



Drought Information Statement for Montana

Valid May 3, 2024

Issued By: NWS Great Falls, NWS Missoula, NWS Glasgow, NWS Billings

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, May 31, 2024, or sooner, if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/TFX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



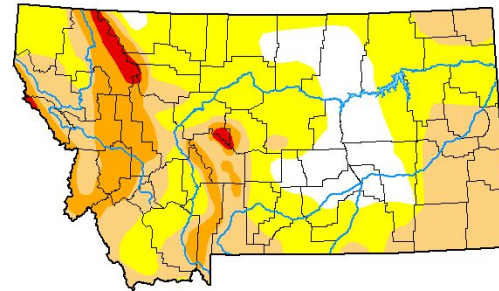


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Montana

- D3 Drought conditions have expanded.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None occurring
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Scattered areas across portions of western and central MT
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** A portion of western MT, with scattered areas across portions of central and southwestern MT
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Much of western and southwestern MT and portions of central and eastern MT
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Much of the state

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana



April 30, 2024
(Released Thursday, May 2, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.10	85.90	43.37	12.69	1.47	0.00
Last Week 04-23-2024	14.10	85.90	39.72	12.69	1.47	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-30-2024	20.00	80.00	40.55	18.69	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	39.20	60.80	21.30	2.68	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-01-2023	56.28	43.72	37.28	23.21	9.51	0.00
One Year Ago 05-02-2023	28.61	71.39	46.55	3.91	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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National Drought Mitigation Center



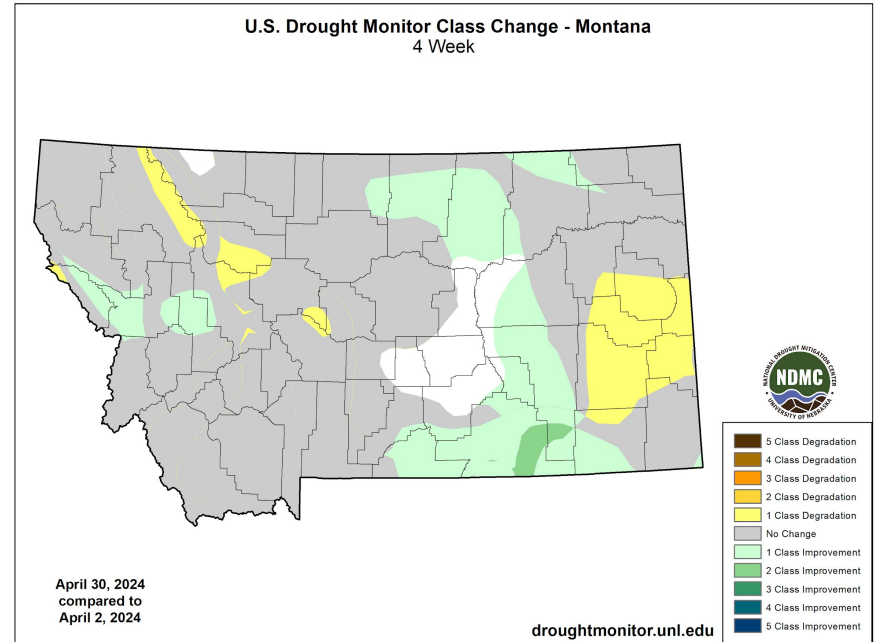
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Montana

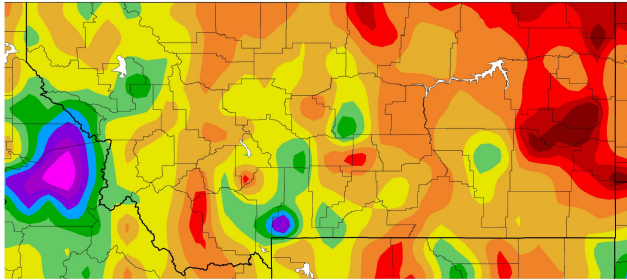
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** Drought conditions worsened over portions of western, central and eastern MT, during the past four weeks.
 - **No Change:** No change in drought conditions over the past month were observed over most of the state.
 - **Drought Improved:** Areas of improvement occurred over scattered areas of western and north central MT, as well as, portions of eastern MT.





