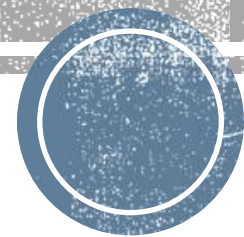


Drought in Summit County



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

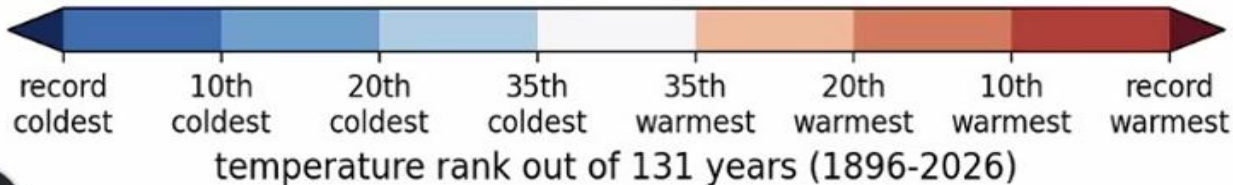
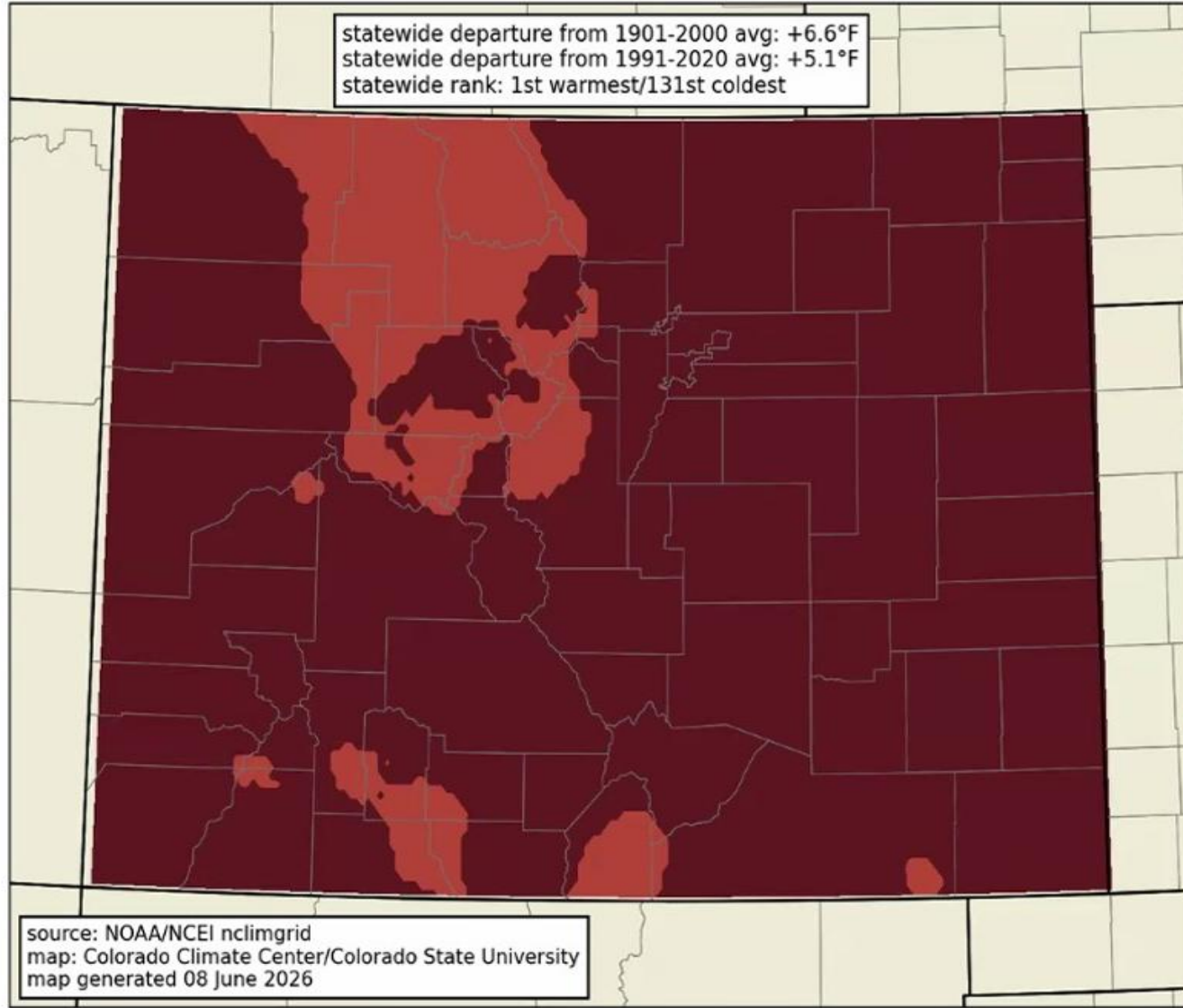


How did we get here?



average temperature rank
8 months ending May 2026 (Oct-May)

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +6.6°F
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +5.1°F
statewide rank: 1st warmest/131st coldest



Statewide: Warmest first eight months of a water year in 131 years of records

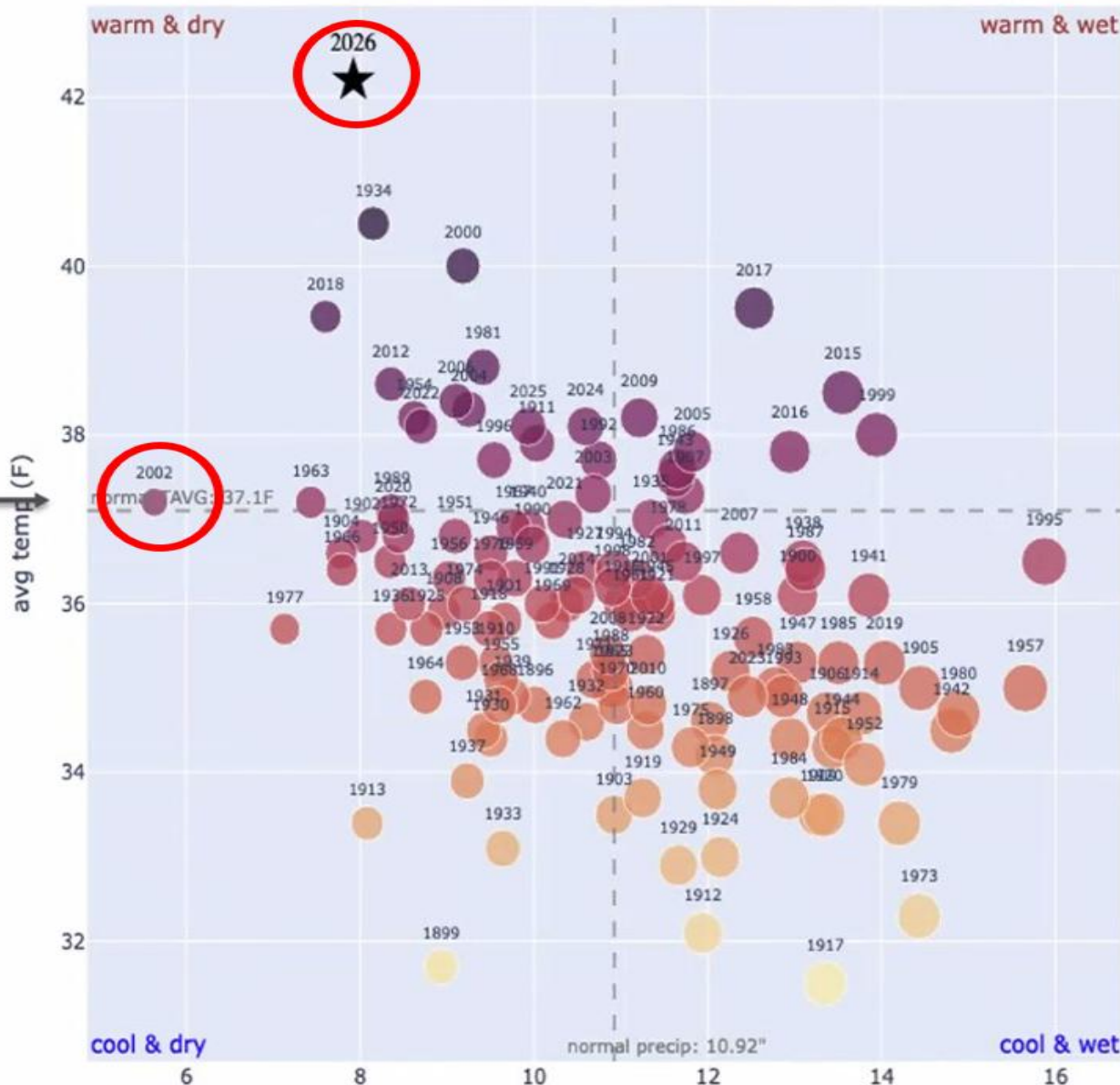
5.1°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average

1.7°F warmer than the previous record (WY 1934)

Colorado statewide average temperature and precipitation, October - May

Warm & dry
October through May

1991-2020 avg temp



Warm & wet
The first eight months of water year 2026 were the warmest on record by far, and among the top 10 driest.

