

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



According to the National Weather Service Great Falls State Office, November 2013 Weather and Precipitation Summary, "Even though much of the state received below normal precipitation in November, statewide composite soil moisture conditions were 0.6 percentage points above normal. Over the past 12 months, from a statewide composite perspective, only one month has recorded below normal soil moisture conditions. This November ranks as the fifth wettest of record."

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/climate/droughtsum/pdfs/montanawx_2013_11.pdf

According to the November 24 USDA Agricultural Statistics Service Crop-Weather Report, "harvest of late season crops continues a bit behind last year with corn and grain harvested at 73 percent, just behind last year's 78 percent harvested. Winter wheat emergence is ahead of last year thanks to adequate fall moisture but reporters are voicing concern over the lack of snow cover on the fledgling crop after subzero temperatures arrived this week." Winter wheat condition is rated as 41-percent Fair, 51-percent Good, and 5-percent Excellent with 96-percent emerged over 68-percent emerged at this time last year.

The NRCS reports that as of December 12 snow water equivalent of the state's mountain snowpack ranges from 96-percent of average in the Lower Clark Fork Basin to 153 percent in the Smith, Judith, Musselshell Basin with the 5 major basins west of the Divide about 110-percent, and the Missouri and the Yellowstone River Basins about 125-percent, of the period of record 1981-2010.

http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgibin/snowup-graph.pl?state=MT