

# Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

**April 1-15, 2005 (updated Apr 15, 2005)** By NOAA's National Weather Service Great Falls Montana

Rain and snow fell over south central Montana early in April. Over one-half inch of moisture fell at Livingston on the 4<sup>th</sup>, which was the greatest daily amount since late October. Up to 10 inches of snow fell in the mountains around Cooke City. Another storm over the 9-10<sup>th</sup>, dropped over one inch of rain over portions of southeast Montana and 10 inches of snow in the Bull Mountains and 18 inches in the Little Rockies. Very strong winds accompanied this storm creating blizzard conditions in the northeast; gusts reached 85 mph at Zortman. This storm also caused power line damage that produced power outages lasting nearly a week in the Turner area. A fast moving storm produced around ½ inch of rain with snow over central Montana on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Up to 8 inches of snow fell along the Rocky Mountain Front. Ahead of the storm, warm temperatures and gusty winds were felt. Gusts reached 74 mph over northern Valley County on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere, the highest gust for the state has been 95 mph at Logan Pass on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Temperatures have averaged higher than normal east of the divide – as high as eight degrees above normal in the northeast. Cloudier conditions have kept temperatures west of the divide slightly below normal. In the northwest, temperatures are running 1.5F below normal. A statewide daily high temperature record was set on the 9<sup>th</sup>, when it reached 88 degrees at Sidney, for the highest temperature in the state. The month's lowest temperature occurred near West Yellowstone on the 1<sup>st</sup>; it dropped to –8F.

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

Location	Apr 1-15	% of Normal	Oct 1 - Apr 15	% of Normal	Years of Record
Baker	0.48	65	3.81	111	7
Billings	0.60	78	3.71	62	96
Bozeman	0.56	93	3.64	69	64
Butte	0.37	82	2.17	52	109
Cut Bank	0.37	109	1.64	59	96
Dillon	0.58	149	2.19	67	59
Glasgow	1.10	367	3.27	115	106
Great Falls	0.48	80	3.29	66	113
Havre	0.46	131	2.05	59	125
Helena	0.47	124	2.52	72	127
Jordan	1.09	218	2.95	97	6
Kalispell	0.84	147	6.18	74	127
Lewistown	0.38	63	3.57	61	107
Livingston	0.60	96	4.43	72	102
Miles City	0.65	110	3.08	74	128
Missoula	1.07	238	4.14	67	125
Mullan Pass	2.46	55	25.31	108	27
Wolf Point	0.36	119	1.74	75	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 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 April temperature forecast is for a 50-55% chance of warmer than normal conditions west

of the divide and equal chances of above or below normal over the rest of Montana. For precipitation, there are equal chances of above or below normal conditions. For the period April through June, the forecast calls for equal chances of above or below normal temperatures and precipitation. 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>