

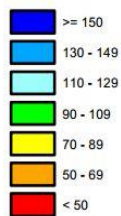
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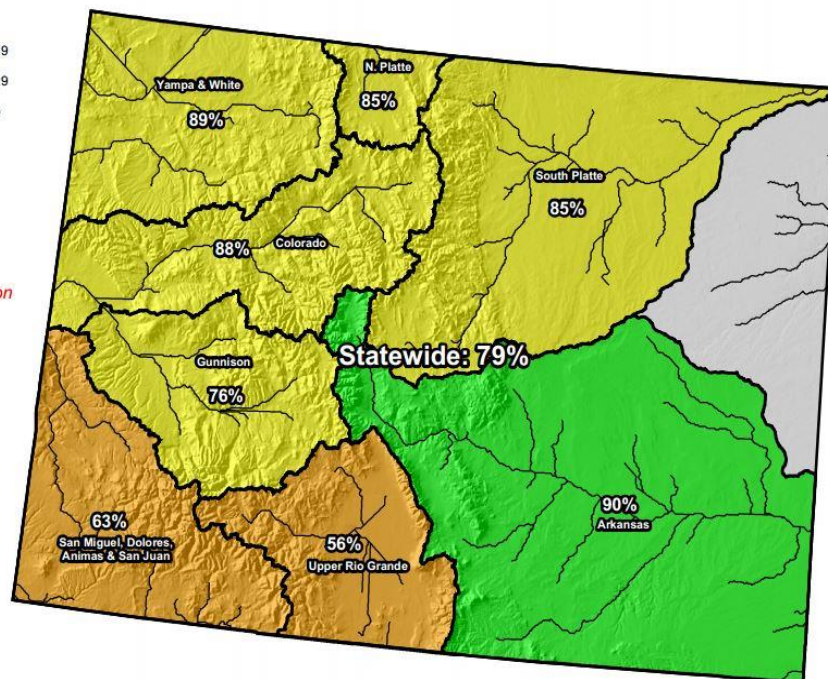
## Current Colorado Snow Pack

### Colorado SNOTEL Snowpack Update Map

Percent of Median



Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision



Current as of 12/18/2014

\*Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions

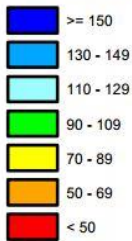
The snow season was off to a slow start for the high country but the month of December provided beneficial snow for not only the ski resorts but for storage as runoff next spring. Colorado is one of the few states that are the headwaters for many major river systems but only one flows into the state as the Green River clips NW Colorado. The snow that accumulates over the mountains during the winter is crucial for our rivers and streams as well as storage in our reservoirs. The water from the many reservoirs supplies drinking water for a large majority of Colorado residents. If snowfall lacks in the mountains we all pay the consequences with

impacts on recreation, farming and much more. Above is a map generated on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December which reported statewide snow pack at only 79%. All of the river basins in the state were below normal with the San Juan Mountains of SW Colorado suffering the most with only 56% snowpack for the Rio Grande basin and 63% for the San Miguel, Dolores, San Juan and Animas river basins.

