



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - December 2015

Map Key

Drought Impact Type
 Continental Divide

Moisture Status

Current Month

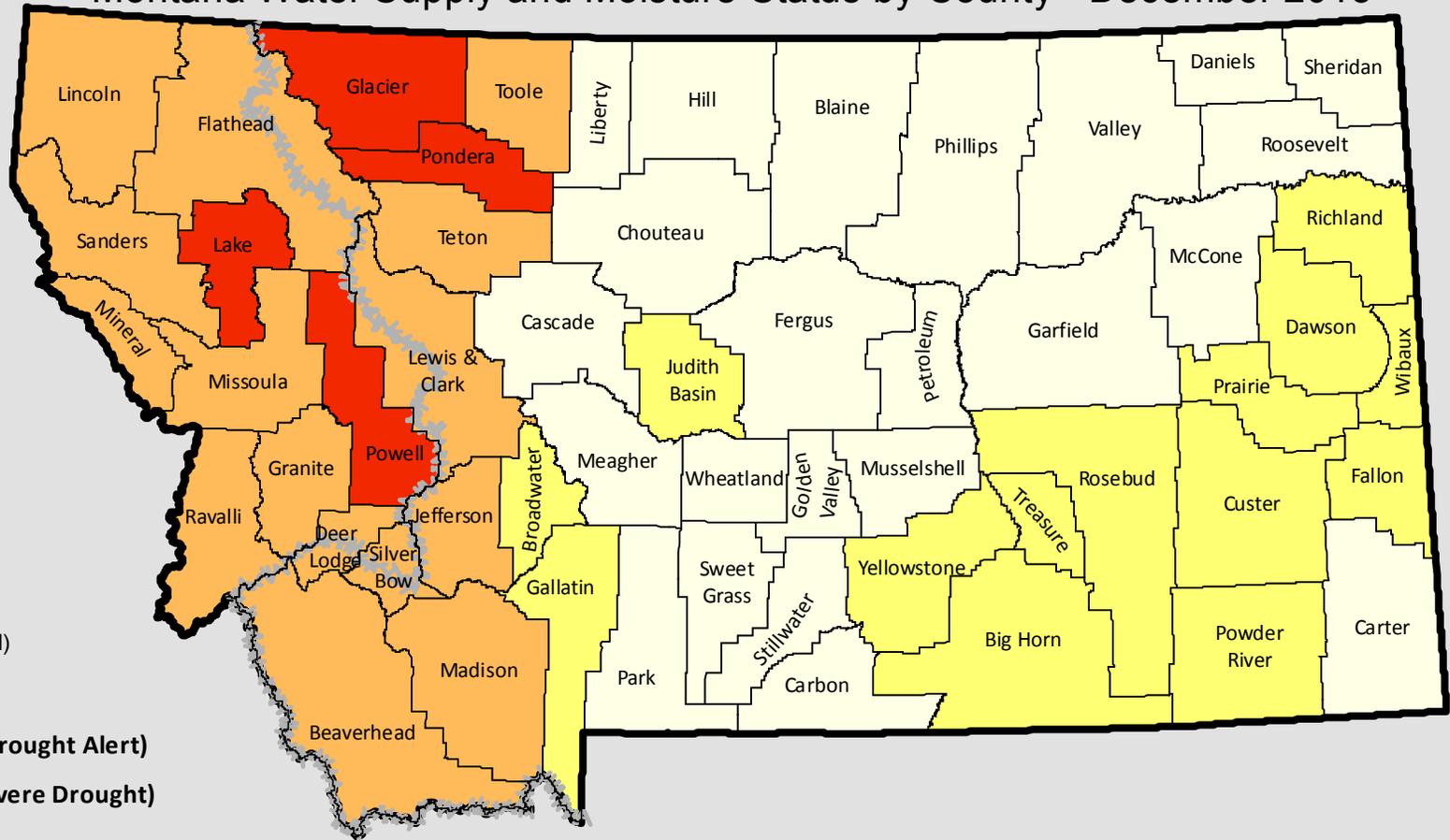
- Extremely Moist
- Moderately Moist
- Slightly Moist
- Near Average (Normal)
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry **(Drought Alert)**
- Extremely Dry **(Severe Drought)**

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
December 23, 2015

According to the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Great Falls, Montana, water year precipitation (October 1, 2015 - December 22, 2015) the Western Division ranges from about 80 to 160 percent of average; the Southwest Division about 120 to over 200 percent; Central 90 to over 200 percent; the South-central 80 to 200 percent; the Northeast 60 to 200 percent; and Southeast 40 to 150 of average. Statewide, 19 of 56 counties are rated as Moderate to Extremely Dry, and 15 counties east of the Continental Divide improved one category due to precipitation brought in by a series of storm systems.

According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) SNOTEL mountain precipitation remote gauging network, the snow water equivalent for sites west of the Continental Divide ranges from a low of near 60% to a high of 165 percent of median for the mid December. East of the Divide, snow water equivalents range from a low of 60 percent along the Rocky Mountain Front to a high of 185 percent in Southwest Montana.



http://mslapps.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/drought/