



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

- Continental Divide
- Drought Impact Type

Drought Status

August 2011

- Moist
- No Drought
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry **(Drought Alert)**
- Severely Dry
- Extremely Dry **(Severe Drought)**

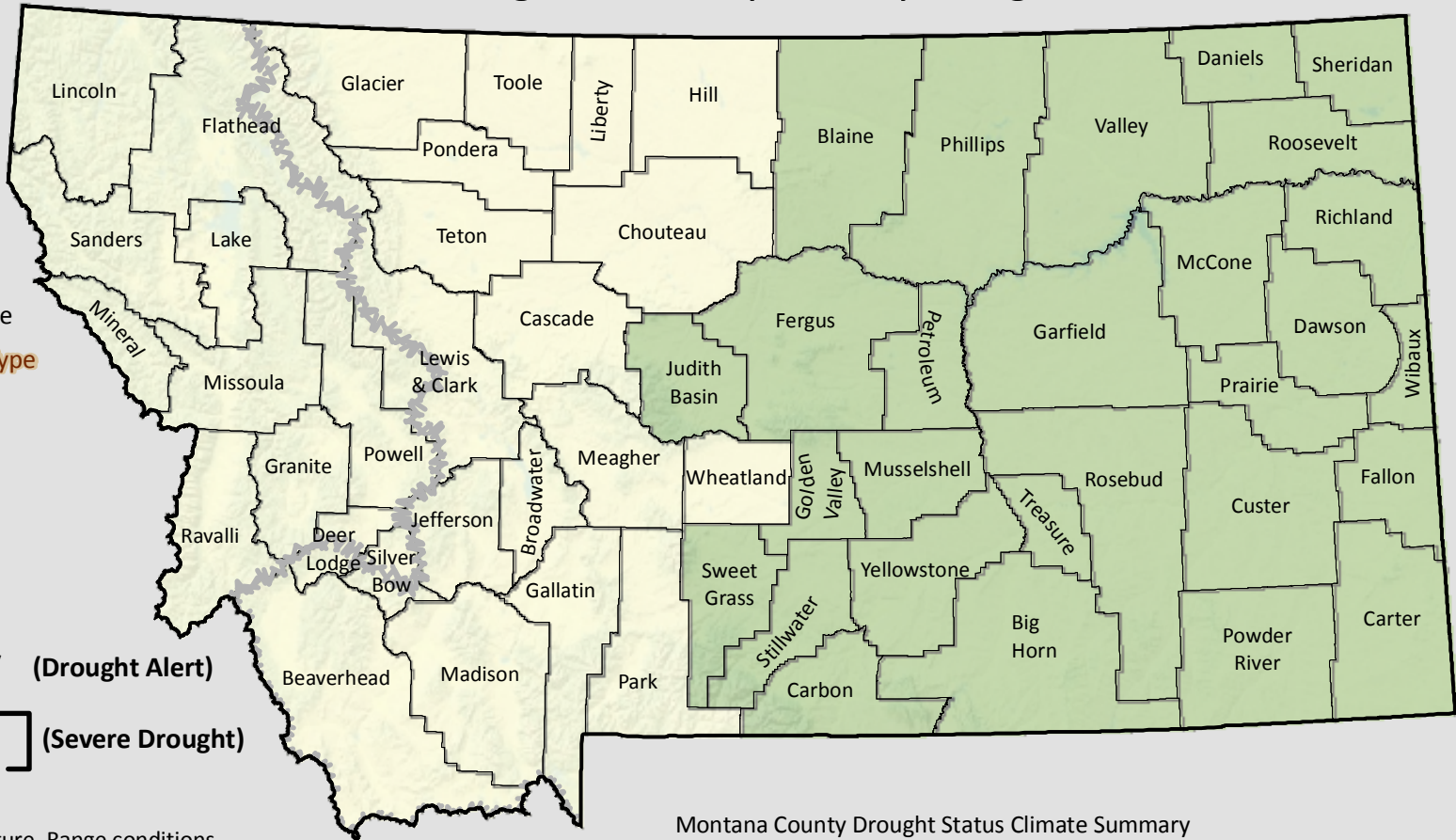
Drought Impact Types -

- 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

Montana Drought Status by County - August 2011



Montana County Drought Status Climate Summary

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather / Precipitation Summary for July 2011, the long, wet and cool spring gave way in July to normal temperatures and widely variable precipitation. As the convection season began, locally heavy rains caused some flash flooding since soils in most areas remained moist from winter and spring precipitation. But in recent weeks, soils are drying over large areas benefiting field work. The Summary noted that by the end of July, soil moisture monitoring at Great Falls indicated the driest soils since 2007.

The August 1, 2011 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index indicated that 49 of 52 river basins reported were rated as Extremely Wet with the remaining three basins rated as Moderately Wet, indicating the strength of the hydrologic recovery the state has experienced since its early stages in 2008. According to the August 8 Crop-Weather Report from Agricultural Statistics topsoil was rated 50 percent adequate and surplus above the 5-year average and subsoil moisture was rated 62 percent adequate and surplus also above the 5-year average. Winter wheat harvest has started with 25 percent harvested against the 5-year average of 51 percent and is rated 68 percent good and excellent with 32 percent fair, and spring wheat rated 52 percent good and excellent with 36 percent fair. Range and pasture feed conditions are 73 percent good and excellent.

According to NOAA's August 4, 2011 ENSO update "while tropical Pacific oceanic anomalies indicate ENSO-neutral, the atmospheric conditions continue to reflect La Nina-like conditions," and that into the fall ENSO-neutral or La Nina conditions are equally likely. A cool phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) that began in 2008 persists in the North Pacific and is thought by climatologists to exert a cool and moist influence on the climate of the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. Coupled with the 2010-2011 La Nina and the Arctic Oscillation driving cold troughs southward, Montana had a record-breaking year for snow water equivalent of mountain snowpack and streamflow that resulted in many weeks of often destructive flooding.



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