Precipitation

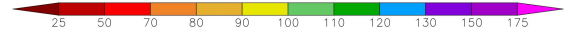
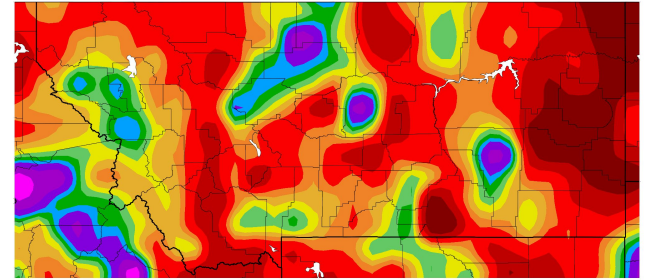
Precipitation (in)
4/3/2024 – 5/2/2024



Generated 5/3/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/3/2024 – 5/2/2024



Generated 5/3/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, most of the state received 0.5” to 2.5” of precipitation, with some isolated areas receiving more than 2.5” of moisture. Some areas of the state received less than 0.5” of precipitation.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Most of the state received below normal precipitation, while some isolated areas received above normal precipitation amounts.

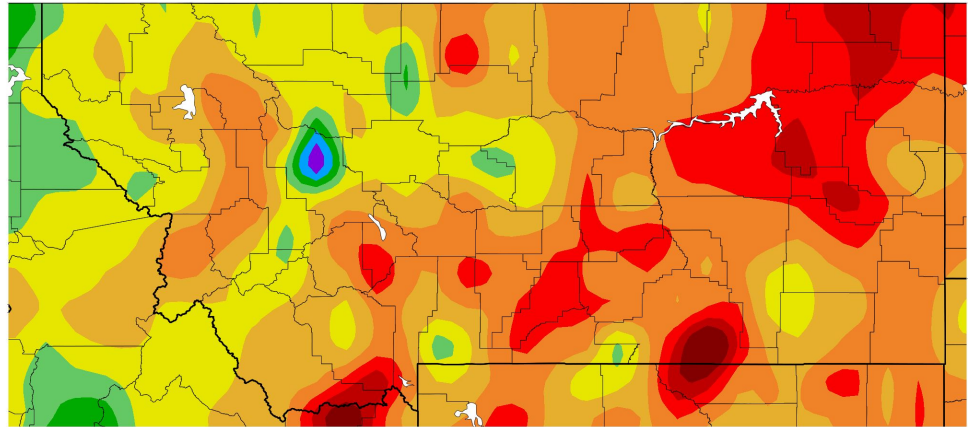




Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/3/2024 – 5/2/2024

- Most of The Treasure State experienced warmer than normal temperatures, while the temperatures for some isolated areas of western and central Montana were below normal.



Generated 5/3/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

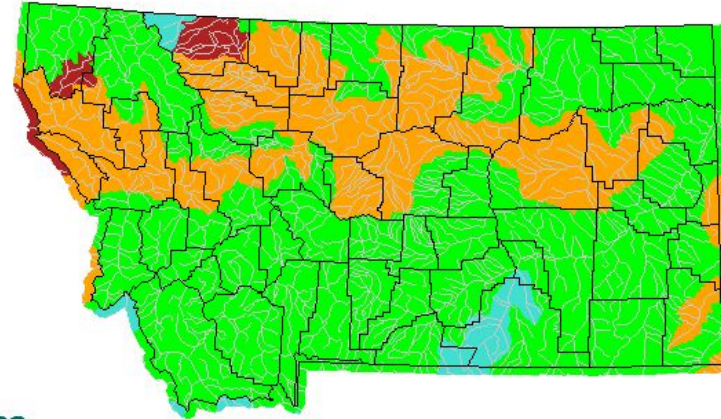




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Thursday, May 02, 2024

- **Above Normal:** The Hudson River Basin, as well as, portions of the Yellowstone River Basins are experiencing above normal streamflow levels.
- **Normal:** The average streamflow for most of Montana, is at a level that is considered normal.
- **Below Normal:** Most areas of below normal streamflow are located across the northern half of Montana.
- We continue to monitor for any periods of potential flooding that may occur.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

