

Montana Drought/Precipitation Summary

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

An early October storm brought up to 18 inches of snow to an area from south central through northeast Montana. Blizzard conditions affected extreme eastern Montana on the 4th and 5th. Billings set a daily snowfall record of 10.8 inches, which was the greatest daily amount so early in the season by over one month. In its wake, temperatures dropped to 6°F at Baker on the 6th. Temperatures were slow to warm over eastern Montana as the snow melted, but returned to more seasonal values by mid month. Miles City reached 94°F on the 1st for the warmest temperature for the month. Windy conditions also returned by mid-month. Logan Pass recorded 106 mph on the 17th. This tied the highest gust recorded in the state for October. Winds were generally below average for the month. Precipitation was mostly above normal for the month. However, some areas of the northeast recorded less than 25% of normal. Glendive had its 4th wettest, Sidney had its 5th wettest, and Dillon recorded their 10th wettest October's of record. Statewide precipitation averaged 1.39", the 18th wettest since 1865. Temperatures averaged from 4 degrees above normal at Helena, to 2 degrees below normal over eastern Montana. The statewide average temperature was 46.7°F, the 31st warmest. The state's lowest temperature occurred at Baker on the 6th, and at Clover Meadow (near Cameron), when the temperature dropped to 6°F again on the 11th and 31st.

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

Location	Oct	% of Norm	Rank	Pcntl	Oct 1 – Oct 31	% of norm	Rank	Pcntl	Years
Baker	1.34	112%			1.34	112%			
Billings	1.97	156%	83	86	1.97	156%	83	86	97
Belgrade	1.84	166%	61	94	1.84	166%	61	94	65
Butte	1.03	130%	80	71	1.03	130%	80	71	112
Cut Bank	0.92	196%	82	83	0.92	196%	82	83	99
Dillon	1.14	178%	56	85	1.14	178%	56	85	66
Glasgow	0.55	77%	58	53	0.55	77%	58	53	109
Great Falls	0.69	74%	55	48	0.69	74%	55	48	114
Havre	0.98	158%	96	76	0.98	158%	96	76	126
Helena	0.94	142%	87	69	0.94	142%	87	69	126
Jordan	1.17	123%			1.17	123%			
Kalispell	1.11	116%	87	68	1.11	116%	87	68	128
Lewistown	1.85	175%	90	82	1.85	175%	90	82	110
Livingston	1.73	118%	80	78	1.73	118%	80	78	103
Miles City	2.18	193%	101	78	2.18	193%	116	90	129
Missoula	1.43	172%	103	82	1.43	172%	101	80	126
Mullan Pass	3.49	117%	41	62	3.49	117%	41	62	66
Wolf Point	0.22	24%			0.22	24%			
Glendive	2.50	253%	105	95	2.50	253%	105	95	110
Sidney	2.05	201%	61	92	2.05	201%	61	92	66
BZN-MSU	2.97	184%	117	92	2.97	184%	117	92	127

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>

All reported data is preliminary. 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>