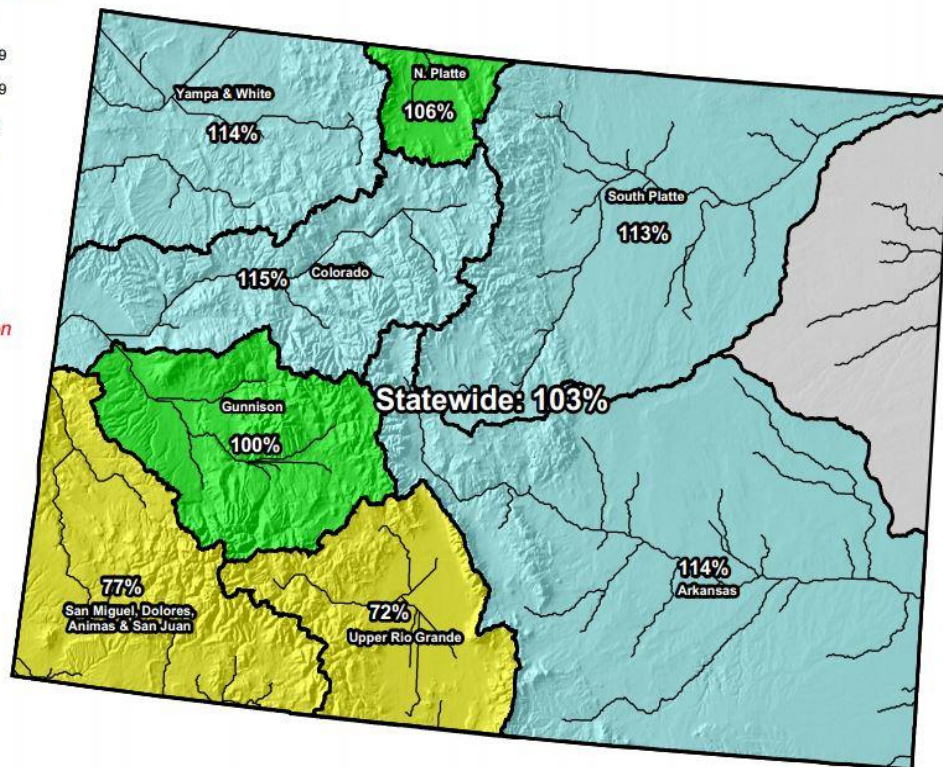
By then end of December just 12 days after the previous map, state wide snow pack had climbed to 103% with all of the river basins at or above 100% snow pack except for the San Juan Mountains of SW Colorado. Snow totals so far this season may be a little below normal on the plains but where we need the snow the most in the mountains we are looking good to this point. It does not take long without snow in the mountains for the snow pack %'s to decrease so we will need to maintain an active weather pattern through the remainder of winter and spring to ensure that there is enough water to fill our reservoirs in the late spring and summer.

## Colorado SNOTEL Snowpack Update Map

### Percent of Median



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of 12/30/2014

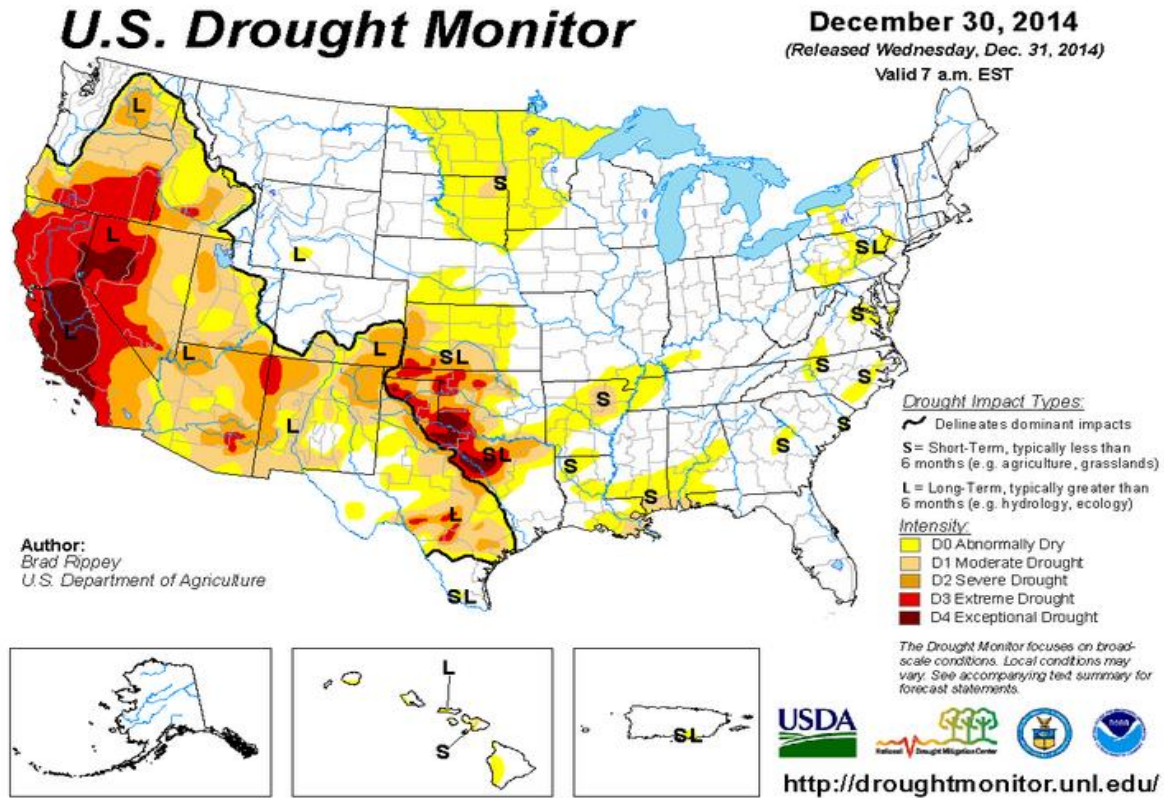
\*Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions

