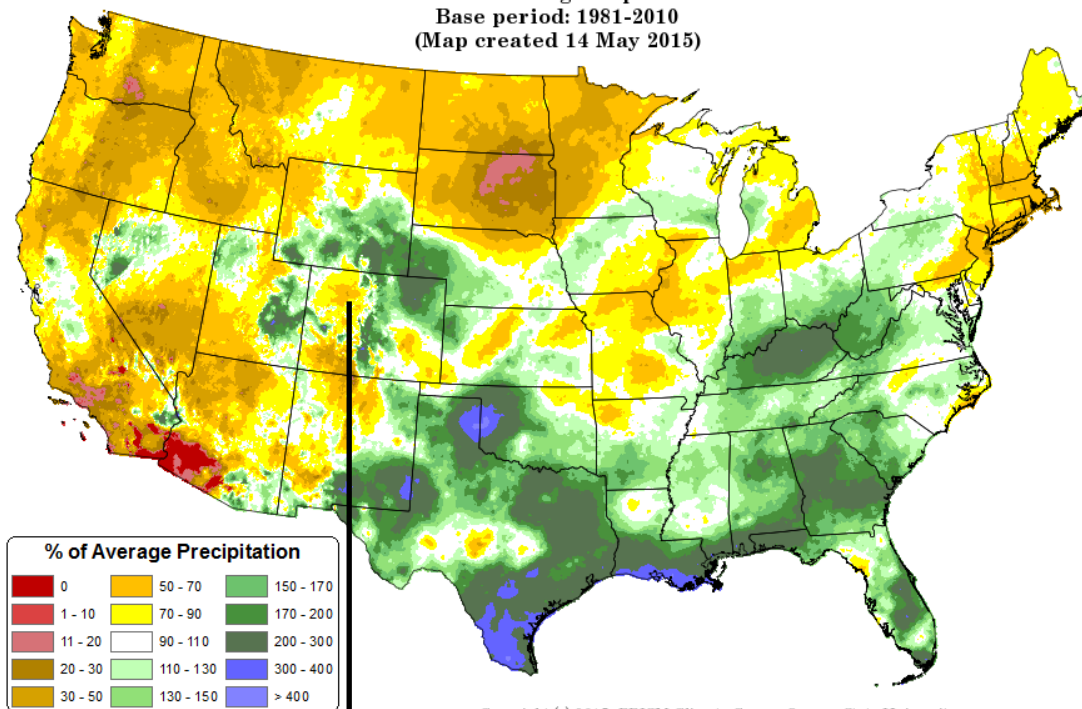
April was an interesting month across the nation as we finally started to see signs of a very persistent weather pattern shift. Most northern states were on the dry side while southern states began to show a wet trend. In Colorado it was a mixed bag with wetter-than-normal conditions on the Northeast Plains, along the foothills and across the Grand Valley. It was dry in the southeast, southwest and northwest corners of the state.

Total Precipitation Anomaly: April 2015

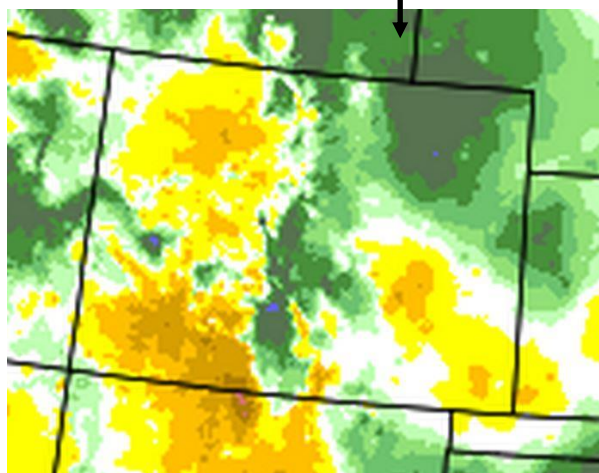
Period ending 30 Apr 2015

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 14 May 2015)



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	Apr. Precip (in.)	Departure From Average
Alamosa	0.43	-0.16
Aspen	1.32	-0.52
Co. Springs	0.97	-0.45
Denver	2.65	+0.94
Durango	0.65	-0.45
Fort Collins	3.32	+1.26
Grand Junction	2.12	+1.21
Lamar	1.06	-0.26
Pueblo	1.42	+0.02



