



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

Continental Divide

Drought Impact Type

Moisture Status

January 2013

- 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

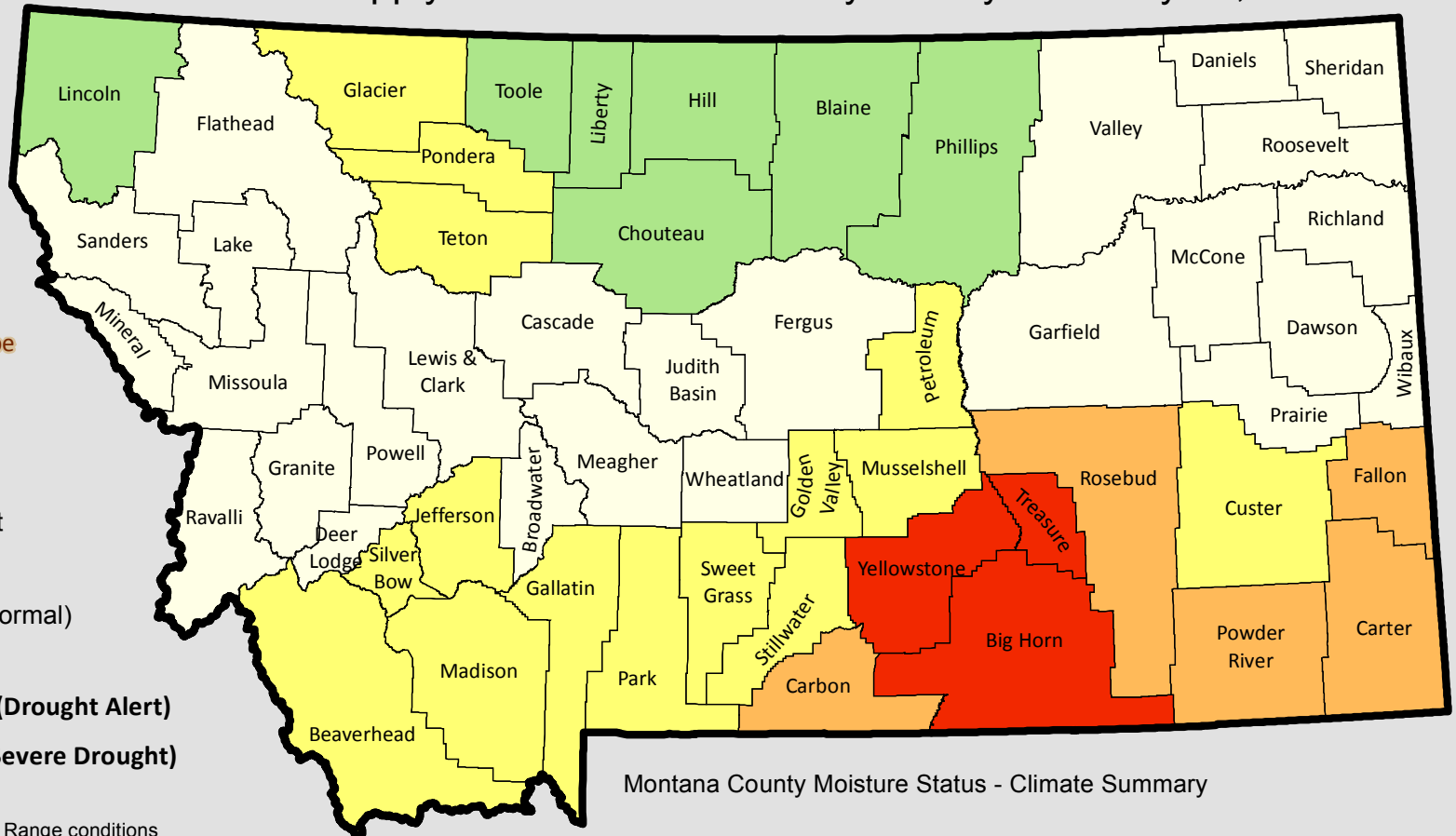
should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan



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

Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - January 17, 2013



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

As of January 1 NRCS reported that statewide snowpack was at 103 percent of average, a large improvement from the 81 percent of average according to its SNOTEL stations on December 1. The majority of the snowfall occurred from December 1 through December 25 with high pressure dominating to the end of the month.

For the period 12/18/2012 – 1/16/13, NOAA reports the temperature departure of average ranged from 2 to 4 degrees F. below average in the eastern on-half of the state and the eastern Hi-line, and 2 to 6 degrees below average over much of the west-central region, with up to 10 degrees below average for the far upper Missouri River basin of southwest Montana. The far northwestern area of the state has seen departures from average of 2 to 4 degrees F. above average for the period.

As of January 17, the Clark Fork Basin west of the Divide averaged about 92 percent snow water in the mountain snowpack of its northern reaches and around 82 percent for the combined Bitterroot, lower Clark Fork, and upper Clark Fork River basins. East of the Divide, the snow water content of the upper Missouri River basin was average, the lower Missouri basin was about 90%, and the Yellowstone River basin about 85%. The mountain snow accumulation period is close to its 50-percent mark for the period of record 1981-2010.

Valley and prairie elevations of southcentral and southeastern Montana lag for moisture with precipitation average to below and soil moisture still reeling from drought conditions of summer and fall 2012. In contrast, the Hi-Line counties ranged from near average to moist following a 2-year run of above average precipitation nearly year around. The state's central region, from the Idaho border to the North Dakota border, is primarily in the near average category with some counties in a slightly dry status.