

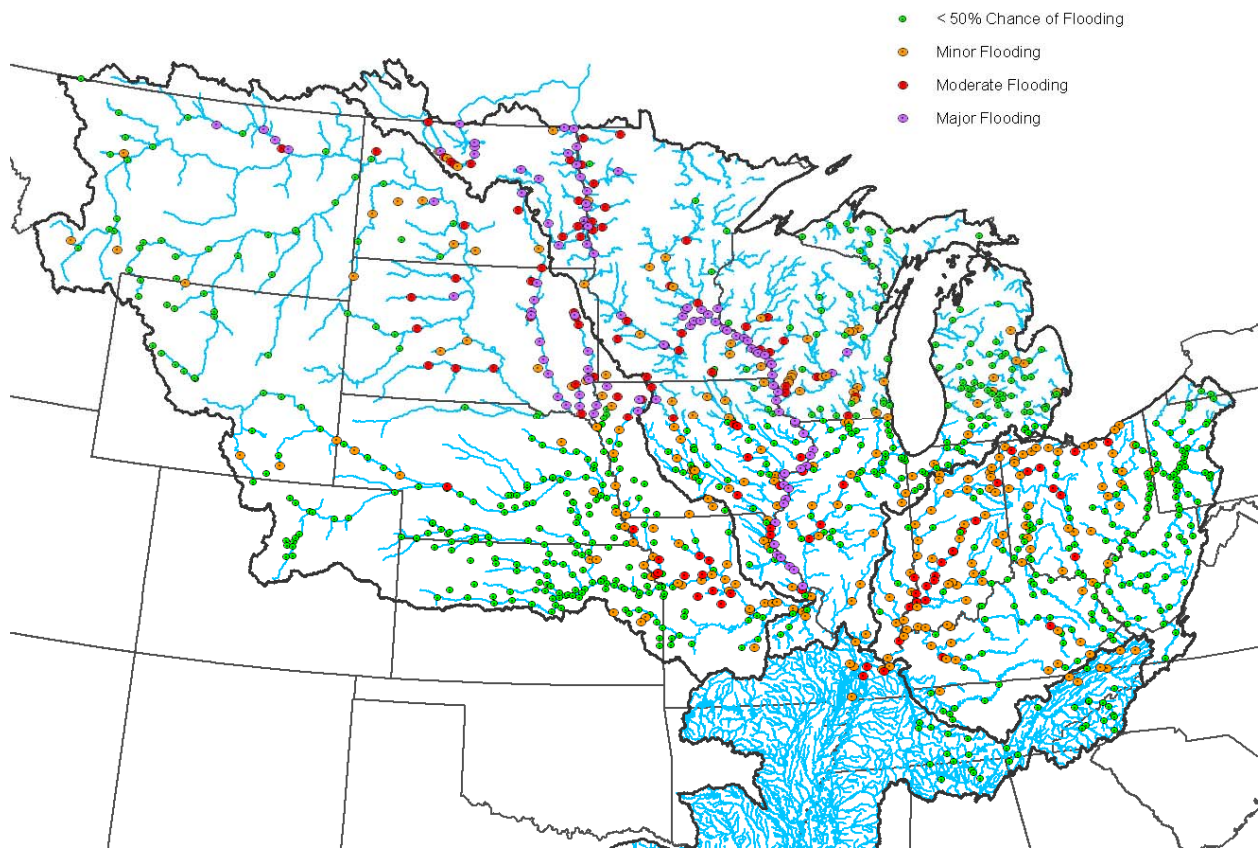


Under the Big Sky e-Letter
Friday, March 4, 2011

So, why the facebook logo in our header? Well, by next week, the NWS in Glasgow will have a facebook page for you to be able to “like.” The name is **US National Weather Service Glasgow**. Rather than having to go out and search on our website for the latest on what the weather is doing, now you can have it come to you in your live feed, and see the information as it’s updated. We’re testing this out, and would appreciate your feedback on it.

