February 2022 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary
The statewide average temperature for February 2022 was 24.9°F, which was 4.1°F below the 1991-2020 normal. February 2022 was ranked as the 30th coldest in the 128 year record and is the fourth consecutive February to be colder than the 20th century average. This was the 14th coldest February minimum temperatures on record for the Arkansas basin (southeast CO).

Much of the Front Range mountains and urban corridor were wetter than average for February, with drier than average conditions over the northern mountains and west slope. The statewide average precipitation for February 2022 was 0.9”, which was 0.19” below the 1991-2020 normal. February ranked as the 46th driest in the 128 year record, but the winter season (DJF) was ranked the 50th wettest.
quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the x-axis and the temperature on the y-axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. Long-term averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

February 2022 continued the trend from January 2022, falling into the cool and dry quadrant. Extending to the 3-month time period (i.e. the winter season), shifts the current year into the warm and wet quadrant.

Over the last 12 months (March 2021 – February 2022) Colorado is in the warm and dry quadrant. Precipitation for the last 12 months ranks as 41st driest, and a 1.34” anomaly. Temperature for the last 12 months has been 1.4°F above the 1991-2020 normal and ranks as the 4th warmest March-February period.
records tied and broken

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<th></th>
<th>High Max</th>
<th>Low Max</th>
<th>High Min</th>
<th>Low Min</th>
<th>Precip</th>
<th>Snow</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>29/142</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>28/188</td>
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<td>All-time</td>
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<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Tied/Broken*, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes

- **2.10” Schofield Pass**  February 22
- **-48°F Antero Reservoir**  February 4
- **24.0” La Veta**  February 2
- **73°F La Junta**  February 15
drought

Widespread improvements were made across the northern Front Range and into northeast CO. The Sangre de Cristos also saw some improvement.

Over 91% of the state is still in a drought category with 8% of the state experiencing extreme (D3) drought conditions. This makes 97 consecutive weeks of D3 in Colorado.

Colorado Drought Update Page

snowpack

Statewide snowpack was 95% of average on February 28, 2022, marking a significant decrease in percent of average since the beginning of the month. This was due to lack of storm activity across much of the high elevations. The Yampa-White and Arkansas basins were the lowest, each at 83% of average, while the Gunnison was doing the best at 105% of average.
CCC in the news

- ‘Make Or Break’ Time For Colorado Snowpack: Why The Next 2 Months Are Critical For Colorado Water In 2022
  - CBS Denver, February 28, Becky Bolinger

- Fort Collins weather: Brace yourselves for a one-two punch of bitter cold and snow this week
  - The Coloradoan, February 21, Russ Schumacher

- Long Range Outlooks Unchanged
  - Radio 570 WNAX, February 21, Peter Goble

- Megadrought likely to continue in Western Colorado and across the West for years, scientists say
  - The Denver Post, February 19, Russ Schumacher

- Colorado snowpack drops, why experts aren't too concerned yet
  - KOAA, February 18, Peter Goble and Russ Schumacher

- Peter Goble Climatologist and Drought Specialist on CO Snow Pack
  - KOA Radio, February 17, Peter Goble

- A devastating blaze picked a fight with scientists
  - ClimateWire, February 14, Becky Bolinger

- As Colorado warms, dry soil sucks up more water. That’s bad news for rivers and farmers
  - Colorado Sun, February 6, Peter Goble and Russ Schumacher