



<http://drought.mt.gov>

# Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - October 2015

## Map Key

- Drought Impact Type
- Continental Divide

## Moisture Status

### Current Month

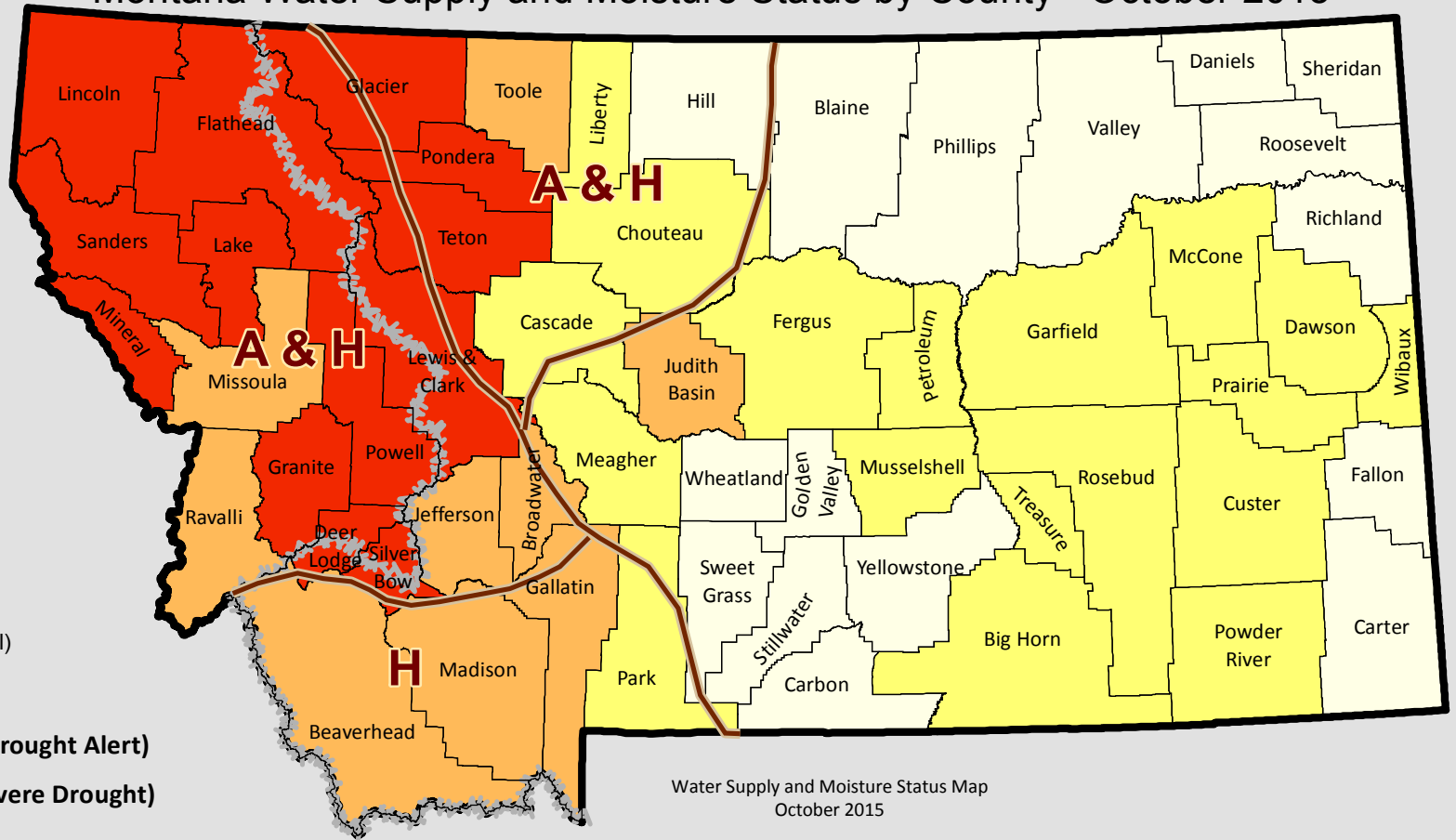
- Extremely Moist
- Moderately Moist
- Slightly Moist
- Near Average (Normal)
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry **(Drought Alert)**
- Extremely Dry **(Severe Drought)**

### 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



Water Supply and Moisture Status Map  
October 2015

According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year to date (April 1, 2015 – October 4, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 80 - to 110-percent of normal for the **southwest** region; 50- to 75-percent for the **western** region; 90- to 110-percent for the **northeastern** region; 80- to 120-percent for the **central** region; 80- to 110 percent for the **northcentral** region; 90- to 120-percent for the **southcentral** region, and 80- to 120-percent for the **southeast** region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in the Yellowstone, and lower Missouri River Basins are currently rated as *Normal to Above Normal* at this time. Flows in the Clark Fork River basin are *Normal to Much below Normal*. Flows in the upper Missouri River basin range from *Normal to Much Below Normal* according to the USGS as of October 13, 2015: <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map>

The October 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates 2 river basins as above average, the Tongue River basin as *Moderately Wet* and the Musselshell River basin as *Slightly Wet*, and 9 river basins as *Near Normal* with the remaining 43 river basins rated *Slightly Dry*, *Moderately Dry*, or *Extremely Dry*. All of the river basins in the *Extremely Dry* category lie west of the Continental Divide or along the east side of the Rocky Mountain Front. See: [http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current\\_SWSI.pdf](http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentSWSI/Current_SWSI.pdf)

According to the October 13 USDA NASS, Crop Progress and Condition Report Week Ending October 11, 2015: "Montana was cool and wet in places for the first part of the week before turning hot and dry for the rest with highs ranging from the upper 70s to the lower 90s and lows from the upper teens to upper 30s. Winter wheat seeding continues ahead of last year and ahead of the 5-year average despite less than ideal precipitation levels in many areas with 92 percent seeded and 63 percent emerged. Pasture and range conditions declined slightly from the previous week with 19 percent rated good to excellent which remains well behind last year's 53 percent and the 5-year average of 39 percent.



[http://mslapps.mt.gov/Geographic\\_Information/Maps/drought/](http://mslapps.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/drought/)