Colorado snow pack maps can be found on the web at:

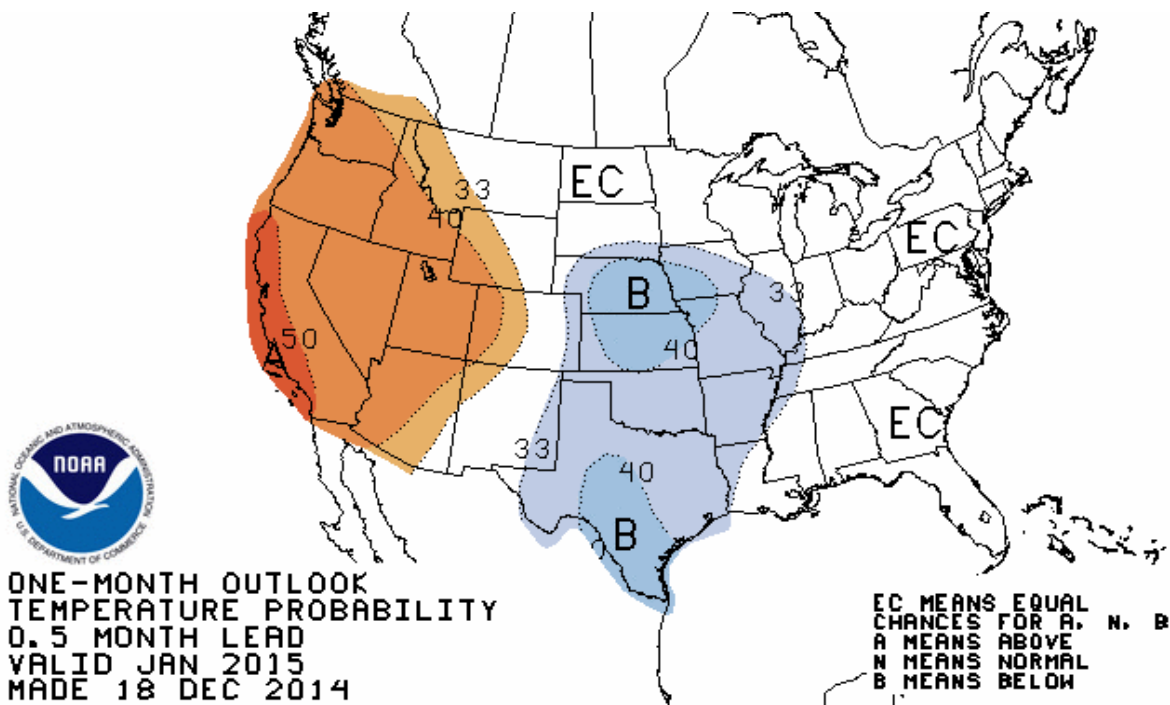
[ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CO/Snow/snow/watershed/daily/co\\_update\\_snow.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CO/Snow/snow/watershed/daily/co_update_snow.pdf)

