



<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)**

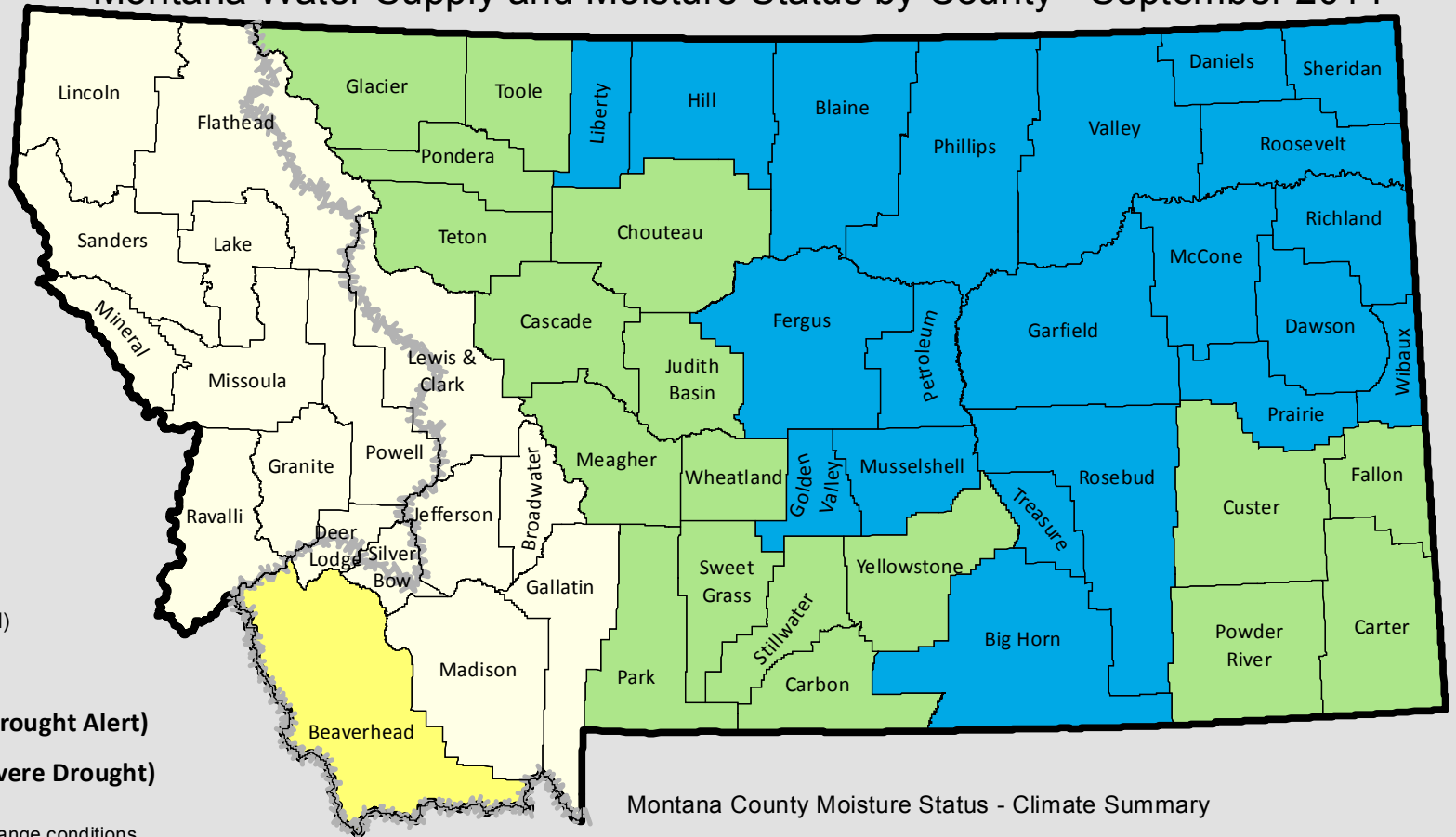
Drought Impact Types -

- 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

Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - September 2014



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year (April 1, 2014 – September 12, 2014) precipitation totals thus far at valley elevations ranged from about 100 - to 110-percent of normal for the southwest region; 80- to 110-percent for the western region; 120- to 150-percent for the northeastern region; 110- to 130-percent for the central region; 120- to 150 percent for the northcentral region; 100- to 120-percent for the southcentral region, and 120- to 140-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in tributaries of the Yellowstone River Basin are 75- to 100 percent of normal, the Missouri River basin 75-to above 90 percent, and the Clark Fork River Basin 70-90 percent, or all rated as "Normal" to "Above normal" according to the USGS as of September 12, 2014: http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?id=ww_current

The September 1, 2014 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only two of 54 Montana river basins as below its Near Average legend category; the Beaverhead River basin and the Kootenai basin above Libby Dam, both rated as Slightly Dry: http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/watersupply/SurfaceWaterSupplyIndex/Default.aspx

According to the week-ending August 31, USDA NASS Crop Progress report, "Pasture conditions continue to improve due to cool temperatures and widespread precipitation. Range and pasture conditions were well above the five year average with 50 percent good to excellent. Soil moisture conditions improved across the state following a series of rainstorms. Topsoil moisture rated adequate and surplus was 86 percent compared with 49 percent last year and the 5-year average of 44 percent. Subsoil moisture was rated 84 percent adequate and surplus compared with 57 percent last year and the 5 year average of 49 percent. Winter Wheat harvest is wrapping up with 95 percent harvested." Spring wheat condition was rated 86 percent Fair to Good with 7 percent Excellent. Precipitation caused flooding in some areas delaying harvest and causing small grains to sprout.



http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Drought