



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

Continental Divide

Drought Impact Type

Moisture Status

December 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

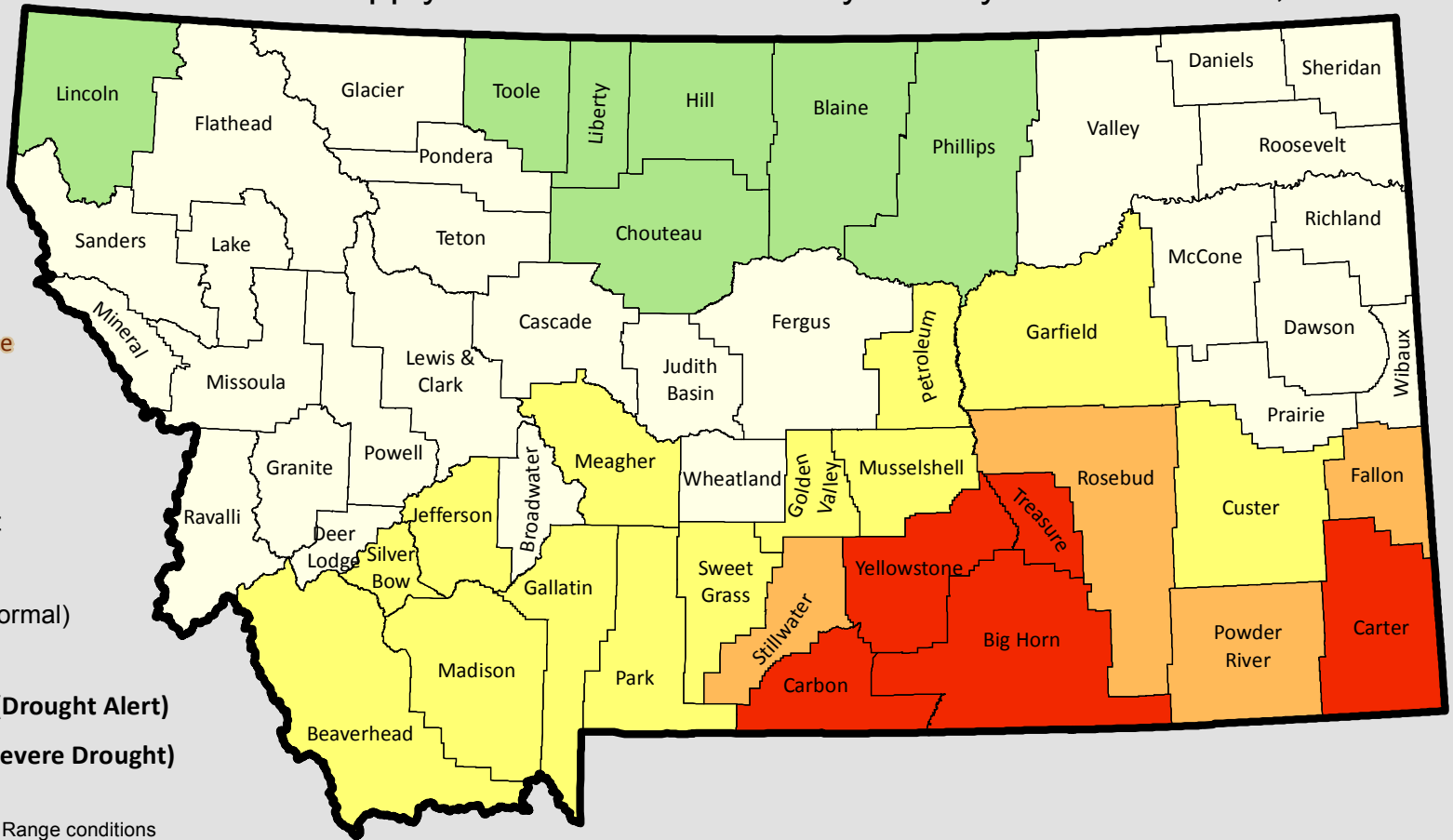
Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

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 - December 18, 2012



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

According to the National Weather Service in Great Falls, the first half of November brought one significant storm to Montana complete with blizzard conditions setting new daily precipitation and snowfall records with heaviest amounts along the Rocky Mountain Front, stretching from Glacier County south to Gallatin and Park counties. Other events of modest snowfall followed through the remainder of November and into December in the mountains. Essentially, the northern half of the state is near normal for moisture with the entire west side of the Continental Divide drought free with a mountain snowpack above average for snow water equivalent.

According to the NRCS Snow Survey, mountain snowpack west of the Divide was about 103 percent of average; the Upper Missouri 122 percent; the upper Yellowstone 117 percent; and the Rocky Mountain Front at 100 percent of the 30-year average 1981-2010 as of December 17. As a result, 30 counties were upgraded one category by the Drought Advisory Committee. The snow accumulation season is currently at about the one third mark of the period of record. Although valley elevation precipitation and soil moisture languish in a number of counties along the southern tier of the state, the 2013 water supply, in terms of mountain snowpack, continues a positive trend. The 12/18 CPC 8-14 day outlook calls for above average precipitation and well below average temperatures for Montana through January 1, 2013. See: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>