



## **Under the Big Sky**

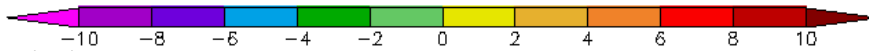
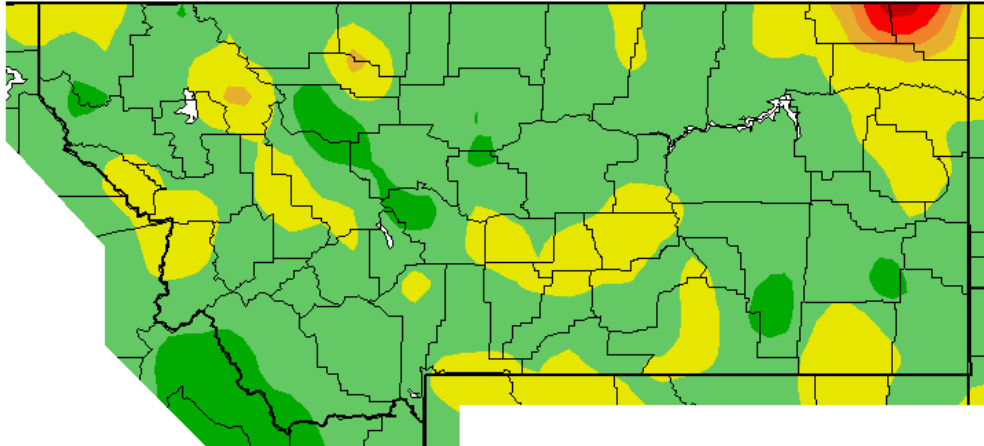
### **July 22, 2010**

Hello! We've really dried out since the last newsletter in some areas. We're starting to about more fires as well, this is the time of year that our fire crews get worried with the drying fuels (especially after our wet spring and early summer!). NWS Glasgow does participate in weekly/bi-weekly fire restriction calls with the BLM offices in Lewistown and Miles City and the counties all participating. To keep up with the latest fire restrictions, you can go to: [http://firerestrictions.firecenter.umt.edu/FireRestriction\\_pub/](http://firerestrictions.firecenter.umt.edu/FireRestriction_pub/)

**e-Letter Pic of the month:** The above photo was taken by me on July 21<sup>st</sup> driving through Glasgow. On occasion, the atmospheric winds are just right and the clouds look like they are waves in the sky. I thought these were pretty neat, with the sun poking through between them.

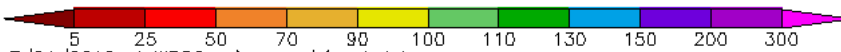
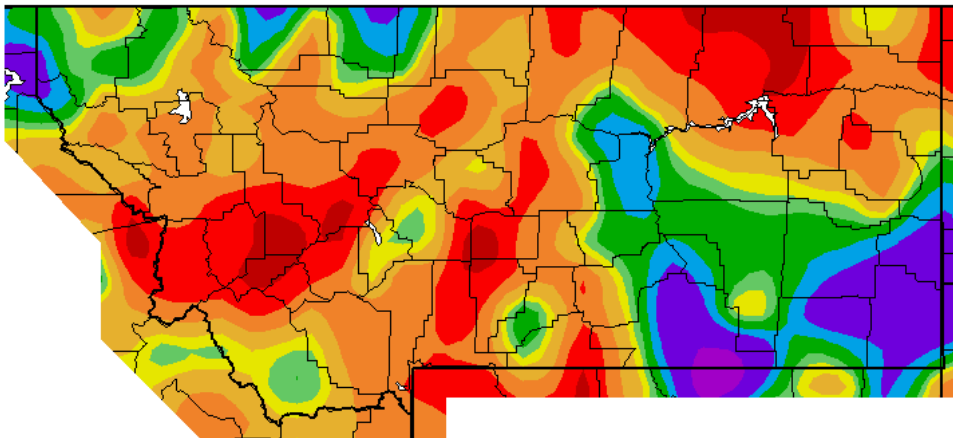
**Recent Weather:** The Western Region Climate Center has a great website full of climate information for the western US, including Montana. Below are graphics I got from this website: [http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/mon\\_anom.html](http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/anom/mon_anom.html) showing the last 30 days of departure from normal for temperatures and precipitation. You'll notice we've generally been around normal or just slightly below normal in eastern Montana. The percent of average precipitation graphic show that the southeast has been above normal, but that things have been quite a bit below normal, especially in the lower Yellowstone River Valley area, and north of the Missouri River/Fort Peck.