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March 2015
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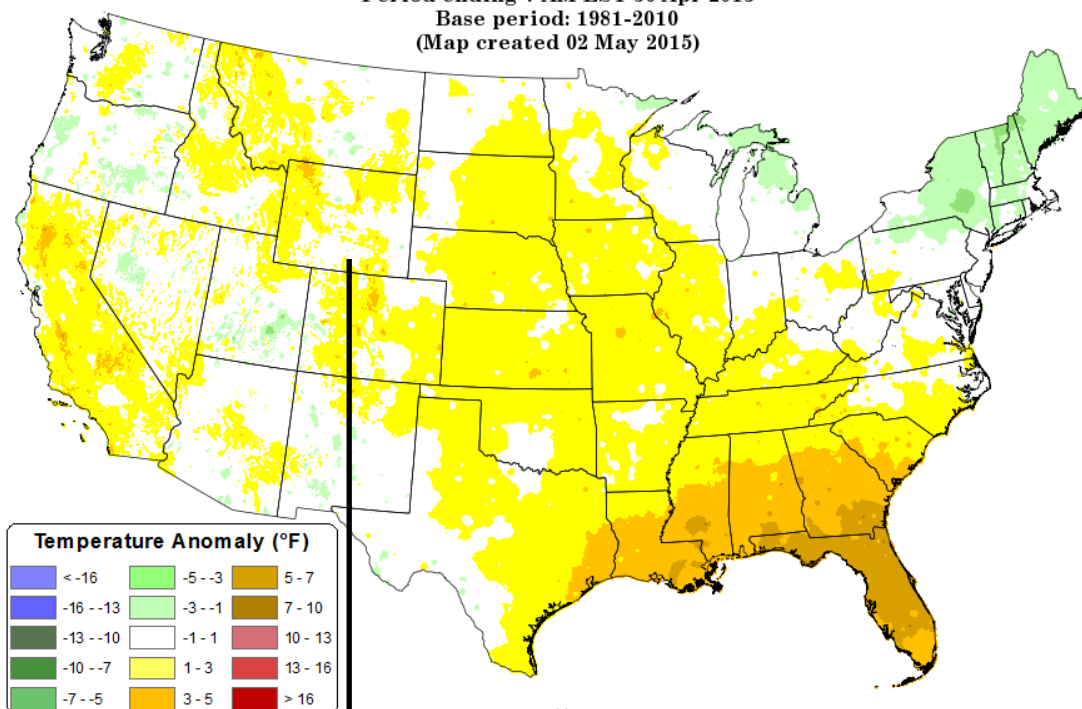
April was a warmer-than-normal month for the majority of the lower 48 United States with the exception of areas in the Great Lakes and New England. There were also a few isolated cool pockets sprinkled through the west, such as in portions of Oregon, Nevada, east-central Utah and west-central Colorado.

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: April 2015

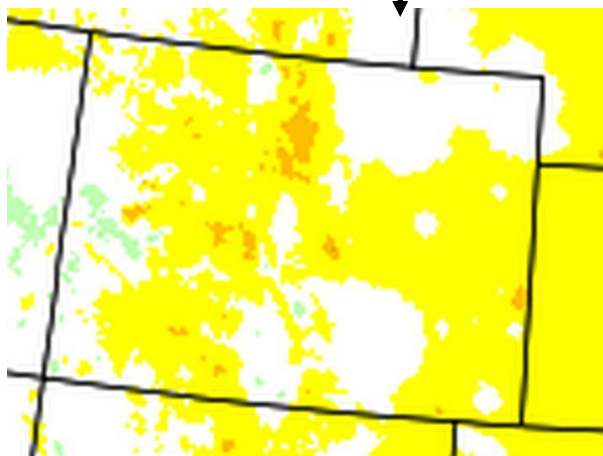
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Apr 2015

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 May 2015)



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	Apr. Mean Temp. (°F)	Anomaly
Alamosa	43.4	+1.6
Aspen	40.7	+0.9
Co. Springs	48.5	+2.0
Denver	48.7	+1.3
Durango	44.3	-0.5
Fort Collins	49.8	+0.9
Grand Junction	50.3	-1.4
Lamar	54.6	+2.4
Pueblo	52.1	+1.5



