



Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - August 2015

<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

- Drought Impact Type
- Continental Divide

Moisture Status

Current Month

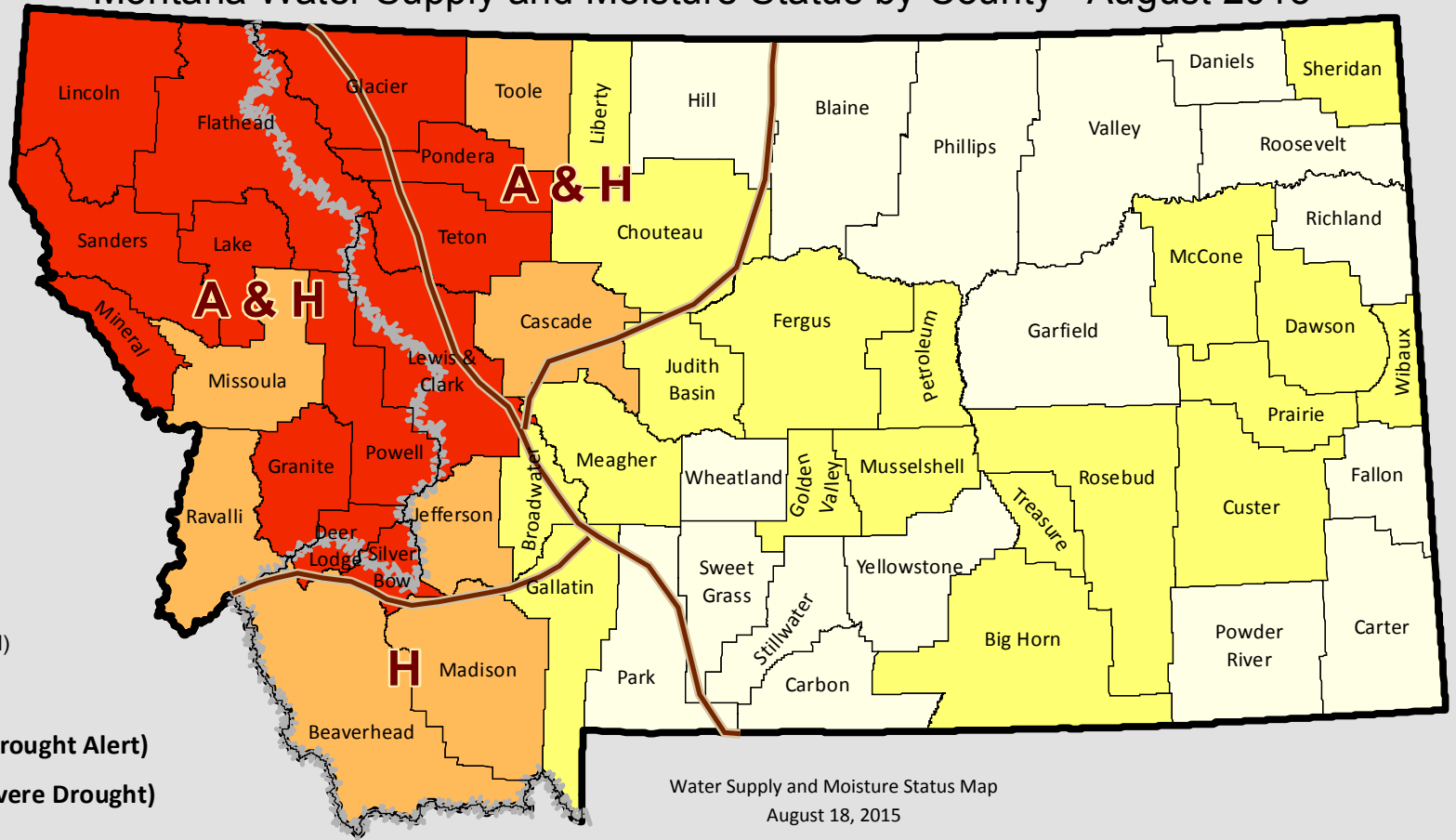
- Extremely Moist
- Moderately Moist
- Slightly Moist
- Near Average (Normal)
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry **(Drought Alert)**
- Extremely Dry **(Severe Drought)**

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



Water Supply and Moisture Status Map
August 18, 2015

According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year to date (April 1, 2015 – August 18, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 80 - to 110-percent of normal for the **southwest** region; 45- to 60-percent for the **western** region; 80- to 110-percent for the **northeastern** region; 90- to 110-percent for the **central** region; 80- to 110 percent for the **northcentral** region; 90- to 110-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 rated as normal at this time. The Clark Fork River basin is below to much below normal according to the USGS as of August 18, 2015: <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map>

The August 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only 18 of 54 Montana river basins as above the *Extremely Dry* category with only six (6) river basins rated as *Near Average*; three (3) basins are rated as *Slightly Dry*; with the remaining river basins rated as *Moderately Dry* See: http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf

Cooler than normal temperatures over the course of the past few weeks have offered a reprieve from 90-degree and above temperatures with little precipitation of July. Harvest of grains is well ahead of normal due to early maturity from the unseasonal heat of mid-summer. The August 16 USDA Crop Progress Report noted topsoil moisture 47-percent Adequate to Surplus and subsoil moisture 48 percent rated as adequate to surplus. The report noted that some rainstorms were heavy although spotty in coverage. Producers were moving livestock off of "exhausted summer ranges early" with 10-percent of sheep and 10 percent of cattle moved.



http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Drought