COLORADO DROUGHT STATUS AS OF 20 APR 2026

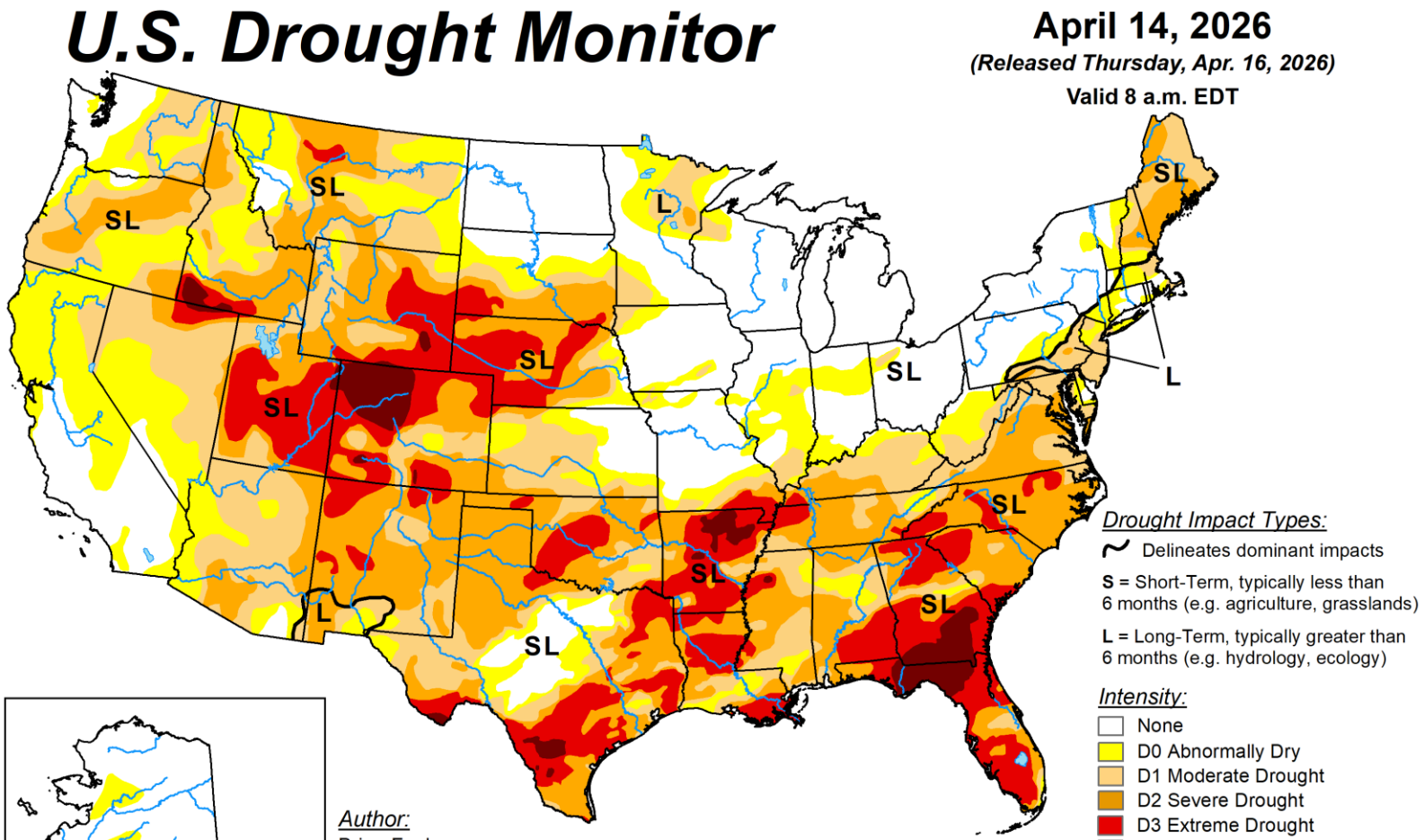
These slides will show just how severe the current drought (Apr 2026) is compared to previous recent droughts of 2002, 2012, and 2020.

The years 2002, 2012, and 2020 were chosen because of the 4 largest CO wildland fires:

Hayman (#4), East Troublesome (#2), Pine Gulch (#3, and Cameron Peak (#1).
(Waldo in 2012 added since it was so close to MCVFD and Teller.)

All data retrieved from the National Drought Mitigation Center in Lincoln, NE.