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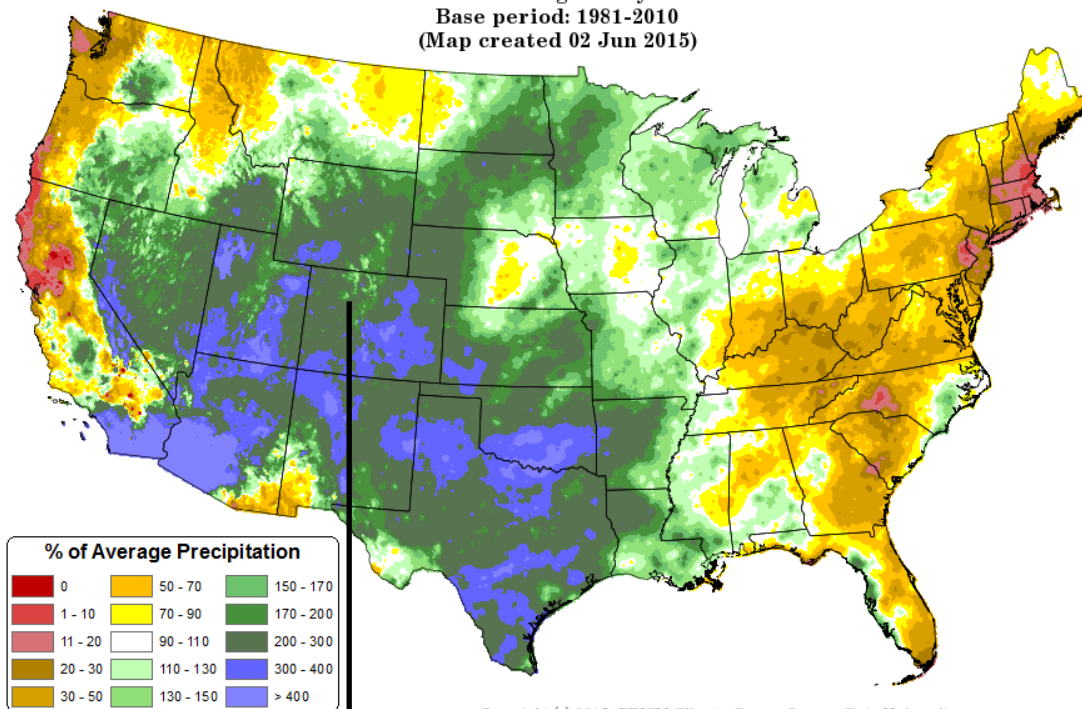
A major shift in the weather pattern showed up during the month of May as moisture streamed across the western half of the nation. In fact, just about everyone west of the Mississippi River saw a wet month with the exception of the Pacific Coast and areas along near Canada. It was dry along and east of the Appalachian Mountains. Portions of Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado saw all-time record rainfall.

Total Precipitation Anomaly: May 2015

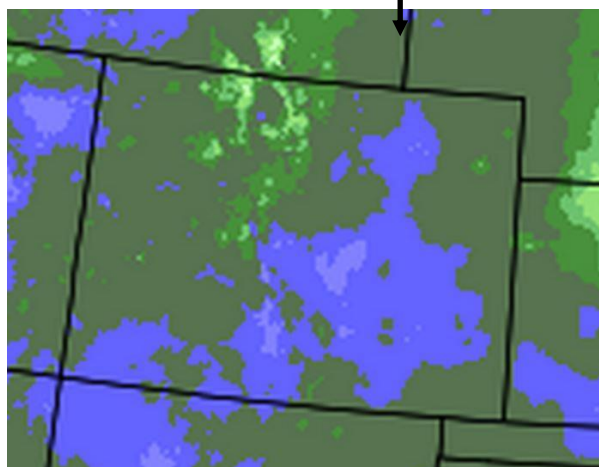
Period ending 31 May 2015

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 Jun 2015)



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	May Precip. (in.)	Departure From Average
Alamosa	1.77	+1.19
Aspen	3.58	+2.04
Co. Springs	8.13	+6.10
Denver	3.76	+1.64
Durango	3.02	+2.22
Fort Collins	6.34	+3.91
Grand Junction	1.85	+0.97
Lamar	6.38	+4.36
Pueblo	5.55	+4.04



