

The Weather Wire

February 2015

Volume 22 Number 2

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2014 Climate Summary

Below is the 2014 NWS Denver climate summary for DIA. Some of the highlights include a yearly high of 100 degrees on 7/7 with a yearly low of -19 on 2/5 and 12/30. Precipitation for the year was well above normal with 18.77" tallied at DIA which was 4.47" above the normal of 14.30". 98 days during the year produced measureable precipitation. The greatest 24-hour precipitation total was on 7/29-7/30 with 2.85" of moisture. There were 75 days with lightning in the Denver Metro area as a whole. The last frost in spring was 5/5 and the first this past fall was 10/7. The entire Denver climate summary with additional discussion from the NWS can be found on the web at:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=BOU&issuedby=DEN&product=CLM&format=CI&version=5&glossary=0>

CLIMATE REPORT
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BOULDER, CO
 200 AM MST THU JAN 1 2015

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 ...THE DENVER CO CLIMATE SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR OF 2014...

CLIMATE NORMAL PERIOD 1981 TO 2010
 CLIMATE RECORD PERIOD 1872 TO 2014

WEATHER	OBSERVED		NORMAL VALUE	DEPART FROM NORMAL	LAST YEAR`S	
	VALUE	DATE(S)			VALUE	DATE(S)
.....						
TEMPERATURE (F)						
RECORD						
HIGH	105	06/26/2012 06/25/2012 07/20/2005 08/08/1878				
LOW	-29	01/09/1875				
HIGHEST	100	07/07	64	36	100	07/11 06/11
LOWEST	-19	12/30 02/05	36	-55	-15	12/05
AVG. MAXIMUM	64.6		64.7	-0.1	63.9	
AVG. MINIMUM	36.5		36.3	0.2	36.3	

MEAN	50.5	50.5	0.0	50.1
DAYS MAX >= 90	29	39.6	-10.6	54
DAYS MAX <= 32	24	20.0	4.0	29
DAYS MIN <= 32	150	156.9	-6.9	169
DAYS MIN <= 0	14	5.8	8.2	11

PRECIPITATION (INCHES)

RECORD

MAXIMUM	23.31	1967
MINIMUM	7.29	2008

TOTALS	18.77	14.30	4.47	17.60
DAILY AVG.	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.05
DAYS >= .01	98	79.7	18.3	82
DAYS >= .10	44	34.9	9.1	42
DAYS >= .50	10	7.6	2.4	8
DAYS >= 1.00	4	2.3	1.7	3

GREATEST

24 HR. TOTAL	2.85	07/29 TO 07/30	09/13 TO 09/14
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STORM TOTAL	2.93	4.65
(MM/DD(HH))	07/29(00) TO 07/30(00)	09/09(00) TO 09/15(00)

SNOWFALL (INCHES)

RECORDS

TOTAL	115.9	1913
		0
		0

24 HR TOTAL	23.6	12/24/1982 TO 12/24/1982
SNOW DEPTH	MM	MM

TOTALS	46.3	53.8	-7.5	72.1
LIQUID EQUIV	MM	MM	MM	MM
SINCE 7/1	16.0	22.5	-6.5	8.1
LIQUID 7/1	MM	MM	MM	MM
SNOWDEPTH AVG.	0	MM	MM	0
DAYS >= TRACE	55	33.3	21.7	60
DAYS >= 1.0	17	16.3	0.7	20

GREATEST

SNOW DEPTH	6	12/31	9	02/25
		12/30		

24 HR TOTAL	5.4	12/29	02/24 TO 02/24
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STORM TOTAL	5.9	11.7
(MM/DD(HH))	12/29(00) 12/30(00)	03/22(00) TO 03/24(00)

DEGREE_DAYS

HEATING TOTAL	5844	6059	-215	6302
SINCE 7/1	2291	2468	-207	2451
COOLING TOTAL	701	769	-68	999
SINCE 1/1	701	769	-68	999

FREEZE DATES

RECORD

EARLIEST	09/08/1962
LATEST	06/08/2007

EARLIEST	10/07
LATEST	05/05

WIND (MPH)

