



Colorado CoCoRaHS

Because Every Drop Counts!

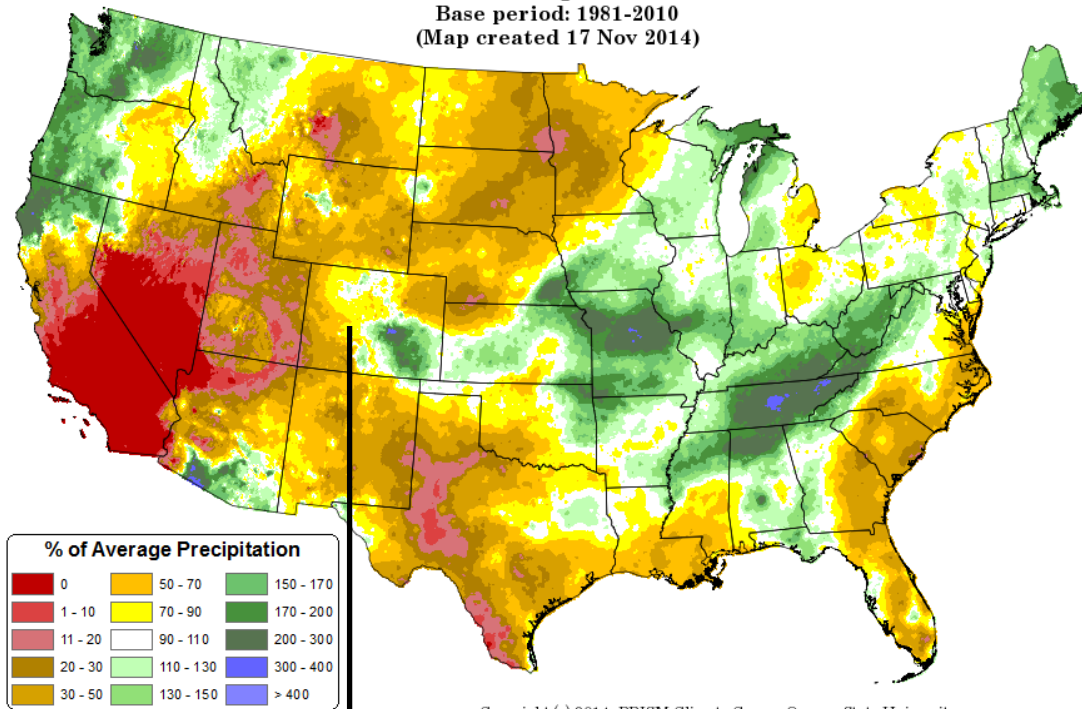
November 2014
Volume 2, Issue 11

U.S. PRECIPITATION (% OF AVERAGE) – LOOKING BACK AT OCTOBER 2014

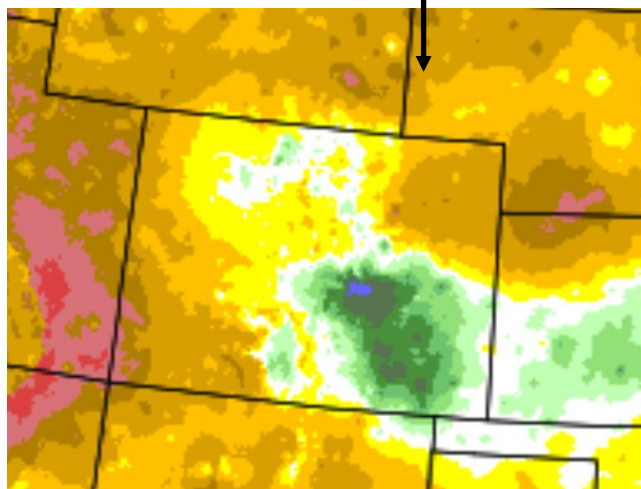
October was a fairly dry month for much of the nation with the exception of the Pacific Northwest, portions of New England and the Tennessee River Valley. Colorado was mostly dry with the exception of the southeast part of the state. One of the wettest areas during the month was in and around Colorado Springs and parts of El Paso County.

