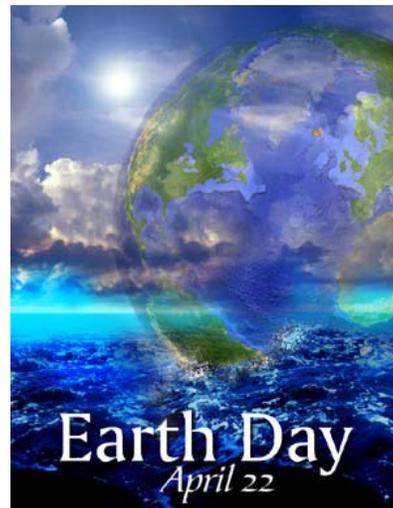




## Under the Big Sky e-Letter (Earth Day Edition) April 24, 2009

**Montana Flooding:** We've been hearing a lot about North Dakota flooding recently, but I thought I would share that Carter and Powder River Counties in MT have had their share of problems as well in recent weeks with record snowfalls and flooding problems. They are also seeing significant livestock losses.

**Earth Day 2009:** It was Earth Day on Wednesday of this week, and there have been some excellent shows on TV this week to celebrate it! I hope you've taken some time to watch a few. The Fort Peck Tribes Environmental Educator Vina Smith held her annual Earth Day Celebration in Poplar this week with over 500 students attending the two day event. Ted Jamba, one of our lead forecasters participated and spoke to the students about weather, and weather safety. **I still have some reusable grocery bags, if anyone wants one, let me know!** After seeing some of the shows I saw with the 33 billion plastic bags a year ending up in the landfills and our oceans, I'm glad I switched to the reusable bags two years ago. ☺



**National Air Quality Awareness Week April 27-May 1:** While we here in Big Sky Country (mostly the eastern side!) are blessed with lots of excellent air quality, we do have a few weeks every summer that we have to be concerned because of fires in the western part of the state, or even fires in Canada and Alaska sending smoke through our area. If you have issues with asthma or lung disease, you may want to take a look at the awareness website: <http://www.airquality.noaa.gov/> and an excellent resource of information at: <http://www.airnow.gov/>



**New Lightning Safety Brochure:** The NWS has a new brochure to highlight lightning safety for you and your family. The easiest thing to remember is: “When the Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!” To download the brochure, go to: <http://www.weather.gov/os/lightning/pdfs/lightning-safety.pdf>

**Skywarn Training sessions:** If you have another location you’d like to see it at, please let me know.

Date	Location	Time	Where
April 13	Sidney	2-4 pm and 6-8 pm	USDA ARS Facility Conference Room
April 27	Plentywood	6-8 pm	Jubilee Room in the County Building
May 13	Fort Peck	6-8 pm	Fort Peck Interpretive Center
May 18	Wibaux	6-8 pm	Wibaux Fire Department
May 20	Glasgow	6-8 pm	Cottonwood Inn
May 21	Glendive	6-8 pm	TBD – most likely in the courthouse basement

**NEW DES Coordinator for Phillips County!**

Greg Speer, a retired Valley County Law Enforcement Officer and former DES Coordinator has been hired as the new DES Coordinator for Phillips County. He has a lot of experience in this field, and is also very active with the Search and Rescue Program in Valley County. Welcome to the position Greg!



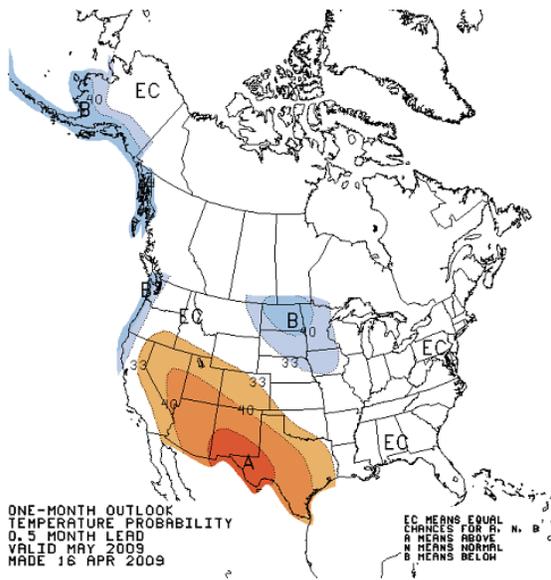
**Lake Wind Advisories:** With the ice off Fort Peck Lake now, we have resumed issuing the Lake Wind Advisories. Here is the criteria for the advisories:

