

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

April 2, 2004

Montana weather and precipitation summary, March 2004.

March continued the generally dry pattern across the state. There were periods throughout the month when scattered amounts of precipitation fell. Most amounts were less than a tenth of an inch. Billings and Miles City recorded their driest March's of record, while at Havre and Dillon it was the seventh driest March of record. The entire state recorded below normal precipitation for the month. Temperatures were on the warm side, averaging three to eight degrees above normal. Isolated severe thunderstorms brought strong winds to central Montana on the 24th. Also, wind speeds averaged above normal for March.

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

Location	Mar 1 - Mar 31	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Mar 31	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	0.11	10	3.58	69	18 th driest	26 th	70
Bozeman	0.26	25	2.65	57	6 th driest	10 th	63
Butte	0.18	22	1.44	38	2 nd driest	2 nd	110
Cut Bank	0.07	13	0.67	27	2 nd driest	2 nd	101
Dillon	0.16	30	1.07	48	3 rd driest	5 th	64
Glasgow	0.20	43	3.44	135	34 th wettest	68 th	111
Great Falls	0.29	29	1.15	26	1 st driest	1 st	112
Havre	0.09	13	1.04	33	3 rd driest	2 nd	124
Helena	0.37	59	1.69	54	3 rd driest	2 nd	124
Kalispell	0.53	48	6.17	79	29 th driest	28 th	105
Lewistown	0.48	41	3.36	64	10 th driest	9 th	108
Livingston	0.36	62	3.72	106	37 th driest	37 th	101
Miles City	0.03	5	2.27	65	15 th driest	14 th	111
Missoula	0.60	63	4.99	87	38 th driest	34 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/txf.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 April 1st, CPC forecasts equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions across Montana for the period through April 2004, and equal chances of cooler or warmer than normal temperatures forecast. For the period April through July, the forecast calls for a 55% chance of below normal temperatures over eastern Montana and equal chances of above or below normal temperatures elsewhere. It also calls for a 50-55% chance of above normal precipitation west of the divide and equal chances of wetter or drier conditions elsewhere. 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 or Gina Loss 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>