# Drought Update

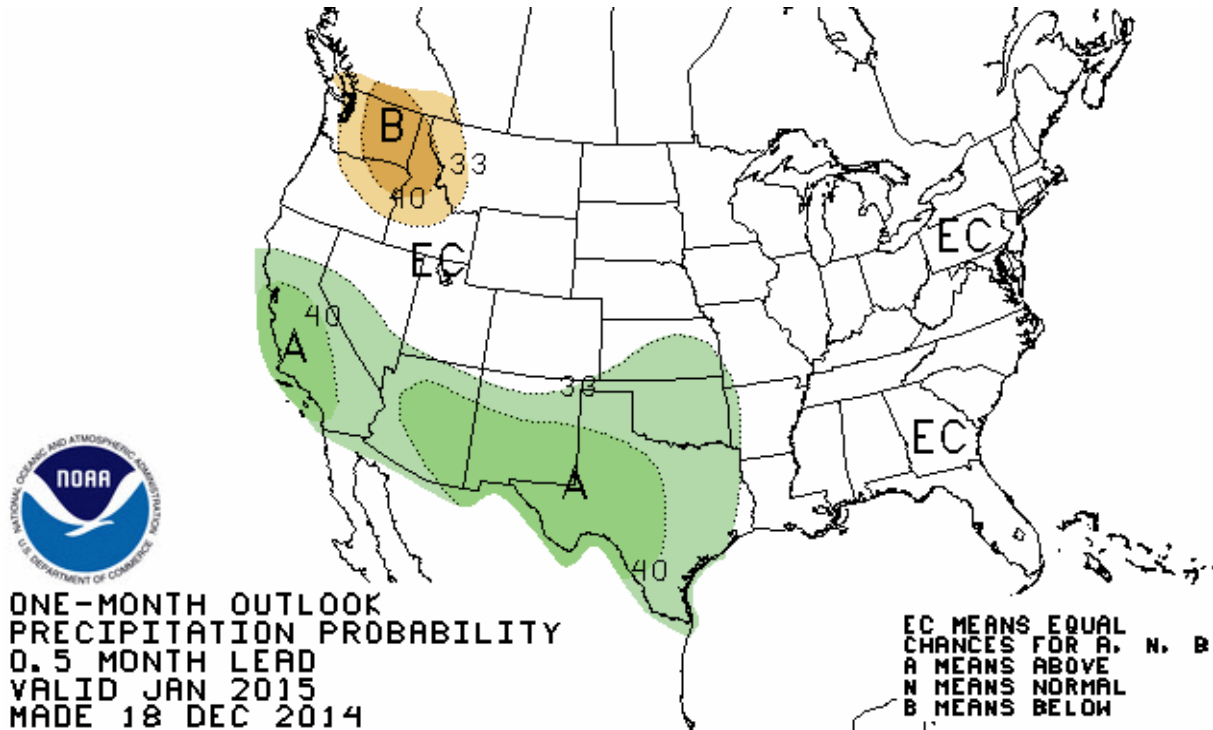
Drought severity has eased over portions of AZ and NM with exceptional drought over a large area of CA/NV persisting. Drought free conditions over much of Colorado with the exception of SE portions of the state. The eastern US remains relatively drought free.



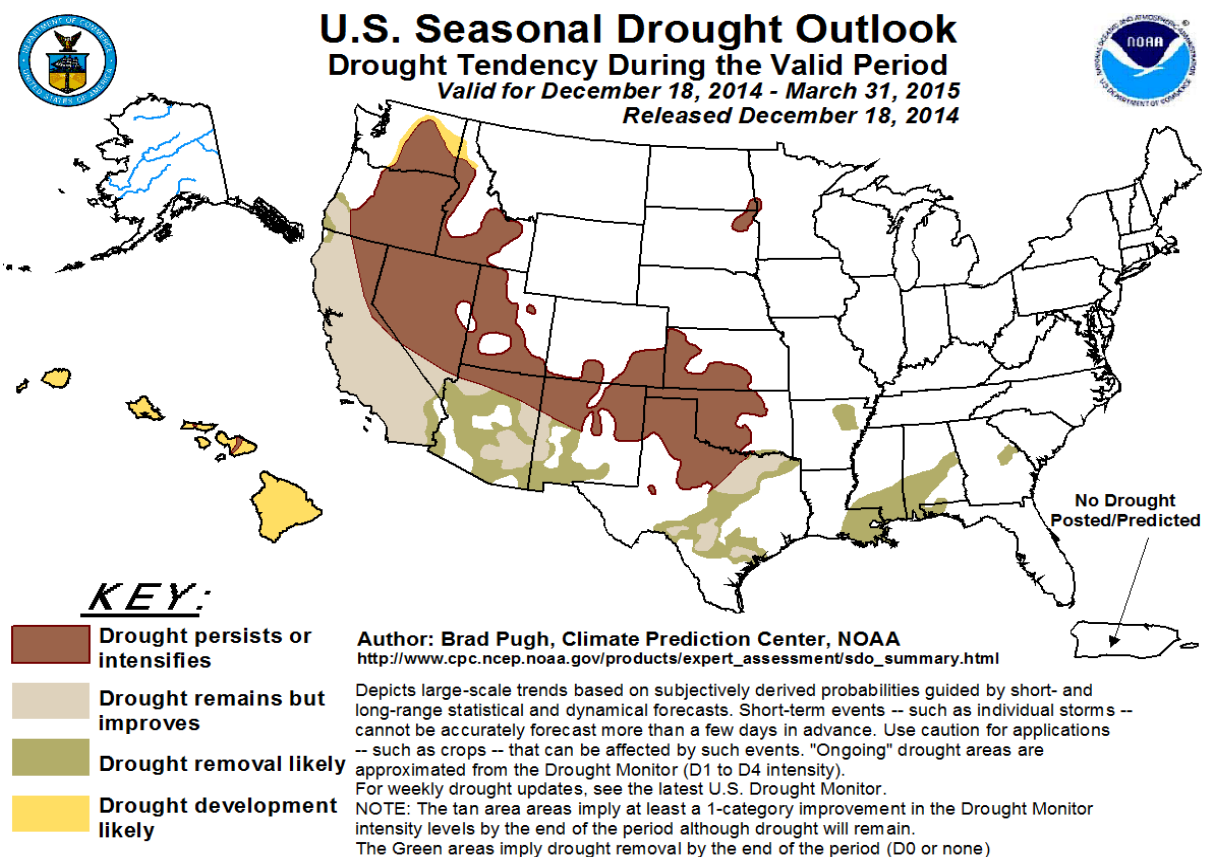
The map below shows forecasted temperature deviances for January 2015. A slight bias towards below normal temperatures exists over far E Colorado with a bias towards above normal temperatures over W Colorado.