AVERAGE WIND SPEED	10.2	
RESULTANT WIND SPEED/DIRECTION	2/214	
HIGHEST WIND SPEED/DIRECTION	51/310	DATE 07/11
HIGHEST GUST SPEED/DIRECTION	66/340	DATE 04/29

SKY COVER

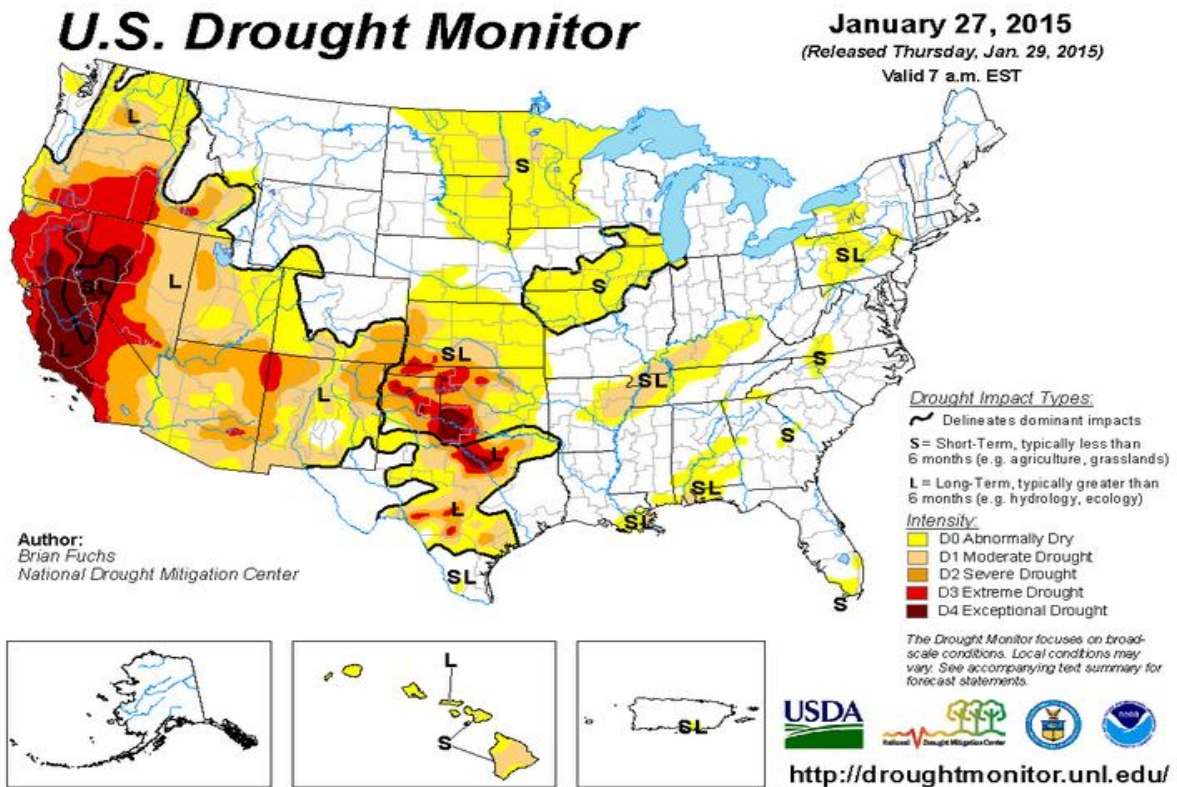
POSSIBLE SUNSHINE (PERCENT)	MM
AVERAGE SKY COVER	0.60
NUMBER OF DAYS FAIR	72
NUMBER OF DAYS PC	226

NUMBER OF DAYS CLOUDY	67		
AVERAGE RH (PERCENT)	54		
WEATHER CONDITIONS. NUMBER OF DAYS WITH			
THUNDERSTORM	0	MIXED PRECIP	1
HEAVY RAIN	15	RAIN	35
LIGHT RAIN	91	FREEZING RAIN	0
LT FREEZING RAIN	2	HAIL	6
HEAVY SNOW	6	SNOW	24
LIGHT SNOW	56	SLEET	1
FOG	115	FOG W/VIS <= 1/4 MILE	32
HAZE	57		

- INDICATES NEGATIVE NUMBERS.
R INDICATES RECORD WAS SET OR TIED.
MM INDICATES DATA IS MISSING.
T INDICATES TRACE AMOUNT.

