

Montana Drought Summary

June 3, 2002

Montana precipitation summary, May 15-31.

East of the Continental Divide, precipitation was near to above normal for the period, except in the northeast where it was below normal. The majority of precipitation fell between the 21st and 23rd.

A large portion of the north central plains received over an inch from this system which was cold enough to produce snow at all elevations. Over 3 inches of liquid equivalent was received near Shonkin in the Highwood Mountains. There were no other widespread events of greater than a tenth of an inch during the period.

West of the Continental Divide, precipitation was near normal for the period. Spotty light precipitation occurred on most days, especially during the last week of May, as afternoon showers and thunderstorms were frequent. Most of the precipitation during the period occurred between the 21st and 23rd, with amounts ranging from an inch in the south to over 3 inches in the northwest.

Historical Rank of Precipitation (inches) for the Past Month and Water Year to Date

Location	May 1 - May 31	% of Normal	October 1 - May 31	% of Normal	Rank as driest	Years on Record
Billings	1.08	43.5	5.28	56.1	3rd	54
Bozeman	3.07	123.3	7.59	88.9	24th	50
Cut Bank	1.77	79.7	2.97	53.4	7th	83
Glasgow	1.04	60.5	3.10	61.8	9th	98
Great Falls	1.61	63.6	4.15	49.9	4th	109
Havre	1.59	86.4	2.81	48.3	4th	109
Helena	1.85	103.9	4.32	74.2	10th	109
Kalispell	2.38	116.7	7.86	71.1	7th	101
Lewistown	1.56	53.4	4.01	42.0	2nd	76
Miles City	2.31	105.5	4.52	63.6	9th	65
Missoula	1.76	90.3	8.41	95.9	29th	50

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/greatfalls/getproduct.pl?PCPNTOTALS>

For a state map of % of normal water year precip (updated around the 7th of each month), go to
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html

For the latest information on streamflows from the USGS, go to
<http://mt.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/sw>

For the latest streamflow forecasts from the NRCS (updated around the 5th of each month), go to
http://nrfs.state.mt.us/nrcs/Jun02/06_02stfp.pdf

Montana precipitation forecast.

As of June 2nd, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) forecasts near normal precipitation across Montana for the period June 10th through the 16th. The outlook for June through August, issued by the CPC on May 17th, calls for below normal precipitation for the state. Graphics and text relating to these outlooks, and additional long range forecasts can be found at
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi_season/13_seasonal_outlooks/color/seasonal_forecast.html

El Niño may be developing in the equatorial waters off of South America. A moderate to strong El Niño usually causes a drier than normal period in Montana, especially during the winter. Currently, only a weak El Niño is expected this winter. For the latest details on El Niño, go to
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory

The Montana Drought Summary is produced by the National Weather Service Office in Great Falls, Montana, and is updated twice a month. Any further inquiries about the drought can be directed to WFO Great Falls at (406) 453-2081. Many more links can be found on the Drought Information Page of the NWS Great Falls web site at
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?HTML+drought>.