

# Montana Weather Summary

February 5, 2003

## Montana precipitation summary, January 2003.

Southwest Montana was the wettest region in the state, and precipitation was above normal for the month. The most notable storm system occurred on the 14<sup>th</sup>, bringing a mixture of rain and wet snow to the valleys, and up to a foot of snow in the mountains.

Over the rest of the state, precipitation was near to below normal. North central Montana was the driest region, where measurable precipitation fell only between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Eastern Montana saw more episodes of light snow, but few places had normal precipitation.

For the water year (since October 1), nearly all locations in the state have been drier than normal.

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

Location	Jan 1 - Jan 31	% of Normal	October 1 - January 31	% of Normal	Rank as Driest	Years on Record
Billings	0.40	53	1.81	52	14th	69
Bozeman	1.36	226	2.23	71	20th	62
Butte	0.65	122	1.32	54	16th	84
Cut Bank	T	0	0.50	31	5th	110
Dillon	0.46	180	0.83	56	8th	65
Glasgow	0.29	83	0.90	49	10th	110
Great Falls	0.12	18	1.07	31	3rd	110
Havre	0.22	46	0.99	48	9th	123
Helena	0.41	78	1.12	52	12th	123
Kalispell	0.86	58	2.91	53	7th	103
Lewistown	0.78	87	2.63	83	24th	77
Livingston	1.41	220	2.07	65	14th	54
Miles City	0.44	88	0.95	37	8th	109
Missoula	1.50	142	2.55	64	7th	54

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 7<sup>th</sup> of each month), go to:  
[http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/txf.php?TEXT+wateryear\\_percent.html](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/txf.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html)

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

### Montana precipitation forecast.

As of February 1st, CPC forecasts the dry conditions to persist and even expand across Montana for the period through April 2003. The outlook through May, issued by CPC on January 16th, predicts below normal precipitation for most of 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](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/multi_season/13_seasonal_outlooks/color/seasonal_forecast.html)

These forecasts are based on a moderate El Niño expected to persist through early spring. For the latest details on El Niño, go to:

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory](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](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/drought_semi.pdf). Further inquiries about the drought can be directed to Dave Bernhardt, Gina Loss, 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>.