



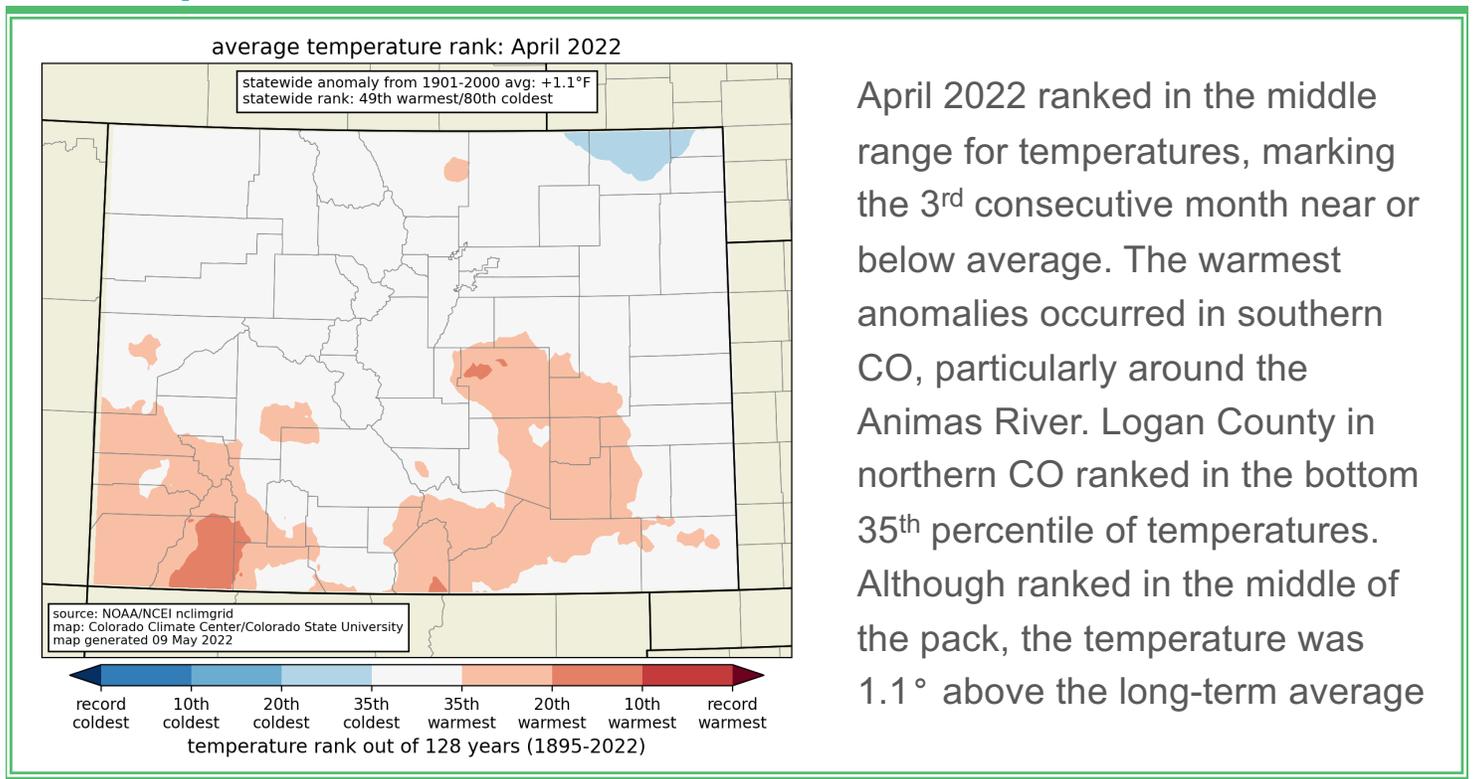
# April 2022 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