Flooding Potential: The northern plains, and the north central US have had a lot of snow this year, and the spring flood outlook is indicative of that. While we are concerned about flooding on the Milk River, the eastern Dakotas have flood concerns, as does the upper Mississippi and Ohio River valleys. The graphic below is the latest outlook issued on March 3, 2011.

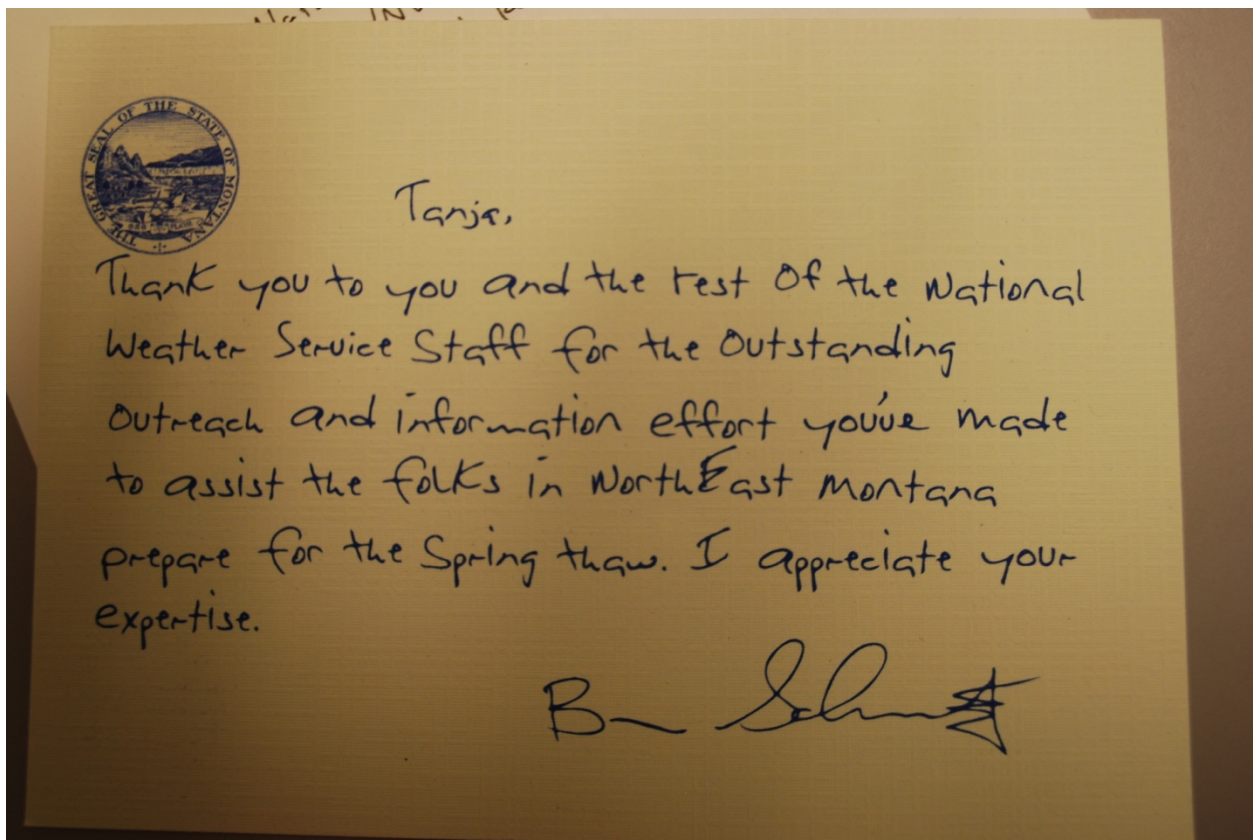
50% or Greater Chance of Flooding



Created 3/2/2011

Northeast Montana Flood Potential Briefing: For the Milk River valley, we are expecting moderate to major flooding from Harlem to Nashua, with the exception of Malta, where no significant or just minor flooding is possible. The data is showing the best time for the flooding to begin in after the March 20th time frame, with a better chance around March 27th and later. Officials at the local, state, tribal and federal levels are working in their communities to prepare those most likely to be impacted by the Milk River. But, we'll also see problems with overland flooding, and small creeks and streams overflowing their banks and flooding back country roads. Ice jams could worsen the situation as well, and are more unpredictable than the traditional rises from snowmelt. A recorded briefing is available on our website at: <http://www.weather.gov/glasgow>