Total Precipitation Anomaly: October 2014

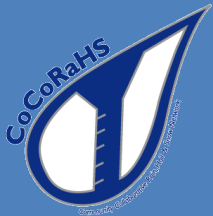
Period ending 31 Oct 2014
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 17 Nov 2014)



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	Oct. Precip (in.)	Departure From Average
Alamosa	0.70	0.02
Aspen	1.43	-0.04
Co. Springs	2.96	2.14
Denver	0.52	-0.50
Durango	1.11	-0.23
Fort Collins	0.80	-0.35
Grand Junction	0.58	-0.48
Lamar	0.54	-0.26
Pueblo	0.91	0.19



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U.S. TEMPERATURES (ANOMALY) – LOOKING BACK AT OCTOBER 2014

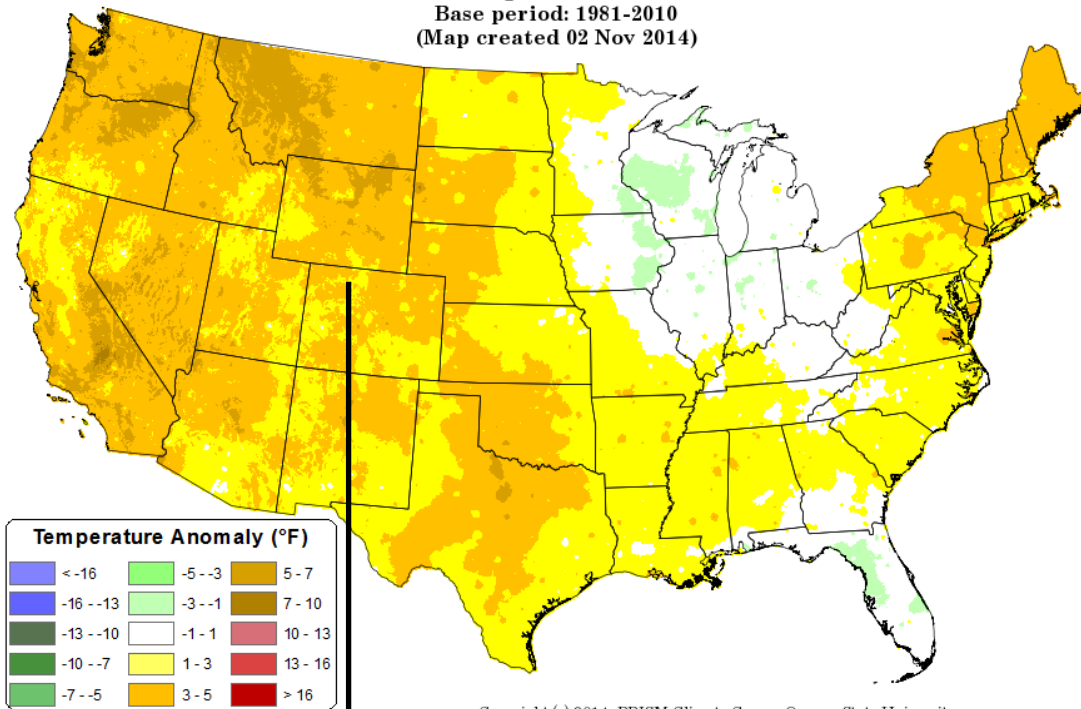
October 2014 was a warm month for the lower 48 United States with just about everybody above normal. It was the second month in a row where all of the major reporting stations in Colorado were up to 4 degrees warmer-than-average.

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: October 2014

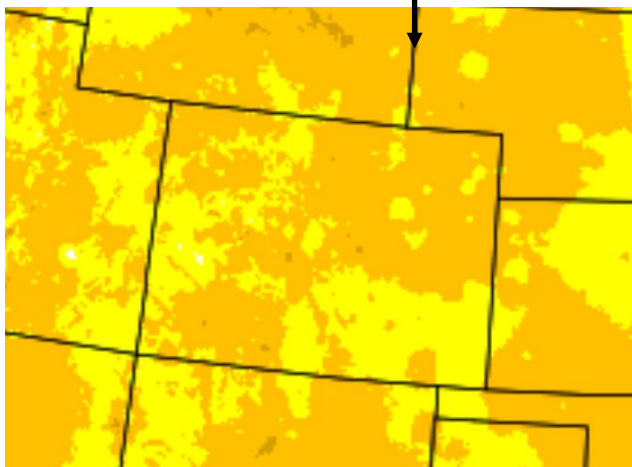
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Oct 2014

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 Nov 2014)



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	Oct. Mean Temp. (°F)	Anomaly
Alamosa	46.8	3.6
Aspen	46.4	4.2
Co. Springs	53.5	4.1
Denver	55.1	4.2
Durango	50.0	3.2
Fort Collins	54.1	3.8
Grand Junction	54.4	1.4
Lamar	56.2	3.3
Pueblo	55.9	4.1



