



Montana Drought Status by County - November 2011

<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

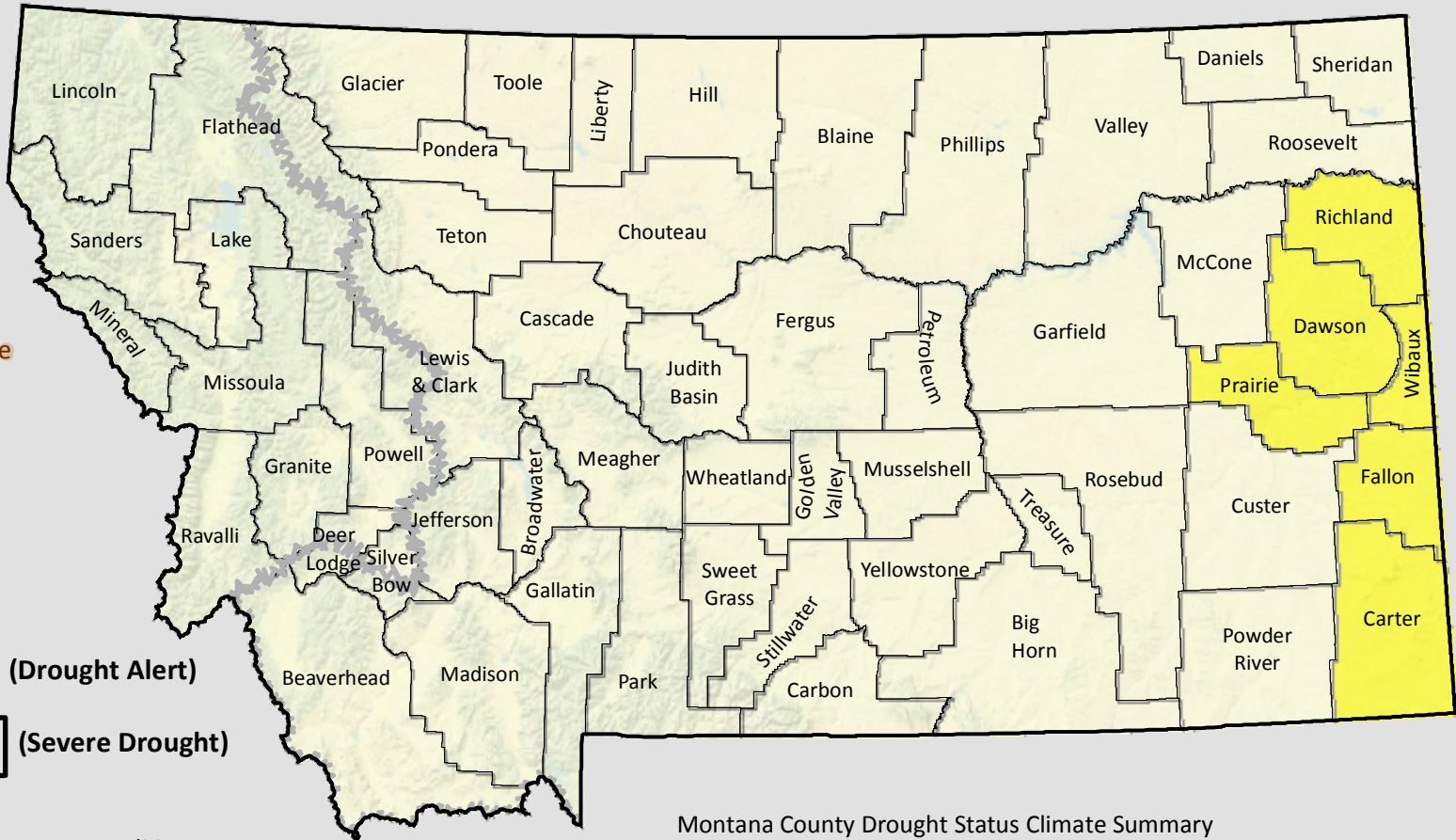
Continental Divide

Drought Impact Type

Drought Status

November 2011

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



Montana County Drought Status Climate Summary

According to the National Weather Service Montana Weather / Precipitation Summary for October, the month saw a general westerly flow that brought above normal temperatures for the 4th consecutive month with average to much above average precipitation, especially in the central area of the state. The 3-month dry spell ended with near normal precipitation statewide for the start of the 2012 Water Year on October 1. Much of the state closed the 2011 Water Year on September 30 with precipitation well above average in the range of 2 to 6 inches and more, especially in the central, south-central, southeast and northeast divisions where it was common to see 8 inches of precipitation above normal.

Nearly two months into the new water year, NRCS Snotel is reporting a total mountain precipitation average of about 120% for the five major river basins west of the Continental Divide and 117 percent for the 11 Montana river basins east of the Divide. Currently, snow water content of the mountain snowpack west and east of the Divide averages about 110% of the 30-year average 1971-2000.

The Montana Field Office of USDA's Agricultural Statistics Service October Crop Weather Report reports that topsoil and subsoil moisture were each up from the week before at 51% adequate and surplus. Winter wheat emerged was 68% up from 54% the week before but behind the 5-year average of 81%. However, winter wheat statewide was impacted by dry conditions and cold nights leaving only 28% rated at good to excellent.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center November 10 ENSO Update reported the ongoing La Nina Advisory as, "La Nina is expected to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2011-2012." Current conditions and past ENSO records indicate a "weak-to-moderate strength La Nina" over the course of this winter. Montana experiences cooler and wetter conditions during La Nina winters generally.

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/>