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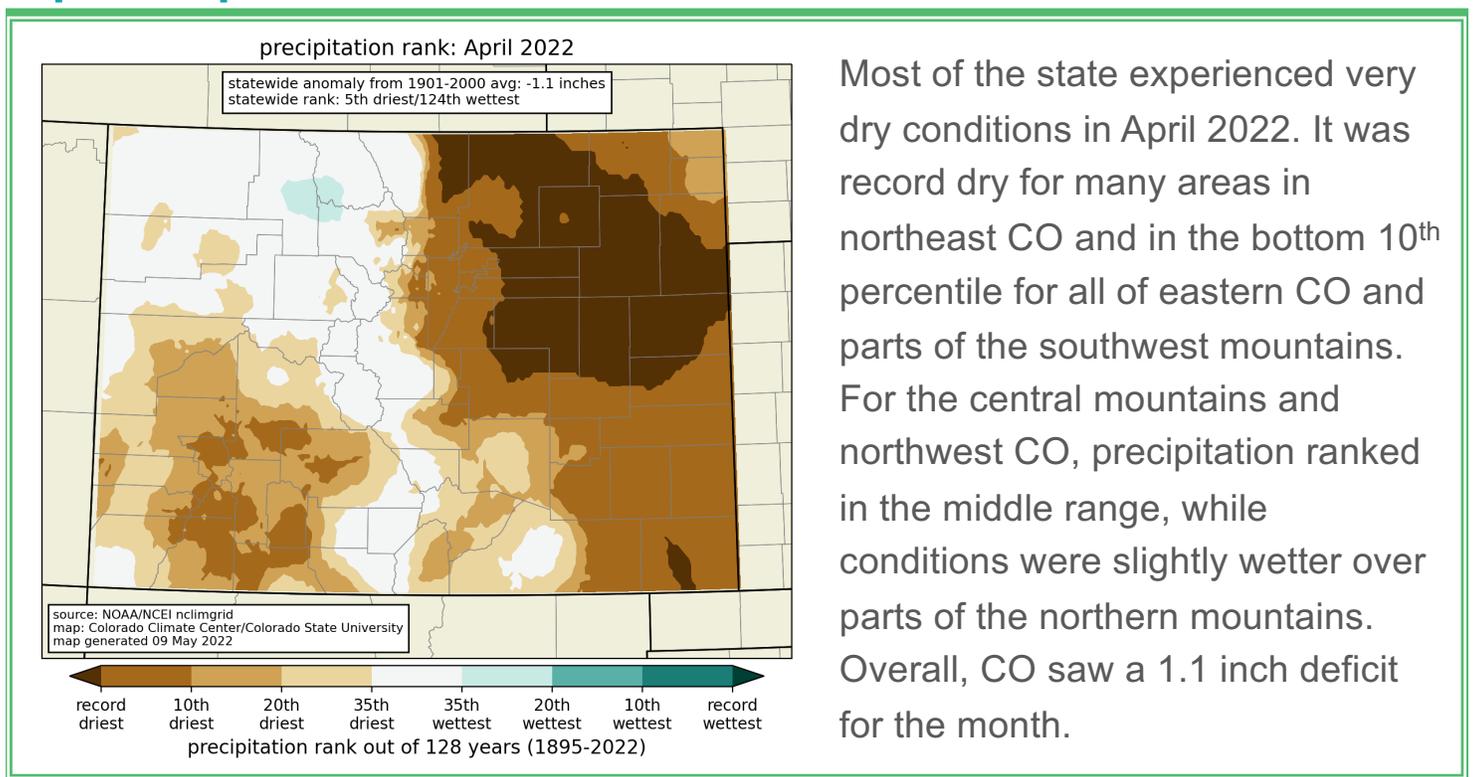


ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# temperature



# precipitation



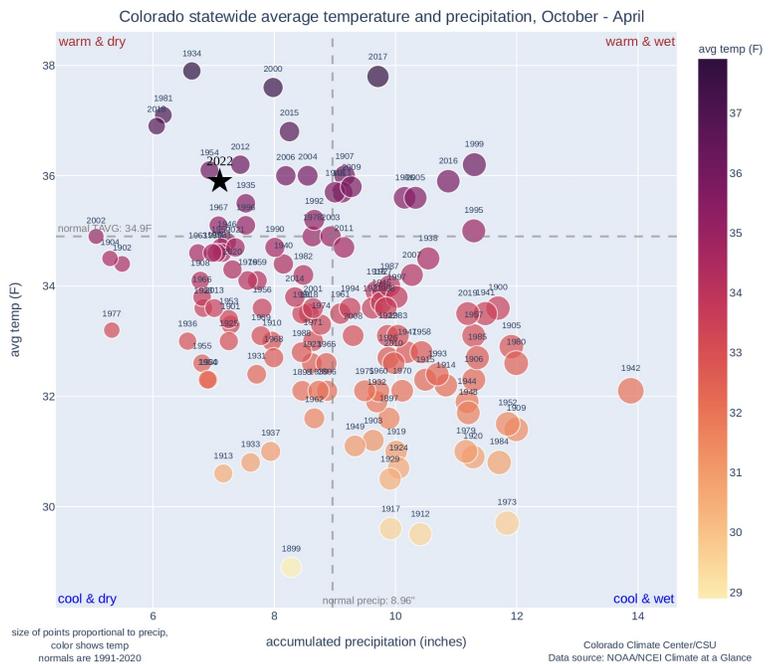
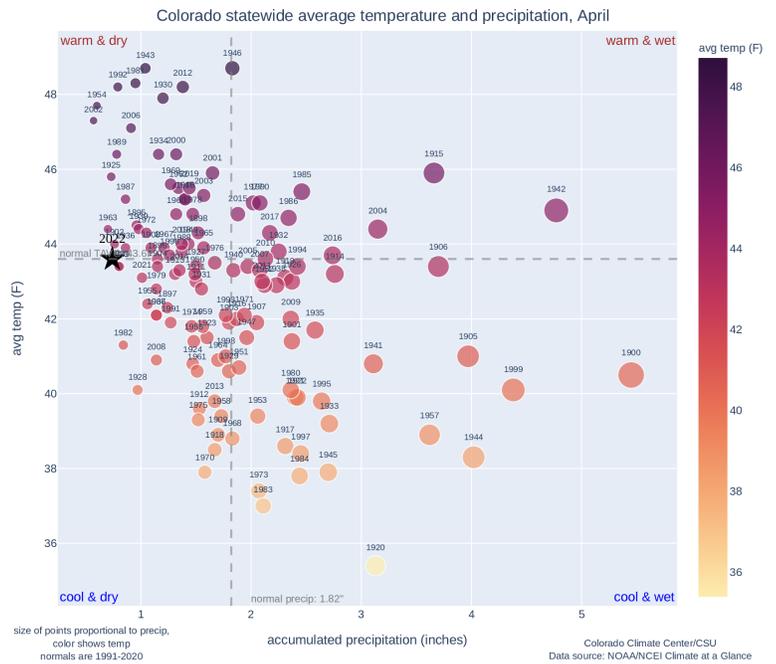
# quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the x-axis and the temperature on the y-axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. Long-term averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

April 2022 was a very dry month across Colorado, reflected by the star on the quadrant chart appearing on the left side. Fortunately, the temperature was very close to the 1991-2020 normal for April.

For the water year so far, we still remain in the warm, dry (in other words, drought) quadrant. This especially reflects the warm, dry fall, and dry April.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

