

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

August 1-16, 2005 (updated Aug 17, 2005) By NOAA's National Weather Service Great Falls Montana

Scattered showers and thunderstorms became more common across Montana in August. Rainfall was most common across southern and eastern Montana during the first half of the month. A cold front brought rain to north central portions on the 12th, along with much cooler air. A round of severe weather on the 16th brought localized heavy rain and hail reports from northeastern Montana. Smoky conditions from forest fires in Washington, Montana and Alaska, along with dry conditions continuing from July highlighted much of the western portions. Helena has recorded only 0.09" since July 1, which is the lowest amount for that period since records began in 1880. They have also had their 5th warmest temperatures for this period since records began. Great Falls has seen their 8th driest July 1st to date period. Much of the west has had less than one-half of their August normal to date.

The highest temperature has been 104°F near Wibaux on the 7th, while Clover Meadow (near Cameron) dropped to 21°F on the 14th. The highest wind gust has been 68 mph southeast of Billings on the 10th.

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

Location	Aug 1-16	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Aug 16	% of Normal
Baker	0.66	136	21.25	212
Billings	0.14	33	12.42	96
Bozeman	0.92	161	10.93	86
Butte	0.99	146	9.40	85
Cut Bank	0.55	64	10.73	102
Dillon	0.41	76	9.97	118
Glasgow	0.45	72	8.91	93
Glendive Apt	1.14			
Great Falls	0.26	32	12.23	95
Havre	0.40	67	8.84	90
Helena	0.02	3	9.70	101
Jordan	1.91	257	13.82	141
Kalispell	0.22	35	13.84	90
Lewistown	1.32	140	14.70	95
Livingston	0.79	117	13.33	99
Miles City	0.55	95	13.59	116
Missoula	0.25	43	10.94	90
Mullan Pass	0.31	41	33.39	102
Sidney Apt	0.49			
Wolf Point	0.56	81	12.23	121

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/dx.php?wfo=tfx&type=&loc=products&fx=PCPNTOTALS>

For a state map of % of normal water year precipitation (updated around the 7th of each month), go to:
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/image.php?wfo=tfx&type=data&loc=hydro&fx=watyr_pcptnorm.png

For the latest information on mountain snow pack from the NRCS, go to:
<http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>

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>

Further inquiries about the moisture conditions can be directed to Dave Bernhardt or Gina Loss 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/tfx/main/drought.php?wfo=tfx>