

NWS GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO



A L O O K BACK AT **AUGUST 2024** WEATHER ACROSS E UTAH / W COLORADO

The month of August was one of contradictions. It was overall warmer than normal, but at the same time some truly impressive precipitation totals stacked up as the monsoon kicked in during the middle of the month. The month started hot and dry, with record heat throughout the first week of the month, and several wildfire starts. One fire, the Bucktail fire, near Nucla, CO, reached over 7000 acres in size before monsoonal rains finally put it out. And that neatly brings us to the other half of the August story- monsoonal rains. Moisture began to increase for the second week of the month, with the threats of heavy rains, flash flooding, and debris flows increasing as well. All of the climate sites saw below normal precipitation jump to well above normal precipitation totals during this period, with Durango's monthly total of 3.00 inches coming out the big winner. Flash flooding and debris flows were common in the more flashy areas of southeast Utah and southwest Colorado, with Moab and, to a lesser extent Carbondale and Ouray, seeing the worst effects. Severe thunderstorms were also a threat during this period, with several storms producing hail of an inch or greater. By the last week of the month, the region finally transitioned back to a warmer and drier pattern. A much needed break after the monsoon induced chaos.



AUGUST 2024

CLIMATE SUMMARY



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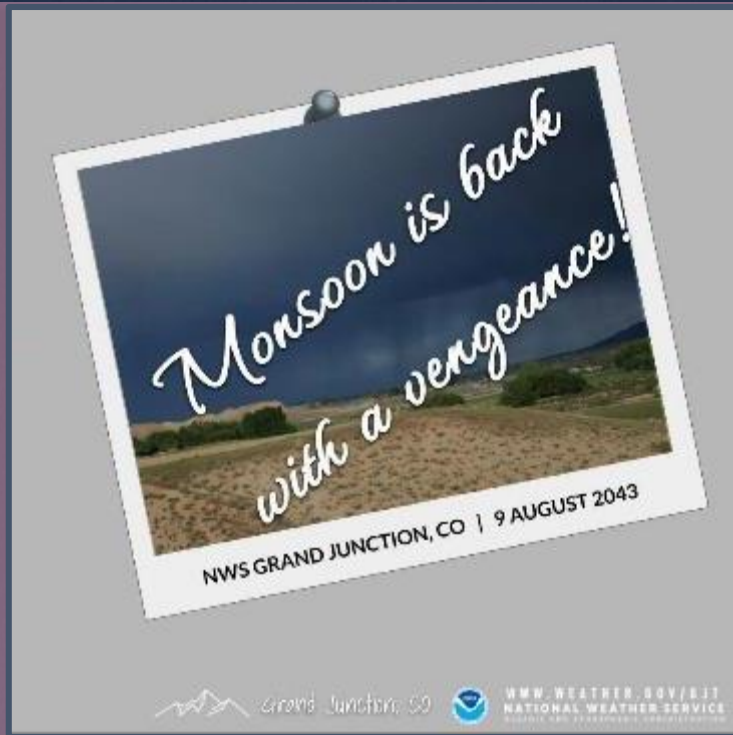
NOTE: all data mentioned is collected from our automated observing stations from 10 airports across the area. Some observers in more remote areas AUGUST have measured warmer or colder temperatures, or more or less precipitation than mentioned in this summary.

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STORY OF THE
MONTH

THE RETURN OF THE MONSOON

This social media graphic really says it all when it comes to how the month of August went on the Western Slope. While we started off hot and dry, by the second week of the month, all focus was on surge after surge of monsoonal moisture. Humidity values soared, swamp coolers became less effective, and some truly prolific rain-making thunderstorms flourished. Many areas saw significant rainfall this month, with Durango topping the charts at 3.00 inches of precipitation for the month. Flash flooding was a big problem, especially for the desert regions of the CWA. Moab suffered the worst, having to deal with flash flooding through the downtown area more than once. Even some severe weather days snuck in, keeping everyone on their toes!