Drought Update

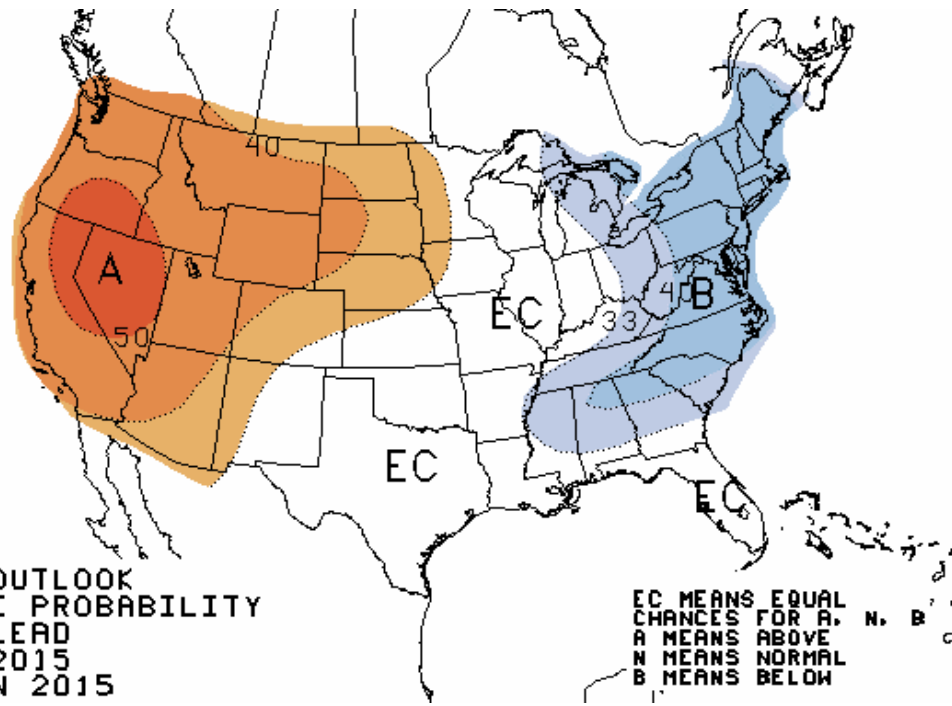
Drought severity has eased over portions of AZ and NM with exceptional drought over a large area of CA/NV persisting. Drought free conditions over much of Colorado with the exception of S/SE portions of the state.



The map below shows forecasted temperature deviances for February 2015. There is a bias towards above normal temperatures over most of the state of Colorado.