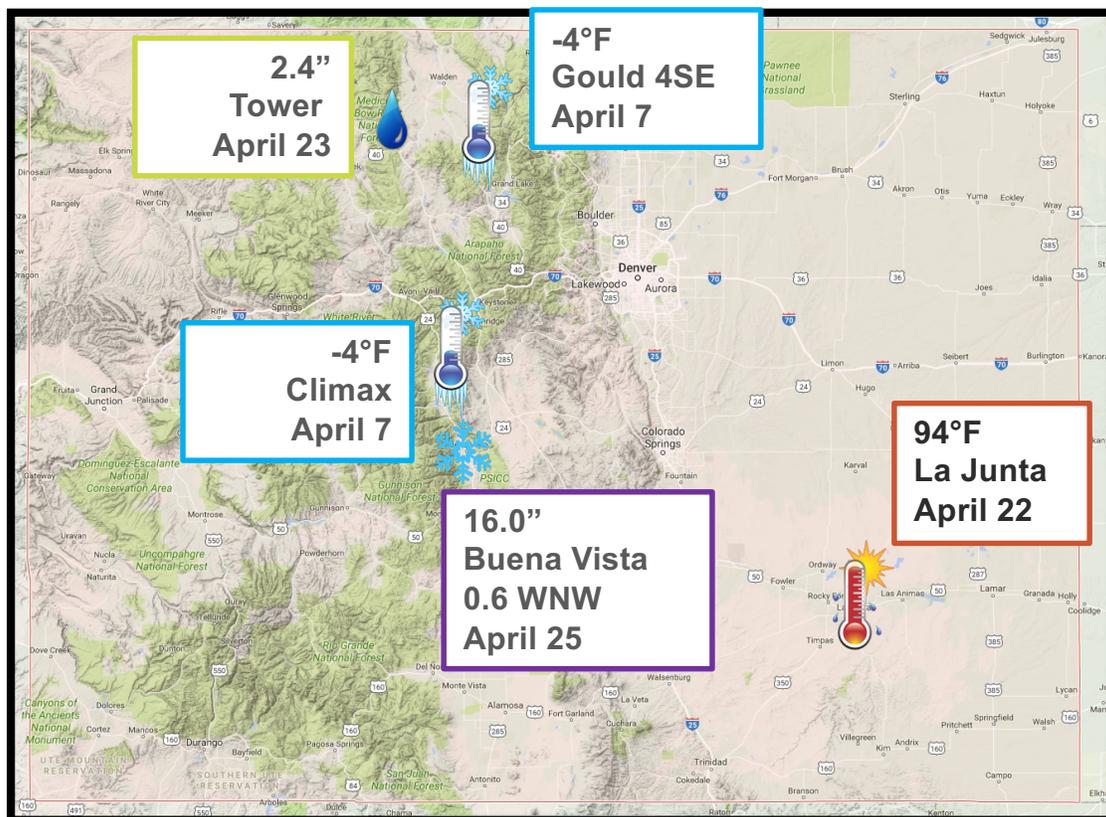


# records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	23/60	22/108	25/91	12/44	13/23	2/9
Monthly	2/3	2/27	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

Tied/**Broken**, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

# state extremes



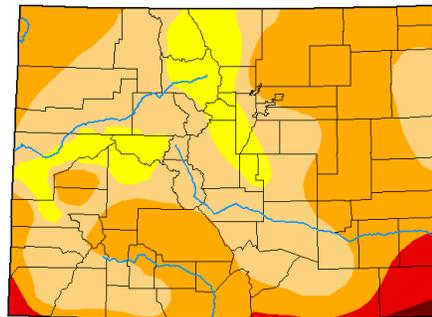
# drought

Drought expanded across large parts of the northern Front Range and eastern Plains as a result of a very dry and windy April. Parts of the Denver metro area saw a 2-category degradation, from D0 to D2. Some drought improvement was made across the San Luis Valley and Sangre de Cristos.

Almost 89% of the state is in a drought category, and 47% of the state is in a severe drought or worse.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

April 26, 2022  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 28, 2022)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	88.57	47.62	4.46	0.53
Last Week 04-19-2022	0.00	100.00	86.78	33.13	4.45	0.53
3 Months Ago 01-25-2022	0.00	100.00	88.32	65.93	20.68	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2022	0.00	100.00	95.49	67.08	22.25	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	12.72	87.28	46.42	26.30	15.05	3.91
One Year Ago 04-27-2021	1.19	98.81	89.13	60.45	32.13	16.68

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Orange)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)      D3 Extreme Drought (Red)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