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)  
6/21/2010 - 7/20/2010



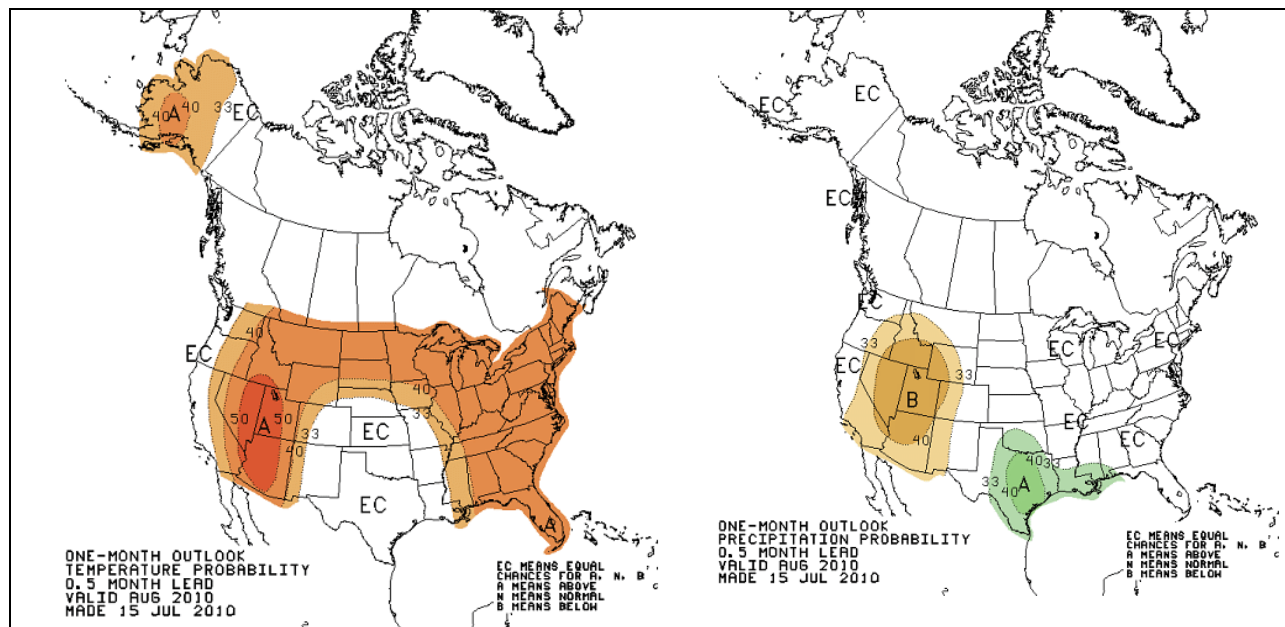
Generated 7/21/2010 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Average Precipitation (%)  
6/21/2010 - 7/20/2010



Generated 7/21/2010 at WRCC using provisional data.  
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

**Weather Outlook:** Forecasters at the Climate Prediction Center continue to forecast a La Nina event for us this winter. La Nina is colder than normal equatorial Pacific temperatures, which generally brings us colder than normal weather. But, they do have a warmer than normal August predicted, and a few months of equal chances of above or below normal temperature before they put us in colder than normal temperatures in the December, January, February time frame. Below are the August graphical outlooks (temp on the left, precip on the right), and here is a link to the rest of the three month outlooks through the next year: <http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/goday/>



### **NWS Glasgow Happenings:**

**New Meteorologist in Charge:** Ben Moyer has been selected at the new Meteorologist in Charge of the NWS Glasgow office. He is coming from Des Moines, IA, and he and his wife have three children ages 1 to 6. He'll be arriving in Glasgow sometime during the last week in August. Welcome to Big Sky Country Ben!

**Temporary Meteorologist in Charge:** Bob Diaz, former Meteorologist in Charge in Billings 10 years ago, and current Science Operations Division Chief at Western Region Headquarters, arrived last week to help with the administrative workload of a supervisor here. He's already been golfing at Glasgow and Malta, joined the fitness center at the Civic Center and is trying out all the restaurants in town for his meals. If you get a chance to meet him, say hello. It's tough living in a hotel for weeks on end. He's very familiar with this

area, and some of our partners hopefully remember him from his Billings days. He's really enjoying getting his hands back into the operational side of the National Weather Service.