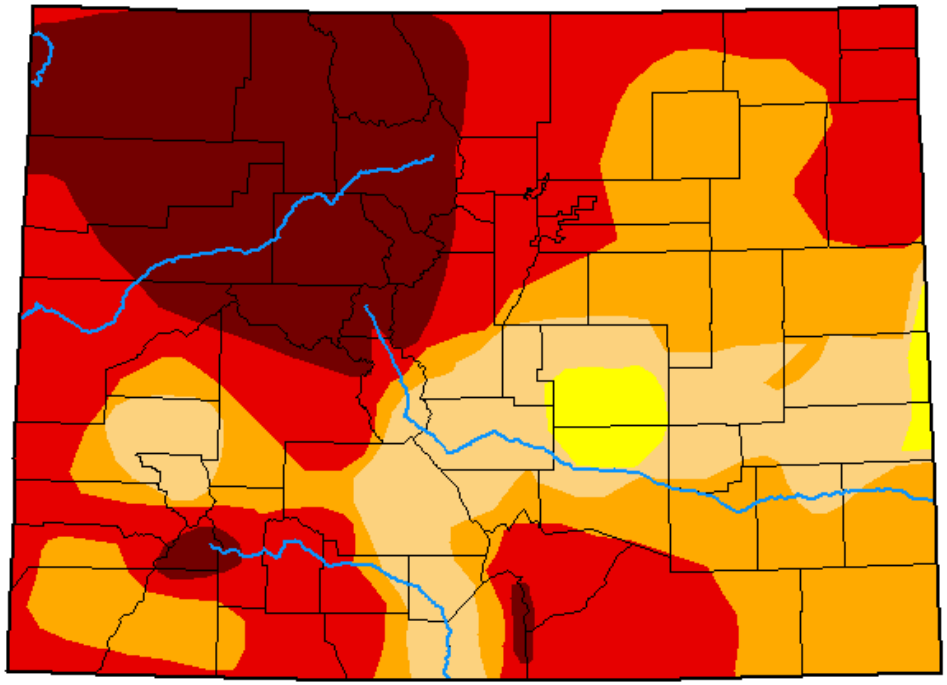
This first drought map is the entire USA. It comes out every Thur morning. It is free to sign up to receive this in your inbox.



This map is the drought status of just the state of Colorado as of 14 Apr 2026.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Colorado



April 14, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 16, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.79	82.84	54.42	21.59
Last Week *04-07-2026*	0.00	100.00	95.49	66.81	46.51	21.59
3 Months Ago *01-13-2026*	29.60	70.40	47.38	15.18	4.54	0.83
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	25.96	74.04	46.22	15.77	4.35	0.67
Start of Water Year *09-30-2025*	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34	0.00
One Year Ago *04-15-2025*	44.14	55.86	37.18	15.89	0.77	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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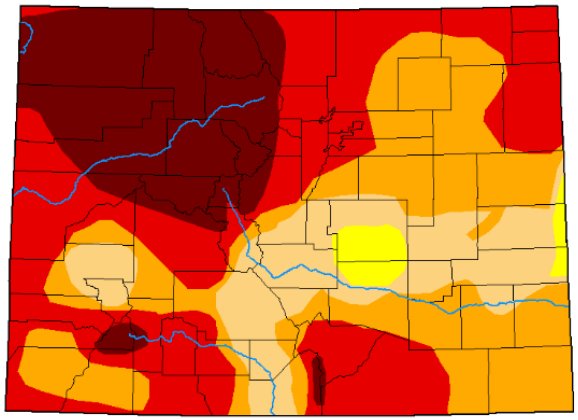
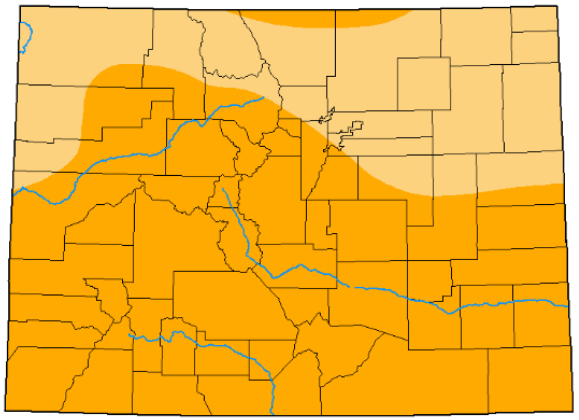
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

