



Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - July 2015

<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

- Drought Impact Type
- Continental Divide

Moisture Status

Current Month

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

Drought Impact Types -

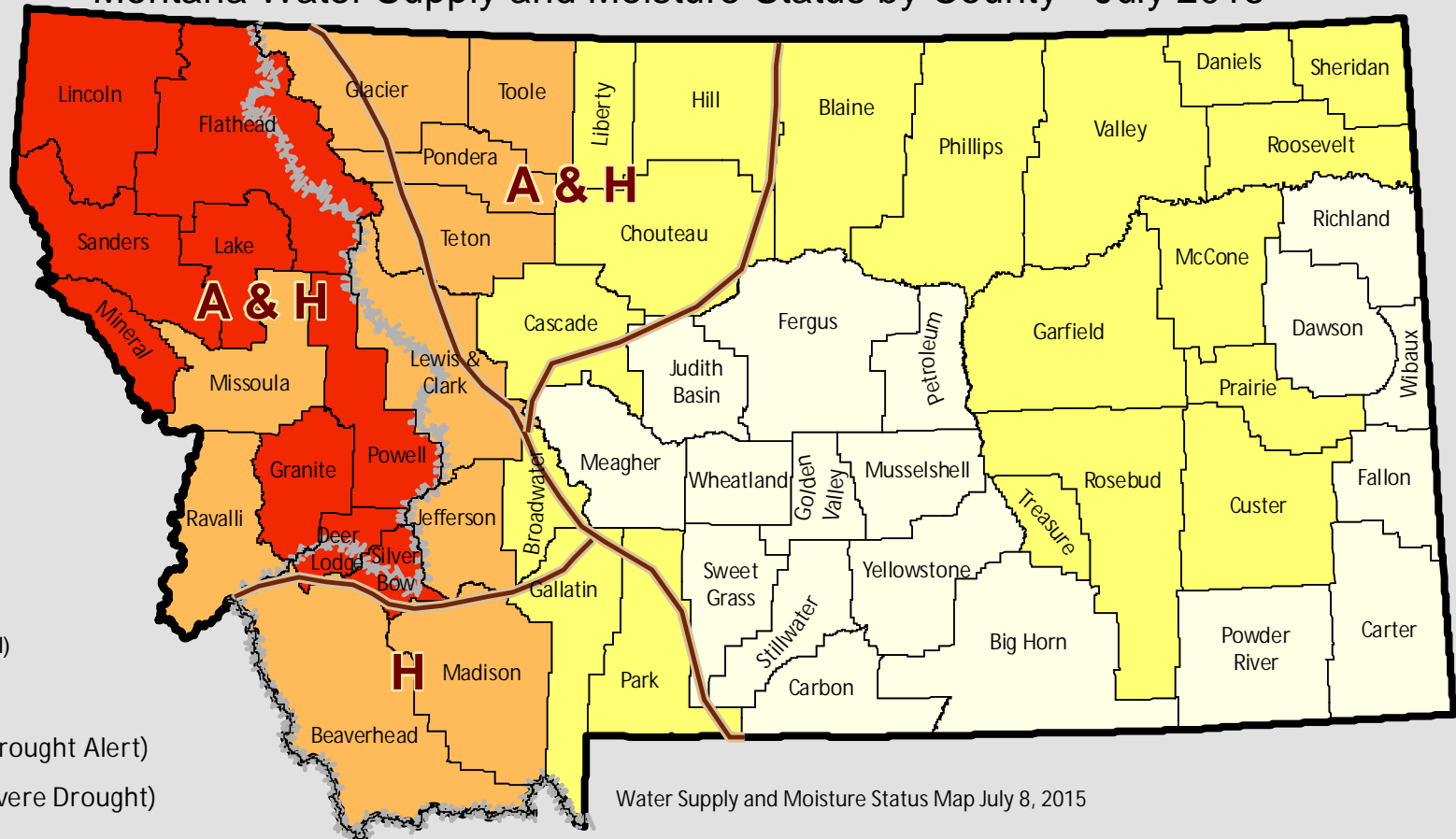
- A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions
- H** = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

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



Water Supply and Moisture Status Map July 8, 2015

According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year (April 1, 2015 – July 8, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations for the western region ranged from about 35- to 65-percent of normal; 65- to 85-percent for the southwest region; 75- to 95-percent for the northeastern region; 90- to 100-percent for the central region; 60- to 80 percent for the northcentral region; 80- to 110-percent for the southcentral region, and 100- to 130-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in tributaries of the Yellowstone River basin were rated as below normal to above normal; normal to much below normal in the Missouri River Basin, and much below to normal for flows west of the Divide in the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins, according to the USGS as of June 9, 2015: http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?r=mt&id=ww_current

According to the July 5th USDA Crop Progress Report severe weather brought widespread hail damage to the High Line on the 5th with total loss of Winter Wheat for some producers. Lack of precipitation is not even allowing a first cutting of alfalfa and hay in some areas. Durum and spring wheat are heading quickly with the warmth. Higher than average temperatures continue to cause damage to pulse crops and rangelands continue to show signs of stress in many areas of the state. The July 8, 2015 Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County map rated 9 of the 11 counties west of the Divide as Extremely Dry and downgraded Missoula and Bitterroot counties to Moderately Dry. The map showed that 19 counties east of the Divide were rated as Slightly Dry with 18 counties in the South-Central and Southeastern regions were rated Near Average, 8 counties were Moderately Dry.