



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

- Continental Divide
- Drought Impact Type

Moisture Status

July 2012

- Extremely Moist
- Moderately Moist
- Slightly Moist
- Near Average (Normal)
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry (**Drought Alert**)
- 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

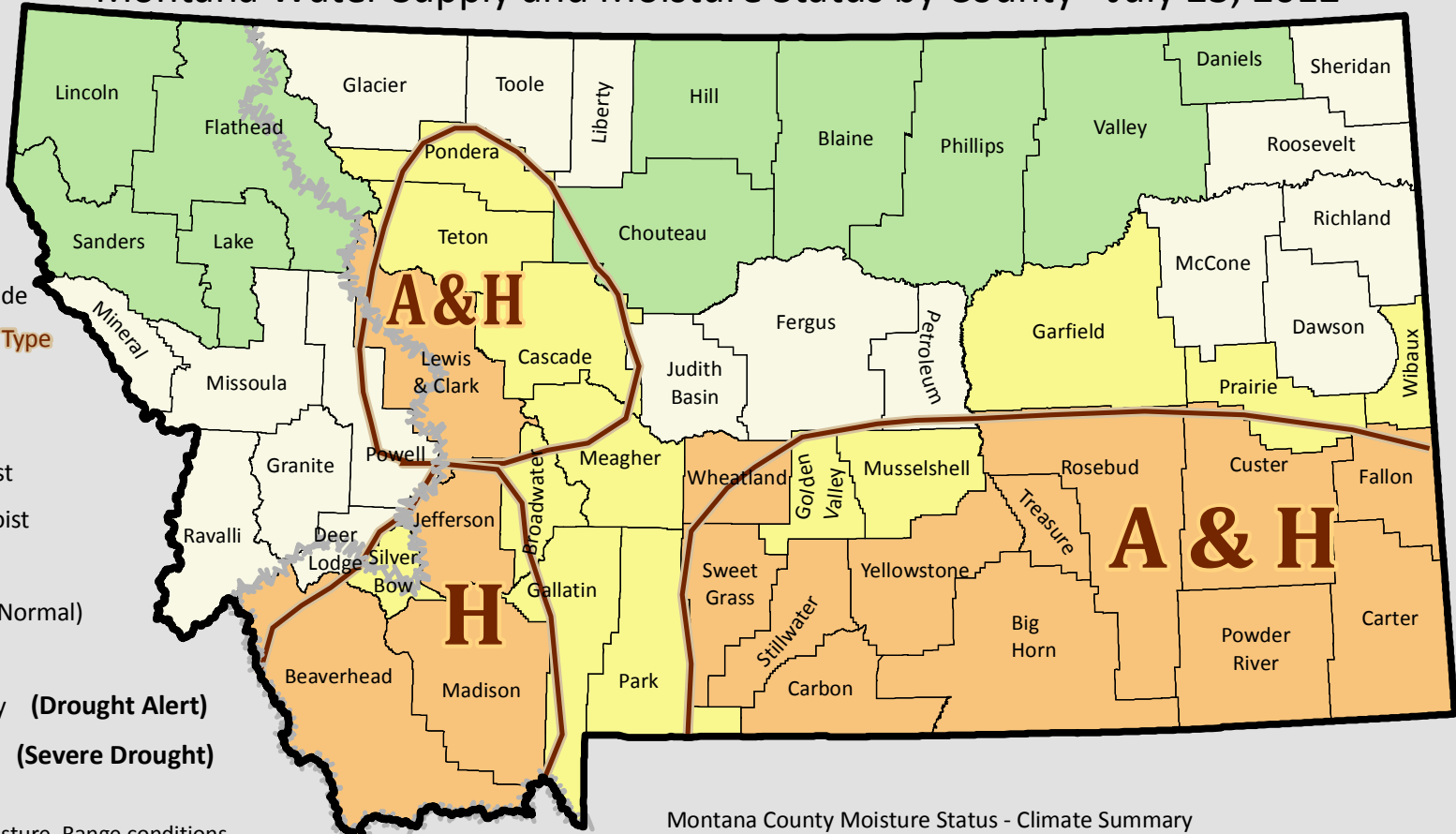
should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan



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

Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - July 23, 2012



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

According to the USDA Crop Weather Report for the week ending July 22, 2012, "Afternoon thunderstorms prevailed for most of Montana. Saint Ignatius received the highest amount of precipitation for the week with 3.93 inches of moisture; while most other stations saw between 0.00 to 2.00 inches. High temperatures ranged from the lower 80s to the lower 100s." The July 23 8-14-day forecast calls for nearly the entire state to be 50- to 60-percent chance of being warmer than normal with the exception of the northwest corner of the state to be slightly cooler at 40- to 50 percent warmer than normal. Crop year precipitation ranges from 70- to 120 percent of normal across the state with some exceptions, including the south-central and southwestern regions which are only from 50- to 60 percent of normal.

The report has topsoil moisture statewide at 78 percent short and very short and only 22-percent adequate, and subsoil moisture at 65 percent short to very short with only 35-percent adequate at this time. Summer range and pasture feed condition is 14 percent good to excellent, well behind last year and the 5 year average, due to heat and lack of sufficient precipitation. The June 1 forecast yield for winter wheat is 38 bushels/acre rated 54-percent good to excellent. Spring wheat is rated as 52-percent good to excellent at 30 bushels per acre. The Montana Governor's Drought Advisory Committee listed 17 counties in the southern portion of the state as being Moderately Dry and on Drought Alert by July 20. The Farm Service Agency announced that as of July 23rd, 48 out of 56 counties in Montana are authorized for emergency CRP haying and grazing with only eight counties ineligible including Daniels, Hill, Glacier, Liberty, Lincoln, Mineral, Sanders and Toole.

The NRCS July 13 Surface Water Supply Index map indicates that seven of 54 river basins are rated as slightly dry, one basin, the Dearborn is moderately dry, and one basin as extremely dry, Red Lodge / Rock Creek in Carbon County. The remaining 45 river basins are rated as normal to moderately wet with the exception of three northwest Montana basins in the extremely wet category.

The next meeting of the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee is set for August 16.