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2024

TEMPERATURES



Location	Average Temp (°F) (VS Normal)	Warmest Temp (°F)	Coldest Temp (°F)
Aspen, CO	63.1 (-0.2)	88 on 8/1, 2, 3	40 on 8/30
Cortez, CO	72.1 (+2.2)	97 on 8/1	45 on 8/30
Craig, CO	67.8 (+1.5)	97 on 8/2, 3	39 on 8/27
Durango, CO	69.6 (+2.1)	96 on 8/5	45 on 8/30
Grand Junction, CO	78.7 (+2.4)	103 on 8/1, 2	56 on 8/27
Meeker, CO	66.4 (-0.4)	96 on 8/2	39 on 8/30, 31
Montrose, CO	72.3 (+0.9)	99 on 8/4	49 on 8/31
Rifle, CO	72.7 (+1.4)	100 on 8/1, 2, 3	47 on 8/30, 31
Canyonlands Airport, UT	78.8 (+0.8)	104 on 8/2	54 on 8/31
Vernal, UT	72.9 (+1.1)	100 on 8/2, 3	46 on 8/31



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PRECIPITATION



Location	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Aspen, CO	2.44	+0.96
Cortez, CO	2.52	+0.93
Craig, CO	1.96	+0.99
Durango, CO	3.00	+1.63
Grand Junction, CO	1.62	+0.70
Meeker, CO	2.74	+1.41
Montrose, CO	2.12	+1.22
Rifle, CO	1.61	+0.54
Canyonlands Airport, UT	2.07	+1.44
Vernal, UT	1.03	+0.27

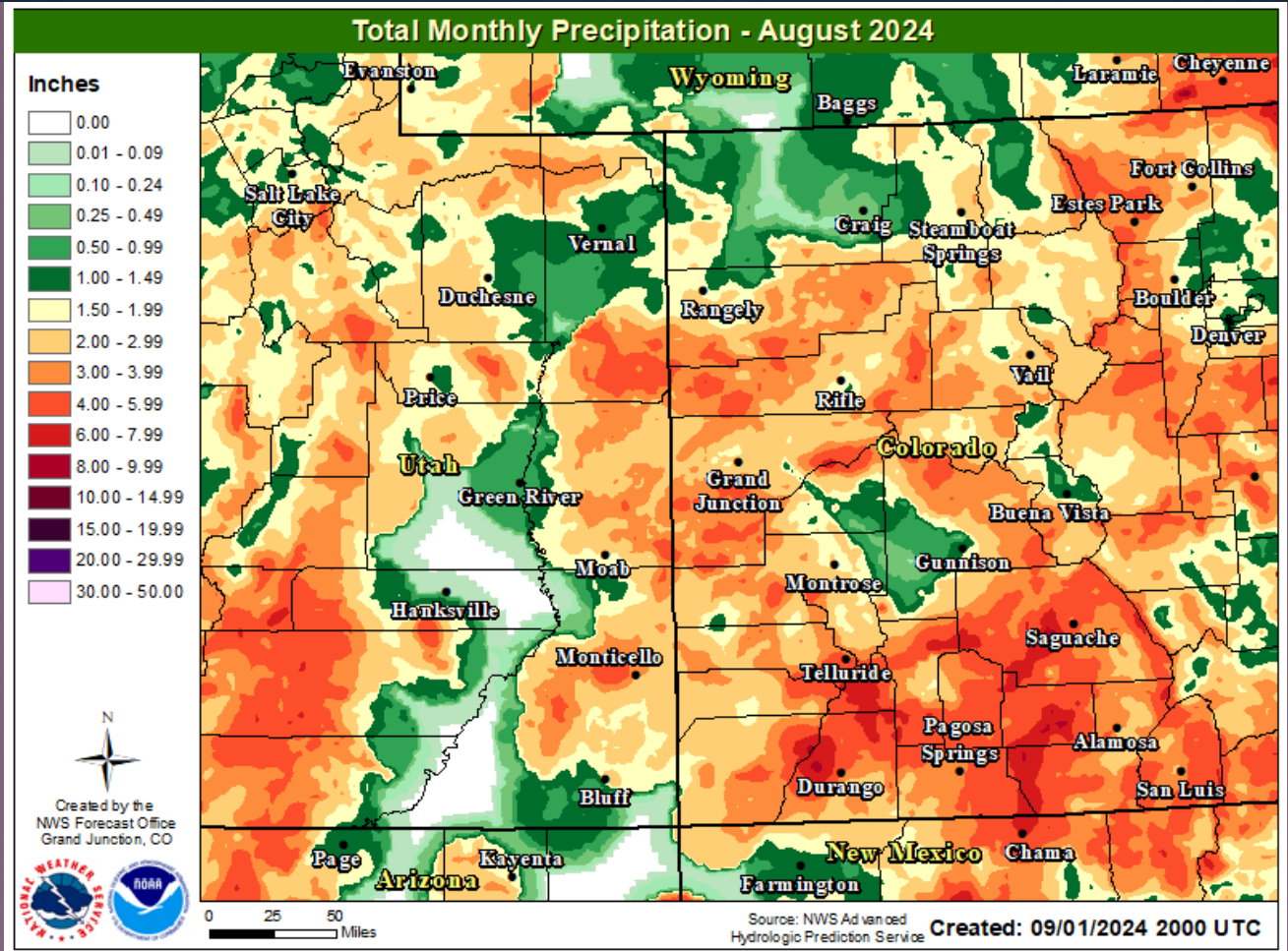


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CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



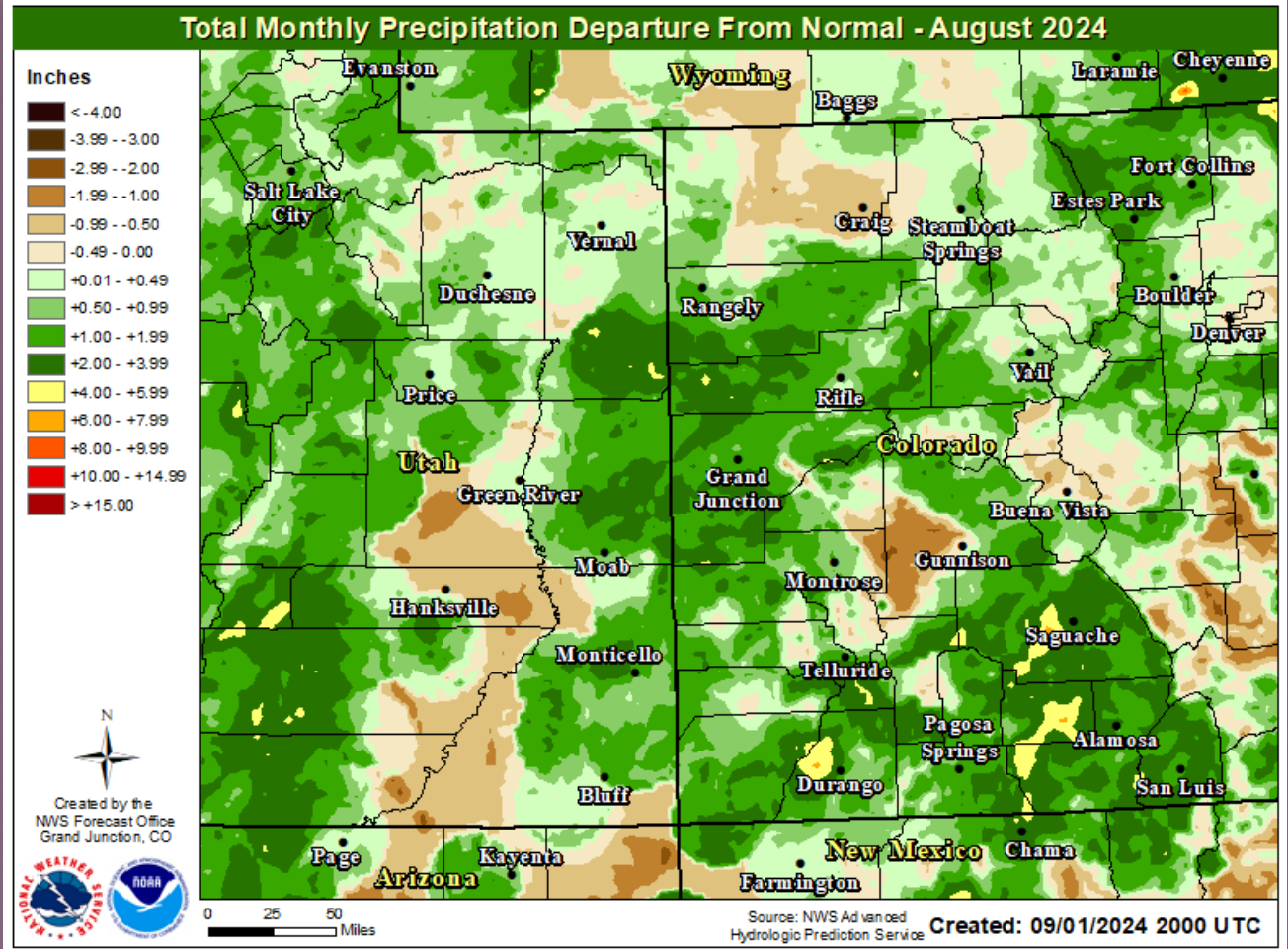
AUGUST 2024

CLIMATE SUMMARY



TOTAL MONTHLY PRECIPITATION

DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL



AUGUST 2024

CLIMATE SUMMARY



DAILY RECORDS **R E P O R T**

A total of 6 daily records were set across the primary climate sites

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
Grand Junction, CO	August 1 st	High Max Temperature	103F	102F in 1902
Grand Junction, CO	August 2 nd	High Max Temperature	103F	103F in 1902
Grand Junction, CO	August 3 rd	High Min Temperature	75F	74F in 1934
Grand Junction, CO	August 3 rd	High Max Temperature	102F	102F in 2020
Grand Junction, CO	August 5 th	High Max Temperature	102F	102F in 1979
Grand Junction, CO	August 7 th	High Min Temperature	77F	73F in 1983

