Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - April 12, 2013

http://drought.mt.gov

Map Key

Drought Impact Type

ContinentalDivide

Moisture Status

April 2013

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

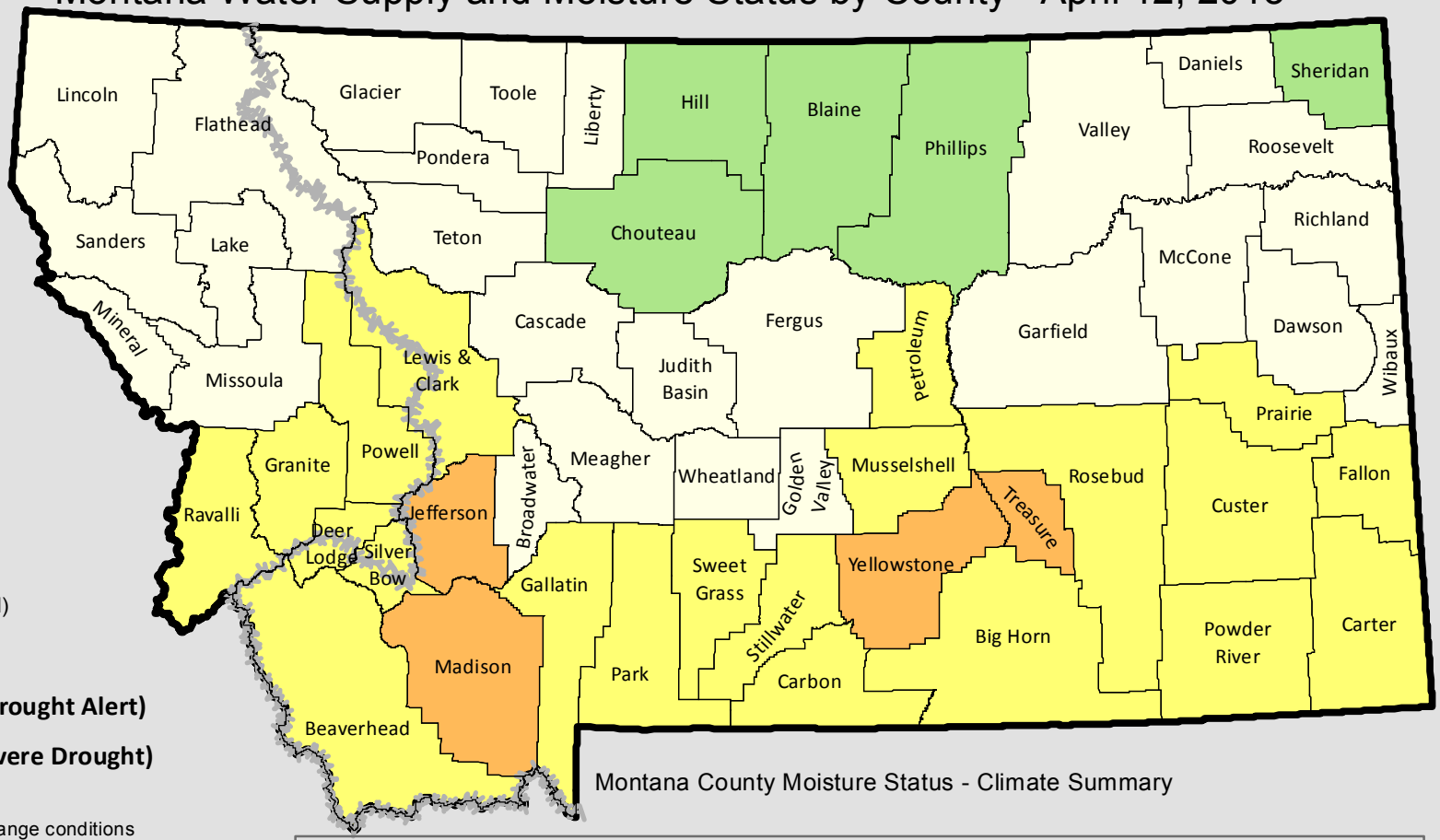
Drought Impact Types -

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 County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

As of April 23, NRCS reported statewide gains in river basin snow water equivalents following spring storms with the St. Mary-Milk River Basin the highest percentage of normal at 138 percent. West of the Divide, as of April 23, the Kootenai River Basin was 112%; the Flathead 115%; the Upper Clark Fork 97%; Bitterroot 99%, Lower Clark Fork was 107% of average. East of the Divide, the Missouri Headwaters (Jefferson, Madison, Gallatin) was 96% of average; the Headwaters Missouri Mainstem (Smith, Judith, Musselshell) was 98%; the Missouri Mainstem River Basin (Sun, Teton, Marias) was 108%, the Upper Yellowstone was 101%; the Tongue was 101%, and the lower Yellowstone was 101% of the 30-year average 1981-2010.

According to the National Weather Service March 22 Drought Report, February was the sixth consecutive month with above normal temperatures for the state, and the tenth of the past twelve months with above normal temperatures. The monthly accumulated precipitation across Montana for February was mostly below normal. The wettest areas were portions west of the divide and the mountains. February was the seventh in the past 12 months to have below normal precipitation.

The April 22, 2013 USDA Crop Weather Report notes that "Montana experienced another cold, snowy week during the week ending April 21. Chinook received the highest amount of precipitation for the week with 1.18 inches of moisture. Most other stations reported receiving 0.01 to 1.12 inches of precipitation. The weather outlook for April 29th through May 5th is for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation both east and west of the Great Divide. Winter wheat condition is rated 51 percent good to excellent, compared to 52 percent good to excellent from last year and the 5-year average of 56 percent good to excellent."

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