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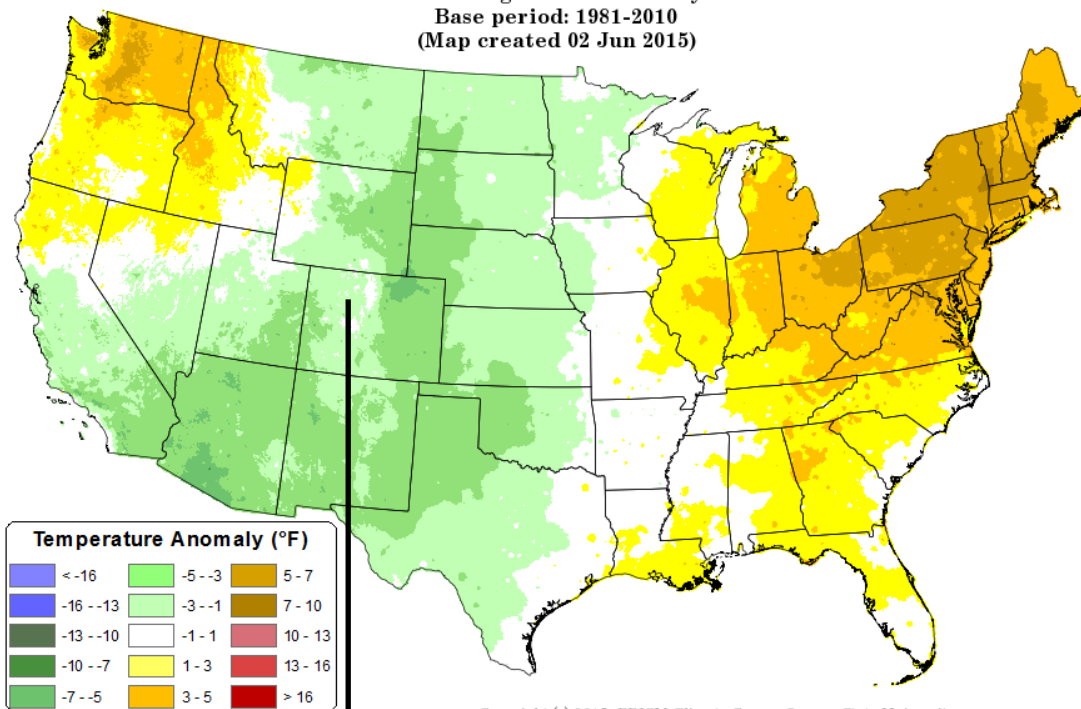
May was cooler-than-normal for most locations along and west of the Mississippi River with the exception of the Pacific Northwest. It was a rather warm month for the eastern third of the country with record warmth at times in parts of New England. Temperatures in Colorado ran 2 to 5 degrees below normal for many locations. Some places, such as Denver, ended in the top 5 coolest Mays on record.

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: May 2015

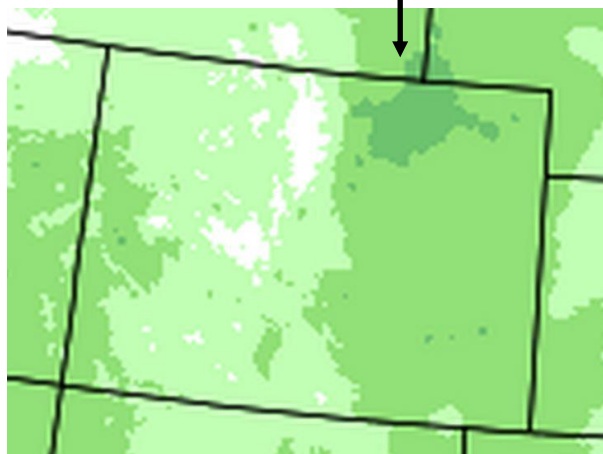
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 May 2015

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 Jun 2015)



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	May Mean Temp. (°F)	Anomaly
Alamosa	49.8	-1.4
Aspen	46.8	-1.6
Co. Springs	52.3	-3.6
Denver	53.0	-4.1
Durango	50.9	-2.1
Fort Collins	52.8	-5.1
Grand Junction	57.7	-3.9
Lamar	59.4	-2.8
Pueblo	57.0	-3.4