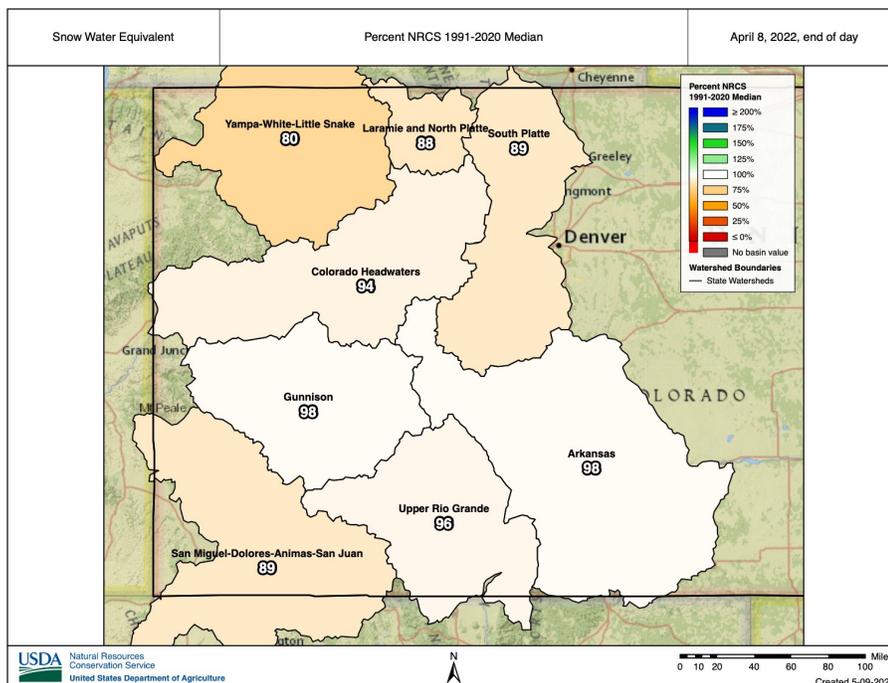
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

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U.S. Department of Agriculture



## [Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

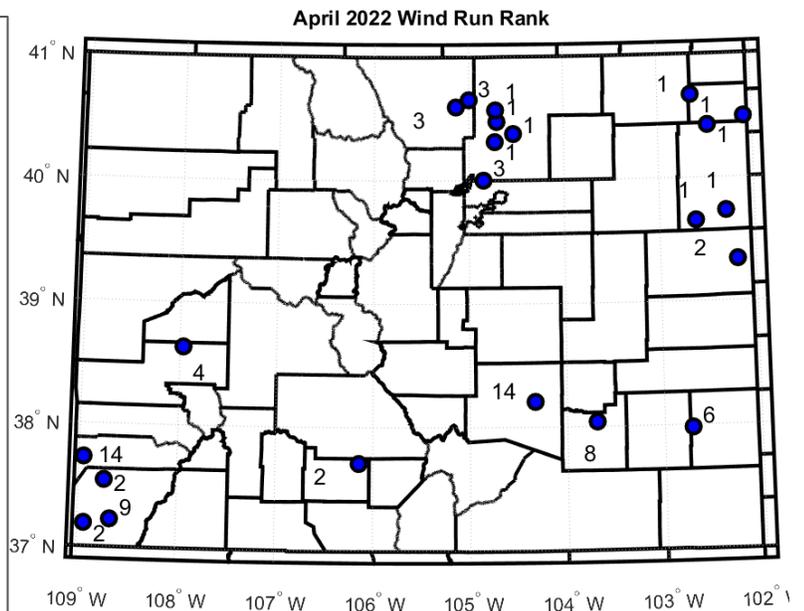
# snowpack



Snowpack peaked around the second week of April, with percent of normal fairly close to the median for most basins (left). The Yampa basin had the lowest peak snowpack, at 84% of average. While conditions to the south were better, melting rates have been much faster than typical. The San Juan basin ended the month at 54% of average due to high melt rates.

# significant events

The biggest weather story in April was the relentless wind. Although April is typically the windiest month of the year for much of Colorado, 2022 took that to a new level. For many CoAgMET stations in northeast CO (with records back to the 1990s), it was the windiest April on record. It was also very windy in southeast and southwest CO, though not as extreme. The sunny, windy conditions also led to record evaporative demand (PET Rank below) in many locations.



