

Montana Drought Summary

July 1, 2002

This is the last regularly scheduled issuance.
Further Drought Summaries will be issued as conditions warrant.

Montana precipitation summary, June 15-30.

East of the Continental Divide, precipitation for the period was generally near normal. The most widespread event occurred on the 22nd when over an inch of rain fell in parts of central Montana, with parts of Fergus, Petroleum, and Garfield counties receiving over 3 inches from thunderstorms that remained nearly stationary for hours. For the remainder of the period, afternoon and evening thunderstorms provided most of the rain over the entire area.

West of the Continental Divide, precipitation was below normal for the period. It was generally dry between the 15th and the 20th. Between the 21st and 30th, there were no organized systems that moved through region. However, afternoon thunderstorms provided some precipitation, with greater amounts over the mountains.

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

Location	June 1 - June 30	% of Normal	October 1 - June 30	% of Normal	Rank as Driest	Years on Record
Billings	1.41	74.6	6.69	59.2	2 nd	54
Bozeman	3.05	126.6	10.64	97.2	29 th	50
Cut Bank	4.86	196.0	7.83	97.4	53 rd	83
Glasgow	3.31	150.5	6.41	88.8	27 th	98
Great Falls	5.03	224.6	9.18	86.9	34 th	109
Havre	4.64	244.2	7.45	96.5	41 st	119
Helena	4.36	239.6	8.68	113.6	57 th	109
Kalispell	1.94	84.3	9.80	73.4	14 th	101
Lewistown	3.66	124.9	7.67	61.5	4 th	76
Miles City	1.20	49.6	5.72	60.0	5 th	65
Missoula	3.04	177.8	11.45	109.3	37 th	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/txf.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 U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), go to
<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Montana precipitation forecast.

As of June 30th, CPC forecasts above normal precipitation across Montana for the period July 8th through the 14th. The outlook for July through September, issued by CPC on June 14th, predicts a better chance of 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

This document is posted on the internet at http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/drought_semi.pdf. Any further inquiries about the drought can be directed to Ken Mielke or Ken Pomeroy 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/txf.php?HTML+drought>.