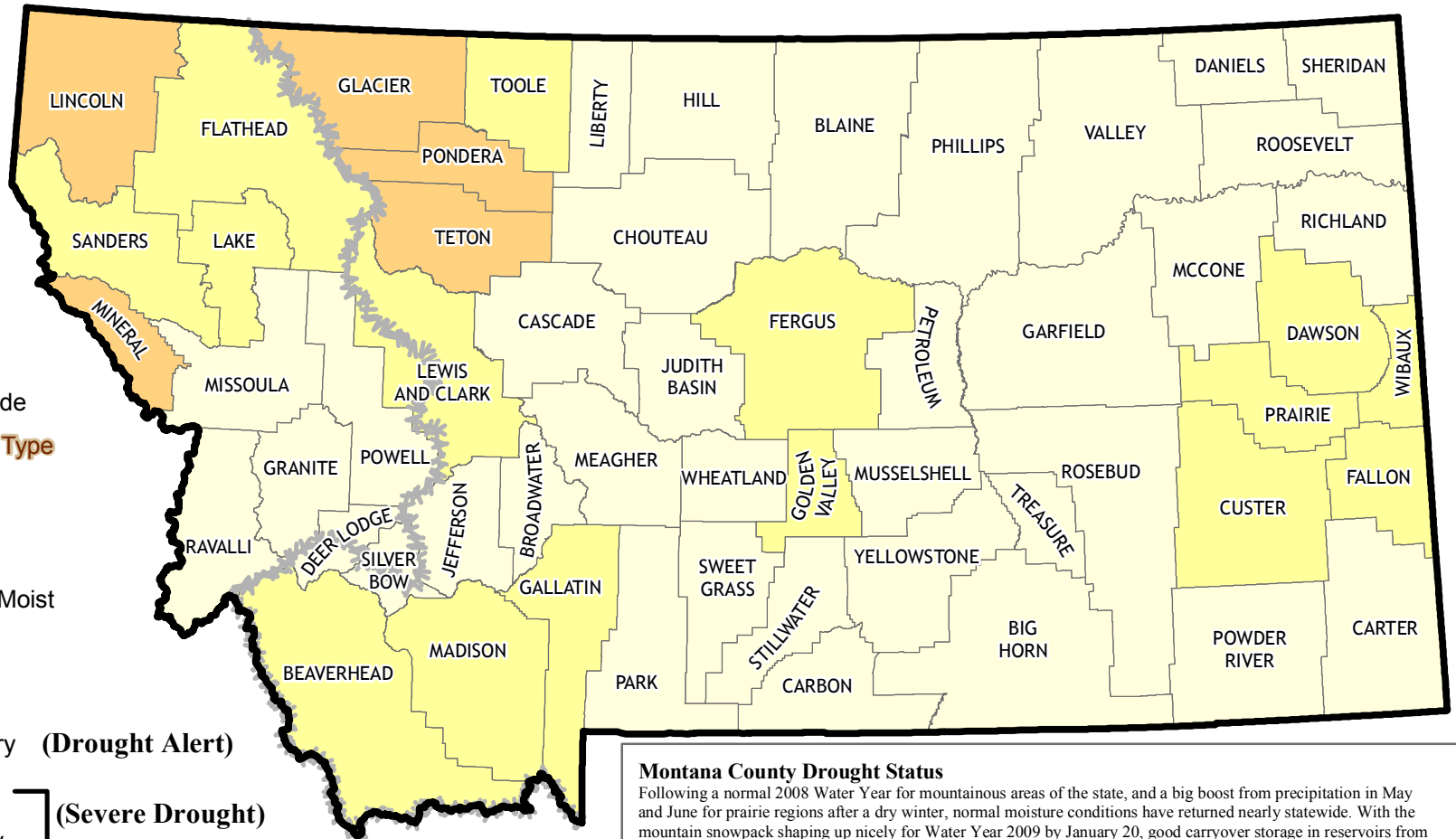


Montana Drought Status by County - February, 2009



Map Key

Continental Divide
 Drought Impact Type

Drought Status

February 2009

- No Drought - Moist
 - No Drought
 - Slightly Dry
 - Moderately Dry (Drought Alert)
 - Severely Dry
 - Extremely Dry
- (Severe Drought)

Drought Impact Types - **A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan.



<http://nris.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana County Drought Status

Following a normal 2008 Water Year for mountainous areas of the state, and a big boost from precipitation in May and June for prairie regions after a dry winter, normal moisture conditions have returned nearly statewide. With the mountain snowpack shaping up nicely for Water Year 2009 by January 20, good carryover storage in reservoirs from WY 2008, and above average precipitation with good snow cover for the dryland farming and livestock range areas, the outlook at this time for the coming growing season is good.

The January 8, 2009 El Niño / Southern Oscillation (ENSO) status discussion from the Climate Prediction Center concludes that La Niña (cool phase of ENSO) conditions are likely to continue in the Northern Hemisphere through spring 2009. An active La Niña climate anomaly is known for bringing cooler than average winter temperatures to Montana and has more often than not brought above average precipitation as well.
 See: <http://drought.mt.gov/News/climateneews.asp#conditionslikely>

The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee assesses water supply and moisture conditions on a monthly basis to determine drought status for each county of the state. The drought status map is used primarily to promote awareness of drought and to alert Montanans to impending drought conditions so they may respond appropriately.

Drought Alert: Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages watershed groups and county drought committees to convene and undertake planning for drought.
Severe Drought: Local officials should have local drought planning underway or should convene local drought planning at the earliest opportunity.

For information about how the drought status maps are determined or to learn more about recommended responses to drought see the Montana Drought Response Plan.
<http://nris.state.mt.us/drought/committee/DroughtP07.pdf>