Cool & dry

Cool & wet

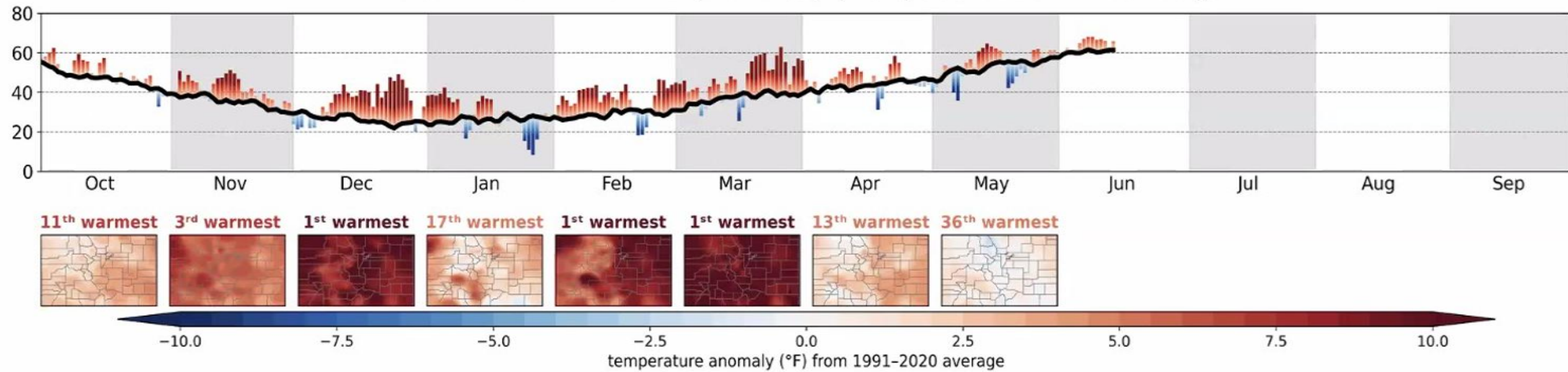
size of points proportional to precip,
color shows temp
normals are 1991-2020

accumulated precipitation (inches)

Colorado Climate Center/CSU
Data source: NOAA/NCEI Climate at a Glance

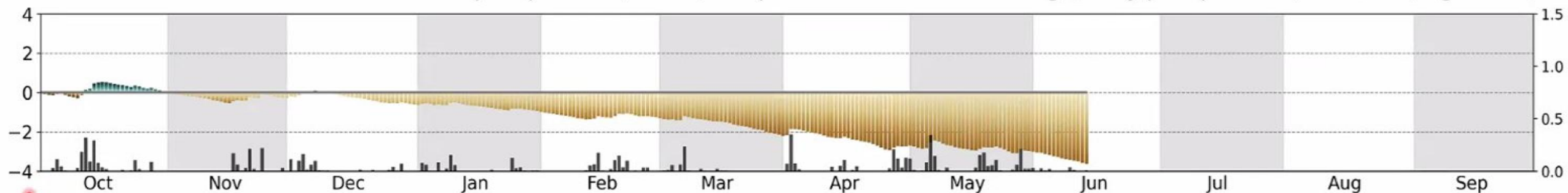
Temperature in Water Year 2026

Colorado Water Year 2026 temperatures (°F) compared to 1991-2020 average



Precipitation in Water Year 2026

Colorado Water Year 2026 accumulated precipitation (inches) compared to 1991-2020 average; daily precipitation (black bars, right axis)



46th wettest 41st driest 30th driest 33rd driest 32nd driest 2nd driest 38th driest 50th driest

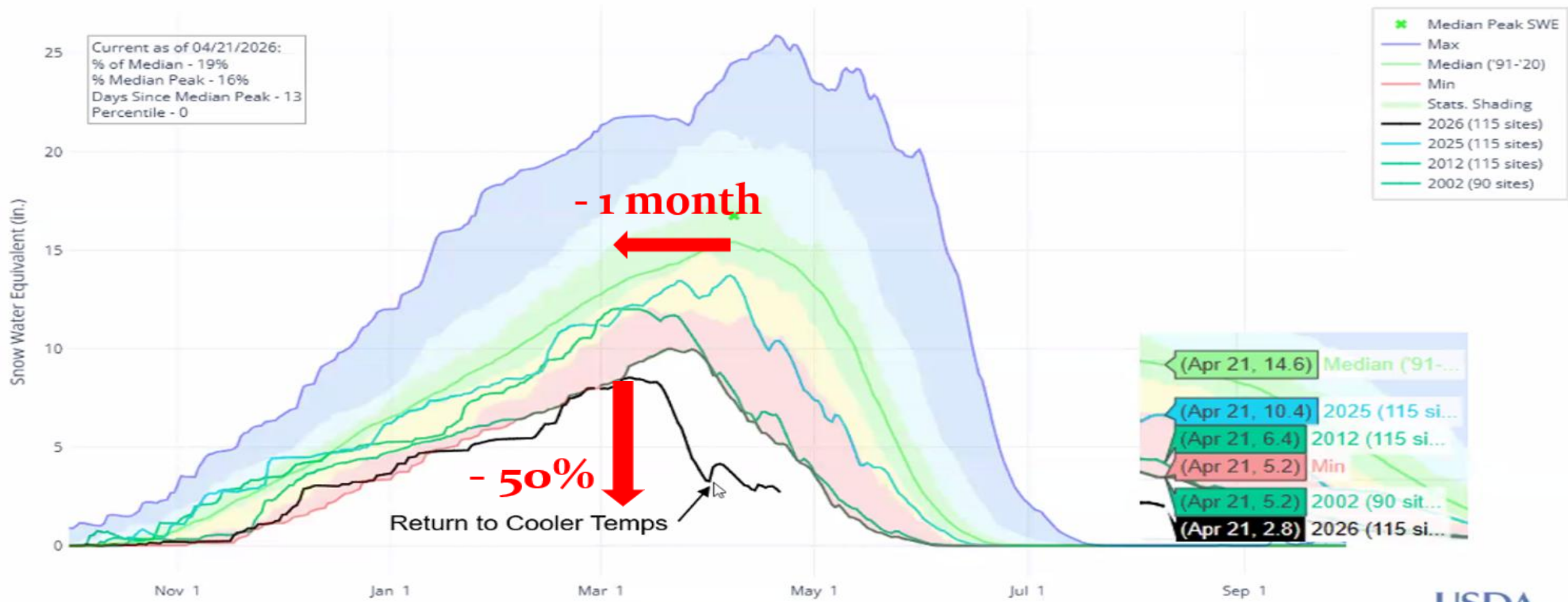


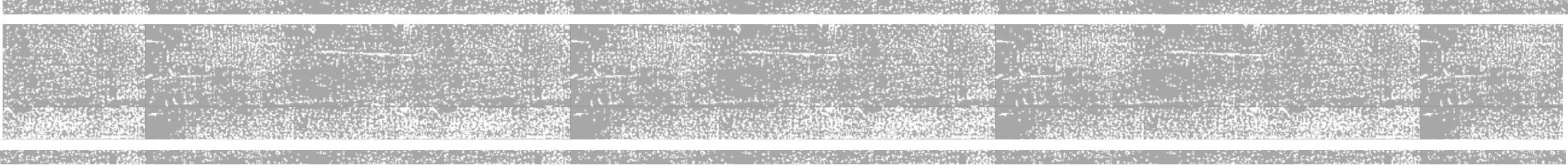
data: NOAA nClimGrid
plot by Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State Univ.

