

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

January 1, 2004

Montana weather and precipitation summary, December 2003.

Precipitation was variable across Montana in December. Locations along the Rocky Mountain Front came up very short, with less than 20 percent of normal recorded. This was in spite of a late month storm that dumped two to three feet of snow with blizzard conditions across the lower elevations of central and northeastern Montana. Very light amounts fell over the western plains. Temperatures were two to six degrees above normal over most of the state. The northwest averaged about two degrees below normal. Also, winds averaged lighter than normal across most of the state. Water year precipitation remains light over western portions east of the divide. Great Falls now has recorded their driest water-year-to-date on record.

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

Location	Dec 1 - Dec 31	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Dec 31	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	0.76	113	2.44	91	30 th wettest	43 th	70
Bozeman	0.70	123	1.54	66	18 th driest	29 th	63
Broadus	0.24	46	1.26	58	13 th driest	24 th	55
Butte	0.37	70	0.74	39	8 th driest	7 th	110
Culbertson	0.58	54	1.53	96	35 th wettest	63 rd	95
Cut Bank	0.06	18	0.55	45	20 th driest	20 th	101
Dillon	0.46	131	0.70	44	15 th driest	23 rd	64
Glasgow	0.82	222	1.85	126	42 nd wettest	62 nd	111
Glendive	0.63	162	1.82	97	42 nd wettest	60 th	106
Great Falls	0.11	16	0.56	26	1 st driest	1 st	112
Havre	0.24	47	0.70	44	10 th driest	8 th	124
Helena	0.35	76	0.89	56	14 th driest	11 th	124
Kalispell	1.23	75	3.41	84	41 st driest	39 th	105
Lewistown	1.16	140	2.42	92	43 rd driest	40 th	108
Livingston	1.07	191	2.57	102	34 th driest	34 th	101
Miles City	0.48	107	1.99	95	41 st driest	37 th	111
Missoula	1.14	99	2.90	99	29 th wettest	74 th	111

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:
<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>

Montana precipitation/temperature forecast.

As of January 1st, CPC forecasts equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through January 2004, with equal chances of cooler or warmer than normal temperatures forecast. For the period January through March 2004, the forecast calls for a 50-55% chance of above normal temperatures and equal chances of wetter or drier conditions. 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 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>