- Sustained winds of 20 mph and/or gusts of 30 mph for three hours or more

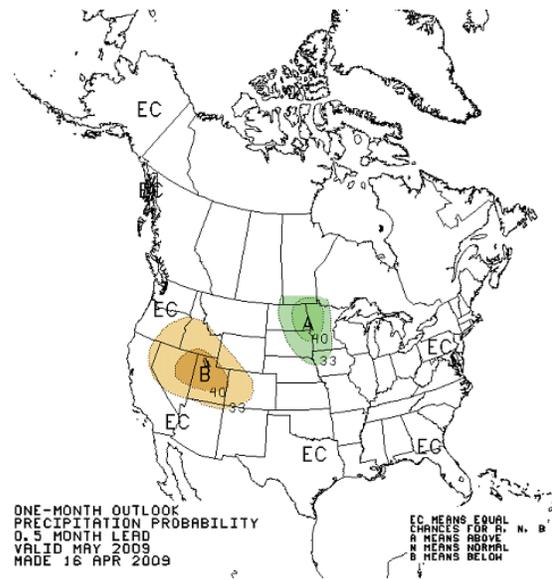


*While it’s not Fort Peck, this is how it feels when you are in a 20 foot boat trying to get to shore on a windy day on the lake!!*

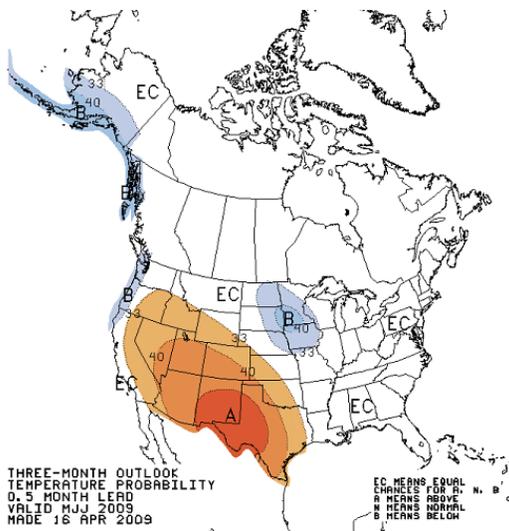
**Climate Outlook:** The latest Climate Prediction Center Outlooks were released last week. La Nina continues to weaken in the equatorial Pacific, and cooler weather looks like it may persist for extreme northeastern MT. <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>



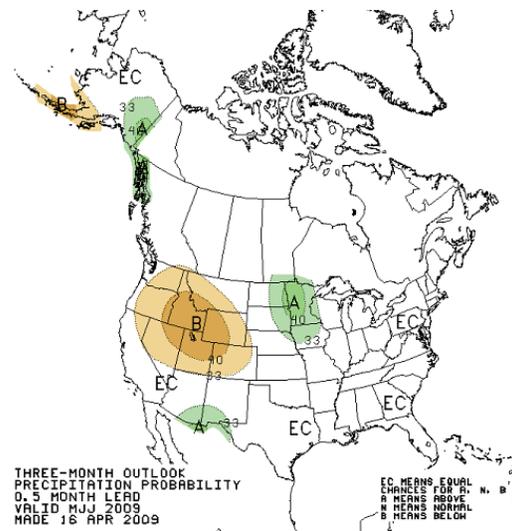
**May Temperature Outlook**



**May Precipitation Outlook**



**May-June-July Temperature Outlook**



**May-June-July Temperature Outlook**

**Visitors to NWS Glasgow:** We've had a busy few weeks with some guests at the office. The head of the Glasgow Umpires Association came to the office to discuss lightning safety for the upcoming baseball season. If you would like us to get weather safety information to your baseball coaches or umpires, just send me their name and address, and I'll be happy to do so.

We also had a great last minute visit by some of the State of MT DNRC Floodplain Managers from Helena and Havre and a FEMA Region VIII Mitigation Specialist. They were interested in flooding photos and historical events in this area. We highlighted the major floods on the Yellowstone, Poplar and Milk Rivers, as well as those on the smaller tributaries in the area as well. The Montana Floodplain program has an excellent website with great resources on it at: <http://www.mtfloodplain.mt.gov/>

## Weather in the News:

**Snow Rollers in WA:** The Spokane NWS office recently posted some photos of snow rollers they had in their county warning area. To see the great photos from the Lewiston, ID area, go to: [http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/otx/photo\\_gallery/snow\\_rollers.php](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/otx/photo_gallery/snow_rollers.php)

**High Winds in Nevada:** There's a great video from the Nevada Highway Patrol of a truck blown off the road during high winds. Check it out at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/30369209#30369209>

**Weather Forecasts misunderstood:** Researchers at the University of Washington recently did research on how people interpret weather forecasts. Not too surprisingly, most people don't understand the forecast very well. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30314304/>

## Earth Day Humor: (from grinningplanet.com)

**THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A GOOD RECYCLER AND A NOT-SO-GOOD RECYCLER:**



**GOOD RECYCLER:** You fill up the recycle bin every week with cans, bottles, and jars.

**NOT SO GOOD:** You give the recycle bin to the kids to use as a toboggan.

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**GOOD RECYCLER:** You take your used motor oil to the nearest recycling station or collection facility.

**NOT SO GOOD:** You avoid the used-oil problem by never changing your oil. You recycle engines instead.

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**GOOD RECYCLER:** You recycle not only your newspapers but also your phone books, magazines, and cardboard boxes.

**NOT SO GOOD:** You leave your newspapers in the bathroom stall at work after you're done. Doesn't that count?