percent of 1991-2020 average precipitation

rankings out of 132 years (1895-2026)

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF COLORADO





***It's now safe to conclude that this has been the
worst year for Colorado snowpack in recorded
history***

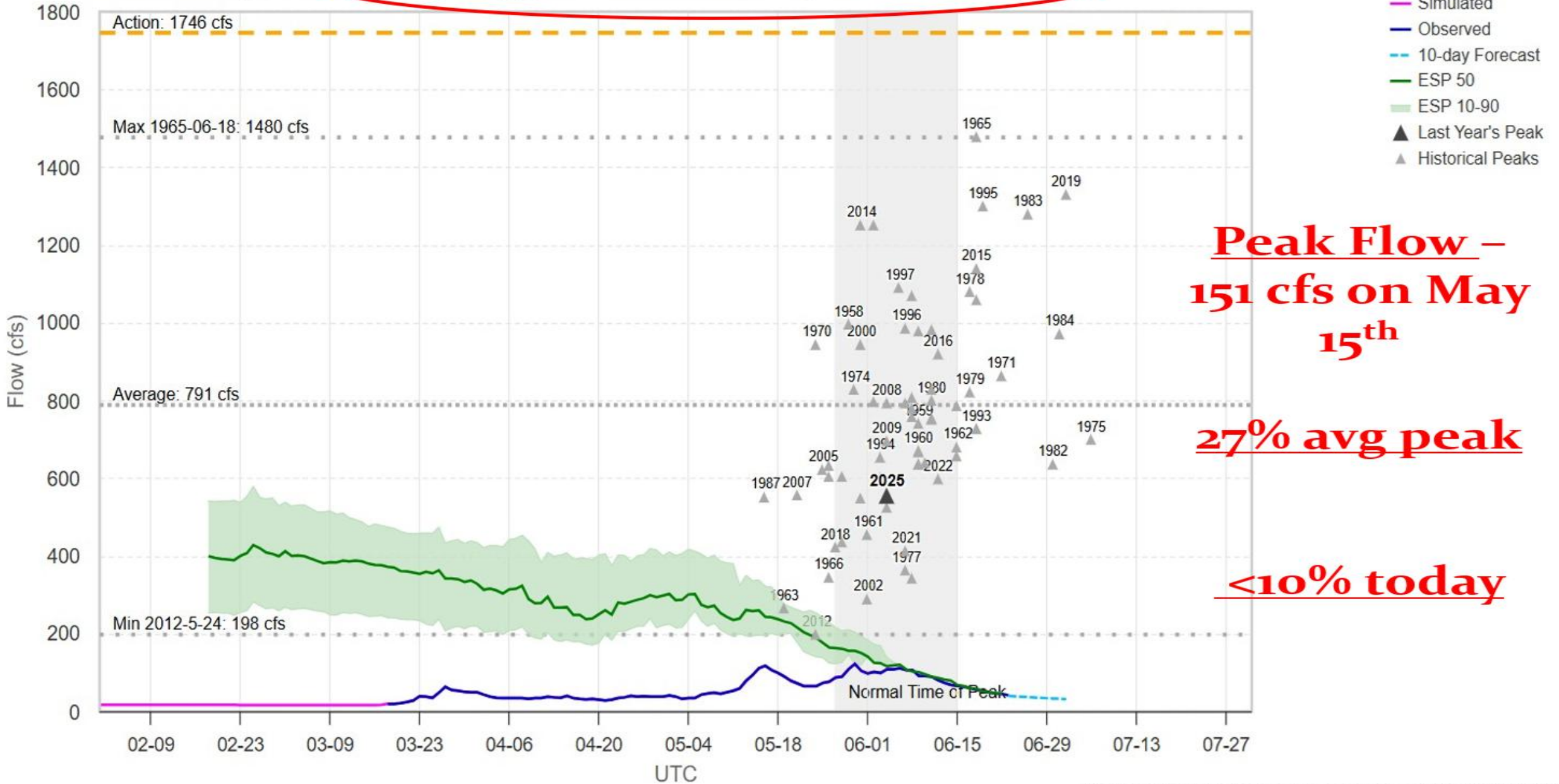
– Russ Schumacher (CO State Climatologist)



2026 Peak Flow Forecast - Tenmile Ck - Frisco, N Tenmile Ck, Blo (TCFC2)

Includes 7 Day Precipitation Forecast, Mean Daily ESP

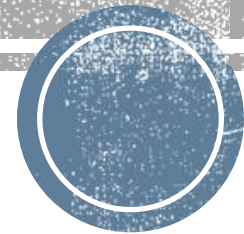
ESP 50% Fcst (2026-06-22): 46 cfs (6% Avg), (0% of Yrs Below Fcst, 69 Highest Flow / 68 Tot Yrs)



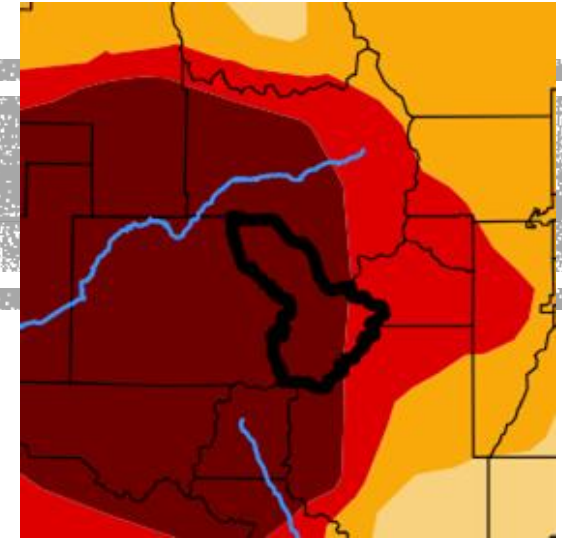




Current Conditions



Conditions Over Time



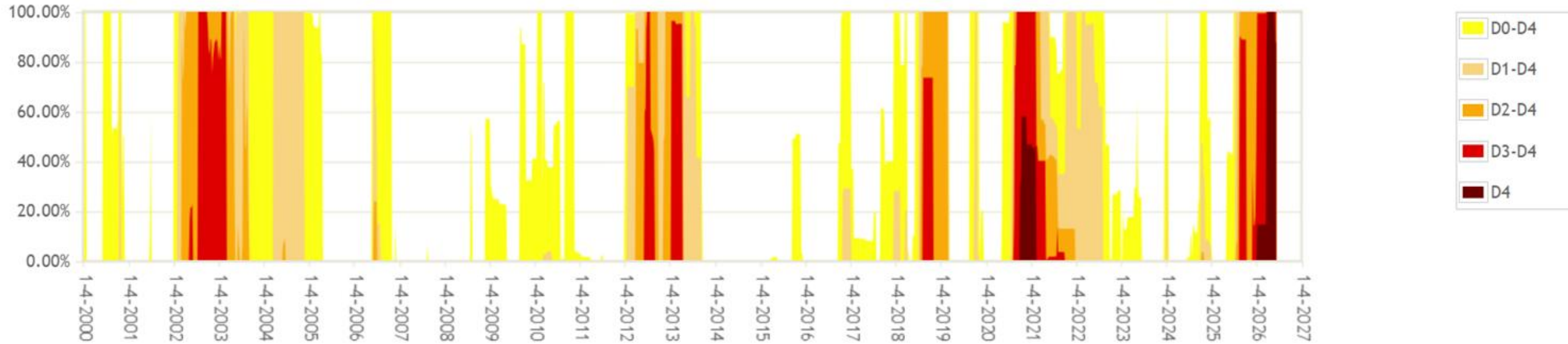
- 1) Acute crisis of the current season
- 2) Broader, structural aridification over time

