



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

- Continental Divide
- Drought Impact Type

Moisture Status

September 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

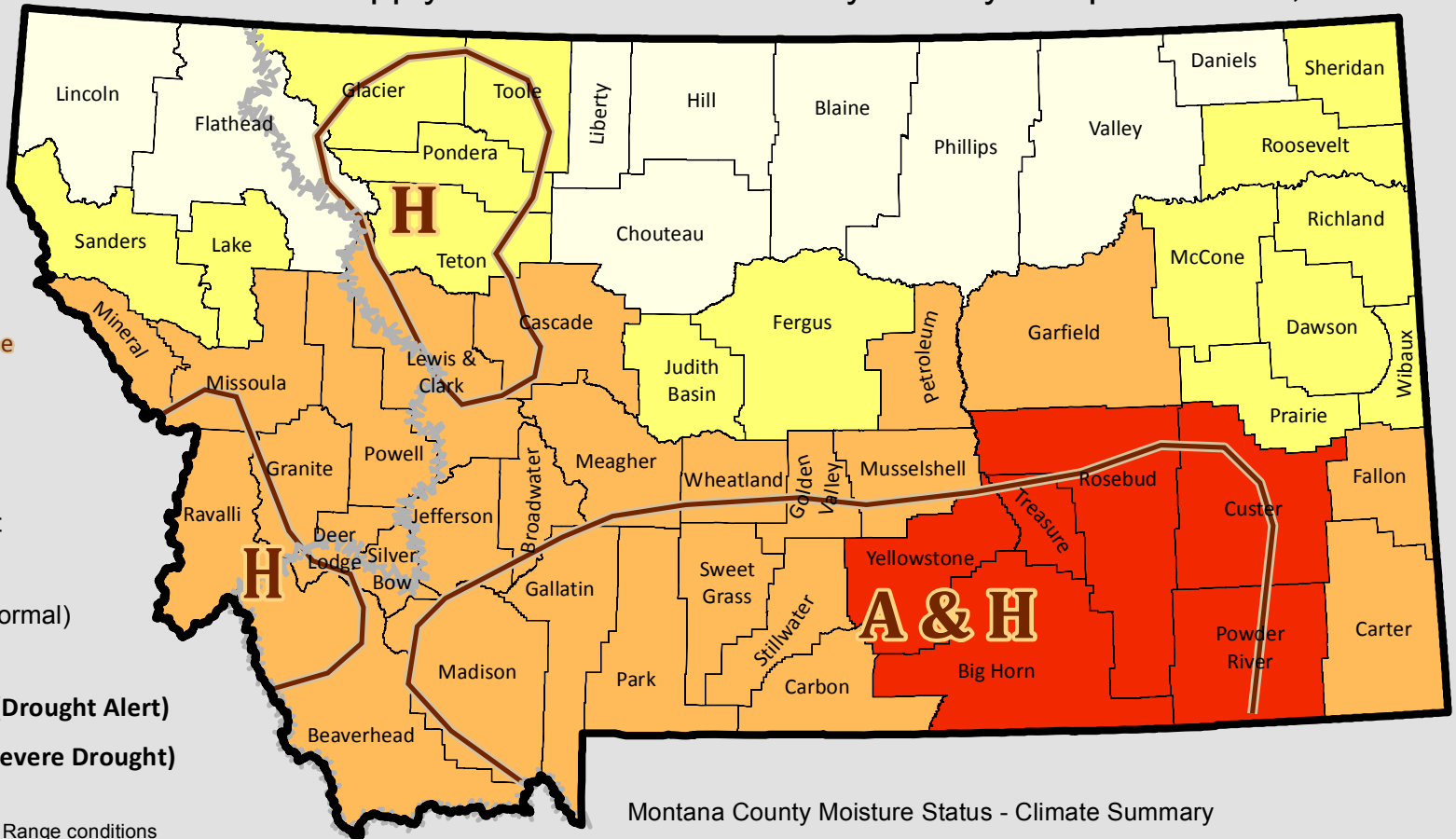
Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

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://nris.mt.gov/drought/>

Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - September 19, 2012



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

According to the USDA Crop-Weather Report for September 10, 2012, Montana experienced mostly hot, dry days and cooler nights during the week ending September 9th. Creston received the largest amount of precipitation for the week with 0.86 of an inch of moisture and most other stations saw little or no precipitation. High temperatures ranged from the mid 70s to lower 90s, with the state-wide high temperature of 95 degrees recorded in Roundup. A majority of stations reported lows in the mid 20s to mid 40s. The coldest reported low of 21 degrees was recorded in Wisdom followed by West Yellowstone with 22 degrees. □

Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 7 percent compared with 25 percent last year and the 5 year average of 46 percent. Subsoil moisture was 10 percent adequate and surplus compared to 46 percent last year and the 5 year average of 46 percent. Range conditions for the reporting week are 8 percent good to excellent, well below 52 percent last year and 38 percent for the 5 year average. Movement of livestock from summer ranges continues as signs of fall begin to appear.

Montana producers have begun seeding winter wheat with 5 percent of seeding completed. Spring wheat is 93 percent harvested compared to 63 percent last year. Durum wheat harvest is nearing completion with 94 percent complete. Dry weather continues to aid hay production with a second alfalfa cutting being 95 percent complete compared to the 5 year average of 89 percent. Precipitation for the Crop Year April 1 to date ranges from about 60- to 100 percent with the west side of the state 80- to 110 percent and the southcentral, southwest, and central regions faring worse at around 60 percent of average.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) 8- to 14-day climate outlook made September 12 indicates that between the 20th and 26th, temperatures across the state are expected to be above average west of the Divide, slightly above average along the east side of the Rocky Mountain Front, about average for the central region, and slightly cooler along the eastern border of the state, all north to south. For the same period, precipitation is expected to be slightly below average for the eastern one-half of the state, and below average on the west one-half of the state.