

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

February 1, 2004

Montana weather and precipitation summary, January 2004.

After heavy snow fell across central Montana in late December, heavy snow continued into the first week of January. Cold temperatures predominated the first week, with a low of -49 reported in Meagher County. Mild conditions prevailed through mid-month, then the weather changed again in late January. Heavy snow fell over the continental divide and regions west. Meanwhile, heavy snowpack continued over eastern Montana with cold temperatures. On the 30th, a frontal system brought a squall line of thunderstorms to western and central Montana with areas of heavy snow. Blizzard conditions and avalanches closed Highway 2 over the continental divide for several days. Statewide temperatures averaged near to slightly below normal. Helena, socked in with fog for several days, was five degrees below normal.

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

Location	Jan 1 - Jan 31	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Jan 31	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	0.25	31	2.69	77	29 th driest	41 st	70
Bozeman	0.31	52	1.85	60	13 th driest	20 th	63
Broadus	0.25	50	1.67	62	14 th driest	25 th	55
Butte	0.22	60	1.06	43	6 th driest	5 th	110
Culbertson	0.68	219	2.22	112	21 st wettest	78 th	95
Cut Bank	0.05	13	0.60	37	10 th driest	10 th	101
Dillon	0.02	5	0.72	37	5 th driest	8 th	64
Glasgow	1.02	291	2.87	158	17 th wettest	85 th	111
Glendive	0.70	175	2.53	111	27 th wettest	75 th	106
Great Falls	0.24	35	0.80	28	2 nd driest	2 nd	112
Havre	0.19	40	0.89	43	8 th driest	6 th	124
Helena	0.26	50	1.15	54	3 rd driest	3 rd	124
Kalispell	1.83	124	5.22	94	52 nd driest	49 th	105
Lewistown	0.20	22	2.62	74	23 rd driest	21 st	108
Livingston	0.12	19	2.69	71	50 th driest	50 th	101
Miles City	0.18	38	2.17	84	33 rd driest	30 th	111
Missoula	0.92	87	3.82	96	49 th driest	56 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 February 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 February through April, the forecast calls for a 50-55% chance of above normal temperatures over western Montana and equal chances of above or below normal temperatures elsewhere. It also calls for 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>