Last 6 Months	1 Year	5 Years	25 Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Record breaking winter temps● Low snowpack● Early melt out	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Rapid degradation of conditions since June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Brief recovery periods do not offset cumulative impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Southwestern North American Megadrought● Signs of aridification

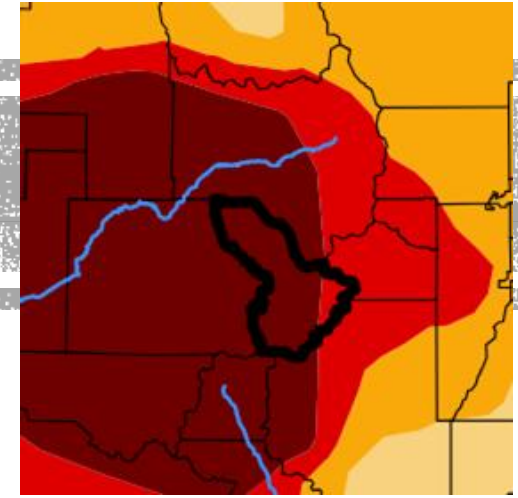


Conditions Over Time

Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



Current Conditions



Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	<u>DSCI</u>
Current	2026-06-23	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	87.70	488
Last Week to Current	2026-06-16	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	87.70	488
3 Months Ago to Current	2026-03-24	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	88.50	489
Start of Calendar Year to Current	2025-12-30	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	45.66	0.00	346
Start of Water Year to Current	2025-09-30	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	88.92	0.00	389
One Year Ago to Current	2025-06-24	56.82	43.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43

Estimated Population in Drought Areas: **27,994**



Current Conditions

27,994

people in Summit County
are affected by drought

-
- No change since last week
 - No change since last month

100%

of people in Summit
County are affected by
drought

-
- No change since last week
 - No change since last month

61st

driest May on record, over
the past 132 years

↓ 0.25
inches from normal

7th

driest year to date over the
past 132 years (January-
May 2026)

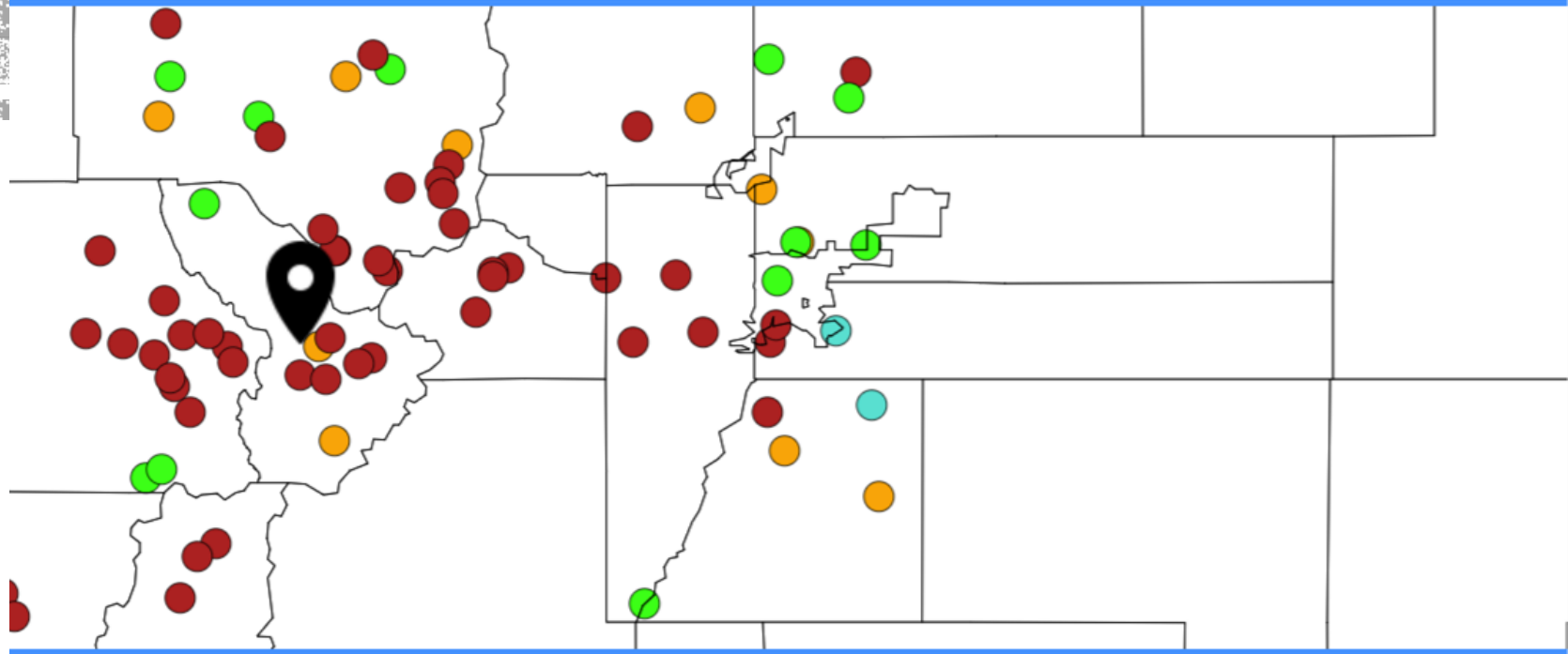
↓ 4.66
inches from normal



Current Conditions Stream Flows

tion Outlooks

PROVISION



or yesterday compared to
1-day and historical
(cubic feet per second) over
years of data are included in

S. Geological Survey,
Division

Legend

Streamflow Conditions

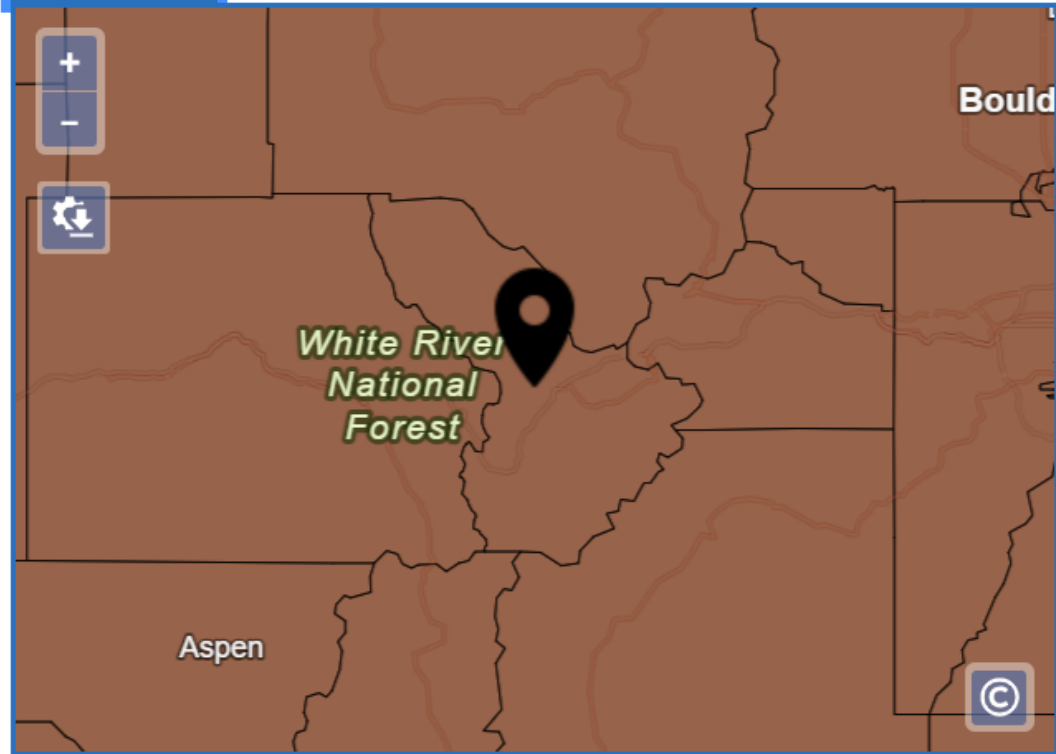


Drought Outlook

U.S. Drought Outlooks

Monthly

Seasonal



Legend

Drought Is Predicted To...



