

# Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - May 2014



<http://drought.mt.gov>

## Map Key

Drought Impact Type

Continental Divide

## Moisture Status

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

## Drought Impact Types -

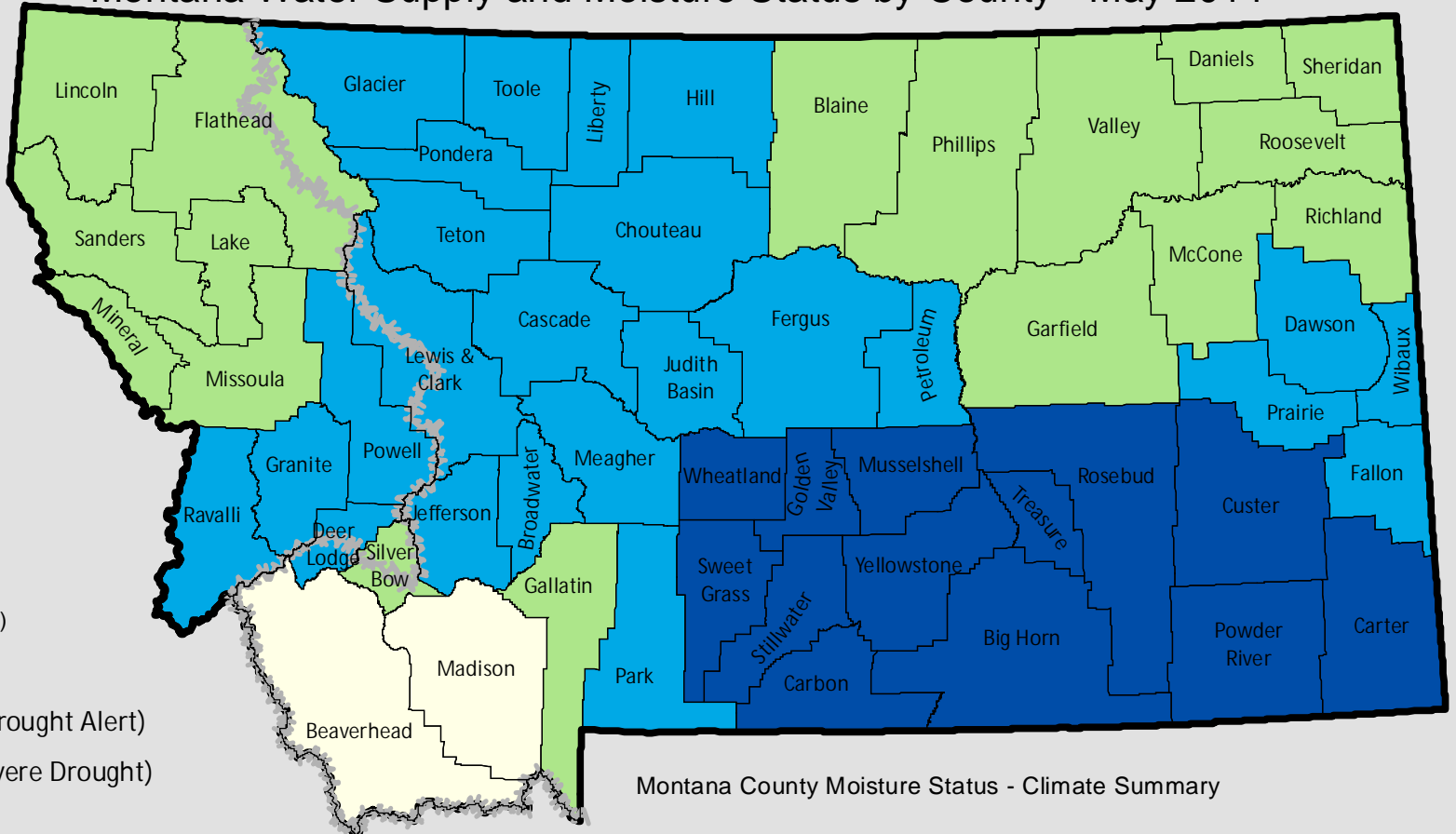
- A = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions
- H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

**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://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic\\_Information/Maps/Drought](http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Drought)



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

According to the National Weather Service water year (October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014) precipitation totals at valley elevations as of May 4, 2014 ranged from 70- to 110-percent of normal for the southwest region; 110- to 130-percent for the western region; 70- to 110-percent for the northeastern region; 90- to 130-percent for the central region; 90- to 120 percent for the northcentral region; 120- to 150-percent for the southcentral region, and 120- to 130-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state. Streams and small rivers of the Yellowstone and upper Missouri River basins are rated high by the USGS as of May 7. <http://wy-mt.water.usgs.gov/>

The NRCS Snow Survey reports that as of May, 7, 2014 snow water equivalent (SWE) of the state's mountain snowpack for the water year ranges from the Kootenai Basin at 187 percent of average to the Bitterroot River basin at 157 percent. The Smith-Judith-Musselshell basins are currently at 155 percent of average; Lower Clark Fork was 157 percent of average, the Flathead 143 percent, the Headwaters Missouri Mainstem 147 percent, the Missouri Mainstem 147, and the Sun-Teton-Marias basins 177 percent. Cool daytime high temperatures and cold night-time lows in the mountains, interspersed with warm spells of only 2 to 4 days, have preserved the snowpack above elevations of 6,000 ft above sea-level. <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/snowup-graph.pl?state=MT>

According to the May 5, 2014 Agricultural Statistics Service Montana Crop Progress report Barley has begun to emerge well behind the 5-year average due to cold temperatures. Seeding of pulse crops has picked up and is ahead of last year. Winter wheat condition is rated 63-percent good to excellent. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 87 percent compared with 68 percent last year and the 5 year average of 86 percent. Subsoil moisture was 87 percent adequate and surplus compared to 54 percent last year.