

# **ALLOCATION & STORAGE COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

### **September 4, 2025**

A meeting of the Allocation & Storage Committee was held on Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 10:01 a.m. at the District Office 31717 United Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001 and via Zoom virtual conference.

Chairman Andy Colosimo announced a quorum was present.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Andy Colosimo – Chairman, Matt Heimerich - Vice-Chairman (remote), Tom Goodwin, Justin DiSanti, Greg Felt (remote), Alan Hamel, Mike Bartolo (remote) Bill Long and Leann Noga.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

Curtis Mitchell

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Abby Ortega (remote), Dallas May (remote), Pat Edelmann, District Board; Roy Vaughn, H2O Consultants; Bill Tyner, Tyner Consulting (remote); Chris Woodka, Gordon Dillon, Patty Rivas (remote), Lee Miller (remote), Peter Levish, Trevor Singleton, Misty Bellino and Robert Banham, District staff.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Colosimo confirmed that members of the Committee received their copy of the August 7, 2025 Allocation & Storage Committee minutes and asked if there were any corrections or discussions. Tom Goodwin moved, Alan Hamel seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

##### **Water Resources and Operations Report**

Robert Banham gave a summary of weather conditions in the state of Colorado, concentrating on the Collection System of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project. Precipitation is below average and expected to remain below average in the next 60 days; soil moisture is 40% below normal; and streamflow is below average in the collection system.

Mr. Banham also provided more details on historic drought conditions and precipitation going back to Year 0-2017, in response to a request for an expanded outlook at the August 28, 2025 Board meeting. Much of the information is based on tree-ring studies, or other means of determining conditions prior to modern measurement techniques. A more reliable graphic of conditions from 1895-2025 was also shown.

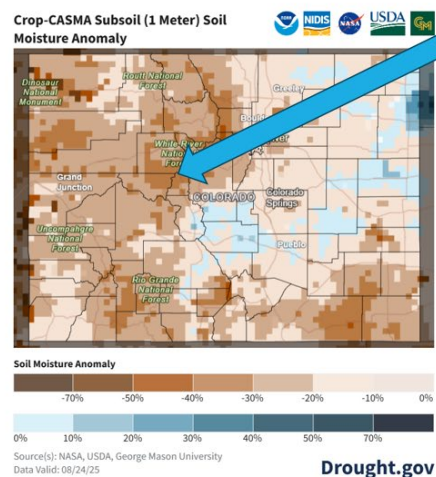
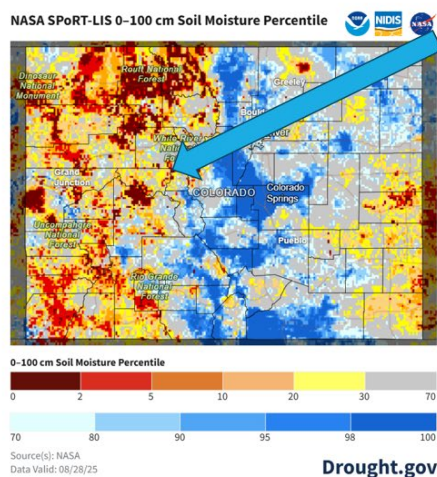
This prompted a spirited discussion among Committee members. Andy Colosimo suggested reporting conditions in the entire Colorado River Basin, as well as conditions within the state

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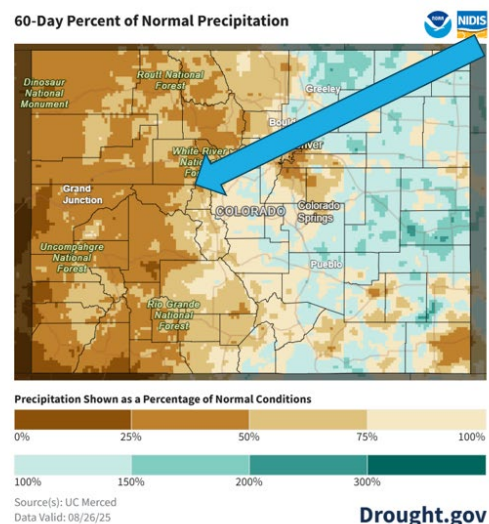
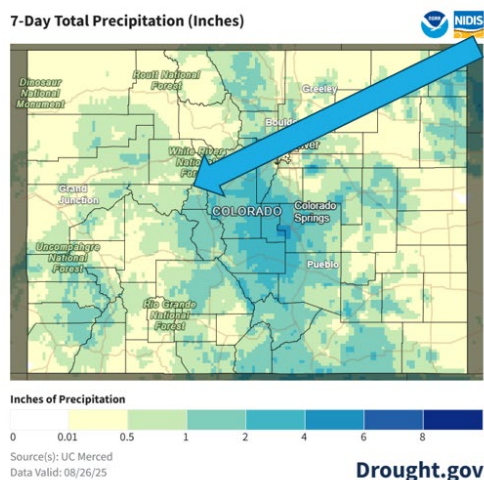
of Colorado. Leann Noga said District staff is working on laying out a work plan for the committee to bring appropriate information forward throughout the year.

Greg Felt shared an article by Mitch Tobin of the Water Desk, an initiative of the Center for Environmental Journalism, which explained that runoff from snowpack may be delayed when soil conditions are dry. The article was emailed to all Board members. Mike Bartolo said there are other publications that the Committee might find interesting. Pat Edelmann defended the tree-ring method of determining historic precipitation.

