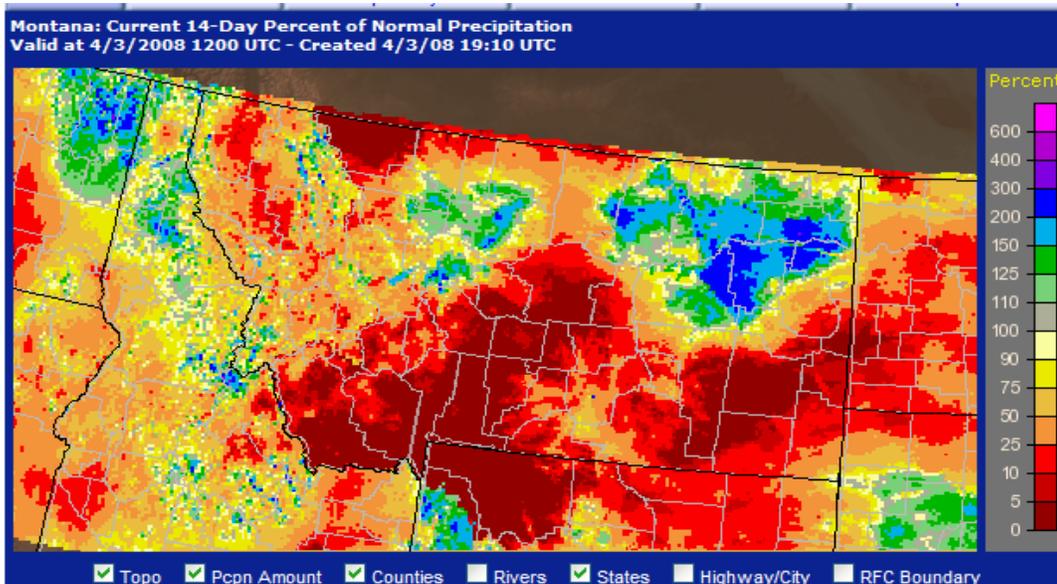


# Under the Big Sky

April 4, 2008

I've been hearing from lots of happy people about the precipitation we've been seeing recently, and I'll admit I got a bit excited when I saw my tulips had sprung from the ground. The graphic below shows the 14 day period prior to April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the percent of normal precipitation that was received. While some areas of NE Montana have gotten a bit of precipitation (Culbertson had .27") others are barely getting any moisture at all, ie. Glendive only had 0.03! You can see on the graphic how a little distance can make a big difference when it comes to who is getting the moisture, and who isn't getting it. We do have a system coming through tonight and tomorrow though that should bring more precipitation to the south (Winnett-Jordan-Glendive areas).



**Skywarn/CoCoRaHS 2008:** There will be two more scheduled in McCone County in May, but specific dates haven't been set yet. Here are the Skywarn training sessions that are set up, and we look forward to seeing you there! And, if you have some cool weather pictures you'd like to share with us, bring them. We can scan them in and mail them back to you.

Date	Time	Location
4/7/08	2-4 pm	Sidney USDA ARS Facility
4/7/08	6-8 pm	Sidney USDA ARS Facility
4/9/08	6-8 pm	Zortman School
4/10/08	6-8 pm	Scobey-Nemont Friendship Room
4/14/08	6-8 pm	Fort Peck Interpretive Center
4/15/08	6-8 pm	Glendive County Courthouse Basement meeting room
4/29/08	6-8 pm	Jordan Senior Center
5/5/08	6-8 pm	Opheim School Gymnasium
5/6/08	6-8 pm	Beach/Wibaux at the Beach Ambulance Building
5/13/08	6-8 pm	Malta Library

**Winter Weather Climate Summary available:** The December, January and February climate summary for northeast Montana is available on our website at:  
[http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/ggw/pdf/2007\\_08%20winter%20summary.pdf](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/ggw/pdf/2007_08%20winter%20summary.pdf)

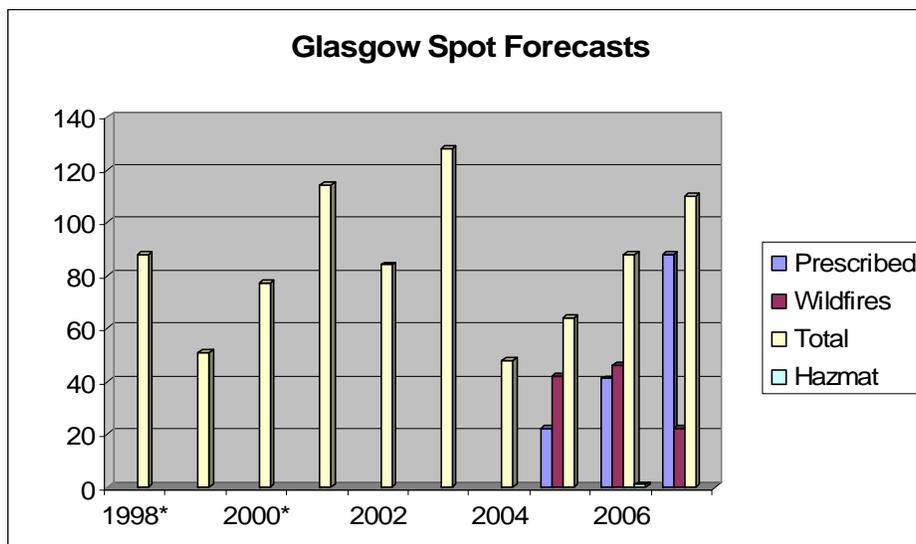
**Earth Day is April 22, 2008:** Earth Day began in 1970 and it was a way to promote clean air, land conservation and improved water quality. I remember being a student in middle school and high school and getting a full day out of school to go to a section of town and pick up trash. We always had ice cream when we finished for the day. Our next edition of Under the Big Sky will provide you with some great links on “Being Green.”

**Time to get your rain gage!** If you want to purchase a great rain gage, and become a part of the CoCoRaHS (Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow) network, you can get one online at: <http://www.ambientweather.com/strgloteprra.html> or <http://www.weatheryourway.com/cocorahs/store.html>

**Recent tornado events:** With the EF-2 Tornado that hit Atlanta a few weeks ago, and the one that hit Little Rock, Arkansas last night, I think the urban legend that cities don’t get hit by tornados is busted. To see a video of the Arkansas tornado, visit:  
<http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/04/04/arkansas.tornado/index.html#cnnSTCVideo>  
It starts with some damage, but then shows camera footage of the tornado towards the end.

**NWS Glasgow happenings:**

Patrick Gilchrist, our fire weather incident meteorologist, Steve Apfel, our meteorologist in charge and I all went to Malta for a pre-fire season planning meeting with the BLM, Montana DNRC, the CMR and local fire chiefs and county fire wardens. Patrick gave a presentation on the NWS fire weather products and services. So far this year, our office has provided 36 spot weather forecasts for prescribed burns by federal land management agencies. We have also provided over a dozen verbal briefings for wildfires to local fire agencies. In 1999, the Halloween night fires showed a need for a fire weather incident meteorologist in this area, and we got funding for a person to fill this role. Glasgow fully assumed fire weather responsibility for northeast Montana in 2001, prior to that the NWS Billings office filled that role. Here is a look at the number of spot weather forecasts issued for this region over the past few years:



**Dose of laughter:** This literally happened at least two days in Glasgow this week. Part of my yard was sunny; the other part was getting snow!

