



Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by County - February 2015

<http://drought.mt.gov>

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

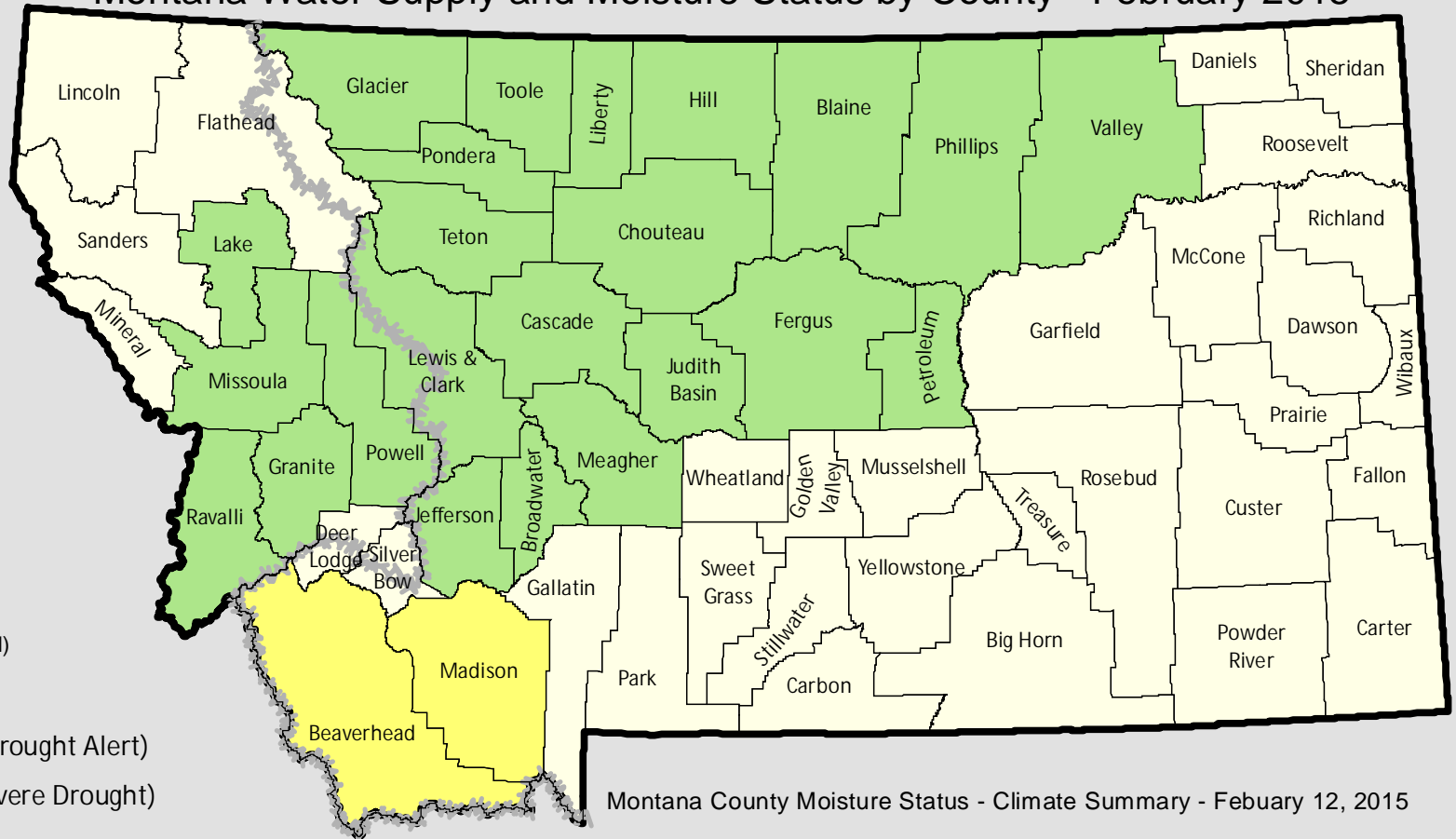
Drought Alert - Governor's Drought

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



Montana County Moisture Status - Climate Summary - February 12, 2015

According to the National Weather Service, Water Year to date (October 1, 2014 – February 11, 2015) precipitation totals at valley elevations ranged from about 85 - to 110-percent of normal for the southwest region; 120- to 160-percent for the western region; 60- to 110-percent for the northeastern region; 120- to 140-percent for the central region; 120- to 150 percent for the northcentral region; 70- to 100-percent for the southcentral region, and 65- to 85-percent for the southeast region, with exceptions in all seven regions of the state.

Flows in tributaries of the Yellowstone, and Missouri River Basins are rated as well above normal with sections of the Clark Fork and the Lower Missouri basins as near record high flows according to the USGS as of February 12, 2015:

<http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?m=real&r=mt&w=map>

The February 1, 2015 NRCS Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) map rates only ten (10) of 54 Montana river basins as below its *Near Average* legend category: The Yaak River is rated as *Extremely Dry*; the Tobacco River and St. Mary rivers are rated as *Moderately Dry*; and the Kootenai, Fisher, N. Fk Flathead, of Northwest Montana; and the Beaverhead, Ruby, and Madison River basins in the headwaters of the Missouri River basin, and the Little Bighorn River of the Yellowstone River basin are all currently rated as *Slightly Dry*; See:

http://ftp.geoinfo.msl.mt.gov/Documents/Maps/Collections/SurfaceWaterSupplyIndex/SWSI_201502_map.pdf

The NRCS Snow Survey summary of mountain snowpack Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) of 16 major Montana river basins as of February 12, 2015 for includes five (5) basins with between 111 and 130 percent SWE; seven (7) basins with SWE between 91 and 110 percent; four (4) basins with SWEs between 70 and 90 percent. The Montana Water Supply and Moisture Status by county can be found here: <http://docs.msl.mt.gov/geoinfo/CurrentDroughtMap/drtstatus.pdf>



http://apps.msl.mt.gov/Geographic_Information/Maps/Drought