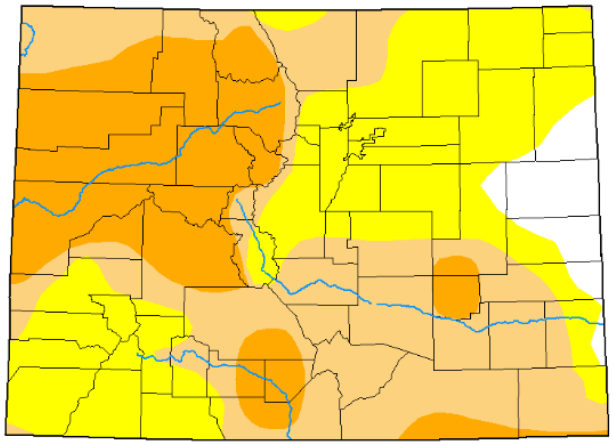
Comparison of current drought status (2026) vs. similar dates in 2002, 2012, and 2020:
(Maps courtesy of USDA Drought Mitigation Center)



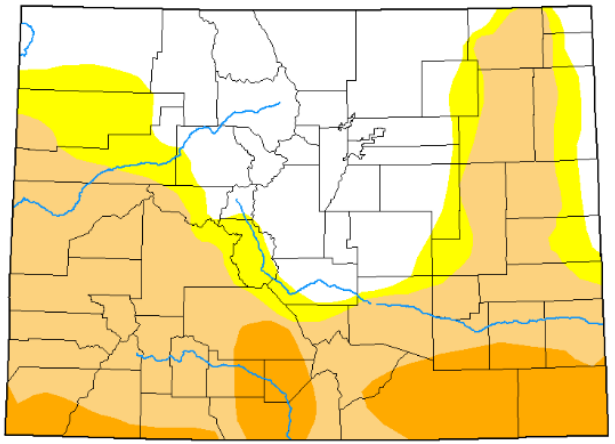
April 14, 2026



April 16, 2002



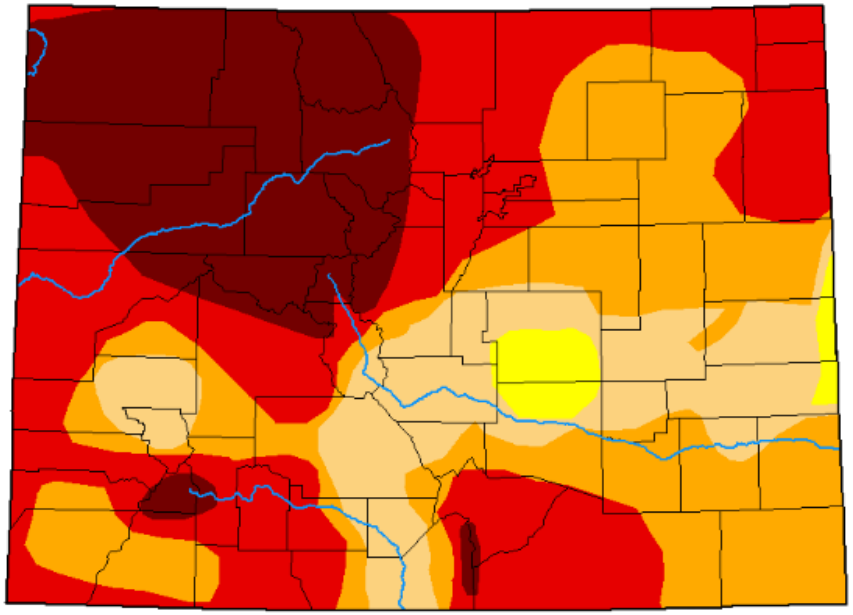
April 17, 2012

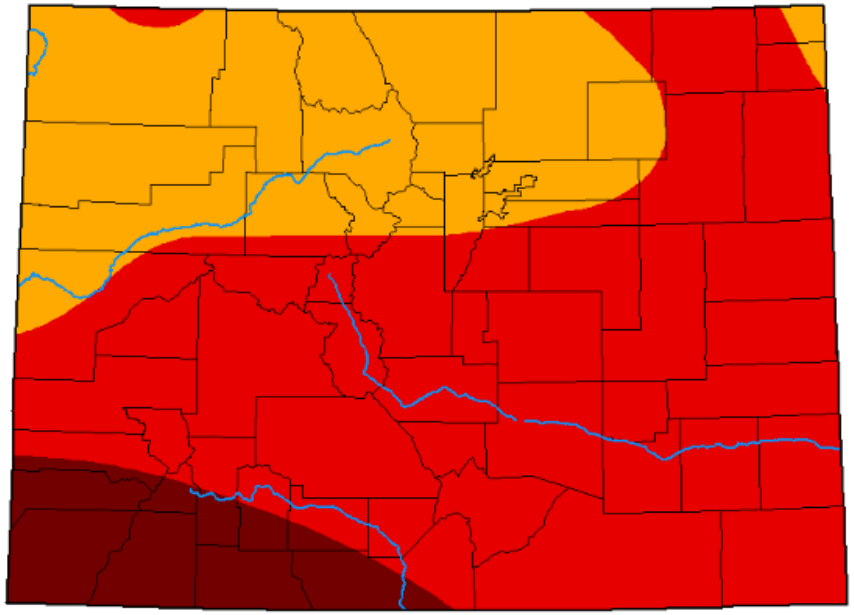


April 14, 2020

Now to compare the current drought status vs. drought status at the start of Hayman, 8 Jun 2002:

