



The I-70 Scout

Volume 30, Number 52

Searching for news in Watkins, Bennett, Strasburg, Byers, Deer Trail and Agate

Thursday, November 21, 2024

53 pronghorn killed by tractor-trailer

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

DEER TRAIL — Among the aftermath of the early November storm that dropped between 2-4 feet of snow across much of

the central portion of the Front Range and Eastern Colorado Nov. 6-9 was the fatal displacement of pronghorn herds from much of their normal fall habitat.

Of an approximately 150 head of pronghorn killed along roadways

during and a couple days following the storm, about a third were destroyed when 53 were struck by a semi truck traveling Highway 36 in the dark the morning of Nov. 12.

At about 5 a.m., Colorado Parks & Wildlife officers, Arapahoe

County Sheriff's deputies, state troopers, and Colorado Department of Transportation workers were dispatched to Highway 36 immediately west of County Road

SEE PRONGHORN PAGE 22

Byers water system upgrades commence

by **Kathy Smiley**
Staff Writer

BYERS — Contractors for the Byers Water & Sanitation District's \$4.2 million water system improvement project are set and work will begin soon.

A pre-construction meeting occurred Nov. 14 and the two contractors will mobilize soon thereafter.

The project has two main components — installing a water line north of the railroad tracks and re-coating the interior of water storage tanks 1 and 2. Other improvements on tanks 1, 2 and 3 will occur and additional water hydrants and valves will be installed. The project is being managed by consulting engineers GMS, Inc.

The water line will be installed by Global
SEE BYERS WSD PAGE 22



KATHY SMILEY/The I-70 Scout

Area firefighters were dispatched to the area of 74th Avenue and Calhoun Byers Road northeast of Byers about 2:45 p.m. Nov. 14 on report of smoke emanating from a residence. Upon arrival, responders found a fire inside the home's chimney and chimney chase. Fire spread and smoke damage to the main portion of the house was minimal. The lead investigator said the fire was accidental. Byers Fire Rescue was assisted by Strasburg, Bennett and Sable Altura fire departments.

Snowstorm yanks Eastern Colorado out of drought

by **Steven Vetter**
Managing Editor

Little time passed before drought fears dried up significantly after the east and south halves of the state received at least 2 inches of

precipitation from a Nov. 6-9 snowstorm.

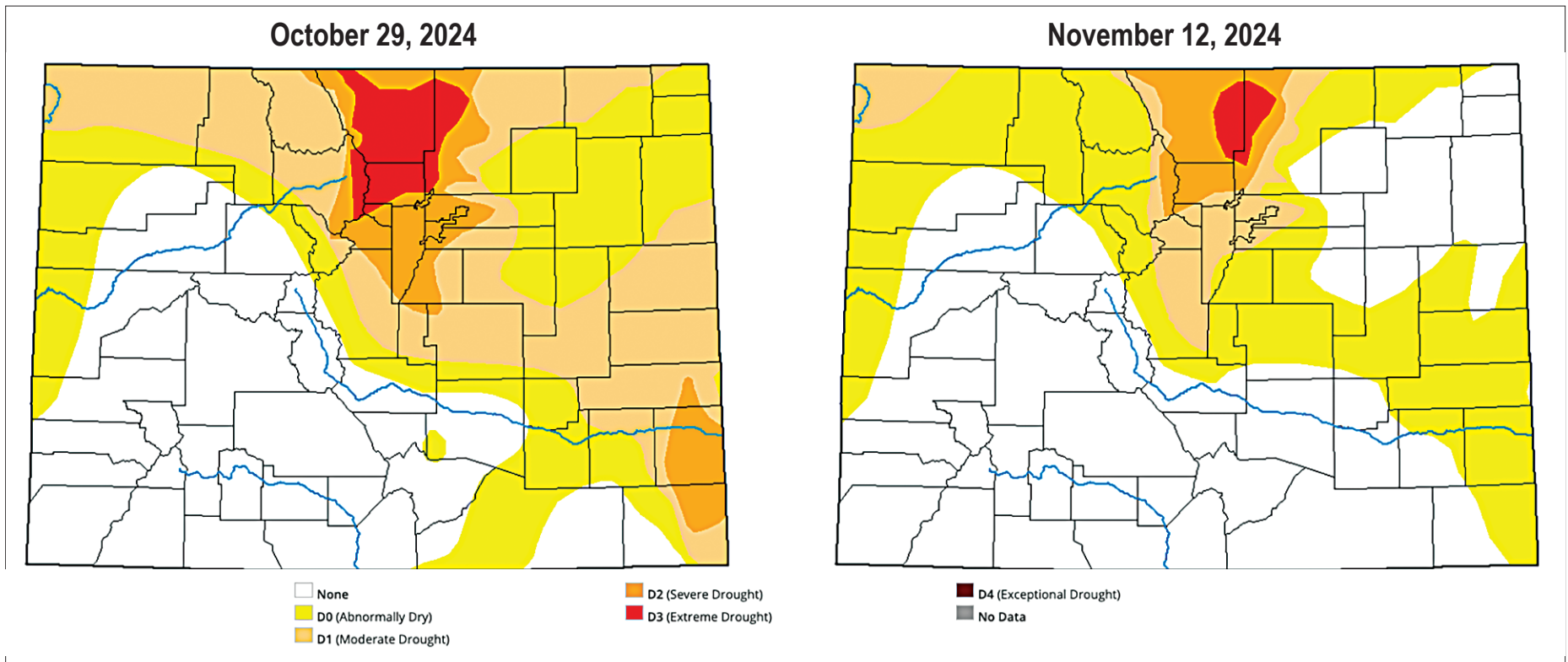
"There were a few areas of two-class improvement in southeastern Colorado, northwestern Kansas, and the fringes of south-central and southeastern Kansas,"

said the Nov. 12 narrative from the U.S. Drought Monitor, which showed only about 10% of the state in drought compared to about one-third the previous week. "Between 2 and 4 inches of precipitation

fell on a large swath covering the eastern half of Colorado, most of central and western Kansas, and adjacent Nebraska. All of this resulted in a large area of improvement [including] most of northern and east-

ern Colorado." Last week's map showed 58% with adequate or better moisture, compared to 42% a week prior, while the area of abnormally dryness

SEE DROUGHT DRIES UP PAGE 8



U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR

The Nov. 6-9 snowstorm that dropped between 2-4 feet of snow and 2-plus inches of precipitation has resulted in significant improvement in drought designations across Colorado, particularly the eastern half of the state.