Summit County Reservoirs

Dillon Reservoir
80% full

Green Mountain Reservoir
35% full



What Can You Do?



Heather Allen

Community Programs Director

High Country Conservation Center

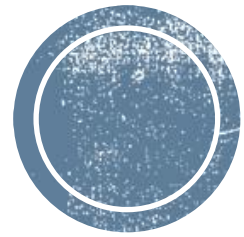


Who is HC3?

"Practical solutions for waste reduction & resource conservation in our mountain community"

- Waste Reduction
- Climate Action
- Water Conservation





Reduce Outdoor Water Waste

50% outdoor water is lost

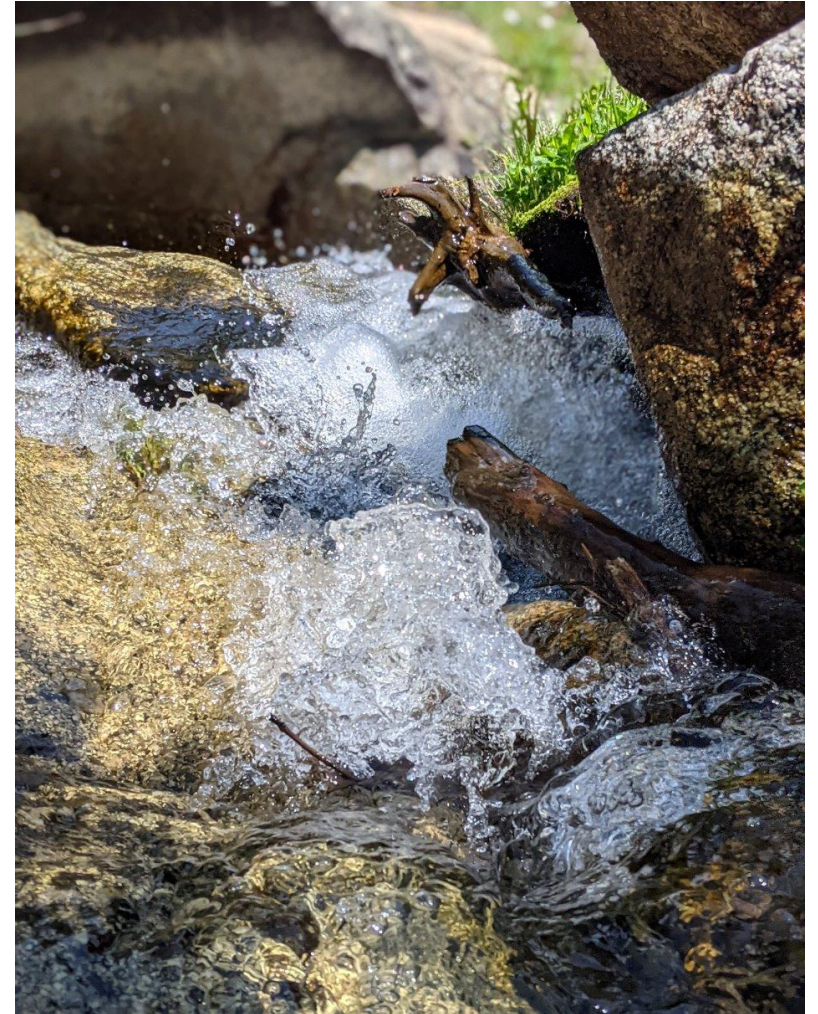
Every Drop Counts

The Colorado River serves:

- 40 million people
- 7 states + Mexico
- \$1.4 trillion in economic value
- 5.5 million acres of irrigated farmland
- 150+ at-risk species

The Colorado River is in crisis.

- Overallocated (demand > supply)
- Rising temperatures increase evaporation & need



HC3's Water Smart Lawn Program

Step #1: Free* holistic lawn assessments, with detailed reports to help you make water smart decisions

- Water budget

Step #2: Non-essential grass conversion & irrigation upgrades

Step #3: Verification & Rebates to help cover the cost of water-saving upgrades



Water Budget Example

make water saving lawn upgrades. Cost-effective irrigation solutions will help preserve p while helping maximize water savings. Non-essential, non-native grass removal can help invite pollinators important to our ecosystem.

Your Water Savings Opportunity

Historical Average Annual Water Use (Gallons)

94,000

Expected Annual Water Budget (Gallons)

41,000

Expected Water Waste Reduction (Gallons)

53,000

Potential reduction to your annual water bill (based on 2025 rates):

\$477.00



Local Compost

**Feed Yourself. Then Your Soil.
Save Water.**

Transform your food scraps into compost with HC3's FREE Food Scrap program.

Local compost adds nutrients to your lawn or garden, and helps soil retain moisture—

A layer of compost or compost mulch can cut how often you water by about half!