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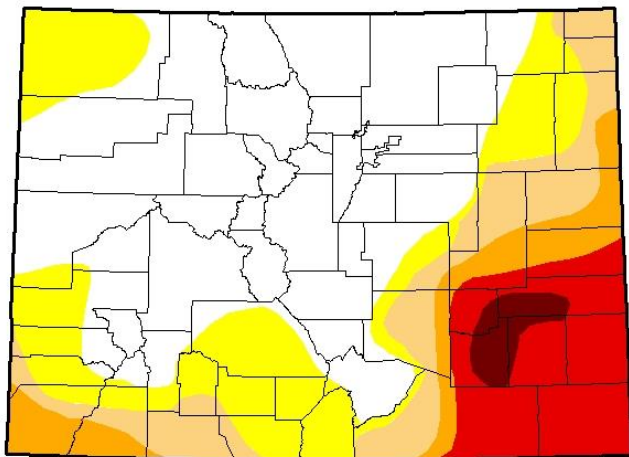
RECORD RAIN WIPES OUT DROUGHT, REWRITES 121-YEAR CLIMATE RECORD IN COLORADO SPRINGS

It's a May that many won't soon forget, especially in southeast Colorado. One year ago the region was gripped by a multi-year drought that created conditions similar to those of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. Grass fires were becoming a common scene and widespread dust storms were a frequent visitor. One year later it's a completely different story after a month of record rain essentially wiped out the drought.

Many of the major reporting stations in southeast Colorado have received record May moisture. But of particular note is Colorado Springs with 8.13 inches of water as of May 29. Not only is 2015 now the wettest May for the city but it's also the wettest month since records began in Nov. 1894. Some places in and around Colorado Springs have seen even higher totals.

The good news has come at the expense of occasional flooding that has resulted in some property damage both in the Colorado Springs vicinity and along the Arkansas River. But water storage at local reservoirs is higher than it has been in years and that is great news for recreation and agriculture. The following two maps show conditions from early June 2014 to early June 2015.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



June 3, 2014

(Released Thursday, Jun. 5, 2014)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	50.27	49.73	30.04	18.85	12.49	1.89
Last Week 5/27/2014	44.71	55.29	30.04	18.86	12.49	1.93
3 Months Ago 3/4/2014	27.67	72.33	22.33	13.54	4.23	1.47
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2013	32.04	67.96	22.33	13.56	4.01	1.47
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	24.91	75.09	37.88	12.01	4.01	1.47
One Year Ago 6/4/2013	0.00	100.00	93.18	72.32	26.51	15.84

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary
for forecast statements.

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



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



Colorado CoCoRaHS

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U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

June 2, 2015

(Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2015)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	60.25	39.75	16.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 5/26/2015	58.23	41.77	16.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 3/2/2015	36.97	63.03	51.46	12.20	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 1/20/2014	69.87	30.13	21.26	12.26	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 9/30/2014	68.96	31.04	22.94	13.82	2.31	0.00
One Year Ago 6/2/2014	50.27	49.73	30.04	18.85	12.49	1.89

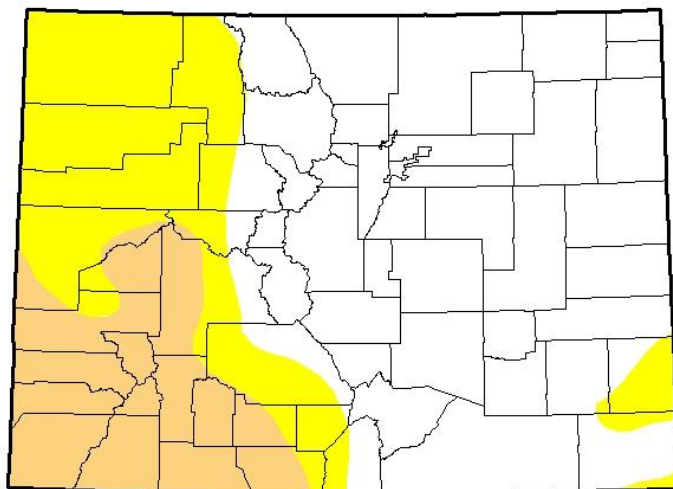
Intensity

 D0 Abnormally Dry	 D3 Extreme Drought
 D1 Moderate Drought	 D4 Exceptional Drought
 D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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

While drought conditions have drastically improved on the southeast plains it has expanded on the western slope. But the latest long-range outlook indicates the wetter-than-normal weather pattern we've been experiencing for the past few weeks may stick around right through the summer.

Part of what may be influencing the wet weather is El Niño, which developed earlier this spring and has been strengthening. Government forecasters say it may last all summer and into the upcoming fall. El Niño is a warming of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial waters of the Pacific Ocean which can have an impact on global climate patterns.



