



<http://drought.mt.gov>

**Map Key**

Continental Divide

Drought Impact Type

**Moisture Status**

**April, 2012**

- 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

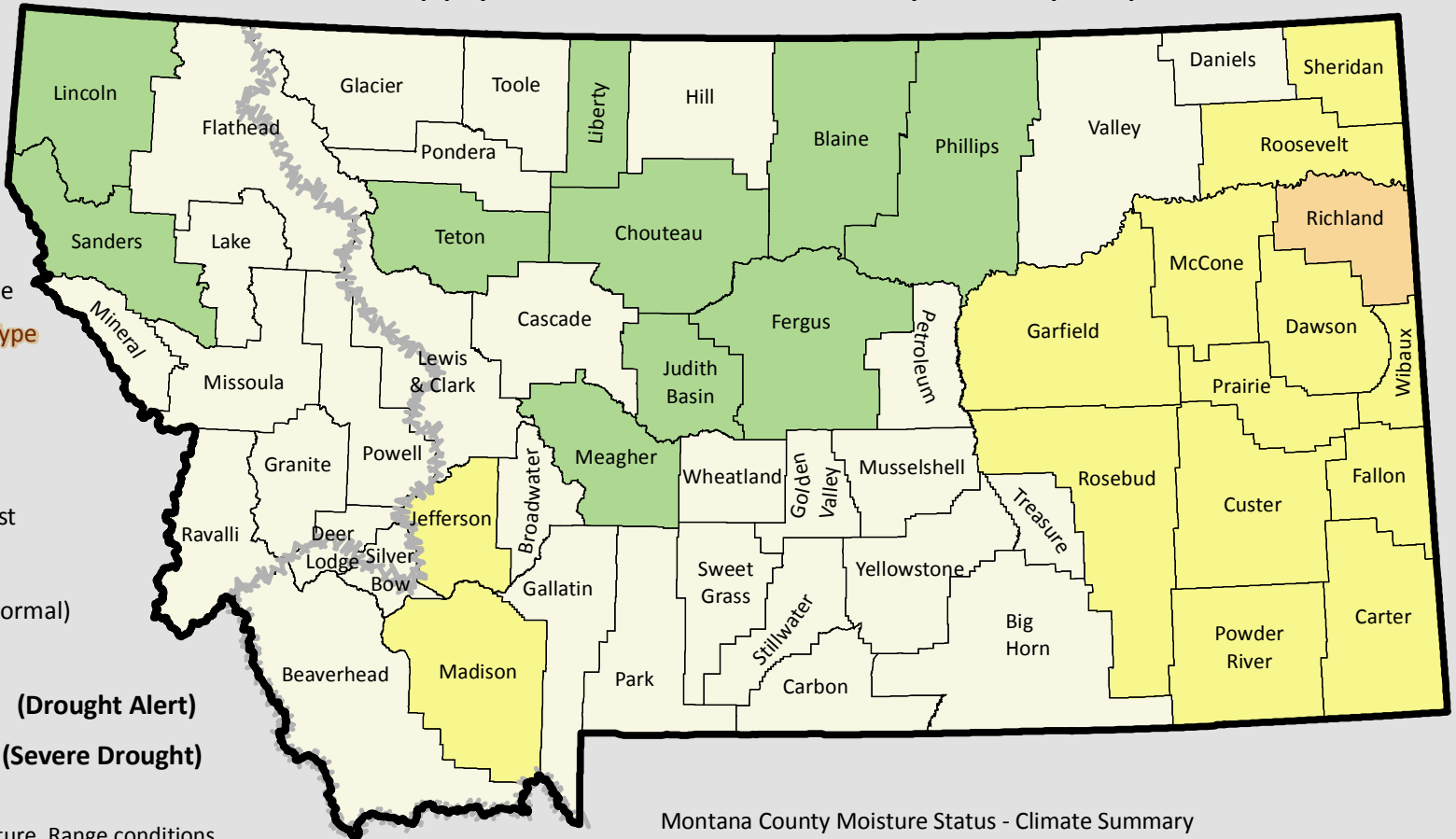
**Drought Alert** - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

**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://nr.is.mt.gov/drought/>

# Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - April 11, 2012



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

According to the National Weather Service March 2012 Weather and Precipitation Summary, "March temperatures averaged above normal across the state," with cooler readings in extreme western Montana and warmer than normal readings in eastern Montana. March was unusually windy with a gust of 117 mph recorded at Logan Pass tying the March 2007 record. "On the 23rd, a high temperature of 84F was recorded at Moorhead." Wind gusts in the 35- to 55-mph range were recorded along the Rocky Mountain Front regularly during the month. Precipitation amounts received varied widely with wet areas in the west, southwest, and Hi-line and very little along the eastern tier. For March the state was 150% of normal, the 9th wettest March of record. Havre had its wettest March of record and Miles City the second driest. The Montana Climate Atlas shows March precipitation for Havre at 0.51 inches and Miles City at 0.59 inches. Several snow storms over the month left over a foot from the Beartooth Range north into the central plains and island mountain ranges where blizzard conditions at some locations left 2 feet or more on the 19th. NRCS reported that March gains in snow water content were above average for the third consecutive month statewide. Western Montana received the largest amounts of snow at high elevations during March pushing the Bear Mountain Snotel site in the Kootenai Basin to 75 snow water inches by April 11. An inch of snow water is the equivalent of roughly one foot of snowfall. The mountains of the headwaters of the Missouri Basin finally received some much needed storms bringing the snow water content to the 90% mark, while unseasonably warm temperatures in the lower Yellowstone basin of southeastern Montana melted off from 10- to 15% of the snow water in the last two weeks of March. NOAA's Climate prediction Center April climate outlook calls for continued above average precipitation and below average temperatures for the northwestern area of the state and equal chances of above or below precipitation and temperatures for the remainder of the state.