According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year to date (April 1, 2015 – September 6, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 80 - 100-percent of normal for the southwest region; 50- to 70-percent for the western region; 90- to 110-percent for the northeastern region; 80- to 100-percent for the central region; 80- to 110 percent for the northcentral region; 90- to 120-percent for the southcentral region, and 90- to 120-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in the Yellowstone, and lower Missouri River Basins are currently rated as Normal to Below Normal at this time. Flows in the Clark Fork River basin are Normal to Much below Normal according to the USGS as of September 10, 2015: http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map

The September 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only 4 of 54 Montana river basins as within the Near Average range of flow and 9 river basins within the Slightly Dry category leaving the remaining 41 river basins in the Moderately Dry and the Extremely Dry categories. Almost all of the river basins in the Moderately Dry and Extremely Dry categories lie west of the Continental Divide. See: http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf

Cooler than normal temperatures over the course of the past few weeks with scattered rain events and decreasing hours of daylight have offered relief for fisheries struggling with very low stream flows. The September 6 USDA Crop Progress Report noted topsoil moisture at 45-percent Adequate to Surplus and subsoil moisture 48 percent rated as Adequate to Surplus. More precipitation is sorely needed according to grain producers for suitable seeding conditions of the 2016 winter wheat crop.