For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan at the earliest opportunity. The August 1, 2011 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index indicated that 49 of 52 river basins reported were rated as Extremely Wet with the surplus above the 5-year average and subsoil moisture was rated 62 percent adequate and surplus also above the 5-year average. Winter wheat harvest has started with 25 percent harvested against the 5-year average of 51 percent and is rated 68 percent good and excellent with 32 percent fair, and spring wheat rated 52 percent good and excellent with 36 percent fair. Range and pasture feed conditions are 73 percent good and excellent.

According to NOAA’s August 4, 2011 ENSO update “while tropical Pacific oceanic anomalies indicate ENSO-neutral, the atmospheric conditions continue to reflect La Nina-like conditions,” and that into the fall ENSO-neutral or La Nina conditions are equally likely. A cool phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) that began in 2008 persists in the North Pacific and is thought by climatologists to exert a cool and moist influence on the climate of the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. Coupled with the 2010-2011 La Nina and the Arctic Oscillation driving cold troughs southward, Montana had a record-breaking year for snow water equivalent of mountain snowpack and streamflow that resulted in many weeks of often destructive flooding.