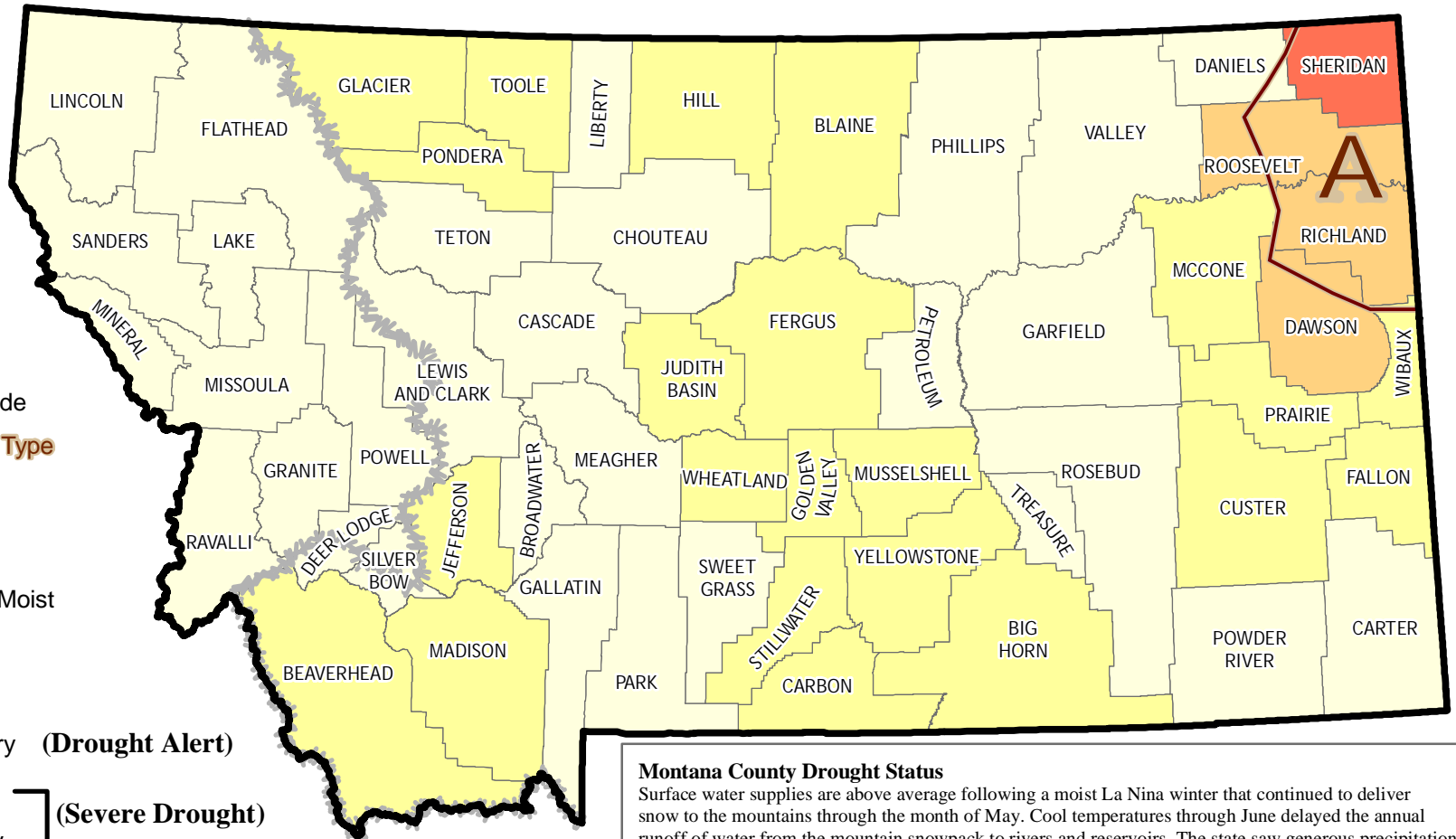


Montana Drought Status by County - July, 2008



Map Key

Continental Divide
 Drought Impact Type

Drought Status

July 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

Surface water supplies are above average following a moist La Nina winter that continued to deliver snow to the mountains through the month of May. Cool temperatures through June delayed the annual runoff of water from the mountain snowpack to rivers and reservoirs. The state saw generous precipitation in May following a dry winter and spring at valley elevations east of the Continental Divide. However, soil moisture and livestock water remain in short supply in several Northeast counties where crop development was further hindered by unseasonably cool temperatures. The La Nina has weakened bringing ENSO into a neutral state for the time being.

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>