High Max

Low Max

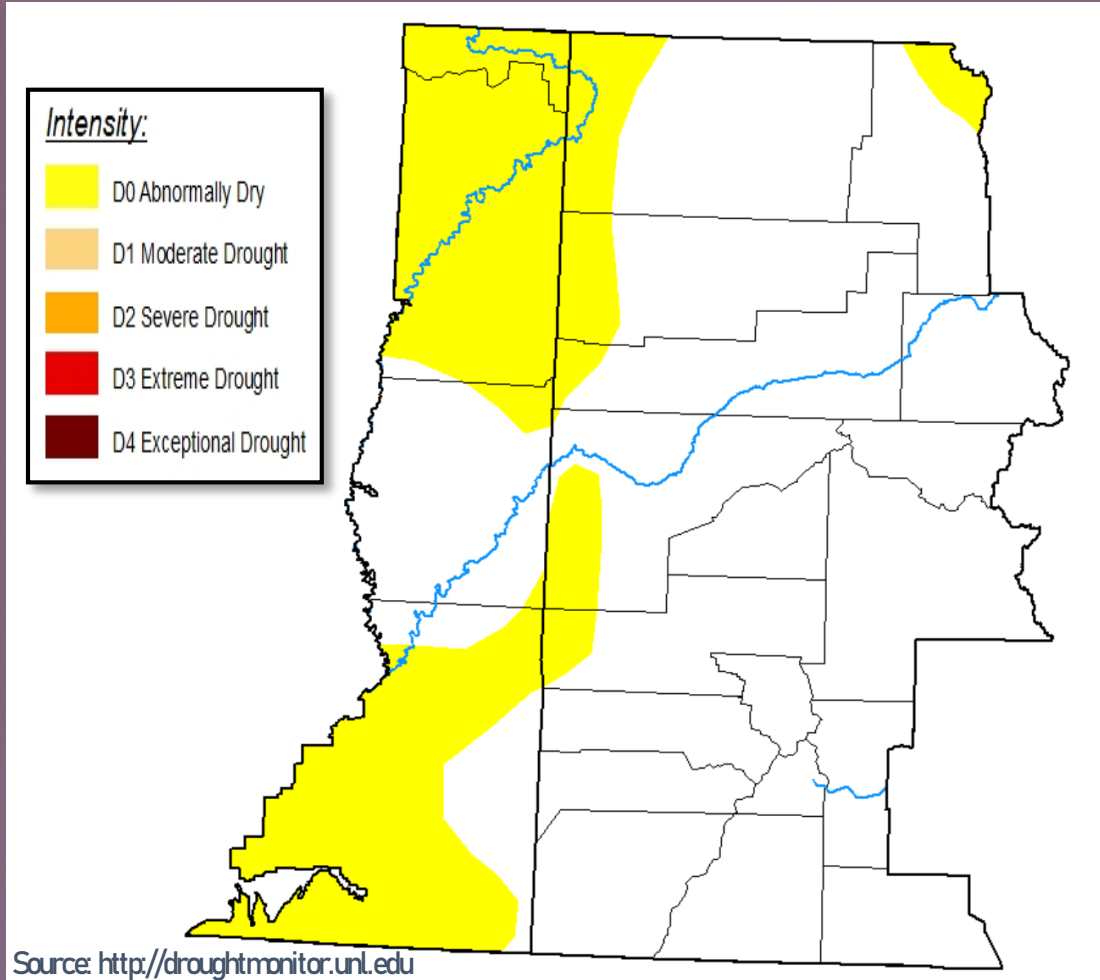
Precip

High Min

Low Min



The extremely wet month of August has led to some significant improvement in the drought across eastern Utah and western Colorado, with nearly all of western Colorado totally drought free. Areas of eastern Utah remain under Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, as well as a portion of the northern Divide mountains in Colorado.





The latest guidance from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) indicates that above normal temperatures are again very likely (60-70%) for all of eastern Utah and western Colorado during the month of September. Guidance regarding precipitation is currently leaning toward below normal (33-40%) for all of eastern Utah and western Colorado during the month of September.

Temperatures



Above

Precipitation



Below

Equal
Chances