(and we have almost 2 months to go)





April 14, 2026

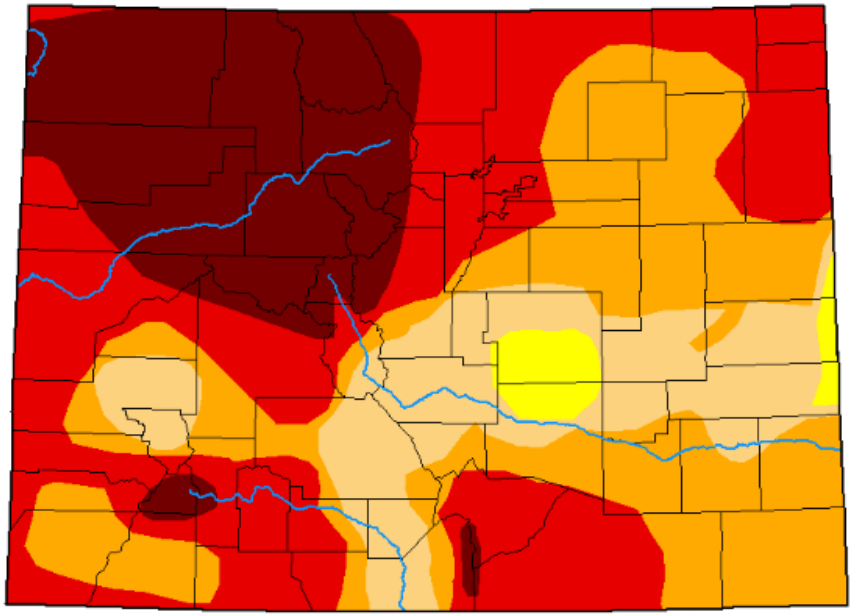
June 4, 2002

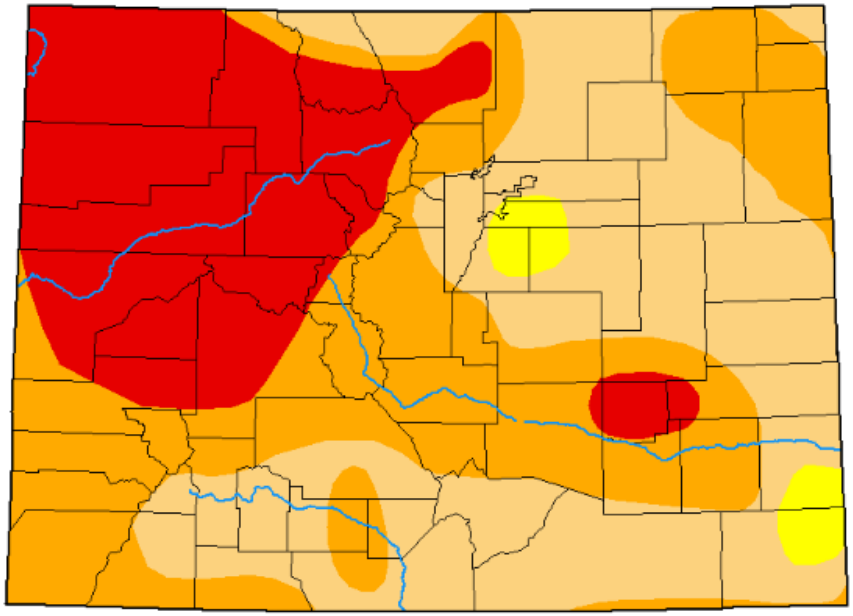
Statistics Comparison

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
2026-04-14	0.00	100.00	97.79	82.84	54.42	21.59	357
2002-06-04	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	70.42	9.03	379
Change	0.00	0.00	2.21	17.16	16.00	-12.56	22

Now to compare the current drought status vs. drought status at the start of Waldo, 23 Jun 2012:

(and we have 2+ months to go)





