

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

July 2005 By NOAA's National Weather Service Great Falls Montana

July saw a return to more 'normal' conditions across the state. Temperatures warmed and precipitation generally stopped. Billings set a daily rainfall record on the 10th, recording 1.16" in 45 minutes. Strong thunderstorm-related winds were the dominant weather makers. On the 1st, a gust to 75 mph was recorded at Alzada. On the 2nd, another gust to 88 mph was reported at Alzada. On the 13th, after a hot day across the state, strong winds were reported across much of the east. A gust to 107 mph was recorded during a thunderstorm near McCabe, in Sheridan County. This is the second highest measured gust in the state in July. Yellowtail Dam tied a daily state-wide record high temperature at 109°F (an unofficial reading of 111°F was recorded near Hardin). Glendive also tied a daily state record on the 9th, reaching 110F. There were several below freezing nights recorded. Clover Meadow, near Cameron, dropped to 20°F on the 4th, Gates Park was 29F on 10th, Clover Meadow was 22°F on the 18th and Basin Creek fell to 23°F on the 27th. A cool spell around the 25th set several new record lows, with frost reported at lower elevations in central Montana.

Severe weather was reported somewhere on 12 days for the month. Overall, the state was warmer and much drier than normal. Temperatures averaged up to 4°F above normal, with six of 15 cities ranked among their 10 driest July's of record. Helena recorded their driest July of record. Winds were generally lighter than normal. The highest gust in the state outside of a thunderstorm was 72 mph near East Glacier.

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

Location	July	% of Normal	Oct 1 - July 31	% of Normal	Rank	Percentile	Years of Record
Baker	0.98	69	20.59	216			7
Billings	1.73	135	12.28	98	27 th wettest	69 th	96
Bozeman	0.65	55	10.01	82	18 th driest	28 th	64
Butte	0.39	27	8.41	81	31 st driest	28 th	111
Cut Bank	0.08	5	10.18	106	27 th wettest	72 nd	97
Dillon	0.50	44	9.56	121	20 th wettest	77 th	65
Glasgow	0.29	16	8.46	94	41 st driest	39 th	105
Great Falls	0.10	7	11.97	100	51 st wettest	55 th	113
Havre	0.37	25	8.44	91	46 th driest	37 th	125
Helena	0.07	5	9.68	108	60 th wettest	53 rd	127
Jordan	0.73	43	11.91	131			5
Kalispell	0.30	21	13.62	92	62 nd driest	49 th	127
Lewistown	0.88	42	13.38	92	40 th driest	37 th	109
Livingston	1.28	95	12.54	98	40 th wettest	60 th	99
Miles City	0.29	18	13.04	117	45 th wettest	65 th	128
Missoula	0.14	13	10.69	92	43 rd driest	36 th	123
Mullan Pass	0.88	54	33.08	103	24 th driest	38 th	64
Wolf Point	0.67	33	11.67	124			7

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 7th of each month), go to: 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 30 and 90 day precipitation/temperature forecast.

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>