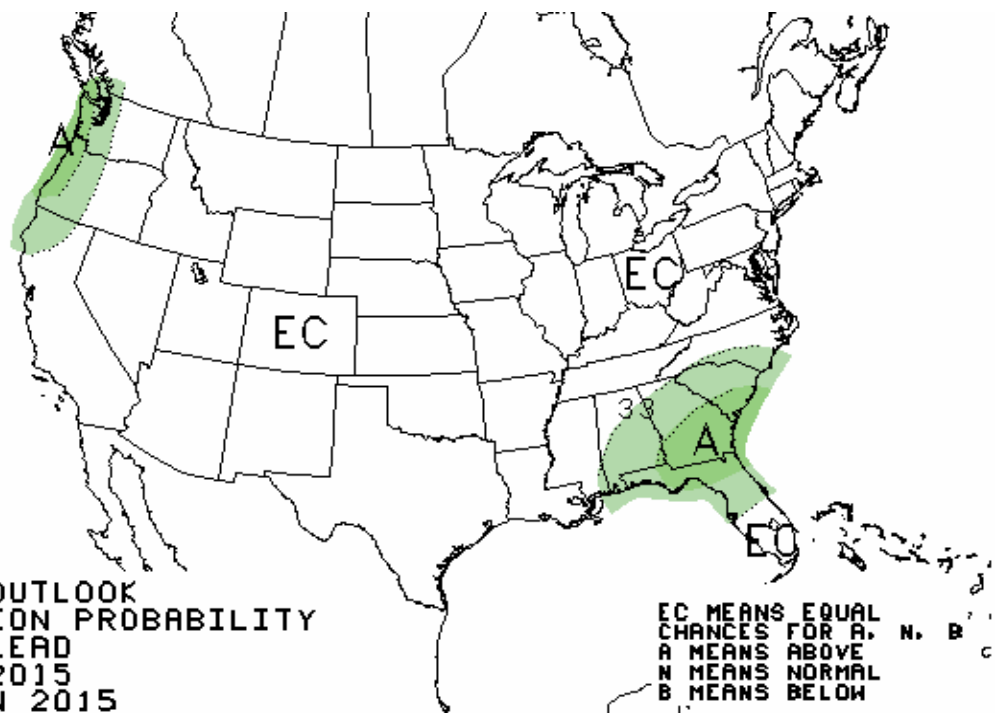
ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.0 MONTH LEAD
VALID FEB 2015
MADE 31 JAN 2015



The map below shows forecasted precipitation deviances for February 2015. Equal chances for above or below normal precipitation is forecast for Colorado.



ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.0 MONTH LEAD
VALID FEB 2015
MADE 31 JAN 2015



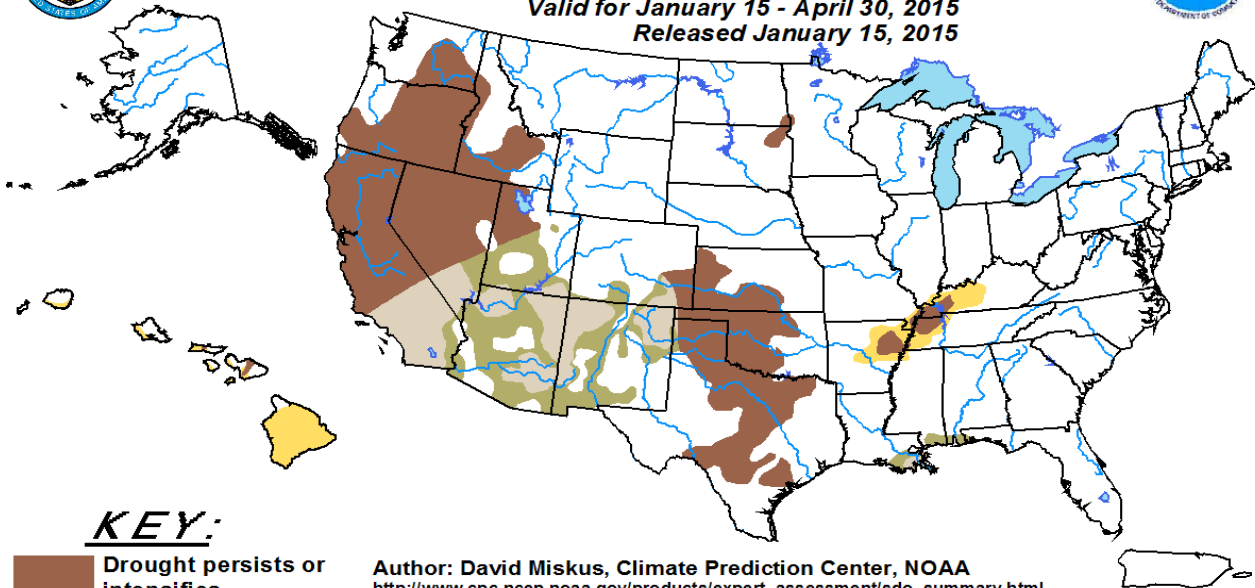
Drought conditions are forecast to improve over much of the Desert SW including portions of S and SE Colorado. Drought looks to persist or intensify over the west Coast inland through the Great Basin.