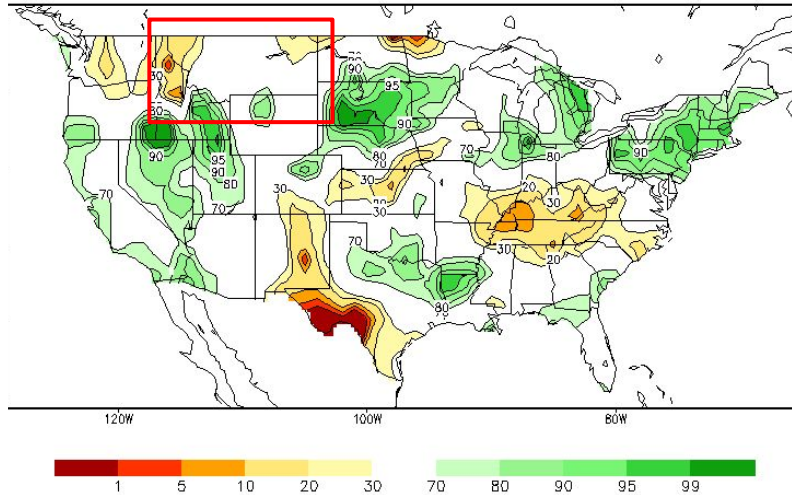
USGS 7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the date of, May 2, 2024





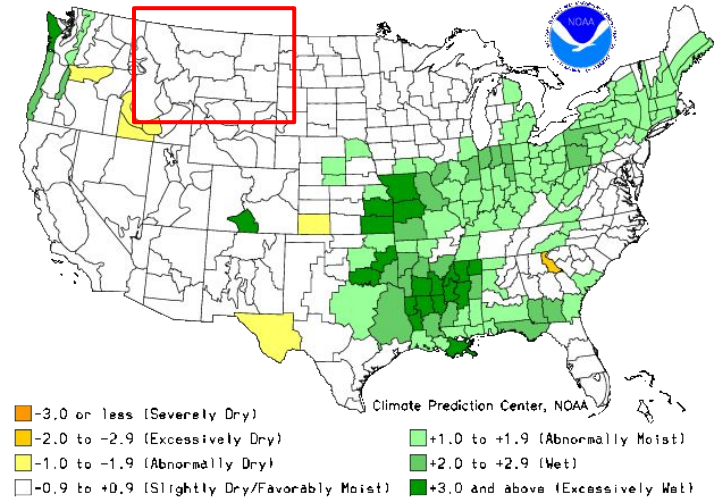
Agricultural Impacts

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAY 02, 2024



- The soil moisture ranking percentile resides in the low range across western, and portions of northeastern MT

Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending APR 27, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



- Soil moisture values continue, “slightly dry/favorably moist.”

