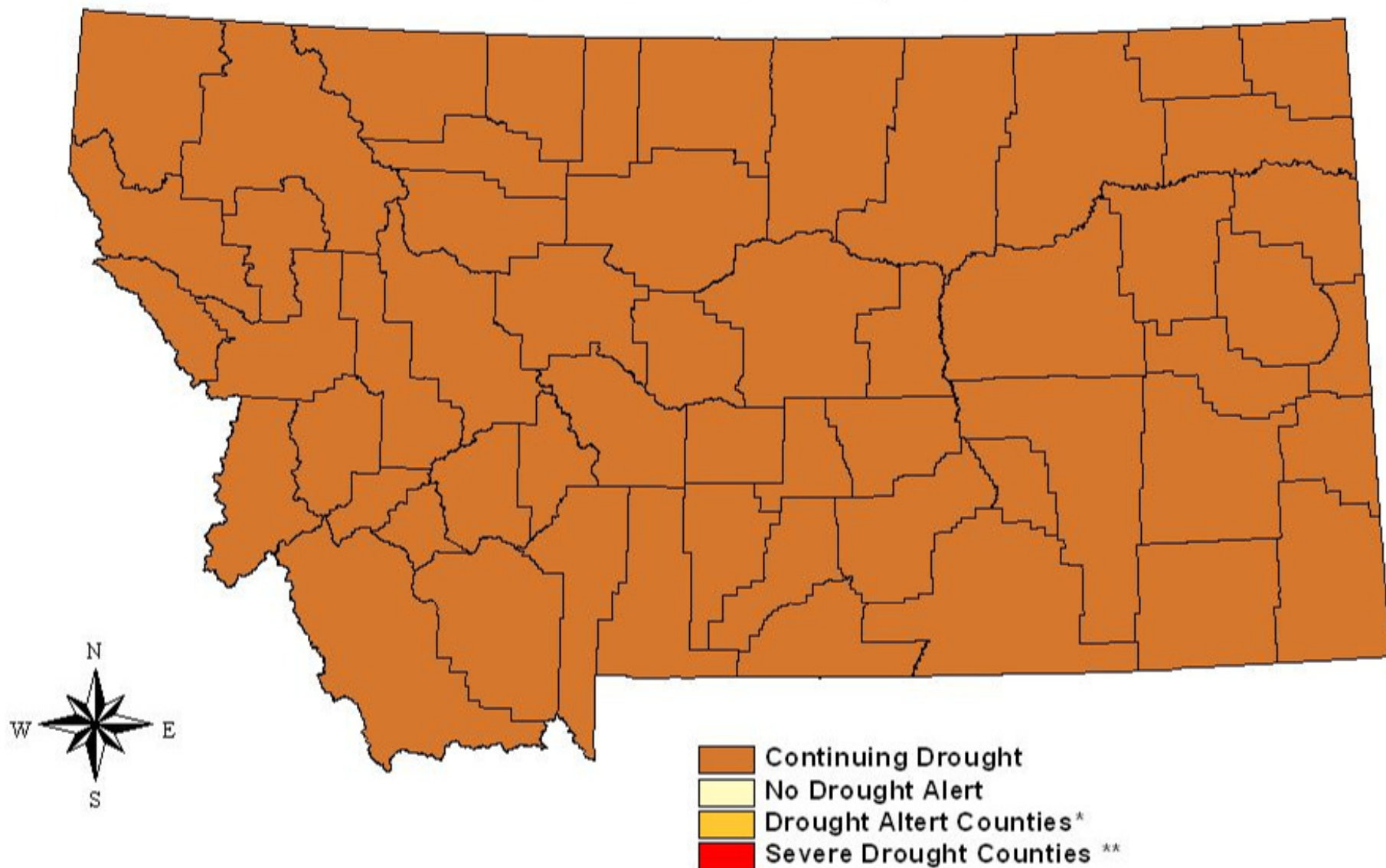


Montana Drought Status

As of October 23, 2003



* A drought alert will be in effect when, by April 15, monitoring indicates that a county is entering initial levels of drought.

** A county or region will be assigned a severe drought status when drought indices indicate steadily worsening conditions and precipitation forecasts indicate no improvement in the near future.