

Montana Drought Summary

May 5, 2003

Montana precipitation summary, April 2003.

In April, all of Montana had above normal precipitation with the exception of portions of the northwest and southeast. This allowed water year deficits to be reduced significantly or eliminated altogether. The wettest part of state was the southwest where precipitation was twice the historical monthly average. It was the wettest April on record at Gallatin Field near Bozeman and at Dillon Airport, and the 3rd wettest at Butte. Helena, Cut Bank, Havre, and Missoula registered one of their ten wettest Apriks on record.

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

Location	Apr 1- Apr 30	% of Normal	October 1- Apr 30	% of Normal	Rank	Years on Record
Billings	1.40	80	4.85	70	18th driest	69
Bozeman	3.19	228	7.01	116	14th wettest	62
Butte	2.56	251	4.96	104	42nd wettest	84
Cut Bank	1.83	203	2.54	76	32nd driest	110
Dillon	2.11	222	4.10	129	11th wettest	65
Glasgow	1.24	165	2.73	83	20th driest	110
Great Falls	1.83	127	4.16	71	20th driest	110
Havre	1.96	225	3.29	83	28th driest	123
Helena	2.27	249	4.43	110	66th wettest	123
Kalispell	0.90	74	5.57	61	11th driest	103
Lewistown	2.33	169	6.35	96	42nd driest	77
Livingston	2.12	134	6.89	114	15th	54

					wettest	
Miles City	1.35	69	3.84	78	25th driest	109
Missoula	1.70	156	7.09	104	21st wettest	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 7th of each month), go to:

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls/tfx.php?TEXT+wateryear_percent.html

For the latest information on mountain snowpack from the NRCS, go to:
[Western Mountain Snowpack - NRCS](#)

For the latest U.S. Drought Monitor, issued weekly by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), go to:
[Drought Monitor](#)

Montana precipitation forecast

As of May 1st, CPC forecasts equal chances of wetter and drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through July 2003. 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

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/tfx.php?HTML+drought>