U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for January 15 - April 30, 2015
Released January 15, 2015



KEY:

-  Drought persists or intensifies
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely

Author: David Miskus, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.html

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor.

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none)

January Summary

January of 2015 was a roller coaster ride in temperatures with near normal precipitation and snowfall. Overall for the month temperatures ended up being above normal in large part to a group of days the last week of the month where temperatures soared into the 60's and 70's. On the 27th temperatures peaked at 75 degrees and was the 2nd warmest day in January history for Denver. Ironically the all time record of 76 was also set on that date back in 1888 so there was not a new record high set. There was however a record low minimum temperature on the 27th of 42 degrees! Highs for the month were 2.7 degrees above the normal of 44.0 and lows were 3.6 degrees above the normal of 17.4 degrees. The monthly mean temperature for January was 33.9 degrees which was 3.2 degrees above the normal of 30.7. For precipitation the month was right around normal at DIA but many locations in and around the Denver Metro area ended up having much more snow while northern areas such as Fort Collins and Loveland reported well below normal snow. 7.2" of snow was recorded through midnight on the 31st with another 0.9" that occurred after midnight into the morning of February 1st so there is only a partial total from the last storm on January records. The 7.2" of snow was 0.2" above normal and lowers the season deficit to -6.3" with 23.2" of snow as of January 31st. Precipitation for January was slightly below the normal of 0.41" at 0.38". There were 5 sunny days during the month with 16 partly cloudy days and 10 days considered cloudy. There was an abnormally high number of days with fog reported at DIA with 6. Normally there is only 1 day during the month with fog producing visibilities of 1/4mile or less.

Note: The 0.3"(1/31) and 0.9"(2/1) from the storm on January 31st into the pre dawn hours on February 1st are combined for snow totals for DIA on our snow reports and will result in a surplus for January snow if you are logging totals from our individual storm reports.

January Stats

TEMPERATURE (IN DEGREES F)

AVERAGE MAX	46.7	NORMAL 44.0	DEPARTURE 2.7
AVERAGE MIN	21.0	NORMAL 17.4	DEPARTURE 3.6
MONTHLY MEAN	33.9	NORMAL 30.7	DEPARTURE 3.2
HIGHEST	75 on the 27 th		
LOWEST	-10 on the 4 th		

DAYS WITH MAX 90 OR ABOVE	0	NORMAL	0
DAYS WITH MAX 32 OR BELOW	5	NORMAL	6
DAYS WITH MIN 32 OR BELOW	27	NORMAL	29
DAYS WITH MIN ZERO OR BELOW	3	NORMAL	2

TEMPERATURE RECORDS

2nd warmest temp in Jan history on the 27th of 75 degrees
Record high min of 42 on the 27th

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	958	NORMAL 1063	DEPARTURE -105
SEASONAL TOTAL	3249	NORMAL 3531	DEPARTURE -282

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL 0	DEPARTURE 0
YEARLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL 0	DEPARTURE 0

PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	0.38	NORMAL 0.41	DEPARTURE -0.03
YEARLY TOTAL	0.38	NORMAL 0.38	DEPARTURE -0.03
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	0.12" on the 21 st		
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIP.	5		

SNOWFALL (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	7.2	NORMAL 7.0	DEPARTURE 0.2
SEASONAL TOTAL	23.2	NORMAL 29.5	DEPARTURE -6.3
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	3.0" on 1/21-1/22		

GREATEST DEPTH NA

WIND (IN MILES PER HOUR)