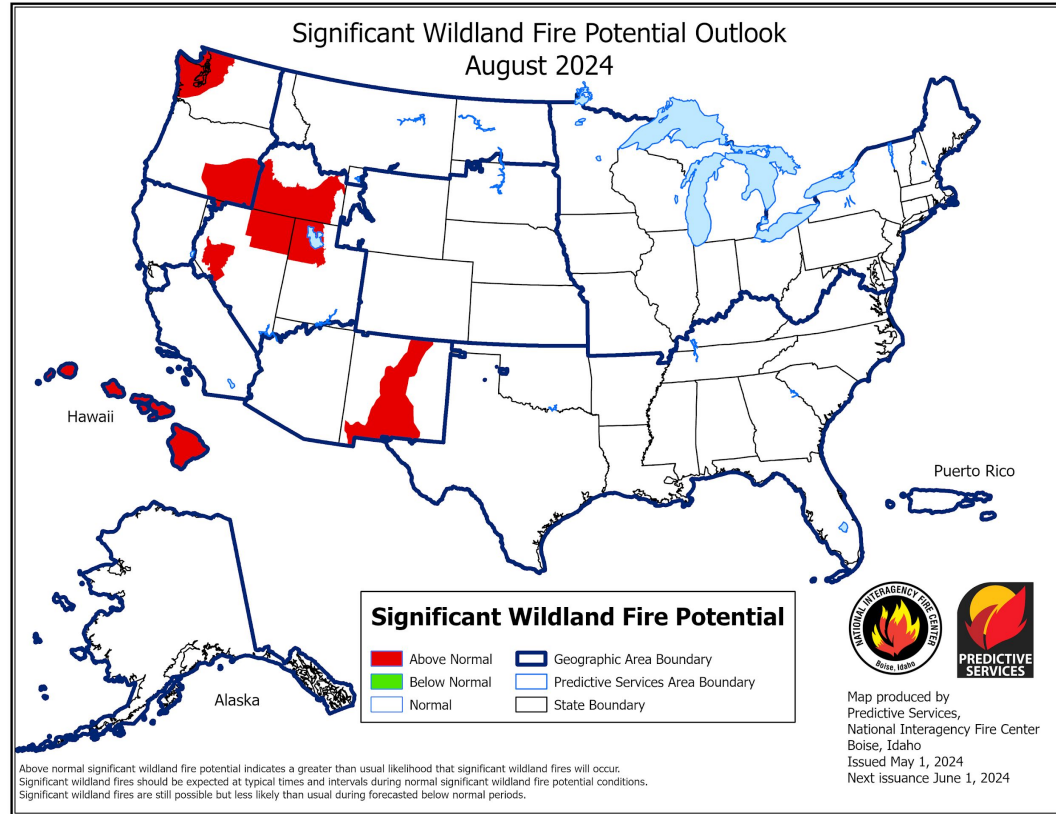




Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

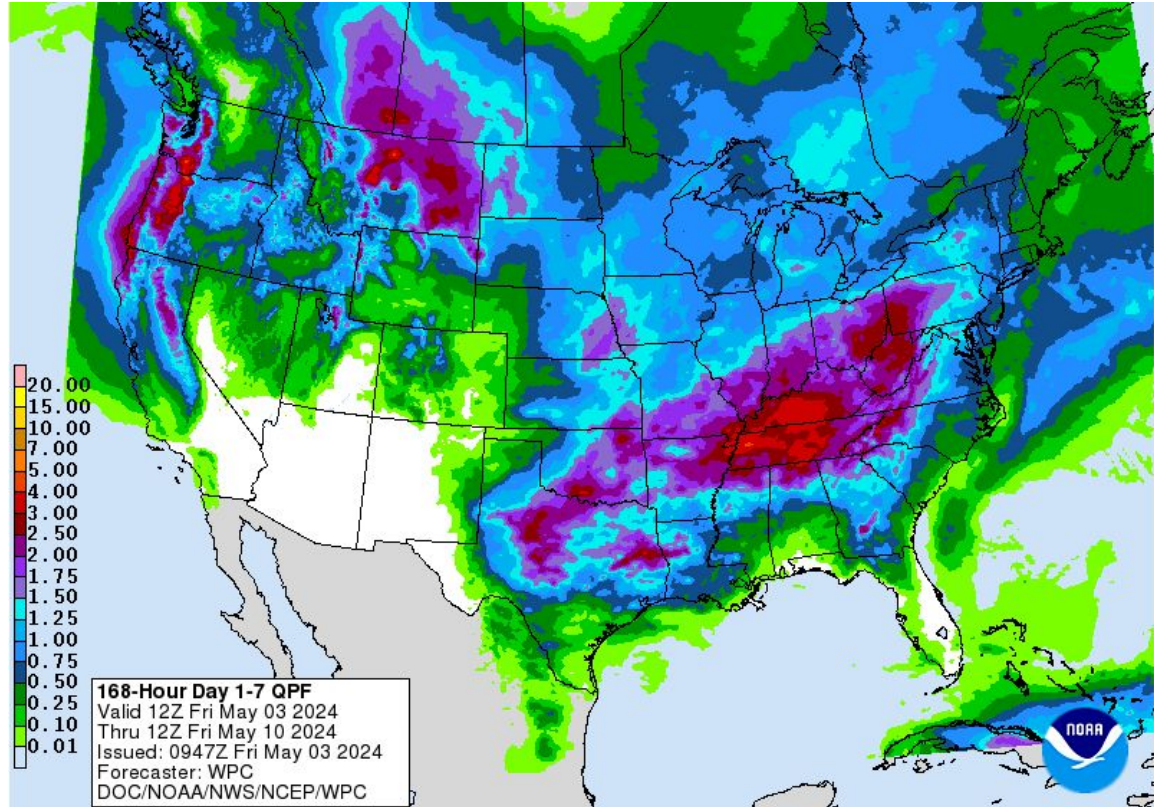
- **Grasslands:** Fire impacts continue possible a few weeks after fuels dry out.
- **Mountains:** Fire season begins after the snow melts out.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- During the week of, May 3-10, 2024, north central, central and eastern MT are forecast to receive in excess of 1.75", with some areas receiving as much as 3" to 5" of liquid precipitation.
- Most of this precipitation is forecast to fall during the period of, Sun May 5th through Thu May 9th.





