



<http://drought.mt.gov>

**Map Key**

Drought Impact Type

Continental Divide

**Moisture Status**

- 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

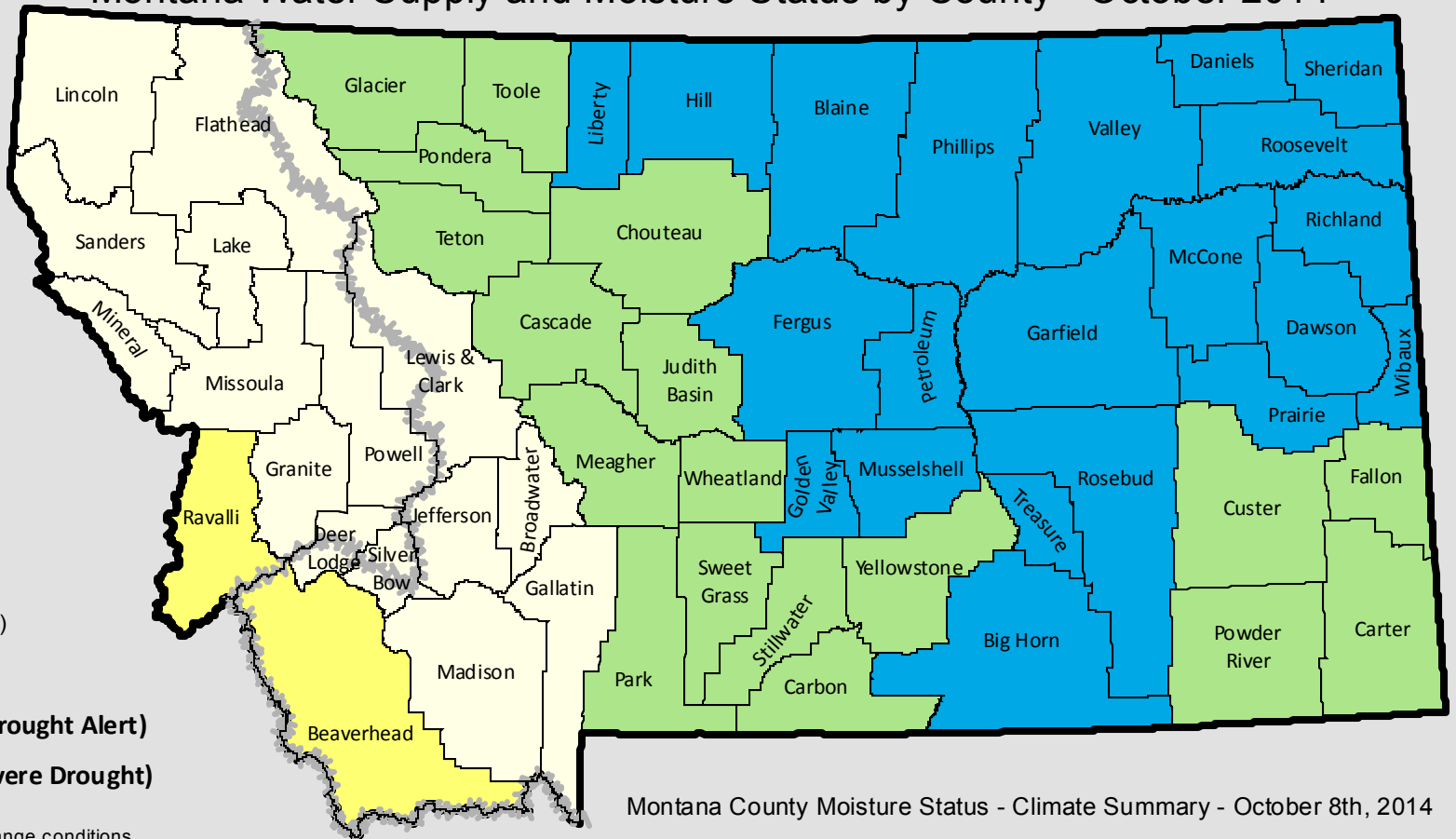
**Drought Alert -** Governor's Drought

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

# Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - October 2014



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary - October 8th, 2014

According to the National Weather Service, Crop Year (April 1, 2014 – September 28, 2014) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 100 - to 110-percent of normal for the southwest region; 75- to 100-percent for the western region; 130- to 150-percent for the northeastern region; 100- to 140-percent for the central region; 120- to 150 percent for the northcentral region; 100- to 120-percent for the southcentral region, and 110- to 130-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in tributaries of the Yellowstone River Basin are rated as above to much above normal, the Missouri River basin, above to much above normal, and the Clark Fork River Basin, normal to above normal according to the USGS as of October 8, 2014: [http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?id=ww\\_current](http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?id=ww_current)

The October 1, 2014 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only three of 54 Montana river basins as below its Near Average legend category: The Beaverhead River basin in the headwaters of the Missouri River basin, and the North Fork of the Flathead River and Bitterroot River basins, both west of the Continental Divide and in the Clark Fork River basin, rated as Slightly Dry at this time:

[http://ftp.geoinfo.msl.mt.gov/Documents/Maps/Collections/SurfaceWaterSupplyIndex/SWSI\\_201410\\_map.pdf](http://ftp.geoinfo.msl.mt.gov/Documents/Maps/Collections/SurfaceWaterSupplyIndex/SWSI_201410_map.pdf)

According to the week-ending October 5, 2014, USDA NASS Crop Progress report, "Range and pasture conditions were better than the 5-year average, with 53 percent rated as good to excellent, compared with 32 percent respectively. Producers continued moving livestock off of summer ranges after a wintery storm mid-week. Cattle are being moved below the five-year average pace, with 40 percent moved. Range and pasture feed condition was rated as 53 percent good to excellent. Topsoil moisture rated adequate and surplus is 85 percent compared with the 5-year average of 50 percent. Subsoil moisture was rated 85 percent adequate and surplus compared with the 5-year average of 46 percent."



[http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic\\_Information/Maps/Drought](http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Drought)