The map below shows forecasted precipitation deviances for January 2015. Near normal precipitation is expected over Colorado.



Drought conditions are forecast to persist over SE Colorado with drought free conditions over most of the state. Drought conditions are forecast to improve over much of CA, AZ, NM and TX as we transition into an El Nino type pattern late this winter.



## December Summary

The snow machine finally turned on during the month of December with above normal snowfall and precipitation for the Denver Metro area. Temperatures overall were above normal but from Christmas through the end of the month there was a cold snap and some long standing records were broken with temperatures well below zero. Overall average high temperatures were 44.1 degrees with a high for the month of 66 on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Average low temperatures were 18.5 degrees with a low of -19 for the month on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Both average high and low temperatures were slightly above normal producing a monthly mean of 31.3 degrees compared to 30.0 on average a difference of 1.3 degrees. There were 5 days where the temperature did not break freezing and on the 30<sup>th</sup> the temperature only warmed to 1 degree setting a new record low max for the day. Precipitation for the month was 0.59", 0.24" above the normal of 0.35". For the year DIA has now reported 18.77" of moisture which is 4.47" above the normal of 14.30". Snowfall for the month at DIA was 12.0" with most of that falling with 2 storms as 5.1" was measured on the 25-26<sup>th</sup> and 5.9" on the 29-30<sup>th</sup>. The 12" was 3.5" above the normal of 8.5" and helped cut into the snow deficit which now stands at -6.5" for the snow season. With some of the better snow months of the year still on the horizon and above normal snowfall expected getting back to normal is still quite possible.

## December Stats

### TEMPERATURE (IN DEGREES F)

AVERAGE MAX	44.1	NORMAL 42.8	DEPARTURE 1.3
AVERAGE MIN	18.5	NORMAL 17.1	DEPARTURE 1.4
MONTHLY MEAN	31.3	NORMAL 30.0	DEPARTURE 1.3
HIGHEST	66	on 12/12	
LOWEST	-19	on 12/30	

DAYS WITH MAX 90 OR ABOVE	0	NORMAL	0
DAYS WITH MAX 32 OR BELOW	5	NORMAL	6
DAYS WITH MIN 32 OR BELOW	31	NORMAL	29
DAYS WITH MIN ZERO OR BELOW	2	NORMAL	2

### TEMPERATURE RECORDS

New record low max of 1 degree on 12/30

New record low of -19 on 12/30

### HEATING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	1037	NORMAL 1086	DEPARTURE -49
SEASONAL TOTAL	2291	NORMAL 2468	DEPARTURE -177

### COOLING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL 0	DEPARTURE 0
YEARLY TOTAL	701	NORMAL 769	DEPARTURE -68

### PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	0.59	NORMAL 0.35	DEPARTURE 0.24
YEARLY TOTAL	18.77	NORMAL 14.30	DEPARTURE 4.47
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	0.18" on 12/29-12/30		
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIP.	7		

### SNOWFALL (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	12.0	NORMAL 8.5	DEPARTURE 3.5
SEASONAL TOTAL	16.0	NORMAL 22.5	DEPARTURE -6.5
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	5.9" on 12/29-12/30		
GREATEST DEPTH	NA		

### WIND (IN MILES PER HOUR)

AVERAGE SPEED	8.7mph
PEAK WIND GUST	52mph from the NNW on 12/23

### MISCELLANEOUS WEATHER

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORM	0	NORMAL	0
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HEAVY FOG	3	NORMAL	1
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HAIL	0		
NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS	4		
NUMBER OF PARTLY CLOUDY DAYS	19		
NUMBER OF CLOUDY DAYS	8		
AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY	59%		

## January Preview

The month of January is typically one of the drier and colder months of the year but there can be some warm days mixed in as well. Average high temperatures for the month are 44 degrees and the average lows are 17.4 degrees. The record high for January is 76 degrees and the record low is -29 degrees resulting in a temperature spread of 105 degrees! We likely will not see any 70's this month but there is a good chance to see some 60's. As we all know "normal" in Colorado is just a number as on a daily basis we are typically above or below the norm. January usually features multiple arctic outbreaks where the temperatures fall well below zero overnight with highs only in the single digits. With the cold air mass intrusions the snow in January is "dry" and "powdery" with low water content. Despite only 0.41" of moisture on average snowfall for the month is 7.0" which is the 4<sup>th</sup> snowiest month of the season. There are typically 2 storms that produce more than 1" of snow with 4-5 total measureable snow storms during the month. Skyview Weather believes that January of 2015 will feature below normal temperatures and near normal snowfall and precipitation.

### DENVER'S JANUARY CLIMATOLOGICALLY NORMAL (NORMAL PERIOD 1981-2010 DIA Data)

#### TEMPERATURE

AVERAGE HIGH	44.0
AVERAGE LOW	17.4
MONTHLY MEAN	30.7
DAYS WITH HIGH 90 OR ABOVE	0
DAYS WITH HIGH 32 OR BELOW	6
DAYS WITH LOW 32 OR BELOW	29
DAYS WITH LOWS ZERO OR BELOW	2

#### PRECIPITATION

MONTHLY MEAN	0.41"
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION	4
AVERAGE SNOWFALL IN INCHES	7.0"
DAYS WITH 1.0 INCH OF SNOW OR MORE	2

#### MISCELLANEOUS AVERAGES

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	1063
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	0
WIND SPEED (MPH)	8.6mph
WIND DIRECTION	South
DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORMS	0
DAYS WITH DENSE FOG	1
PERCENT OF SUNSHINE POSSIBLE	71%

#### EXTREMES

RECORD HIGH	76 on 1/27/1888
RECORD LOW	-29 on 1/9/1875

WARMEST  
 COLDEST  
 WETTEST  
 DRIEST  
 SNOWIEST  
 LEAST SNOWIEST

40.3 in 1986  
 16.9 in 1930  
 2.35" in 1883  
 0.01" in 1933  
 24.3" in 1992  
 TR in 2003 and 1934

## Snowfall

### October 2014 to April 2015

City	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Aurora (Central)	0.0	5.5	8.4					13.9
Brighton	0.0	2.7	8.2					10.9
Broomfield	0.0	5.6	11.8					17.4
Castle Rock	0.2	7.0	12.4					19.6
Colo Sprgs Airport	0.0	6.8	4.2					11.0
Denver DIA	0.0	4.0	12.0					16.0
Denver Downtown	0.0	5.0	9.7					14.7
Golden	0.0	9.5	13.5					23.0
Fort Collins	0.0	4.9	10.2					15.1
Highlands Ranch	0.0	7.8	15.6					23.4
Lakewood	0.0	5.3	10.7					16.0
Littleton	0.0	6.3	13.2					19.5
Parker	TR	6.5	12.4					18.9
Sedalia - Hwy 67	0.0	6.7	17.5					24.2
Thornton	0.0	4.1	9.4					13.5
Westminster	0.0	6.3	12.8					19.1
Wheat Ridge	0.0	6.4	12.0					18.4

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