

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

Montana weather and precipitation summary, February 2005. (updated Feb 28, 2005)

In February, the very mild conditions that commenced in mid-January continued. It also remained very dry. Statewide, temperatures were two to seven degrees above normal. The warmest anomalies were across the northern part of the state east of the divide. The warmest temperature across the state was 71°F at Hardin on the 3rd and at Albion on the 4th, both of which set daily records for the date in the state. Several record high temperatures records were set on the 3rd, 4th and 11th. The lowest temperature was -33°F near West Yellowstone on the 16th. Precipitation was continued much below normal. Kalispell has had over 40 days with no measurable snow, while much of central Montana received less than one inch of snow for the month. Thirteen of the 18 cities listed below recorded among their 10th driest February's of record. Six had their driest February of record. Great Falls, Cut Bank, Havre and Miles City all recorded their driest January through February period on record. There were a few episodes of precipitation. On the 6th, up to 6 inches of snow fell over portions of south central Montana. The Cooke City area saw a foot of snowfall around the 14th. West of the divide, 2-6 inch snows fell around the 13th and 21st, but mostly at higher elevation locations. Winds were on the lighter side, averaging below normal across most of the state. The highest gust was 98 mph near East Glacier on the 2nd.

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

Location	Feb	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Feb 28	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Baker	T	0	2.68	108			7
Billings	0.25	43	2.44	60	16 th driest	23 rd	71
Bozeman	0.27	50	2.19	60	10 th driest	16 th	64
Butte	0.18	38	1.07	37	3 rd driest	3 rd	109
Cut Bank	T	0	0.97	51	16 th driest	17 th	94
Dillon	0.04	20	1.24	73	16 th driest	27 th	59
Glasgow	0.03	12	1.56	75	24 th driest	23 rd	107
Great Falls	0.01	2	1.81	54	12 th driest	11 th	113
Havre	0.01	3	0.97	40	4 th driest	3 rd	125
Helena	0.06	16	1.19	48	6 th driest	5 th	125
Jordan	0.12	34	1.41	67			6
Kalispell	0.03	3	4.15	62	14 th driest	13 th	106
Lewistown	0.10	18	2.07	51	7 th driest	7 th	105
Livingston	0.22	31	2.77	62	32 nd driest	31 st	102
Miles City	T	0	2.03	69	34 th driest	27 th	128
Missoula	0.14	18	2.05	43	3 rd driest	2 nd	125
Mullan Pass	1.19	33	16.98	89	9 th driest	33 rd	27
Wolf Point	0.01	9	0.73	44			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_pcntnorm.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.

The CPC March temperature forecast is for a 55-60% chance of warmer than normal conditions, with a 50-55% chance of below normal west and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation over eastern Montana. For the period March through May, February through April, the

forecast calls for a 50-55% chance of above normal temperatures west and equal chances of above or below normal temperatures across the rest of the state. Precipitation is forecast to be below normal west, with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation over eastern Montana. 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>