



<http://drought.mt.gov>

Map Key

Continental Divide
 Drought Impact Type

Moisture Status

May 2012

- 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

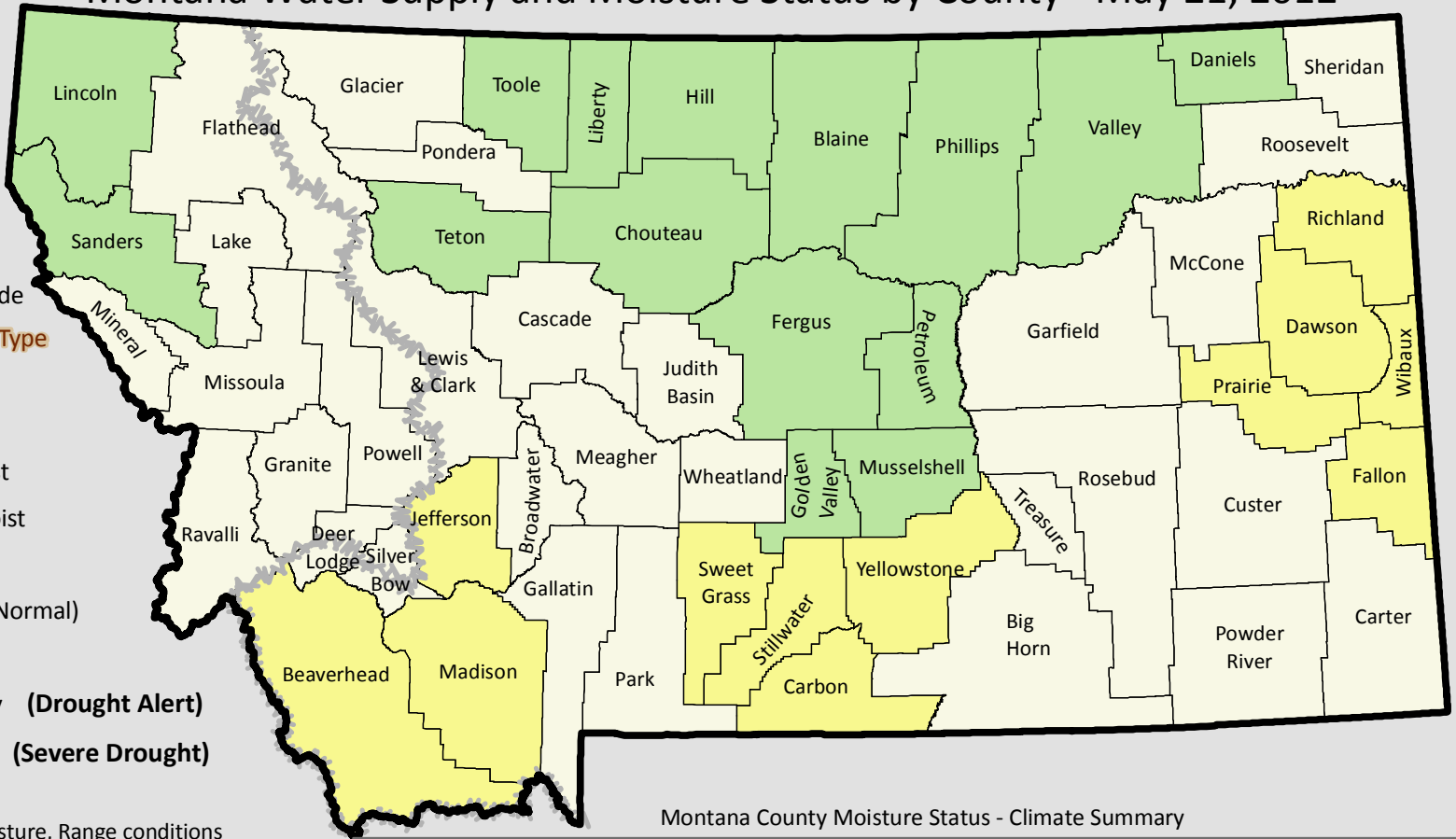
should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan



<http://nris.mt.gov/drought/>

Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - May 21, 2012



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary

According to the National Weather Service May 1-16, 2012 Montana Weather/Precipitation Summary, "High temperatures have been at or above normal averages for the month, while lows have been closer to average, even a little below. Overall, precipitation has been below normal." Precipitation totals for May 1-16 at 20 locations statewide indicate that on average the state received between 0.15- and 0.35 inches or about 20- to 30-percent of average.

"Montana was under a ridge of high pressure during May. While soil moisture has increased over the higher terrain with the snow melt, dry conditions have caused soil moisture to drop to below normal seasonal values at lower elevations. Up to eight inches of snow fell in the Little Belts, and 4.3 inches in Bozeman." Precipitation between October 1, 2011 and May 16, 2012 ranged from approximately 60- to 100 percent of normal. Moist, cool conditions May 20 to the 22nd brought over 0.50 inches of precipitation to some areas of the state. More is expected through May 27 when a significant spring storm is forecast to leave over an inch of precipitation at valley elevations statewide and 8-16 inches of snow in the mountains.

As of May 1, 2012 NRCS reported that April mountain and valley precipitation statewide was 118 percent of average. West of the Divide, April precipitation was 111 percent and east of the Divide 122 percent of average. Streamflow as of May 1 for the period of May through July is forecast to be 102 percent west of the Divide and 85 percent east of the Divide. The NRCS Surface Water Supply Index has all but 4 of 54 river basins forecast to be between near average and extremely wet for the month of May.

The May 21, 2012 USDA Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Weather Report indicates that topsoil moisture, adequate and surplus, was 58 percent and subsoil moisture was 63 percent adequate and surplus compared to the 5-year average of 70 percent. Winter wheat was rated 59 percent good to excellent compared with the 5-year average of 60-percent. Grasshopper hatching has been reported, and some re-seeding is underway for crops that did not receive rain after sprouting.