**Recent trip to the Natural Hazards Conference:** I was fortunate enough to go to the 35<sup>th</sup> Natural Hazards Workshop in Broomfield Colorado last week. The workshop had several special sessions, including a keynote speaker, Andrew Revkin from the New York Times. He's written many articles on climate change (and scientist's inability to get understandable information to the public, or the conflicts that rear up between scientists). He writes a blog called Dot Earth that looks at many issues in a planet that will soon hold 9 billion people. It is available at: <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/> Other topics included the impacts and recovery of the Haiti Earthquake (~220,000 dead), the US Army Corp of Engineers Director of Civil Works, and a session on the environmental and social impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Incident. There were many other topics in smaller sessions as well dealing with weather, climate and preparedness. One thing I ask you all: Are you ready? Do you know how much materials you need on hand to survive a week without power, water or grocery stores? I went to a website the American Red Cross showcased at this conference, and plugged in the information for how many are in our family, and how many days we want to be prepared for (forget 3 days, or 7 days, the recommendation is now 14 to be on your own without local, state or federal help!) Here are the results for a family of four:

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 56 gallons of water (have 40 gallons available in our camper, 2 gallons in the RO System) | 112 meals  | 2 flashlights   |
| 1 radio   | 1 first aide kit   | 2 sets of rx medications  |
| 2 packages of batteries in needed sizes for flashlights and radio                         | 1 multipurpose tool (ie. Leatherman)   | 1 set of all personal documents   |
| 2 cell phones   | 4 sets of emergency contact info, one for each person (need them for our kids) | Large amounts of cash (it was unspecific, but who do you know that has \$500-\$1000 readily available in cash?) |
| 4 Emergency Blankets  | 1 Map  |   |

The items we have are in red, the ones we partially have are in green, and the ones we don't have are in blue! Go to this site, and see how your family is doing in being prepared:

<http://72.3.171.147/#SITE>

### **NOAA in the News:**

**Hot, Hot Hot!** While it's hard to feel it here this year, we are breaking global temperature records this year. June was the warmest on record globally, the it was the warmest April-June and the second warmest Jan-June on record. To read more highlights on temperatures and precipitation in June, visit:

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100715\\_globalstats.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100715_globalstats.html)

### **Weather in the News:**

**American crosses the English Channel with balloons:** I apologize for the long URL, but this is a pretty wild story, with some video as well. [http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Strange-News/Balloon-Man-Jonathan-Trappes-English-Channel-Crossing-Bid-Is-A-Success-Daredevil-Lands-In-France/Article/201005415639649?lid=NewsYourWay\\_ARTICLE\\_15639649\\_Balloon\\_Man\\_Jonathan\\_Trappes\\_English\\_Channel\\_Crossing\\_Bid\\_Is\\_A\\_Success%3A\\_Daredevil\\_Lands\\_In\\_France](http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Strange-News/Balloon-Man-Jonathan-Trappes-English-Channel-Crossing-Bid-Is-A-Success-Daredevil-Lands-In-France/Article/201005415639649?lid=NewsYourWay_ARTICLE_15639649_Balloon_Man_Jonathan_Trappes_English_Channel_Crossing_Bid_Is_A_Success%3A_Daredevil_Lands_In_France)

[http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Strange-News/Balloon-Man-Jonathan-Trappes-English-Channel-Crossing-Bid-Is-A-Success-Daredevil-Lands-In-France/Article/201005415639649?lid=NewsYourWay\\_ARTICLE\\_15639649\\_Balloon\\_Man\\_Jonathan\\_Trappes\\_English\\_Channel\\_Crossing\\_Bid\\_Is\\_A\\_Success%3A\\_Daredevil\\_Lands\\_In\\_France](http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Strange-News/Balloon-Man-Jonathan-Trappes-English-Channel-Crossing-Bid-Is-A-Success-Daredevil-Lands-In-France/Article/201005415639649?lid=NewsYourWay_ARTICLE_15639649_Balloon_Man_Jonathan_Trappes_English_Channel_Crossing_Bid_Is_A_Success%3A_Daredevil_Lands_In_France)

**Kansas Heat kills 2.000+ herd of cattle:** A combination and heat and humidity left a lot of feedlots and ranchers in the midst of a disaster in the middle of July.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38328765/ns/business/>

**South American Winter kills dozens, significant cattle losses:** While we are in the midst of summer, our south equator counterparts are experiencing a harsh winter, especially in Argentina. [http://www.usatoday.com/weather/news/2010-07-20-south-america-cold\\_N.htm?csp=34weather&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+usatoday-WeatherTopStories+\(Weather++Top+Stories\)](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/news/2010-07-20-south-america-cold_N.htm?csp=34weather&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+usatoday-WeatherTopStories+(Weather++Top+Stories))

**China Flooding/Typhoons:** The Chinese have suffered significant deaths due to flooding this year, and their heaviest rains are yet to come. Over 1,000 people have died or been lost (presumably dead) due to floods this year. The Yangtze River is experiencing significant flooding, and the world's largest dam (Three Gorges Dam) is having some problems, but officials are saying it is helping prevent significant losses downstream.

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38338713/ns/world\\_news-asiapacific/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/38338713/ns/world_news-asiapacific/)

**Weather Humor:** This was from a friend who was my neighbor in Germany when I was a kid. He's currently in Palm Springs, CA, and enjoying retirement and the heat!

