Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - August 14, 2012

http://drought.mt.gov

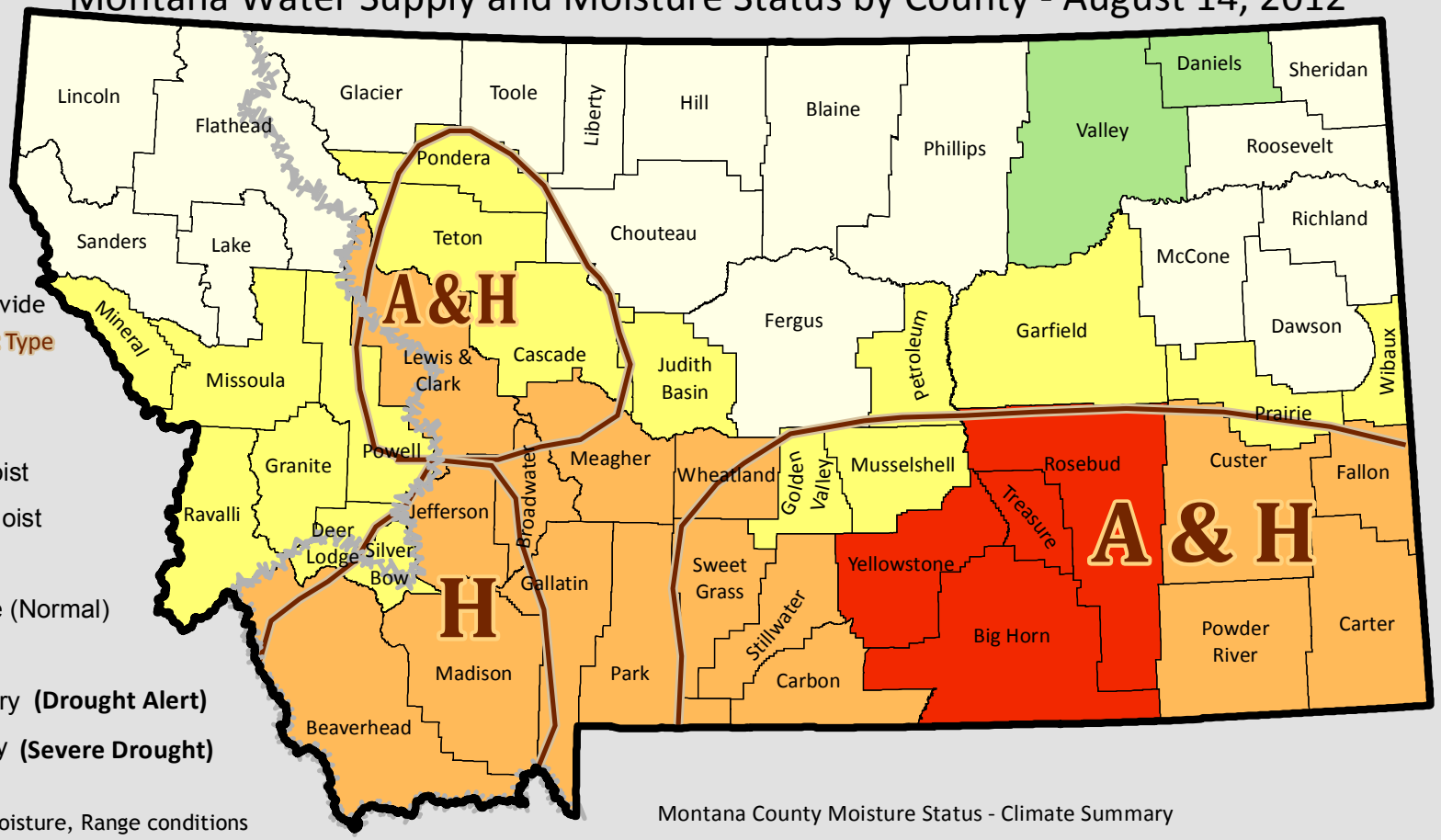
Map Key

Continental Divide

Drought Impact Type

Moisture Status
August 2012

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



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

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 State Library Natural Resource Information System

http://nris.mt.gov/drought/

According to the National Weather Service Semi-monthly drought report, "Temperatures have cooled a little bit over what July delivered." The exceptions were western and central Montana where temperatures averaged two to three degrees above normal. In contrast, parts of the eastern tier of the state had temperatures up to three degrees below normal for the period. For the two-month period, June 15 to August 15, temperatures have ranged from three to five degrees above normal for most of southeastern and much of southcentral Montana.

For the week ending August 19, below average temperatures provided some relief from the hot-spell, July through mid-August. Daily lows ranged from the lower 30s to upper 40s F briefly.
For the period, June 27 through August 25, precipitation was spotty with only the northwestern and southeastern corners of the state seeing any appreciable precipitation with 0.50 to 1.50 inches received.
See: http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/anomimage.pl?mon60dPn.gif

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported that winter wheat harvest was nearing completion, well ahead of 2011 and the 5-year average with 81.3 M Bu., and at 38 Bu/Acre statewide. Spring wheat total production is forecast to be up 15 percent from 2011 with yield forecast to be 85.5 M Bu/acre yielding 30 Bu/acre. Durum wheat and barley are expected to yield 13.5M and 40M bushels respectively. Dry peas and lentils were near completion and are ahead of both the five-year and last year average harvests. Parts of the headwaters of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers are showing the effects of low precipitation and high temperatures dating from the start of the water year October 1 through September 30.