



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

Continental Divide

Drought Impact Type

Moisture Status

October 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

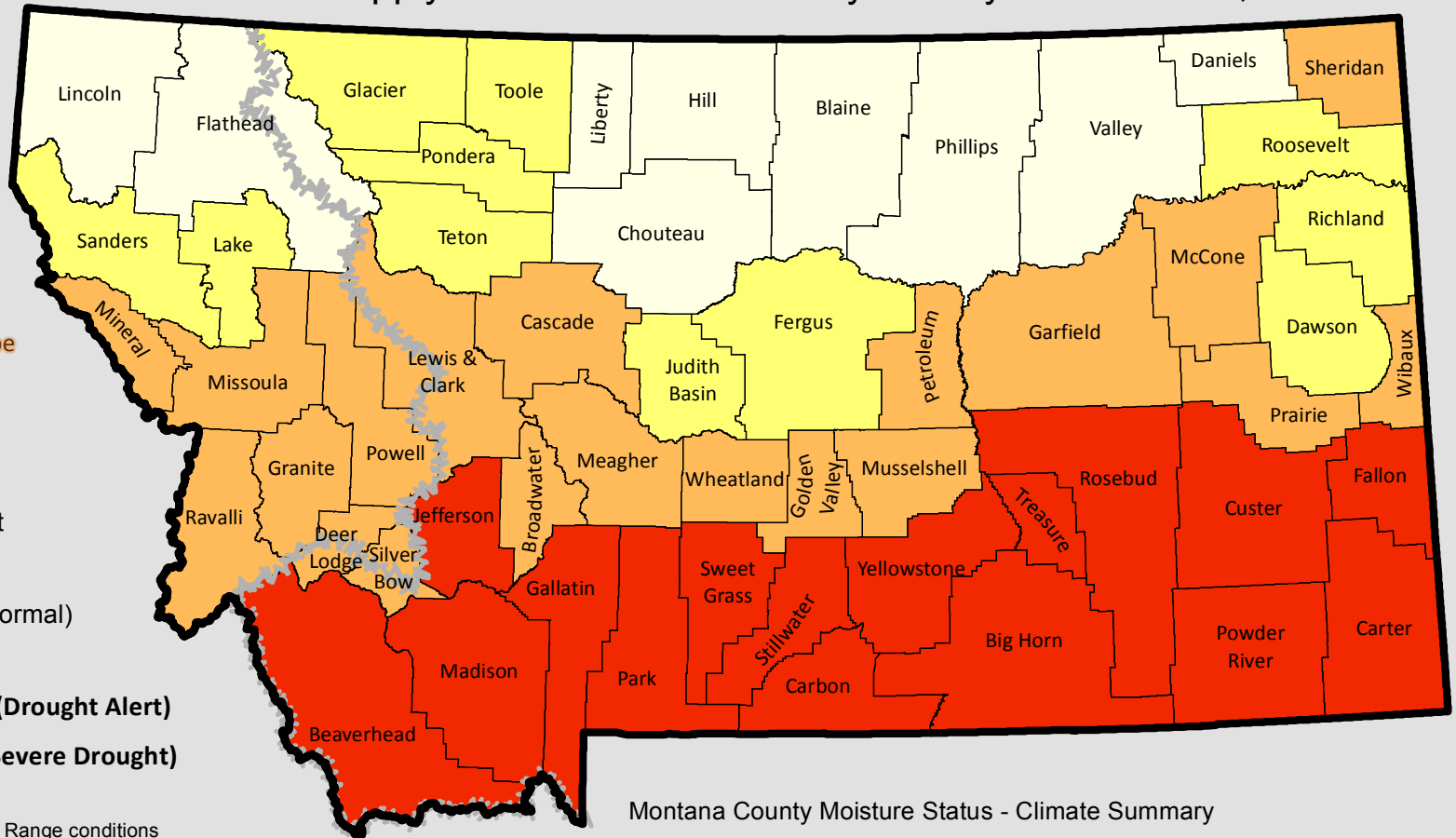
should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan



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

Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - October 15, 2012



According to the USDA Crop-Weather Report released October 30, 2012, "An early winter storm brought snow and freezing temperatures to a wide swath of Montana during the week ending October 28. West Yellowstone received the largest amount of precipitation for the week with 1.13 inches of moisture and most other stations saw 0.10 to 1.07 inches of precipitation. The coldest reported low of -1F was recorded in West Yellowstone followed by Cut Bank with 1 degree." The National Weather Service reported precipitation for the period April 1 to October 28 ranged from about 75- to 100-percent for the northwest, northcentral, and the northeast regions with the central, southcentral, southwest, and southeast regions faring worse at around 45- to 70-percent of average.

Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 36 percent compared with 48 percent last year and the 5 year average of 60 percent. Subsoil moisture was 17 percent adequate and surplus compared to 50 percent last year. Range conditions for the reporting week are 74 percent poor to very poor, well below last year and 27 percent for the 5 year average. Movement of livestock from summer ranges is wrapping up with 82 percent of cattle moved. Winter wheat condition is just behind last year at this time with 31 percent rated as good to excellent.

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center (CPC) 8- to 14-day climate outlook made November 1 indicates that between the 9th and 15th, temperatures are expected to be average west of the Divide, and slightly above average east side of the Divide. For the same period, precipitation is expected to be slightly above average west of the Divide, and above average for the entire state east of the Divide.

The NRCS Surface Water Supply Index dated October 12, 2012 indicated that of 55 river basins statewide, 8 were ranked as Extremely Dry and located in the headwaters of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in southcentral and southeastern Montana. Almost all river basins west of the Continental Divide remained in the Near Average category, largely due to the effects of the 2011-2012 La Nina. The CPC reports that the El Nino event that began forming in July continues with borderline ENSO-neutral/weak El Nino conditions expected into the Northern Hemisphere winter 2012-2013 with the possibility of strengthening in the next few months.