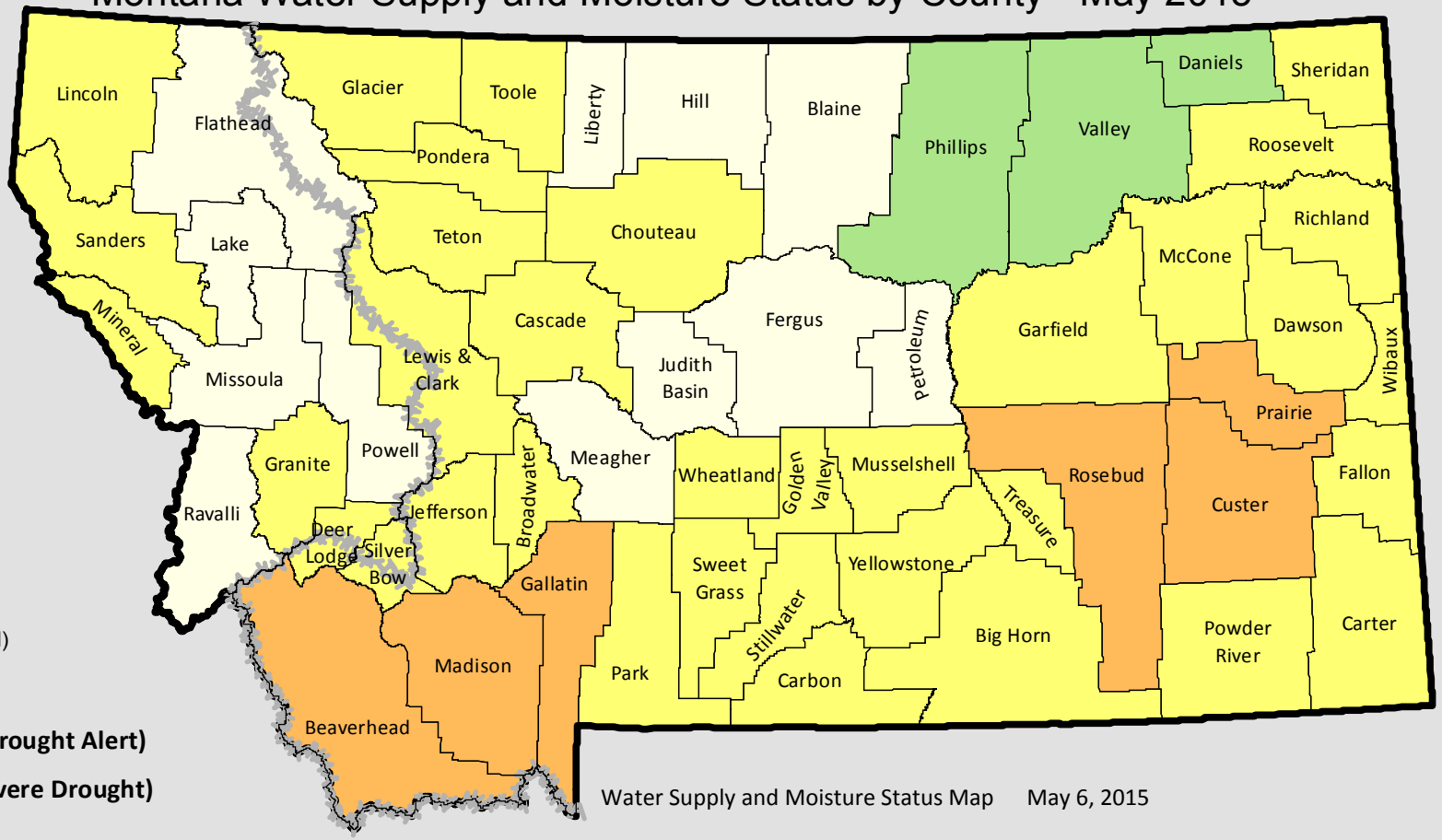
Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - May 2015



Water Supply and Moisture Status Map May 6, 2015

http://drought.mt.gov

Map Key

Drought Impact Type

ContinentalDivide

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

According to the National Weather Service, Water Year to date (October 1, 2014 – May 6, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 85 - to 95-percent of normal for the **southwest** region; 100- to 120-percent for the **western** region; 65- to 95-percent for the **northeastern** region; 80- to 130-percent for the **central** region; 80- to 120 percent for the **northcentral** region; 50- to 80-percent for the **southcentral** region, and 45- to 65-percent for the **southeast** region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in tributaries of the Yellowstone, and Missouri River Basins are rated as normal to above normal while flows west of the Divide, in sections of the Clark Fork River Basin, range from Normal to Much below Normal in the Northwest region according to the USGS as of May 6, 2015: http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map

Several persistent spells of warm temperatures over the course of the past two months have had a deleterious melting effect on what little mountain snowpack remained below 7,500 ft. elevation where precipitation has come as rain rather than snow. Shortfalls in Crop Year (April 1- September 30) precipitation have caused crops and rangelands to begin to show signs of stress in many areas of the state primarily east of the Divide. The May 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index reflects the fact that the mountain snowpack is nearly gone with only 13 of 54 river basins rated as *Near Average* with the remaining 41 basins rated as *Slightly Dry* to *Extremely Dry.*
http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf