

# Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

May 1-17, 2005 (updated May 18, 2005) By NOAA's National Weather Service Great Falls Montana

Welcome rain and snow fell across a large portion of western, southern and eastern Montana during the first half of May. Severe thunderstorms dropped one-inch hail near Ismay and Glendive on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and ¾ inch hail near Oswego on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall amounts over 3 inches fell in the Baker and Miles City areas on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Again on the 10<sup>th</sup>, up to 5 inches of rain fell in portions of Carbon and Stillwater counties, with up to 3 feet of snow in area mountains. This storm produced nearly a foot of snow over the eastern Montana plains. Both of these events caused local flooding. Northwest, central and north central Montana were largely missed by these storms, but rainfall mid-month spread to many of these areas. North central Montana remains the driest for the water year. Cold temperatures have prevailed. Temperatures have averaged from near normal west of the divide, to seven degrees below normal in the southeast. Record lows were set on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Havre dropping to 14F. Placer Basin fell to -1F on the 1<sup>st</sup>, for the state's lowest temperature. Scobey fell to 6F on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the lowest temperature outside mountainous areas. Moorhead was the warmest on the 7<sup>th</sup>, at 88F. The highest wind gust has been 92 mph at Logan Pass on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with gusts to 54 mph at Dillon on the 9<sup>th</sup> and near Brady on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Location	May 1-17	% of Normal	Oct 1 - May 17	% of Normal
Baker	4.59	572	9.47	197
Billings	1.26	93	7.68	93
Bozeman	0.59	47	5.32	73
Butte	2.32	228	5.05	87
Cut Bank	0.94	94	2.71	62
Dillon	2.25	239	5.34	130
Glasgow	0.26	32	3.82	92
Great Falls	0.74	57	4.69	66
Havre	0.59	64	2.68	52
Helena	1.81	199	4.76	96
Jordan	1.06	135	5.87	137
Kalispell	0.56	55	6.84	68
Lewistown	0.40	27	5.36	66
Livingston	2.08	143	8.34	111
Miles City	2.78	265	6.81	114
Missoula	1.82	184	7.01	90
Mullan Pass	2.39	155	28.85	109
Wolf Point	1.11	100	3.13	82

For an automated version of this chart, updated daily, go to  
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/dx.php?wfo=tx&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=tx&type=data&loc=hydro&fx=watyr\\_pcntnorm.png](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tfx/image.php?wfo=tx&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 May temperature and precipitation forecast is for equal chances of above or below normal conditions over the state. For the period May through July, the forecast also 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>