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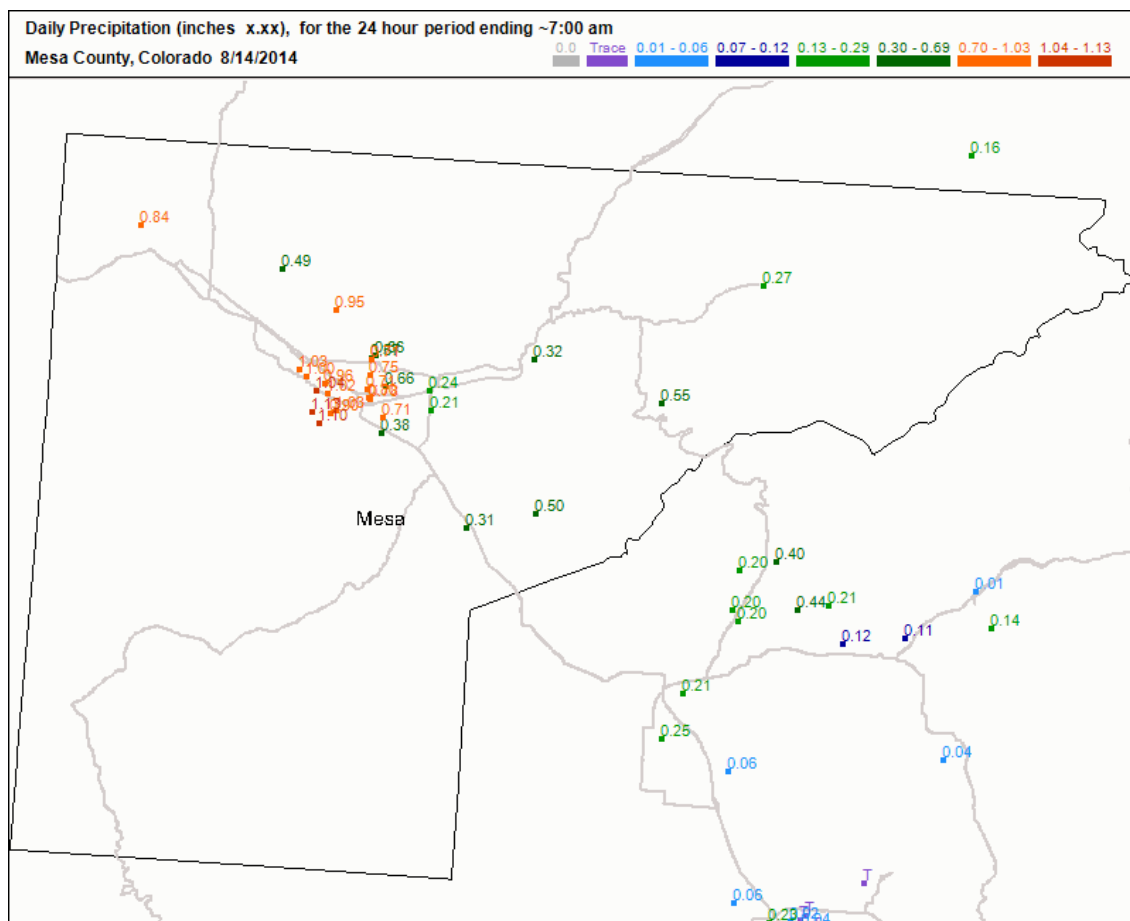
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NOVEMBER'S FEATURED COUNTY – MESA

Mesa County is the most populous county in Colorado outside of the Front Range and is the fourth largest in terms of area. The county features a diverse geography including several mesas, a national forest and historic features including the Colorado National Monument. One of the most famous mesas, the Grand Mesa, is known as the largest flat-topped mountain in the world and is home to over 200 lakes and a ski area. 72% of the 3,309 square miles in the county belong to the public and are managed by agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

The climate of Mesa County could be one of its best kept secrets. Mild winters and warm summers make the region well known for agriculture, including peaches, corn and grapes. You can find a number of wineries and vineyards in Mesa County.

CoCoRaHS has a nicely developed network of observers in Mesa County thanks to the local National Weather Service office in Grand Junction. But we could always use more participants to fill in the gaps. If you know someone who lives there and would enjoy being a part of CoCoRaHS, encourage them to join!





OCTOBER FUN FACTS FROM AROUND COLORADO

*As of 3 pm, 11/20/2014

- 1,246 stations filed at least one daily report
- 885 stations reported at least half of the month
- 406 stations filed a report every day
- Wettest station: CO-EP-264 (Colorado Springs 3.5 S) with 3.67" of precipitation
- Driest station that reported all 31 days: CO-SM-8 (Slick Rock 1.3 N) with 0.12" of precipitation
- 58 stations filed a multi-day accumulation report
- 117 stations reported snow during October, with the most being 15.5" at CO-GN-18 (Crested Butte 6.2 N) The second highest total was 12.8" at CO-SU-40 (Breckenridge 3.3 SE).