Water Education

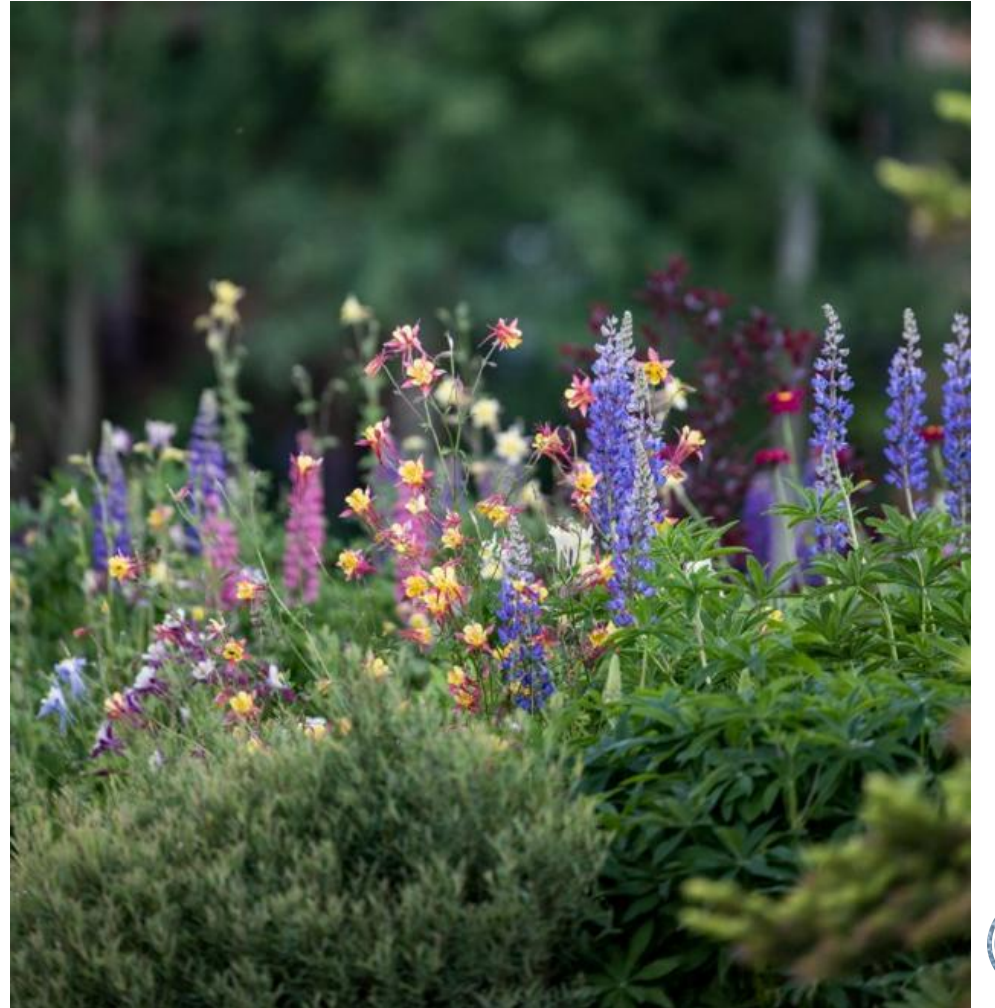
Water in the West Series

Highside Brewing, Frisco

3rd Wednesday, 5:30-7p

- June 17th
- July 22nd
- August 19th

Water Manager Education

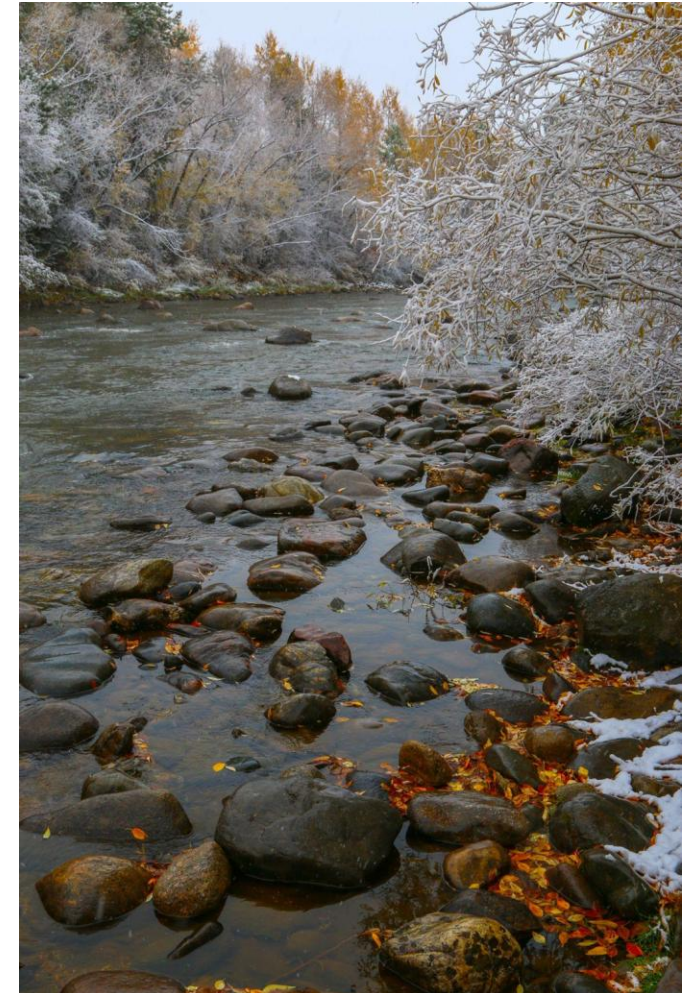


Water Efficiency Plans

HC3 is Working with Local Partners to Update Local Water Efficiency Plans

The Copper Metropolitan District and the Towns of Breckenridge, Dillon, and Frisco are teaming up with the High Country Conservation Center to refresh their 2018 Water Efficiency Plans. This collaborative effort will help shape the future of water conservation in Summit County — and your input matters.

Email input to info@highcountryconservation.org.



Watering Restrictions

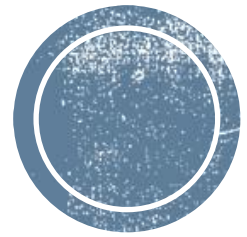
HC3 can help you understand watering restrictions in your area

Water Providers + HC3 roles

Water Smart Irrigation Management

- Cycle & Soak
- Seasonal Adjustments





Reduce Indoor Water Waste

Every Drop Counts!

Practical Waste Reduction

Install high-efficiency shower heads

- look for WaterSense label

Turn off water

- Avoid running while shaving, brushing, lathering, hand-washing dishes

Avoid hand-washing dishes

Trim your shower time

- Every drop counts!

Replace old toilets

- A high-efficiency toilet can pay for itself over time in water savings

What do you do?



Helpful Links & Contact

[Water Smart Lawn Program Rundown](#)

[Water Smart Lawn Assessment Sign Up](#)

[Free Food Scrap Program](#)

HighCountryConservation.org/water

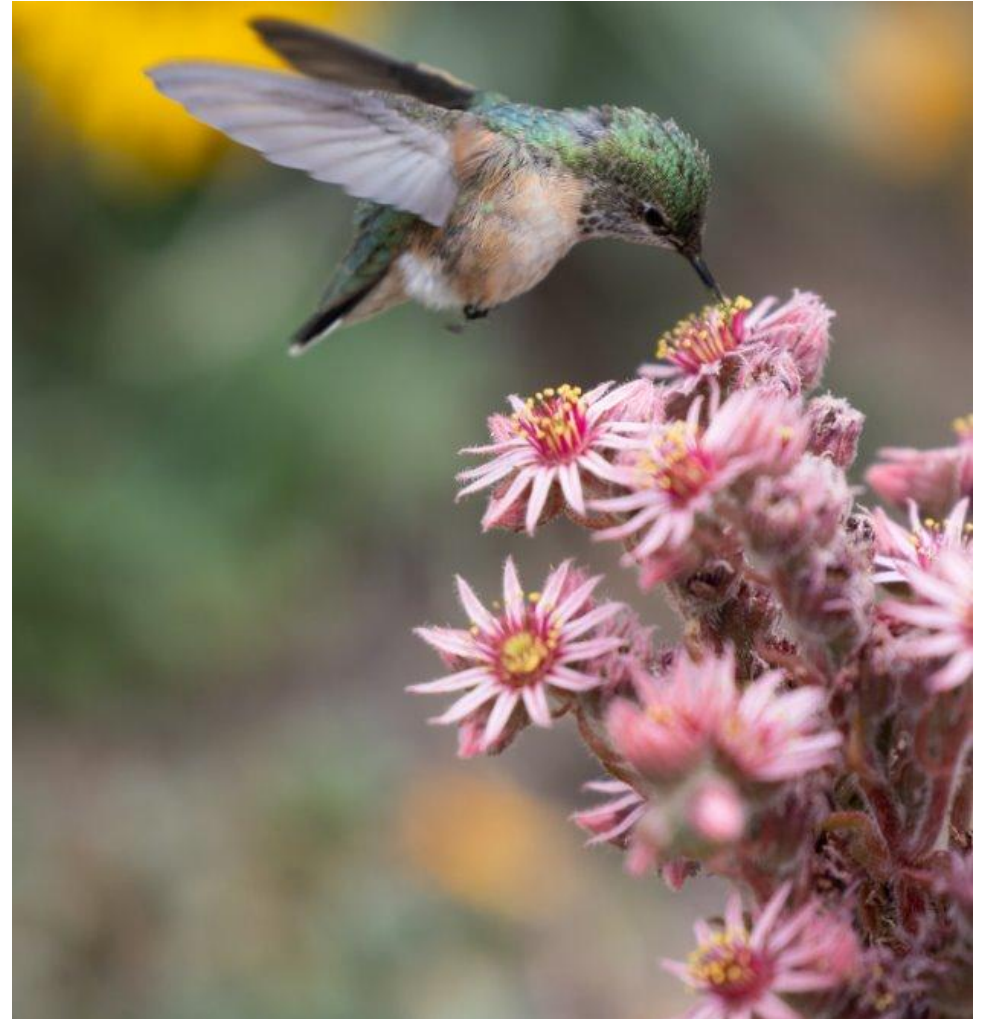
Heather Allen

Community Programs Director

Heather@highcountryconservation.org

970.668.5703

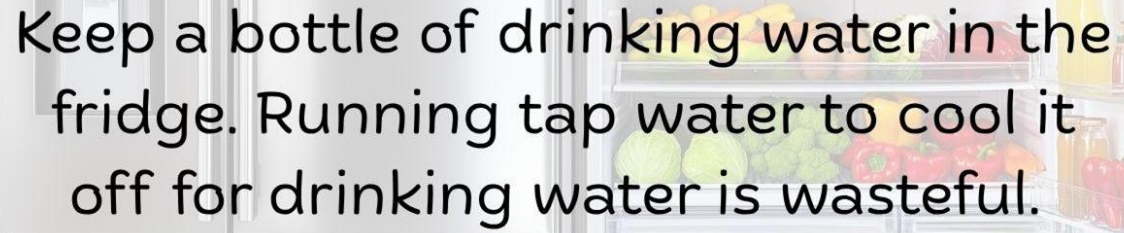
Info@highcountryconservation.org



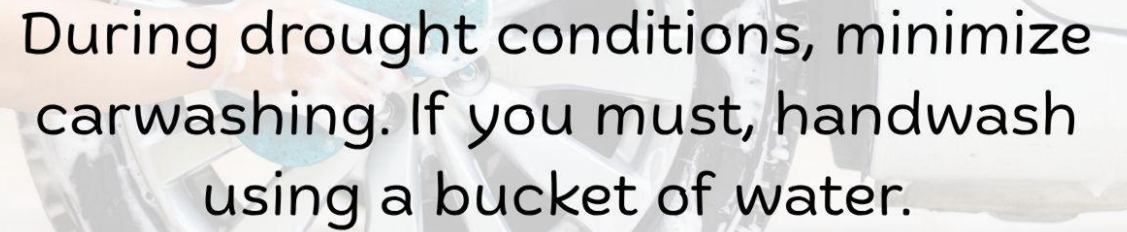
Other Water Conservation Practices

https://www.middleparkcd.com/files/c9ab6999c/Routine_Water_Conservation_Practices_MPCD.pdf



A photograph of an open refrigerator. The shelves are filled with various fresh fruits and vegetables, including apples, oranges, and leafy greens. A clear plastic bottle of water is visible on the right side of the refrigerator.