(above) April ranking for wind run at long-term CoAgMET stations.  
 (below) April rankings of wind and potential evapotranspiration at long-term CoAgMET stations

## April Wind Summary



Station	Wind Run (miles/day)	Wind Run Anomaly (miles/day)	Rank	Days with Gusts > 40mph (gusts adjusted to 10m tower equivalent)	Potential ET (inches)	PET Anomaly (inches)	PET Rank
Ault	269	69	1	17	9.1	2.27	1
Avondale	173	-4	14	9	9.37	1.34	3
Burlington	304	34	2	19	10.39	2.43	1
Center	230	34	2	19	8.71	1.11	1
Cortez	122	4	9	0	7.6	0.9	4
Dove Creek	194	-2	14	8	8.33	0.75	6
Fort Collins	160	33	3	13	7.47	1.92	2
FTC ARDEC	224	29	3	14	8.56	1.91	3
Fort Lupton	212	25	3	17	8.52	1.32	2
Haxtun	304	83	1	20	9.27	2.35	1
Holyoke	277	62	1	17	9.02	1.88	2
Idalia	289	55	1	18	9.65	2.11	1
Kersey	233	68	1	15	8.85	2.15	1
Kirk	274	48	1	18	9.54	2.2	1
Lamar	241	14	6	13	11.56	2.6	1
Lucerne	237	54	1	16	9.07	2.28	1
Olathe	148	18	4	12	8.31	1.37	1
Paoli	226	27	1	18	8.56	1.59	2
Peckham	228	56	1	17	9.25	1.99	2
Rocky Ford	186	14	8	9	10.01	1.78	3
Towoac	211	55	2	11	9.82	2.18	1
Yellow Jacket	194	41	2	10	8.28	1.5	3



# CCC in the news

- ❑ [Colorado Springs likely to have its driest April — ever](#)
  - Colorado Springs Gazette, April 29, Peter Goble
- ❑ [For the first time in 20 years, Denver will likely be snowless in April](#)
  - 9News, April 28, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Water worries: With absent April showers, are we in trouble?](#)
  - The Coloradoan, April 28, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [2 years of drought in Colorado has turned April into June for fire danger](#)
  - The Gazette, April 25, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [La Niña likely to continue, intensifying drought, wildfires](#)
  - The Gazette – Fresh Water News, April 25, Peter Goble
- ❑ [The snowmelt is on – and that's too soon in Colorado, say water watchers](#)
  - Colorado Politics, April 25, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Drought prompts Nebraska to divert water from river it shares with Colorado](#)
  - NBC News, April 23, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Tropical storm force wind gusts hit many parts of Colorado as wildfire danger threatens the state](#)
  - The Denver Gazette, April 22, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Fire officials say Colorado is more prepared than ever to fight wildfires, but 'we're going to have some tough days'](#)
  - The Denver Channel, April 22, Peter Goble



# CCC in the news

- ❑ [CoCoRaHS on The Weather Channel](#)
  - The Weather Channel, April 20, Noah Newman
- ❑ [Colorado River ranked as "most endangered" in the nation](#)
  - Axios – Denver, April 19, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Where Colorado's snowpack stands as water, fire concerns grow heading into summer](#)
  - The Denver Channel, April 18, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Colorado's snowpack is starting to melt. Warmer temperatures and drought likely mean another year of struggling water supplies](#)
  - Colorado Public Radio, April 14, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Wild Horse Reservoir in Elko Co. impacted by fish die-off, COVID cases low in Washoe Co.](#)
  - KUNR Public Radio, April 14, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Winds gusting to nearly 60 mph wreak havoc on high school sports in Fort Collins](#)
  - The Coloradoan, April 13, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ ['It's essentially 365 days a year': The effect of year-round wildfires in Colorado](#)
  - The Denver Channel, April 4, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Water seminar asks what prolonged drought means for Southwest Colorado](#)
  - Durango Herald, April 1, Becky Bolinger