EARLY SEASON COLD BLAST HITS PORTIONS OF COLORADO

Some of the coldest November air seen in several decades invaded much of eastern Colorado on Nov. 10, sending temperatures well below zero in the foothills and on the eastern plains and leaving behind a fresh blanket of snow.

Part of what caused the arctic blast was a powerful area of low pressure off the coast of Alaska. The low pressure was the remains of Super Typhoon Nuri which developed around Halloween in the western Pacific Ocean. At its peak, Nuri was the second most intense tropical cyclone measured on the planet this year.

As Nuri weakened and moved to the northeast, it met up with the jet stream winds over the Bering Sea and rapidly intensified into a major storm system that brought hurricane-force winds to coastal Alaska. A floating buoy measured a pressure on the east side of the storm at 929.8 mb, which was lower than what was measured in Hurricane Sandy.

The intense storm system created a sharp trough of low pressure in the jet stream which reached all the way up to the Arctic Circle. The flow of wind brought a cold pool of air straight out of the North Pole, sliding south along the east side of the Rockies and into the heart of the lower 48 states.

Locations in western Colorado escaped the cold outbreak because the air mass was shallow, settling in along the eastern slopes of the Rockies. Because cold air is dense and heavy, it often can't make it up and over the mountains to spill over the west side of the Continental Divide. So while Denver and the Front Range was shivering around zero, some locations including Aspen and Vail were in the 30s and lower 40s.

The shock of a bitter cold snap more characteristic of January got some people



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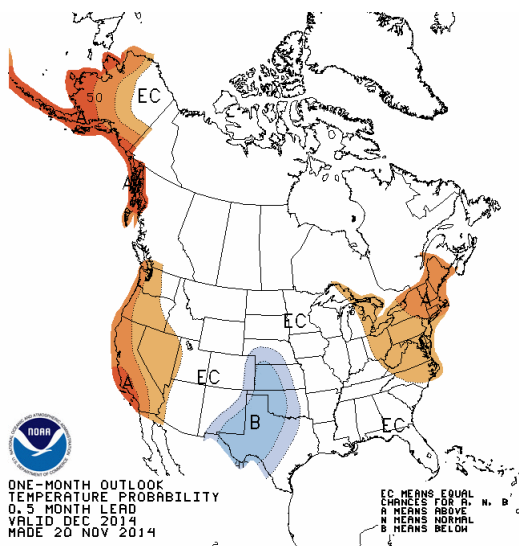
wondering what might lie ahead for the rest of fall and winter.

As fickle as it may sound, the answer is no conclusions can be made about what the future has in store, simply based off one unusual cold event. While it is highly possible we will see a few more bouts with some bitter cold this season, we'll also likely see some warm days sprinkled in between.

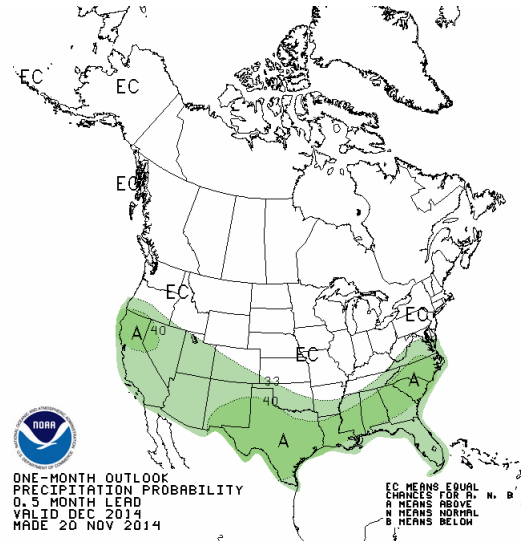
Global weather patterns have several influences right now, including abnormally warm conditions in the eastern Pacific Ocean and expansive snow pack in Siberia. All of these factors have an influence on the big picture, but none are strong enough to dictate one definite winter weather pattern.

DECEMBER OUTLOOK

The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center shows no significant trend toward extreme temperatures during the month of December for the lower 48 states.



The West Coast, New England and Alaska are forecasted to see warmer-than-normal temperatures while a small section of the central and southern plains, including extreme eastern Colorado, may see temperatures trending below normal.



The December precipitation outlook calls for the potential of above normal conditions across the southern third of the nation, including much of western and southern Colorado. This is similar to what we would see during an El Nino winter.

While there is not currently an El Nino in place, conditions have been borderline over the past several weeks and some weather patterns have been similar to those seen during an episode of El Nino. (including severe drought in parts of India)

The northern half of the nation has an equal chance to see either above, below, or normal precipitation during December.