## Soil Conditions



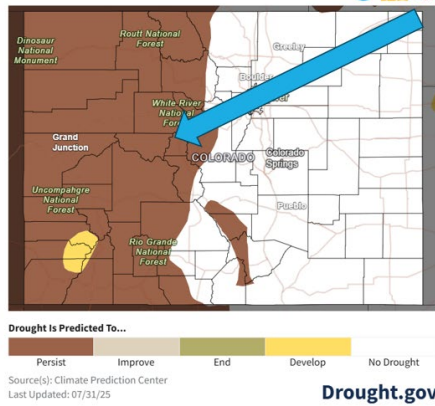
## Precipitation Outlook



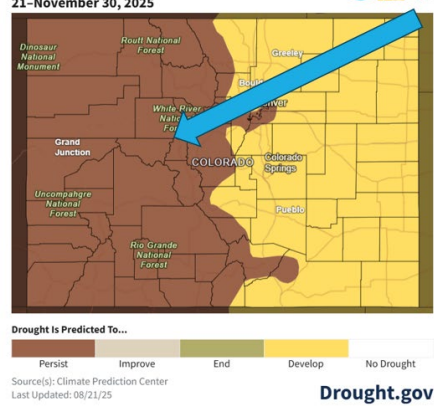
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## Drought??

1-Month Drought Outlook for August 1–31, 2025

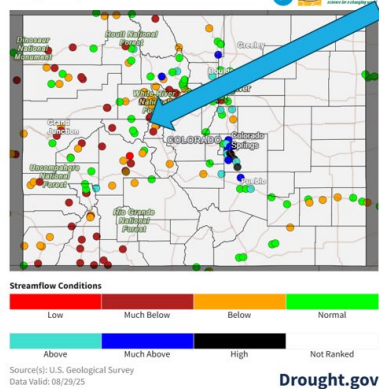


Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 21–November 30, 2025

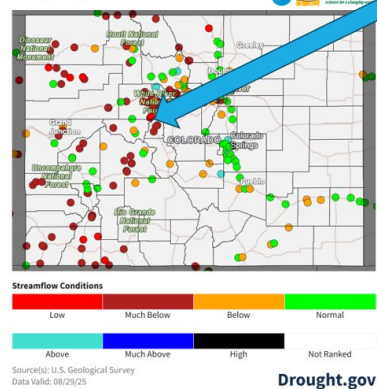


## Streamflow Conditions

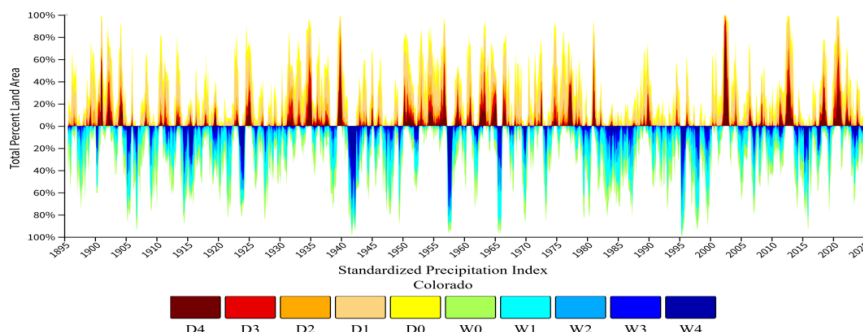
7-Day Average Streamflow



28-Day Average Streamflow



## Historical drought conditions in Colorado 1895-2025



Abnormally Dry (D0) indicates a region that is going into or coming out of drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor  
Exceptional Drought (D4) is the most intense drought category, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

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#### ACTION ITEM

##### Agricultural Fry-Ark Project Water Carryover Storage, Category Selection

Mr. Banham reviewed the Agricultural Fry-Ark Project Water Carryover Pilot Program authorized by the Board in 2022. That program was extended to April 2025 and allows suspension of the 80-20 Rule (using 80% of Project AG Water by November 15, and the remaining 20% by May 1 of the following year) if there is a marginal or unlikely risk of spill.

As part of that program, the Board will assign which category of risk is in place for the following year, based on available information, in September each year.

The categories of risk are:

1. Imminent Risk of Spill. No waivers.
2. Marginal Risk of Spill. Carryover water must be evacuated by April 15.
3. Unlikely Risk of Spill. Water may be carried over past May 1 but evacuated by November 15.

The decision will then be reviewed in March and can be altered depending on the weather conditions.

Some ditches may still need to request carryover past May 1 because of specific issues, and the Board may choose to allow storage until November 15 based on special circumstances. At least two ditches are expected to request this exemption for 2026 and must submit letters by September 15. Mr. Goodwin asked if refunds for water that could not be used could be made available. Mrs. Noga said this would require a change in allocation policy.

Staff recommended Category 2: Marginal Risk of Spill for 2026, based on the following calculations:

### Predictions for Pueblo Reservoir

As of September 2, 2025

|                  |                                     |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Current Content  | 194 KAF                             |
| + New WW         | 43 KAF (20 yr. average WW)          |
| + Project Water  | 20 KAF (Planning to move to Pueblo) |
| + M&I Inflow     | 25 KAF (Sept 24 – 15 Apr 25)        |
| - Total Releases | 23 KAF (Sept 24 – 15 Apr 25)        |
| - Evaporation    | 8.9 KAF (Sept 24 – 15 Apr 25)       |

250.1 KAF – 245,373 = 4.7 KAF Above

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Alan Hamel made the following motion, seconded by Justin DiSanti: “I move that the Committee select Category 2 – Marginal Risk of Spill for the Agricultural Project Water Carryover Program for the 2025 water year, as outlined.” Motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, October 2, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Colosimo adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Woodka

Senior Policy and Issues Manager