BERTHOUD TORNADO STRONGEST IN NEARLY A DECADE, RATED AS ONE OF COLORADO'S RAREST TWISTERS

It's been seven years since Colorado has seen a tornado classified as EF3 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. Ironically that storm was in the same general area when it hit Windsor on May 22, 2008.

The National Weather Service says the tornado that hit Berthoud on June 4 was an EF3 with maximum winds estimated between 135-140 mph. It hit near the Boulder and Larimer County line at 6:34 p.m. approximately three miles south of Berthoud. The tornado was 200 yards wide and tracked 5 miles to the west-northwest for 13 minutes. While the majority of the damage along its path was EF1 with pockets of EF2, there were a few small areas with EF3-rated damage. Tornadoes are given a rating based on the maximum damage produced.



Picture Courtesy of the National Weather Service Office in Boulder.

Since 1950 there have only been 22 other tornadoes recorded in Colorado given a rating of F3 or EF3. Prior to 2007 tornadoes were rated on the Fujita Scale and given a rating a F0-F5. But new research prompted the National Weather Service to make updates to how tornadoes are rated. The Enhanced Fujita Scale is now used and tornadoes are given a rating of EF0-EF5.

Colorado has never had a tornado in the modern record that touched down with a rating a 4 or 5 but there has been one F4 tornado that traveled into our state out of Oklahoma. It produced damage in southern Baca County on May 18, 1977.



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The month of May produced record rainfall in many communities around Colorado. It's difficult to list all of the totals because there are so many impressive locations. The chart below is a random list of CoCoRaHS stations that exceeded 10 inches of rain during the month.

Randomly Selected May Precipitation Totals		
Station	Location	Total
CO-EP-58	Ivywild 0.6 E	13.83
CO-AR-56	Byers 0.1 N	11.81
CO-MR-1	Brush 0.8 S	11.27
CO-LR-1009	Fort Collins 2.8 W	10.57
CO-BO-271	Erie 1.9 WNW	10.27

CO-EP-58 was the wettest CoCoRaHS station in Colorado during May with 13.83" of precipitation. There were four station that topped 13" of moisture in El Paso County.

Statewide there were 15 CoCoRaHS stations with over 12" of moisture and 47 with over 10" of water.

April and May have been extremely wet in many areas of Colorado along and east of the foothills, but a few spots have been particularly wet, including areas in and around Morgan and El Paso Counties. Many rain gauges in these areas have recorded well over a foot of moisture since April 1. While rain has been falling at lower elevations it has been all snow up high, forcing delayed openings and extended winter maintenance of many high mountain roads.

Top 10 Totals - April & May 2015		
Station	Location	Total
CO-EP-58	Ivywild 0.6 E	17.33
CO-EP-175	Manitou Springs 1.2 ESE	17.29
CO-EP-158	Colorado Springs 2.7 WSW	17.27
CO-MR-1	Brush 0.8 S	17.23
CO-MR-84	Brush 0.3 E	16.68
CO-MR-17	Brush 5.1 N	16.50
CO-MR-86	Fort Morgan 6.2 NE	16.31
CO-EP-303	Colorado Springs 1.1 W	16.29
CO-JF-267	Golden 9.4 WNW	16.15
CO-EP-258	Colorado Springs 7.0 NNW	15.78



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The following is a list of 31 weather stations in Colorado that either tied or recorded their wettest month in history.

STATION	MAY PRECIP
ARAPAHOE 12 S	7.85
BLACK FOREST 6WNW	9.81
BULLSEYE AUX AIRFIELD	5.17
BYERS 5 ENE	9.77
CHERAW 1 N	7.82
CO SPRINGS FIRE STN 18	12.89
CO SPRINGS FIRE STN 19	11.91
CO SPRINGS FIRE STN 20	10.62
COLORADO SPRINGS AIRPORT	8.13
CRAIG 30 N	3.60
DENVER 1 SW 7NEWS	8.56
DENVER WATER DEPT	6.35
EADS	9.25
EASTONVILLE 2 NNW	10.21
LA JUNTA 17 WSW	6.43
LA JUNTA MUNI AP	7.38
LAMAR MUNI AP	6.38
MARSTON FLTR PLT	7.01
MEEKER 15 W	3.72
MEEKER AIRPORT	5.03
MONTROSE 11 ENE	4.52
MONUMENT 3S	8.62
NEW RAYMER 21 N	7.24
NORTHGLENN	6.49
NUNN 7 NNE	5.96
RIFLE 3ENE	4.96
RIFLE GARFIELD COUNTY AP	4.26
SHERIDAN LAKE 4E	8.70
WFO PUEBLO	5.69
WILD HORSE 6N	6.37
WOODROW 6 NNE	7.86



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The following is a list of 102 weather stations in Colorado that had their wettest May on record.

