

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

October 1, 2003

Montana weather and precipitation summary, September 2003.

Precipitation-wise, September 2003 was again a variable month in Montana. Some areas west of the continental divide, and extreme eastern portions (near Baker and Glendive), received over two inches of rainfall. However, most areas continued to rank dry to very dry. Billings had their driest water year of record. Over the western half of Montana, temperatures continued above normal, as much as three degrees. The rest of the state was near the seasonal average. A little snow was recorded at lower elevations in the western half of Montana around mid-month. Mountainous areas received four to six inches.

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

Location	Sep 1 - Sep 30	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Sep 30	% of Normal	Rank	Years on Record
Billings	0.15	11	8.71	59	1 st driest	69
Bozeman	0.06	4	11.90	81	17 th driest	62
Butte	0.15	14	9.40	74	16 th driest	84
Cut Bank	0.93	79	5.68	45	2 nd driest	90
Dillon	0.21	21	7.75	67	8 th driest	65
Glasgow	0.78	80	9.50	85	25 th driest	110
Great Falls	1.14	93	10.75	72	13 th driest	110
Havre	1.36	132	9.88	86	35 th driest	123
Helena	0.74	70	9.18	81	21 st driest	123
Kalispell	1.93	161	10.92	63	5 th driest	103
Lewistown	1.18	88	13.30	75	16 th driest	77
Livingston	0.23	18	13.18	84	18 th driest	54
Miles City	0.16	14	9.00	66	7 th driest	109
Missoula	1.05	97	12.76	92	19 th driest	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 precipitation (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 snow pack 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/temperature forecast.

As of October 1st, CPC forecasts equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through October 2003, with equal chances of cooler or warmer than normal temperatures forecast. Graphics and text relating to these outlooks, and additional long-range forecasts can be found at
[CPC long range predictions](#)

Further inquiries about the moisture conditions 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>