

# Montana Weather/Precipitation Summary

March 1-20, 2005 (updated Mar 21, 2005) By NOAA's National Weather Service Great Falls Montana

The first fifteen days of March have been very warm across Montana. Temperatures averaged 5 to 10 degrees above normal for the period. Welcome precipitation has fallen in areas of the state. The warmest temperature across the state was 77°F at Huntley on the 12<sup>th</sup> with several daily warm records set across the west. The lowest temperature was -11°F near Rudyard on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation continued below normal at most locations. However, six cities have received at least 100 percent of their monthly-to-date normal precipitation. The southeast and south central remained dry. There have been a few spells of precipitation. The period from the 6<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> brought most of the precipitation. Up to 26 inches of snow fell in the mountain around Red Lodge from the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, while the higher elevations of the Little Belts received around 40 inches. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, up to a foot of snow fell around the Bull Mountains, the Snowies, higher elevations west of the divide, and southwest of Glasgow. At lower elevations, the precipitation was distributed over the period with mainly light showers. The highest gust was 111 mph at Logan Pass on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but winds at lower elevations exceeded 65 mph and produced blowing dust in portions of north central Montana.

**Precipitation (inches)  
for the Current Month and Water Year to Date**

Location	Mar 1-20	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Mar 20	% of Normal
Billings	0.31	47	2.75	58
Bozeman	0.45	76	2.66	63
Butte	0.45	88	1.52	44
Cut Bank	0.28	85	1.25	56
Dillon	0.23	74	1.47	58
Glasgow	0.50	200	2.06	88
Great Falls	0.70	121	2.51	63
Havre	0.50	122	1.47	52
Helena	0.63	158	1.82	63
Kalispell	0.69	90	4.84	65
Lewistown	0.82	114	2.89	60
Miles City	0.09	30	2.12	64
Missoula	0.65	105	2.73	51

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 7<sup>th</sup> of each month), go to: [http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/image.php?wfo=tfx&type=data&loc=hydro&fx=watyr\\_pcntnorm.png](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](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>