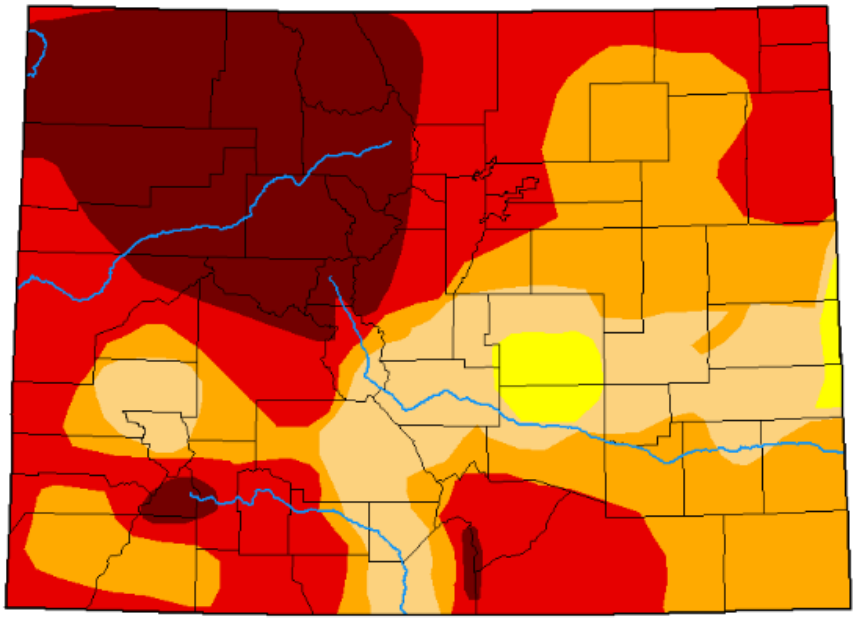
April 14, 2026

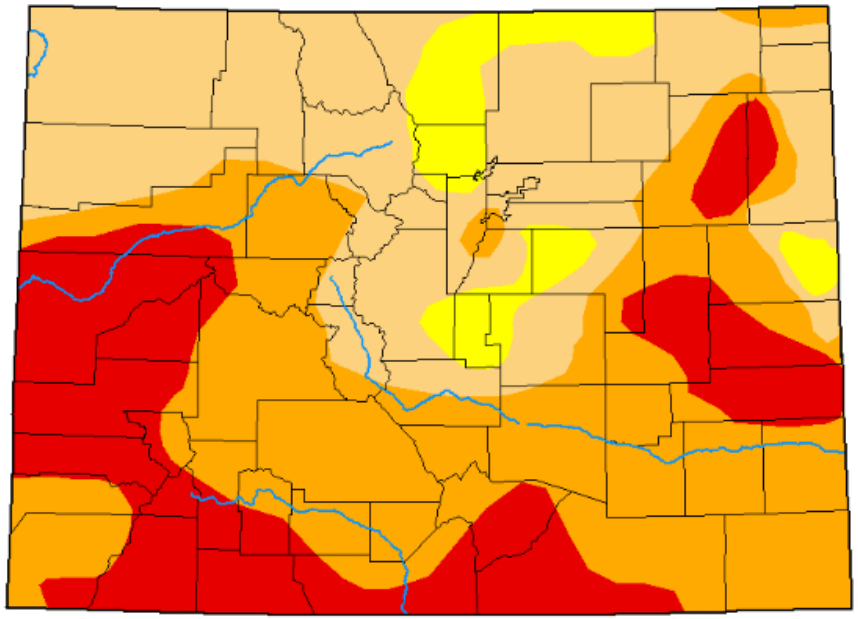
June 19, 2012

Statistics Comparison

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
2026-04-14	0.00	100.00	97.79	82.84	54.42	21.59	357
2012-06-19	0.00	100.00	97.71	60.96	26.63	0.00	285
Change	0.00	0.00	-0.08	-21.88	-27.79	-21.59	-72

The last comparison will be the current drought status vs. drought status at the average start date of the Pine Gulch, East Troublesome, and Cameron Peak fires – 11 Aug 2020:
(and we have 4 months to reach the middle of Aug)





April 14, 2026

August 11, 2020

Statistics Comparison

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
2026-04-14	0.00	100.00	97.79	82.84	54.42	21.59	357
2020-08-11	0.00	100.00	93.87	61.43	23.66	0.00	279
Change	0.00	0.00	-3.92	-21.41	-30.76	-21.59	-78

SUMMARY: WE ARE DEFINITELY WAY DRIER FOR THIS POINT IN APR

THAN AT ANY TIME I COULD FIND GOING BACK 135 YEARS.