Appreciation note from Montana Governor Schweitzer: It was nice opening the mail this week, and seeing a handwritten note from Governor Schweitzer. We have a staff of 23 people who have been working together to better understand the flooding potential, go and take special snow water equivalent measurements and brief the public and officials. We also have two other NWS offices assisting with data and outlooks including the Missouri Basin River Forecast Center in Pleasant Hill, MO, and the National Operational Hydrological Operations Center in Chanhassen, MN. We've had assistance and collaboration from FEMA Region VIII (Denver), US Army Corps of Engineers (Fort Peck and Omaha), the USGS (Fort Peck), the State of Montana DES, MDT and DNRC, and local officials from DES to Public Works and elected officials all contributing information to the effort to predict flooding, and prepare for it.

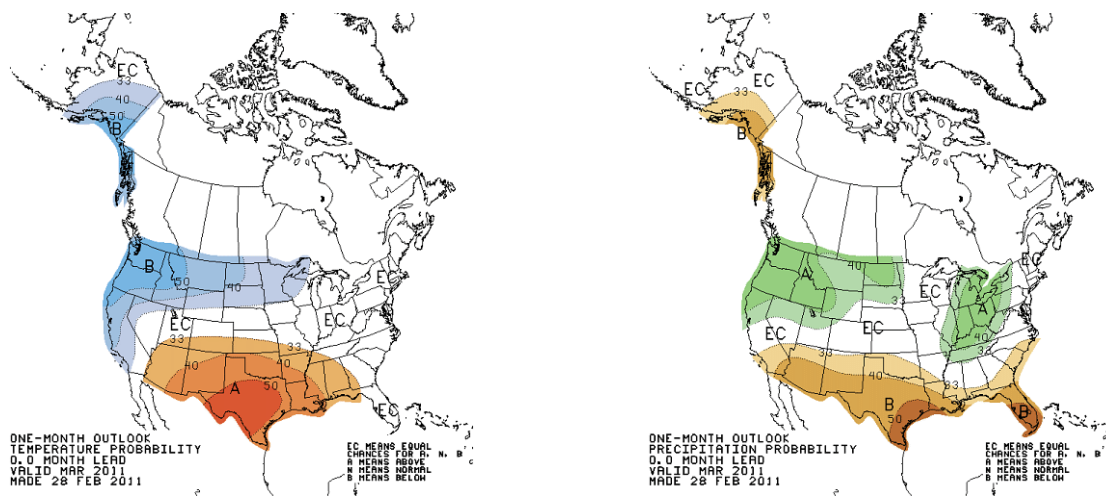


Seasonal Snowfall amounts: We're still waiting for a few locations to report for February, but you can see some healthy snowfall totals across northeast Montana. On average, we get 30-35" of snow across the region. This data was taken from our cooperative weather observers, as well as those CoCoRaHS observers who report daily.