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- As of this time, no significant hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State from, May 10th through May 16th.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: 05/10/2024-05/16/2024



Climate Prediction Center
Made: 05/02/2024 3PM EDT

Follow us:
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov





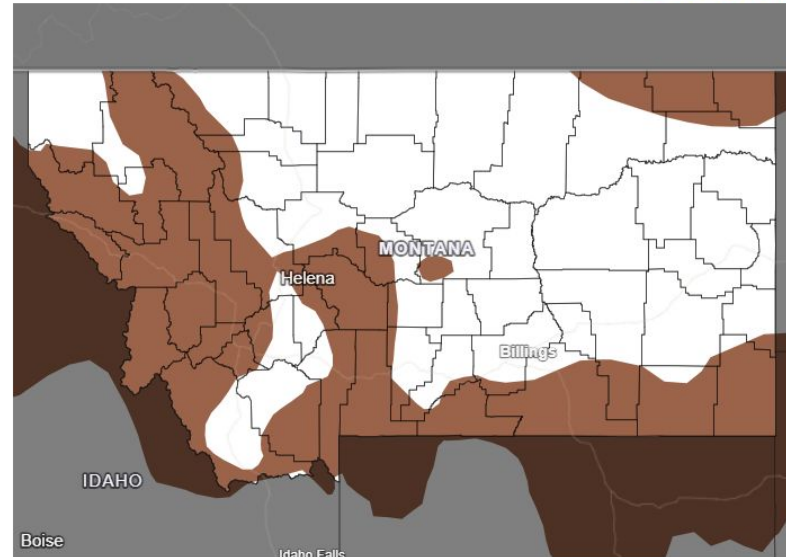
Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are predicted to continue over portions of western, central, southern and far northeastern MT.

<https://www.drought.gov/states/montana>

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Data Valid: 05/03/24

Drought.gov





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Mountain snowpack continues below normal, in terms of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), for this time of year.
- The forecast early May precipitation event, will assist; however, Montana is, generally, sufficiently below normal values, such that further spring moisture remains important.

Agricultural Impacts

- Possible impacts to crops and grasslands

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Moisture replacement from now through June, along with the temperature trend during the last two weeks of June and the first week of July, will aid in assessing the summer season's fire impacts.

Other Impacts

- Impacts to outdoor recreation, especially river activities, are possible as we approach the Memorial Day Holiday, and the tourism season.

Mitigation Actions

- Low snowpack does not equate to an absence of flooding. Flooding is possible at any time until the snow melts out of the mountains.
- We continue to monitor any potential flooding impacts which may arise, during our moist season, and as we enter thunderstorm season.

