

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

January 31, 2005

Montana weather and precipitation summary, January 2005.

January was a month of extremes in temperature, but remained dry. At Great Falls and Cut Bank, the first half of the month was 22 degrees below normal. Remarkably, the month averaged close to normal in temperature across much of the state! Record lows were set during the cold first half, while record warmth was noted on several days in the latter half. Jordan had a temperature range of 100°F (61 to -39F). Temperature extremes in the state were 72 at Flat Willow on the 23rd and -46 at Gates Park on the 14th. Precipitation was generally light, with six of the 14 cities below recording among their 10 driest January's of record. Highest amounts fell west of the divide. There, typical winter fog prevailed much of the month with freezing rain occurring on the 18th and 27th. Winds were light, too, averaging below normal across the state. A windy period as the cold was departing at mid-month produced wind gusts over 100 mph along the northern Rocky Mountain Front. Logan Pass recorded 116 mph and near East Glacier recorded 102 mph on the 19th.

**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
Baker	0.09	48	2.68	125			7
Billings	0.21	26	2.19	63	20 th driest	28 th	71
Bozeman	0.28	47	1.92	62	13 th driest	20 th	64
Butte	0.12	23	0.89	36	3 rd driest	3 rd	109
Cut Bank	0.02	5	0.97	60	29 th driest	31 st	94
Dillon	0.01	4	1.20	81	23 rd driest	39 th	59
Glasgow	0.17	49	1.53	84	36 th driest	34 th	107
Great Falls	0.16	24	1.80	63	19 th driest	17 th	113
Havre	0.03	6	0.96	47	10 th driest	8 th	125
Helena	0.26	50	1.13	53	13 th driest	10 th	125
Jordan	0.12	49	1.29	74			7
Kalispell	0.78	53	4.12	75	27 th driest	25 th	106
Lewistown	0.19	21	1.97	56	13 th driest	12 th	105
Livingston	0.31	48	2.55	68	39 th driest	38 th	102
Miles City	0.05	10	2.03	78	46 th driest	41 st	112
Missoula	0.63	59	1.91	48	4 th driest	4 th	112
Mullan Pass	3.49	106	15.79	103	13 th driest	48 th	27
Wolf Point	0.04	18	0.72	47			7

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/dx.php?wfo=tfx&type=&loc=products&fx=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/tfx/image.php?wfo=tfx&type=data&loc=hydro&fx=watyr_pcptnorm.png

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.

Currently, the CPC February temperature forecast is an equal chance of warmer or cooler than normal and the precipitation forecast is for a 50 to 55% chance of drier than normal conditions over western Montana. For the period February through April, the forecast calls for a 50 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/tfx/main/drought.php?wfo=tfx>