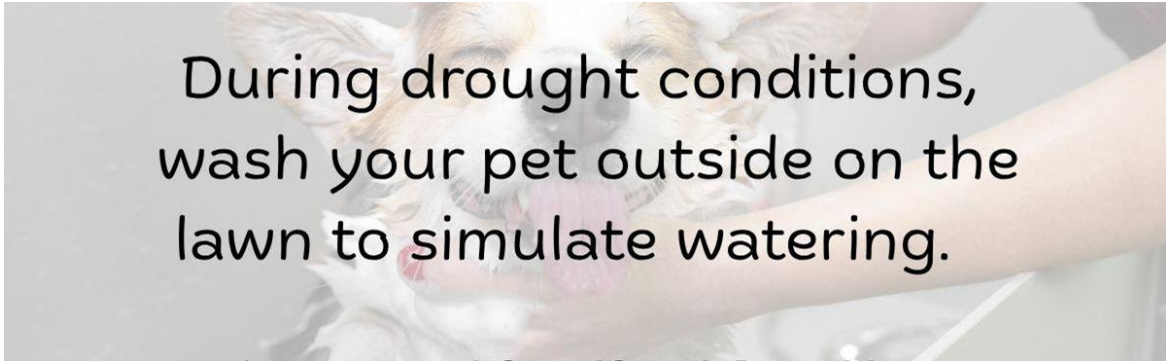
Keep a bottle of drinking water in the fridge. Running tap water to cool it off for drinking water is wasteful.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands using a blue sponge to wash a car's alloy wheel. The wheel is wet with water, and the background is slightly blurred.

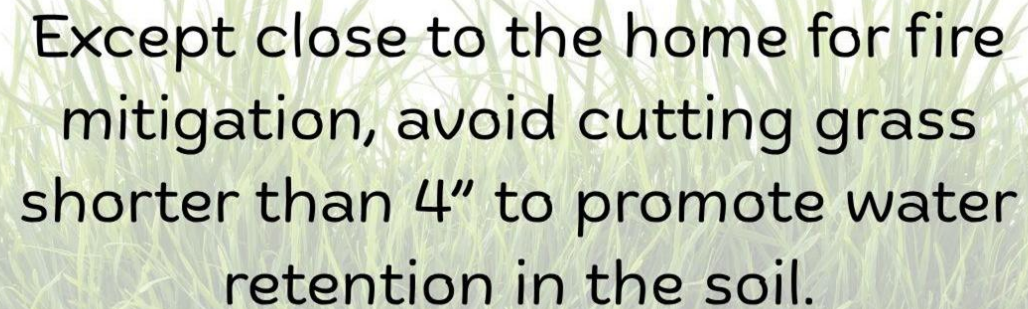
During drought conditions, minimize carwashing. If you must, handwash using a bucket of water.

A photograph showing a person's hands spreading brown mulch around a flower bed. The flowers are yellow and green, and the mulch is being applied in a circular pattern.

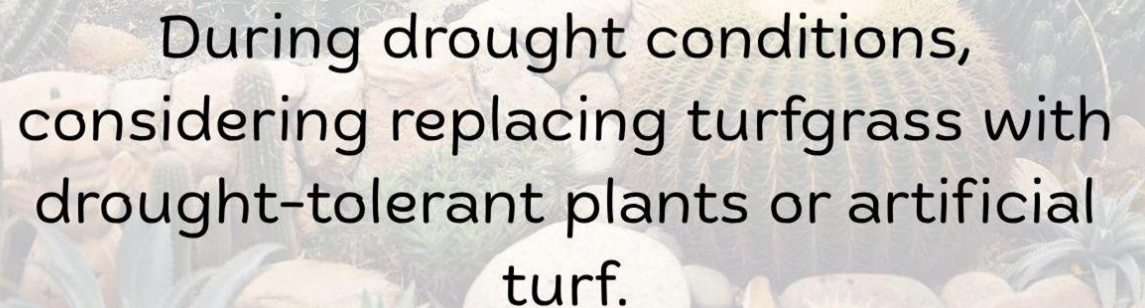
Mulch flowerbeds, trees and shrubs to retain water.

A photograph of a person's hands washing a dog's face. The dog is a small, light-colored breed, and the person is using water to clean its face.

During drought conditions, wash your pet outside on the lawn to simulate watering.

A close-up photograph of green grass, showing the blades and the texture of the grass.

Except close to the home for fire mitigation, avoid cutting grass shorter than 4" to promote water retention in the soil.

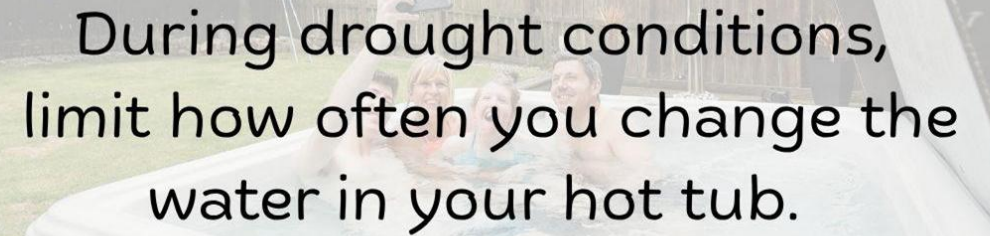
A photograph of a garden bed featuring several drought-tolerant plants, including succulents and small shrubs, arranged around large, light-colored rocks.

During drought conditions, considering replacing turfgrass with drought-tolerant plants or artificial turf.

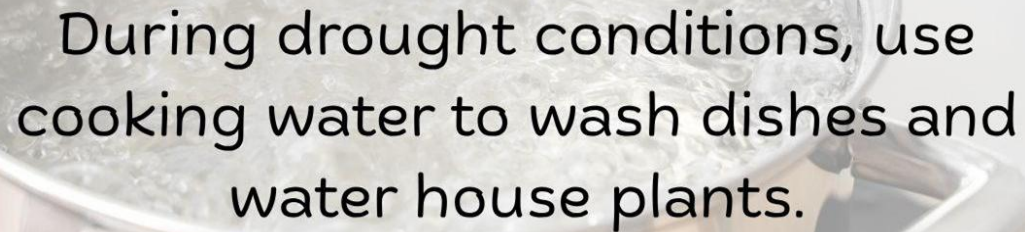




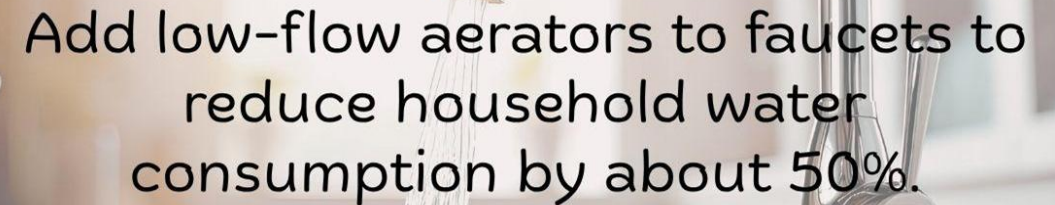
Use the shortest wash cycle for lightly soiled loads of laundry.



