



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

Continental Divide
 Drought Impact Type

Drought Status

July 2011

- Moist
- No Drought
- Slightly Dry
- Moderately Dry **(Drought Alert)**
- Severely Dry **(Severe Drought)**
- Extremely Dry **(Severe Drought)**

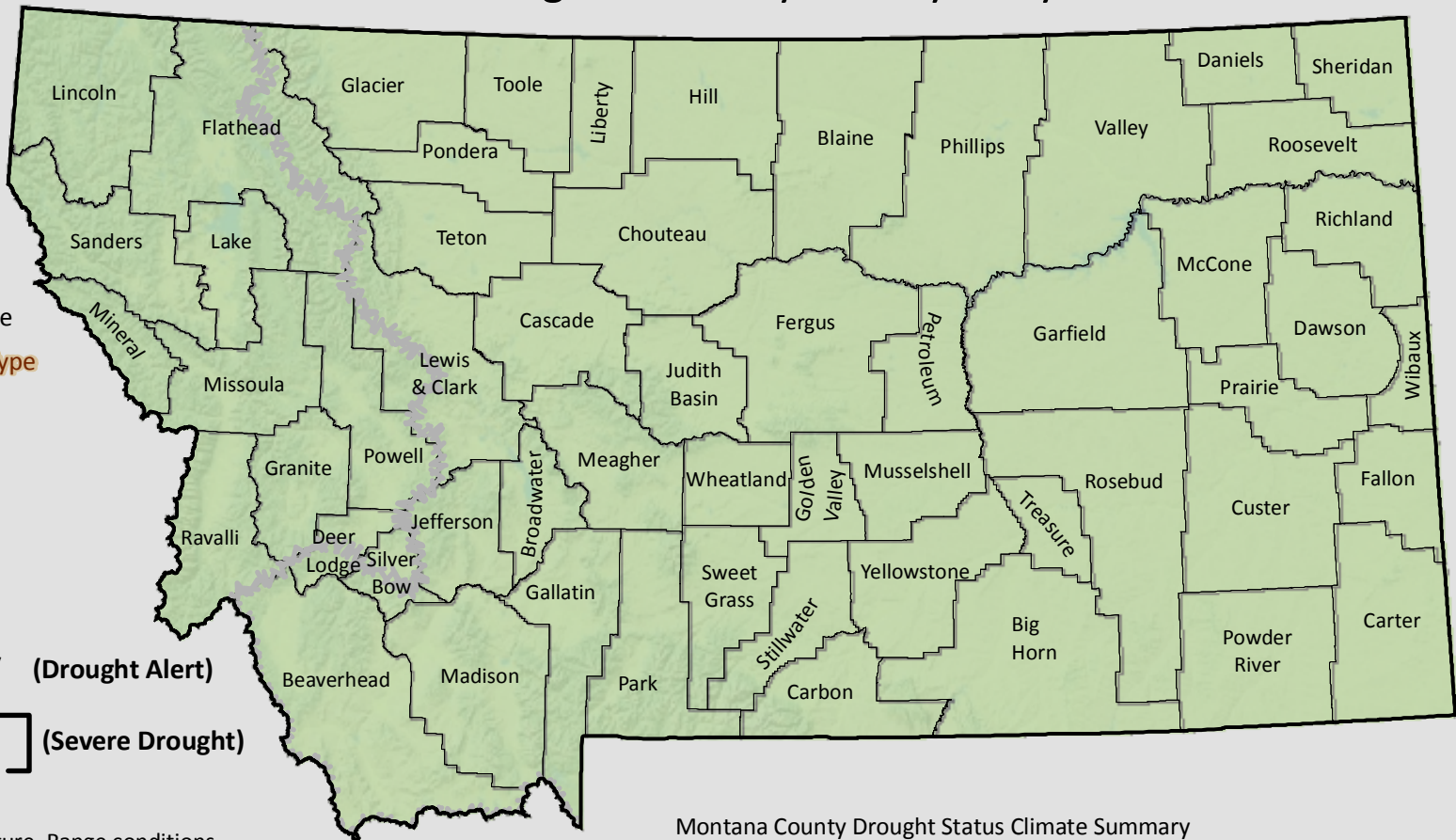
Drought Impact Types -

- 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 Drought Status by County - July 2011



Montana County Drought Status Climate Summary

The National Weather Service (NWS) Weather / Precipitation Summary for May 2011 starts by stating, "Cool and wet were two words that described May's weather in Montana." For many Montanans, as true as this statement is, it may be an understatement by now. As of June 13, the assessment of water supply and moisture conditions by the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee has concluded that all 56 of the state's counties are best characterized as "Moist." Major flooding has or is expected to have a significant impact on the river valleys of the state for weeks to come.

The NWS report goes on to note that May 2011 was the 12th coolest May on record for the state, May 2010 having averaged one degree F. cooler. Also revealing is the fact that May was the fourth consecutive month of below normal temperatures for the state as a whole. Precipitation for May 2011 resulted in the wettest May statewide on record with two inches above the average and was the 7th consecutive month of above average precipitation. According to Montana Agricultural Statistics, crop planting and development has been hampered by cool and wet conditions. Soil moisture is 100 percent adequate or surplus statewide.

The NRCS Surface Water Supply Map for June 1, 2011 reveals that all 54 major river basins of the state are either characterized as Moderately Wet or Extremely Wet. NRCS reports that an unusual amount of water remains in the mountain snowpack as a result of cool, moist conditions. According to NOAA's June 9, 2011 ENSO update, "A transition from La Nina to ENSO-neutral conditions occurred during May 2011." Models are divided on ENSO trends into fall 2011. A cool phase of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) that began in 2008 persists in the North Pacific and is thought by many climatologists to exert an influence on the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest.



<http://nr.is.mt.gov/drought/>