Station	May Precip
AGUILAR 18 WSW	4.99
ALAMOSA 2S	1.71
ANTERO RSVR	4.42
ARAPAHOE	7.07
ARAPAHOE 12 S	7.85
BLACK CANYON GUNNISON	3.67
BLACK FOREST 6WNW	9.81
BOONE 9NNW	4.59
BRIGHTON 3 SE	5.76
BURLINGTON	7.65
BYERS 5 ENE	9.77
CEDAREDGE 3 E	3.95
CHEESMAN	5.38
CHERAW 1 N	7.82
CO SPRINGS FD COMPLEX	7.23
COLLBRAN 2 SW	2.96
COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE STN 18	12.89
COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE STN 19	11.91
COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE STN 20	10.62
CRESTONE 2 SE	5.05
CROOK	6.23
DELTA 3E	2.22
DENVER 1 SW 7NEWS	8.56
DENVER MUSEUM	5.03
DENVER WATER DEPT	6.35
DIVIDE 4 NW	5.58
EADS	9.25
EASTONVILLE 2 NNW	10.21
ELLCOTT 7S	5.67
ESTES PARK 1 SSE	4.51
FLAGLER 1S	8.24
FLORISSANT FOSSL BED	5.50



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GOLDEN 3SW	7.94
GRAND JUNCTION WFO	2.87
GRAND LAKE 1 NW	4.47
GREELEY UNC	7.18
GUFFEY 9 SE	6.50
HASWELL	7.41
HAYDEN	4.19
IGNACIO 8E	2.57
INTER CANYON	7.13
JOES	6.42
JOHN MARTIN DAM	6.04
KIT CARSON 9NNE	5.73
LAKE CITY 1NNE	2.25
LAKE GEORGE 8 SW	4.54
LAKEWOOD	6.83
LEMON DAM	5.04
LIMON HASS RCH	6.48
MARSTON FLTR PLT	7.01
MASSADONA	2.87
MONTE VISTA 2W	2.44
MONUMENT 3S	8.62
MTN PK ENVIRONMENTAL CTR	8.54
NEW RAYMER 21 N	7.24
NORTHGLENN	6.49
OURAY #2	5.07
PAGOSA SPRINGS 6 WNW	4.38
PLACERVILLE	4.93
RALSTON RSVR	6.71
RIFLE 3ENE	4.96
RIO GRANDE RSVR	3.35
ROXBOROUGH SP	7.85
RUXTON PARK	8.55
RYE 1 SW	9.53
SANTA MARIA RSVR	3.18
SHAW 4 ENE	4.84



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SHERIDAN LAKE 4E	8.70
TACONY 13 SE	5.15
TRINIDAD LAKE	4.77
VERNON 4E	6.36
VIRGINIA DALE 7 ENE	6.72
WAVERLY 1W	2.40
WFO PUEBLO	5.69
WHEAT RIDGE 2	6.20
WILD HORSE 6N	6.37
WOODROW 6 NNE	7.86
YAMPA	5.05
YELLOW JACKET 4 NE	4.39
ASPEN PITKIN CO AP	3.58
BOULDER 14 W	7.60
BULLSEYE AUX AIRFIELD	5.17
BURLINGTON CARSON AP	7.20
COLORADO SPRINGS MUNI AP	8.13
CORTEZ 8 SE	3.31
CRAIG 30 N	3.60
CRAIG MOFFAT COUNTY AP	3.79
DENVER CENTENNIAL AP	4.37
DINOSAUR 2 E	3.52
DURANGO LA PLATA CO AP	3.02
LA JUNTA 17 WSW	6.43
LA JUNTA MUNI AP	7.38
LAMAR MUNI AP	6.38
MEEKER 15 W	3.72
MEEKER AIRPORT	5.03
MONTROSE 11 ENE	4.52
NUNN 7 NNE	5.96
PUEBLO MEM AP	5.55
RIFLE GARFIELD COUNTY AP	4.26
SPRINGFIELD COMANCHE	4.50
TAYLOR PARK	3.62
VALLECITO DAM	5.00