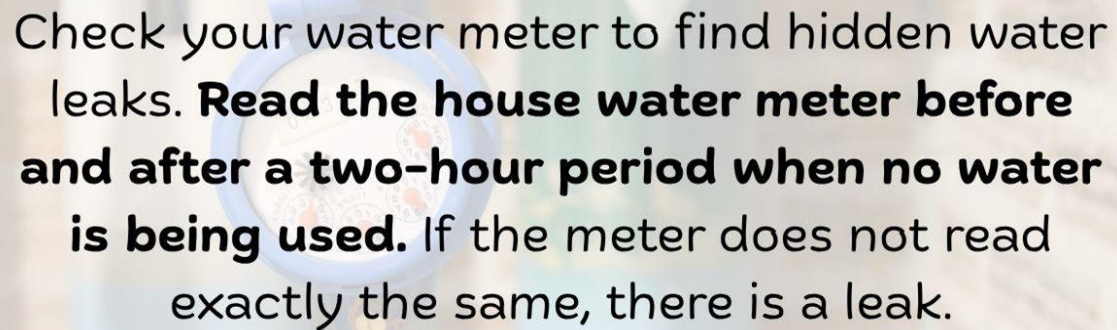
During drought conditions, limit how often you change the water in your hot tub.



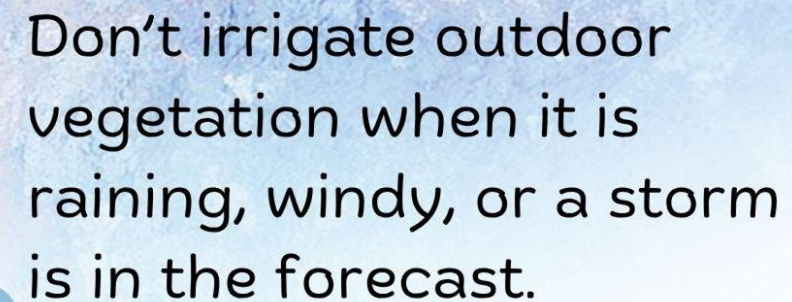
During drought conditions, use cooking water to wash dishes and water house plants.



Add low-flow aerators to faucets to reduce household water consumption by about 50%.

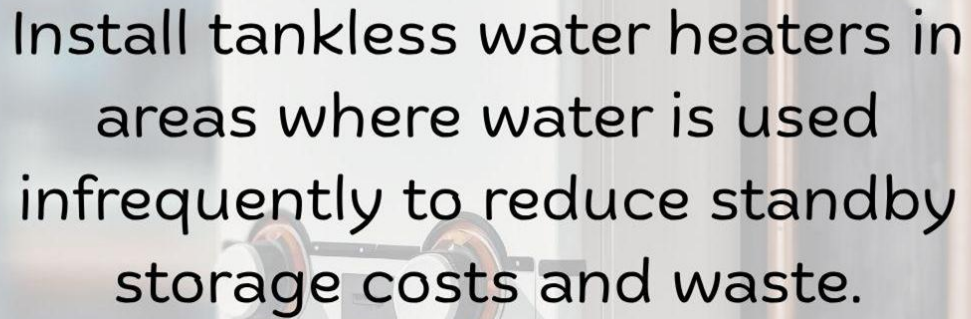


Check your water meter to find hidden water leaks. **Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used.** If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

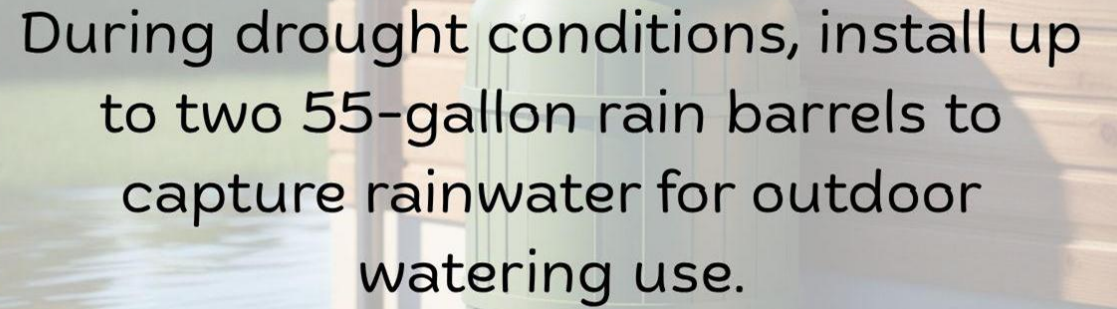


Don't irrigate outdoor vegetation when it is raining, windy, or a storm is in the forecast.

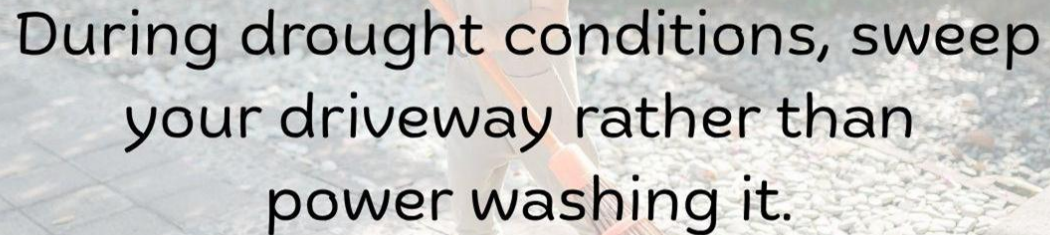


A person is shown using a tankless water heater. The heater is a wall-mounted unit with two large pipes, one for cold water and one for hot water. The person is standing next to it, and the background is a blurred indoor setting.

Install tankless water heaters in areas where water is used infrequently to reduce standby storage costs and waste.

A green 55-gallon rain barrel is shown outdoors. It is a cylindrical container with a handle and a spout. The barrel is positioned next to a wooden deck or fence, and the background shows a blurred outdoor setting.

During drought conditions, install up to two 55-gallon rain barrels to capture rainwater for outdoor watering use.

A person is shown sweeping a driveway. The person is wearing a dark shirt and blue shoes, and is using a broom to sweep the driveway. The driveway is made of concrete and has some gravel on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

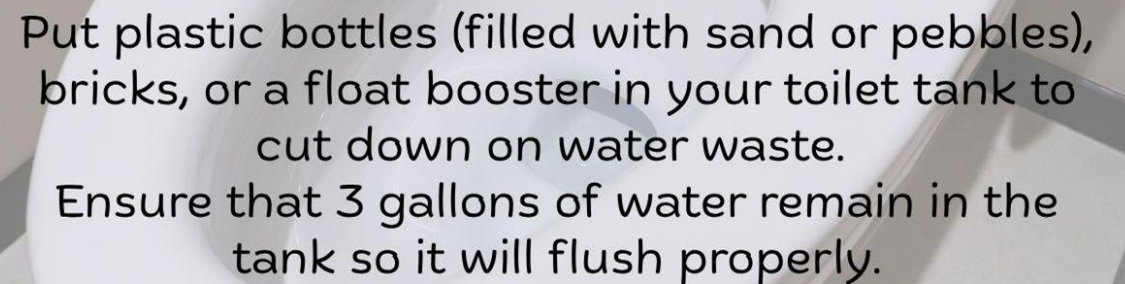
During drought conditions, sweep your driveway rather than power washing it.

A sprinkler head is shown in a gutter. The sprinkler head is black and is positioned in a gutter. The gutter is filled with leaves and debris. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Adjust sprinklers to avoid spraying on concrete or asphalt and pooling in gutters/streets.

A hand is shown holding a glass of water. The hand is holding the glass by the rim, and the glass is filled with water. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

At restaurants, only ask the server for water if you actually intend to drink it.

A toilet tank is shown. The tank is white and has a float valve. The float valve is a small, cylindrical object that floats on the water in the tank. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

Put plastic bottles (filled with sand or pebbles), bricks, or a float booster in your toilet tank to cut down on water waste. Ensure that 3 gallons of water remain in the tank so it will flush properly.





Questions

