

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

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

A slow-moving weather system brought a period of heavy rain to northwestern Montana September 10-12. Over 2 inches of precipitation fell from near Cut Bank to Yaak. Two to four feet of snow were reported above 6000 feet in Glacier National Park. Otherwise, much of the state has been relatively dry. Eastern portions were largely missed by September's precipitation. One of the drier Septembers of record was seen over far eastern Montana, while northwestern Montana recorded one of the wettest Septembers. At Cut Bank, it was the wettest water year since 1992. Temperatures soared to over 100°F on the 3rd, 4th and 10th over portions of eastern Montana. A record warm day was observed at Glasgow on the 9th, when they recorded 96°F. On the 11th, a record low of 15°F was observed at Wisdom. This was the coldest so early in the season since 1992. Great Falls recorded their earliest frost since 1992 on September 11th. Smoky conditions from forest fires in western Montana prevailed during the first 10 days of the month, then the cold front that brought snow and colder temperatures cleared most smoke over eastern Montana. A late month storm brought over 3 inches of rain and mud slides to Glacier National Park. This same storm system brought very strong winds to the Rocky Mountain Front. Winds peaked at 94 mph at Logan Pass on the 30th. Temperatures averaged from 3 degrees above normal over far eastern Montana, to one degree below normal in the west. The highest temperature was 104°F near Scobey on the 4th and 10th, while Poorman Creek (near Noxon) dropped to 5°F on the 25th.

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

Location	Sep	% of Norm	Rank	Pcntl	Oct 1 – Sep 30	% of norm	Rank	Pcntl	Years
Baker	0.82	72%			22.13	190%			7
Billings	0.83	62%	42	43	13.41	91%	61	63	97
Belgrade	0.89	62%	24	37	12.13	82%	22	34	64
Butte	1.31	120%	72	64	11.42	89%	44	40	110
Cut Bank	2.54	215%	90	91	13.65	109%	76	78	97
Dillon	0.77	79%	30	45	11.27	113%	46	71	65
Glasgow	0.65	66%	51	47	9.99	89%	35	33	105
Great Falls	1.68	137%	76	67	14.62	98%	59	52	113
Havre	0.50	49%	38	30	10.04	88%	39	31	125
Helena	0.72	69%	53	42	10.69	94%	56	44	127
Jordan	0.48	81%			14.36	129%			5
Kalispell	2.74	228%	99	77	16.67	97%	72	57	127
Lewistown	1.02	74%	41	37	16.21	91%	44	40	109
Livingston	1.90	107%	76	73	16.03	100%	63	65	97
Miles City	0.33	28%	26	20	13.97	104%	69	54	128
Missoula	1.56	144%	93	74	12.64	91%	43	36	119
Mullan Pass	3.26	187%	56	85	36.78	104%	25	40	63
Wolf Point	0.07	15%			13.39	119%			7
Glendive	0.14	9%	16	14	14.42	105%	59	58	101
Sidney	0.09	6%	3	5	13.13	92%	31	48	65
BZN-MSU	1.29	72%	55	44	18.85	98%	65	55	118

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>

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>