Snowfall 2010-2011 and Seasonal Total								
Station	County	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	Season to date
Bloomfield 9 NNE	Dawson	3.0	4.0	6.0	28.0	22.5		63.5
Bredette	Roosevelt	0.0	2.0	5.5	11.6	14.0		33.1
Brockton 20S	Richland	0.0	3.5	8.0	16.1	23.0	8.8	59.4
Brusett 3W	Garfield	0.0	0.0	10.0	10.0	16.0		36.0
Carlyle 13NW	Wibaux	1.5	7.5	25.1	7.5	30.3	18.3	90.2
Circle	McCone	0.0	3.0	8.0	12.5	20.0	11.0	54.5
Cohagen	Garfield	1.0	0.0	12.7	10.0	11.1	10.3	45.1
Culbertson	Roosevelt	0.0	3.5	9.0	20.0	15.5	2.5	50.5
Dodson	Phillips	0.0	0.0	13.5	6.2	18.0		37.7
Flatwillow	Petroleum	0.0	0.0	9.0	15.0	3.5		27.5
Glasgow WFO	Valley	0.0	1.2	12.6	24.7	41.6	13.8	93.9
Burke Ranch	Valley	0.0	0.0	18.1	23.6	37.8	17.8	97.3
Glendive	Dawson	0.0	0.2	10.0	9.0	21.5		40.7
Grass Range 13 NE	Petroleum	0.0	0.0	5.0	16.1	4.8	6.5	32.4
Hinsdale 4SW	Valley	1.0	0.0	16.0	29.0	40.5	11.5	98.0
Hinsdale 21 SW	Valley	0.0	0.0	8.0	23.0	20.0		51.0
Jordan	Garfield	0.0	0.0	10.0	9.3	5.5	5.0	29.8
Malta KMMR	Phillips	0.0	0.0	9.1	25.5	15.0	4.5	54.1
Malta 35 S	Phillips	0.0	0.0	11.8	21.9	19.2		52.9
Medicine Lake	Sheridan	0.0	1.0	9.3	12.1	11.0		33.4
Nashua	Valley	0.0	0.0	7.2	27.5	27.0	13.0	74.7
Opheim 12 SSE	Valley	0.0	1.0	10.0	20.8	52.0		83.8
Port of Morgan	Phillips	0.0	0.0	9.5	6.0	26.5	1.5	43.5
Port of Raymond	Sheridan	0.0	4.0	15.8	15.4	11.8	8.3	55.3
Saco 1 NW	Phillips	0.0	0.0	6.0	18.0	22.5	7.0	53.5
St Marie	Valley	0.0	2.0	9.0	14.3	20.8	8.2	54.3
Savage	Richland	0.0	2.0	11.0	14.5	23.1	8.0	58.6
Scobey 4 NW	Daniels	0.0	0.0	7.0	10.0	21.0	6.0	44.0
Sidney	Richland	0.0	3.0	8.6	20.8	20.2	8.5	61.1
Terry Buffalo Rapids	Prairie	0.0	0.0	6.5	5.0	17.0	10.0	38.5
Wibaux 2 E	Wibaux	2.0	2.0	17.9	7.0	19.8	12.0	60.7
Winnett 6 NNE	Petroleum	0.0	0.0	7.5	18.0	7.0	6.0	38.5
Frazer 15.6 NNE	Valley	0.0	0.5	6.0	19.0	18.0	6.5	50.0

Glasgow 0.3 N	Valley	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.5	37.6	12.0	73.1
Nashua 8.3 SSW	Valley	0.0	1.2	9.7	32.5	29.3	9.3	82.0
Glasgow 0.9 ESE	Valley	0.0	0.9	15.0	30.9	40.3	11.3	98.4
Glasgow 4.3 NW	Valley	0.0	0.0	8.5	26.3	24.9	8.1	67.8
Glendive 16.9 WSW	Dawson	0.0	0.8	8.5	8.2	21.1	11.2	49.8
Savage 1 S	Richland	0.0	1.0	6.5	9.7	12.5	6.1	35.8
Sidney 3.5 NNE	Richland	0.0	2.7	7.9	17.6	16.3	6.1	50.6
Vida 6 NE	McCone	0.0	0.0	10.0	18.0	26.0		54.0

Latest Weather Outlooks: The outlooks today for the 6-10 day and 8-14 day time frame continue to show colder than normal and wetter than normal. The one month outlook for March was actually updated, and it has below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. For the latest, go to: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>



Weather Humor: The irony of this cartoon, was the day after I got it, I also got my Burgess Catalog in the mail! ☺



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