

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

December 1, 2004

Montana weather and precipitation summary, November 2004.

November can best be characterized as a dry month with warmer than average temperatures. Temperatures averaged from two to six degrees above normal. Other than mountainous locations, precipitation was lacking across the state. A late month storm brought snow to the south central and east, while mild temperatures allowed the precipitation to fall as rain in the northwestern valleys. A broad area across central Montana remained dry. Of the 14 cities listed below, eight ranked among the top 10 driest November's of record. A warm period early in the month warmed temperatures to 76F at Martinsdale on the 8th, while in the southwest, Whiskey Creek Snotel cooled to -27F on the morning of the 29th. Winds were generally not a big problem. Havre did record their 11th windiest November since 1889, while Helena had their 10th calmest November since 1880. Elsewhere, winds generally continued below the 30-year average across the state. A 105 mph gust was recorded near East Glacier on the 5th.

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

Location	Nov 1 - Nov 30	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Nov 30	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Billings	0.06	8	1.73	86	30 th wettest	58 th	71
Bozeman	0.19	23	1.41	73	25 th driest	40 th	62
Butte	0.07	12	0.40	29	10 th driest	9 th	106
Cut Bank	T	0	0.93	105	34 th wettest	64 th	97
Dillon	0.13	36	1.01	101	22 nd wettest	63 rd	59
Glasgow	0.30	77	0.77	70	41 st driest	38 th	108
Great Falls	0.16	27	1.21	80	44 th wettest	39 th	112
Havre	0.10	22	0.77	72	46 th driest	37 th	125
Helena	0.10	21	0.51	45	13 th driest	10 th	124
Kalispell	0.65	45	2.13	88	47 th driest	44 th	106
Lewistown	0.12	16	1.32	73	27 th driest	26 th	104
Livingston	0.09	12	1.96	101	42 nd wettest	59 th	102
Miles City	0.13	25	1.65	102	36 th wettest	67 th	112
Missoula	0.20	21	0.75	42	12 th driest	12 th	104

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 December 1st, the CPC December temperature forecast is a 50 to 55% chance of warmer than normal conditions. The December precipitation forecast is for equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions. For the period December through February, the forecast calls for a 55 to 60% chance of above normal temperatures and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation over the state. 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>