



Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - March 2015

<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

Drought Impact Type
 Continental Divide

Moisture Status

Current Month

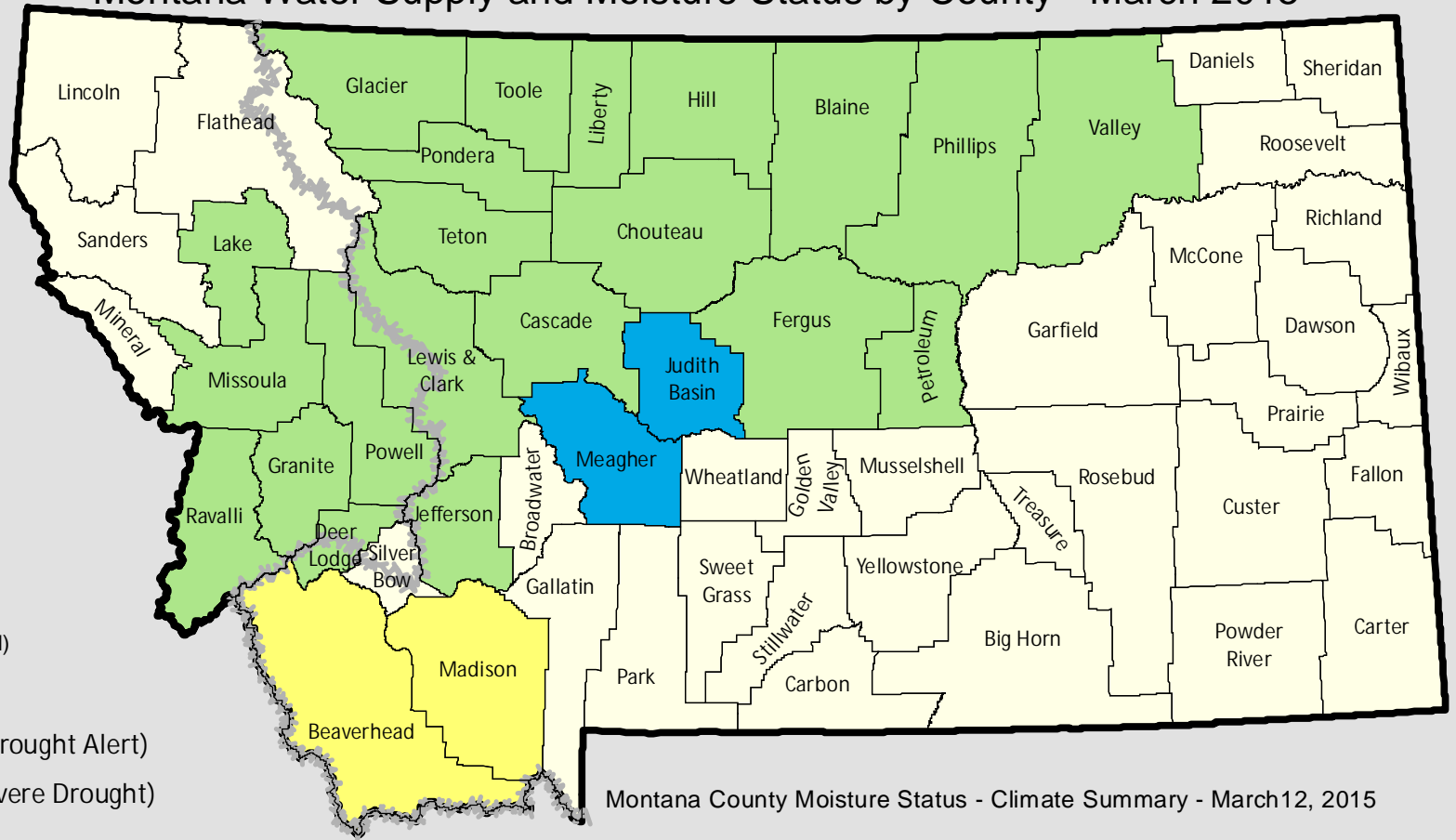
- Extremely Moist
- Moderately Moist
- Slightly Moist
- Near Average (Normal)
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry (Drought Alert)
- Extremely Dry (Severe Drought)

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



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary - March 12, 2015

According to the National Weather Service, Water Year to date (October 1, 2014 – March 12, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 75 - to 100-percent of normal for the southwest region; 110- to 150-percent for the western region; 60- to 100-percent for the northeastern region; 110- to 140-percent for the central region; 120- to 150 percent for the northcentral region; 70- to 110-percent for the southcentral region, and 60- to 80-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in tributaries of the Yellowstone, and Missouri River Basins are rated as well above normal with sections of the Clark Fork and the Lower Missouri basins as near record high flows according to the USGS as of February 12, 2015:

<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map>

The March 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only ten (10) of 54 Montana river basins as below its *Near Average* legend category: The Yaak, Fisher, and St. Mary rivers are rated as *Moderately Dry*; and the Tobacco, Kootenai Ft. Steele to Libby Dam, and N. Fk Flathead river basins, of Northwest Montana as *Slightly Dry*; and the Sun River on the Rocky Mountain Front and the Beaverhead, Ruby, and Madison River basins in the headwaters of the Missouri River basin are all currently rated as *Slightly Dry*. See: http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf

The NRCS Snow Survey summary of mountain snowpack Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) of 16 major Montana river basins as of March 12, 2015 for includes ten (10) basins with between 91 and 110 percent SWE; four (4) basins with SWE between 70 and 90 percent, and two (2) basins with SWEs less than 70 percent. The Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by county can be found here: <http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentDroughtMap/drtstatus.pdf>



http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Drought