AVERAGE SPEED 9.7mph
PEAK WIND GUST 46mph from the W on 1/5

MISCELLANEOUS WEATHER

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORM	0	NORMAL	0
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HEAVY FOG	6	NORMAL	1
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HAIL	0		
NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS	5		
NUMBER OF PARTLY CLOUDY DAYS	16		
NUMBER OF CLOUDY DAYS	10		
AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY	62%		

February Preview

The month of February historically is one of the drier winter months but that has not necessarily been the case over the past 5 years with February posting some well above normal totals. If you can remember back to 2012, 20.2" was reported and was the 2nd snowiest February in Denver history. In February temperatures start to slowly climb with average highs to start the month at 44 degrees but by months end the average high is 50 degrees. We gain 65 minutes of sunlight during the month which starts to give the itch of spring but it is certainly not spring yet... Every day of the month has a record low below zero and the record low for the month is -25 degrees. The record high for February is only 1 degree warmer than January at 77 degrees. Average precipitation is only 0.32" with 5.7" of snow. There are typically 5 storm events with measureable snow. If we are going to make up on our snow deficit of -6.3" this is the month to do it. Skyview Weather believes February of 2015 will provide above normal temperatures and normal to above normal precipitation and snowfall.

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

TEMPERATURE

AVERAGE HIGH	46.2
AVERAGE LOW	18.9
MONTHLY MEAN	32.5
DAYS WITH HIGH 90 OR ABOVE	0

DAYS WITH HIGH 32 OR BELOW	4
DAYS WITH LOW 32 OR BELOW	27
DAYS WITH LOWS ZERO OR BELOW	1

PRECIPITATION

MONTHLY MEAN	0.32"
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION	5
AVERAGE SNOWFALL IN INCHES	5.7"
DAYS WITH 1.0 INCH OF SNOW OR MORE	NA

MISCELLANEOUS AVERAGES

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	908
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	0
WIND SPEED (MPH)	8.8mph
WIND DIRECTION	South
DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORMS	0
DAYS WITH DENSE FOG	2
PERCENT OF SUNSHINE POSSIBLE	70%

EXTREMES

RECORD HIGH	77 on 2/4/1980 and 2/28/2006
RECORD LOW	-25 on 2/1/1951 and 2/8/1936
WARMEST	43.7 in 1954
COLDEST	17.6 in 1899
WETTEST	2.01" in 1934
DRIEST	0.01" in 1970
SNOWIEST	22.1" in 1912
LEAST SNOWIEST	TR in 2009

Snowfall

September 2014 to April 2015

City	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Aurora (Central)	0.0	0.0	5.5	8.4	15.4				29.3
Brighton	0.0	0.0	2.7	8.2	3.5				14.4
Broomfield	0.2	0.0	5.6	11.8	11.6				29.2
Castle Rock	0.1	0.2	7.0	12.4	17.0				36.6
Colo Sprgs Airport	0.0	0.0	6.8	4.2	14.4				25.4
Denver DIA	TR	0.0	4.0	12.0	7.2				23.2
Denver Downtown	0.0	0.0	5.0	9.7	15.8				30.5
Golden	0.1	0.0	9.5	13.5	11.1				34.2
Fort Collins	0.0	0.0	4.9	10.2	2.2				17.3
Highlands Ranch	0.1	0.0	7.8	15.6	18.4				41.9
Lakewood	0.0	0.0	5.3	10.7	12.2				28.2
Littleton	TR	0.0	6.3	13.2	10.2				29.7
Parker	TR	TR	6.5	12.4	17.0				35.9
Sedalia - Hwy 67	0.1	0.0	6.7	17.5	17.5				41.8
Thornton	0.0	0.0	4.1	9.4	8.9				22.4
Westminster	TR	0.0	6.3	12.8	13.4				32.5
Wheat Ridge	0.0	0.0	6.4	12.0	11.8				30.2

Note: The 0.3"(1/31) and 0.9"(2/1) from the storm on January 31st into the pre dawn hours on February 1st are combined for snow totals for DIA on our snow reports and will result in a surplus for January snow if you are logging totals from our individual storm reports.

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