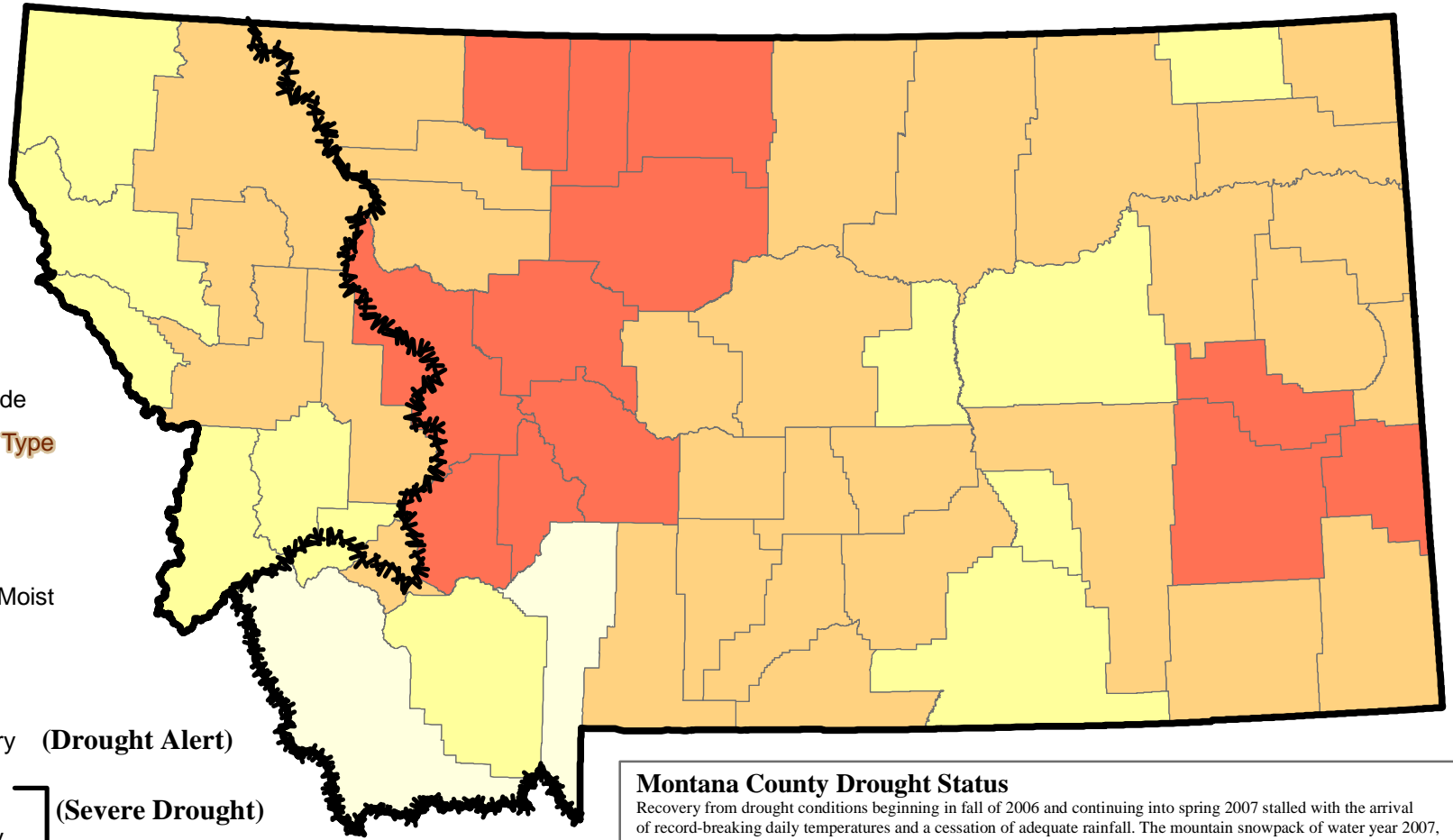










Montana Drought Status by County - January, 2008



Map Key

-  Continental Divide
-  Drought Impact Type

Drought Status January 2008

-  No Drought - Moist
 -  No Drought
 -  Slightly Dry
 -  Moderately Dry (Drought Alert)
 -  Severely Dry
 -  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://nris.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana County Drought Status

Recovery from drought conditions beginning in fall of 2006 and continuing into spring 2007 stalled with the arrival of record-breaking daily temperatures and a cessation of adequate rainfall. The mountain snowpack of water year 2007, which began October 1, 2006, formed late in winter and melted early in spring due to warm temperatures at high elevations causing record low streamflow by summer. Near average precipitation returned by fall as a La Nina, or cold climate event began to take effect. La Nina usually brings above average precipitation and below average temperatures to Montana in winter. Nevertheless, poor water supply conditions persist for many counties east and west of the Continental Divide. Recent improvement in snow water content of the mountain snowpack across the state for fall of 2007 is improving the water supply outlook for 2008 however.

The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee assesses water supply and moisture conditions on a monthly basis to determine drought status for each county of the state. The drought status map is used primarily to promote awareness of drought and to alert Montanans to impending drought conditions so they may respond appropriately.

Drought Alert: Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages watershed groups and county drought committees to convene and undertake planning for drought.

Severe Drought: Local officials should have local drought planning underway or should convene local drought planning at the earliest opportunity.

For information about how the drought status maps are determined or to learn more about recommended responses to drought see the Montana Drought Response Plan. (<http://nris.state.mt.us/drought/committee/DroughtP07.pdf>)