



# Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: January 5, 2026

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

## Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, February 2026, 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.

- D3 - Extreme Drought Conditions continue across portions of central Montana.



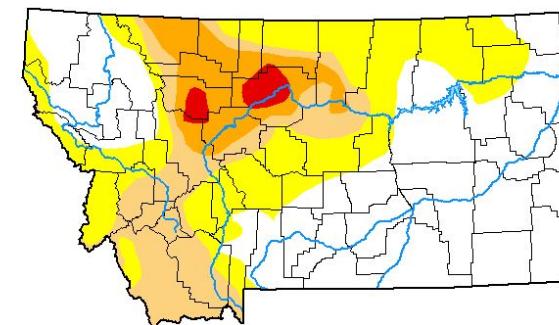
# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link: [Latest Montana U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of central MT
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of central MT
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of central and southwestern MT
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of western, central and northeastern MT

## U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

December 30, 2025  
(Released Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	48.41	51.59	24.71	9.75	1.66	0.00
Last Week 12-23-2025	35.78	64.22	37.64	12.52	3.32	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-30-2025	27.06	72.94	40.74	31.81	8.55	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	6.70	93.30	54.22	27.25	13.79	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	27.06	72.94	40.74	31.81	8.55	0.00
One Year Ago 12-31-2024	5.53	94.47	54.22	27.25	13.79	0.00

### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
Yellow	D0 Abnormally Dry
Light Orange	D1 Moderate Drought
Dark Red	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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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



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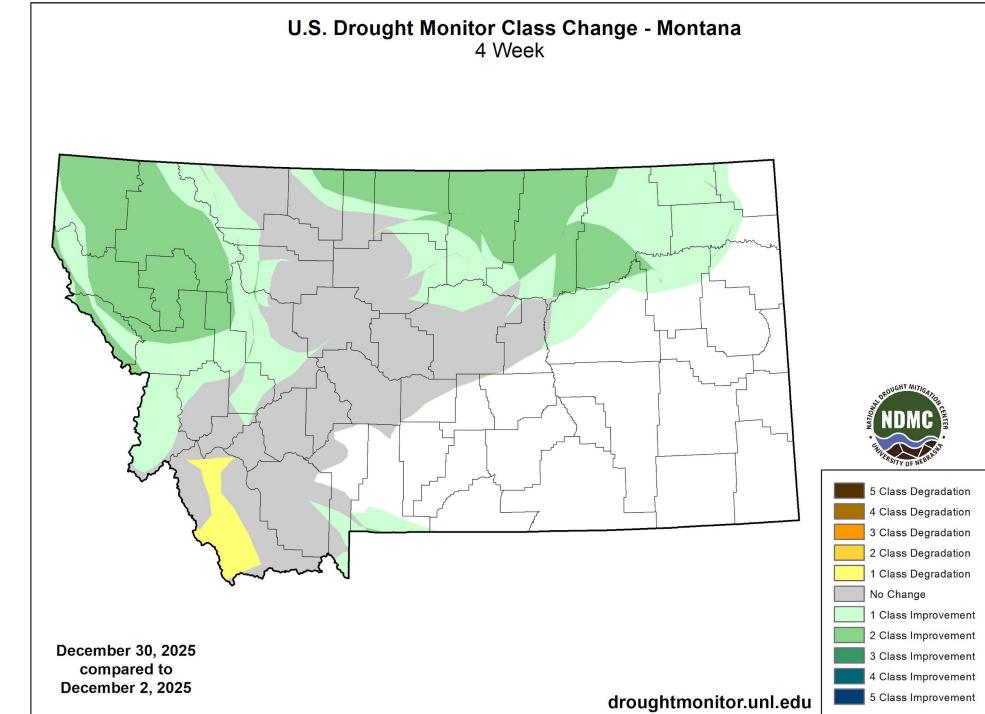
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# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link: [Montana 4-week Change Map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - **Drought Worsened:** A portion of southwestern MT
  - **No Change:** Portions of southwestern and central MT
  - **Drought Improved:** Across much of western, north central and northeastern MT, as well as a portion of southern MT.



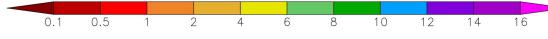
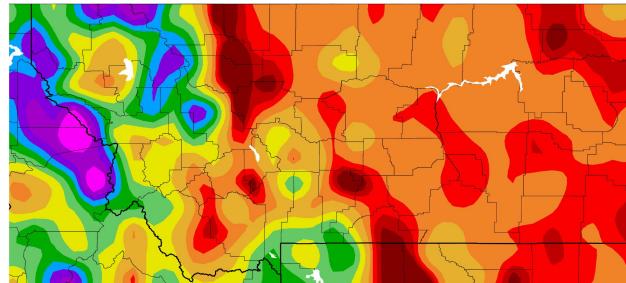
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# Precipitation

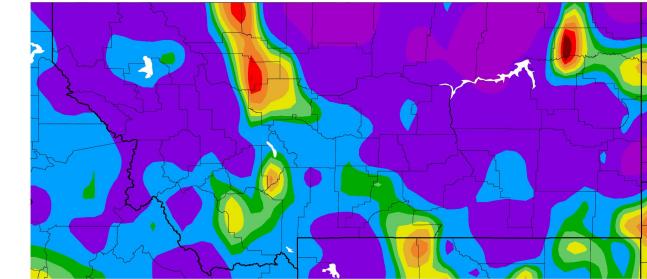
Precipitation (in)  
12/2/2025 – 12/31/2025



Generated 1/1/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
12/2/2025 – 12/31/2025



Generated 1/1/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, portions of northwestern MT received in excess of 10.0 inches of precipitation, while most of the state of MT received less than 4.0 inches of moisture.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Most of The Treasure State received 150% or more of normal precipitation, while some isolated areas received less than 75% of normal precipitation.

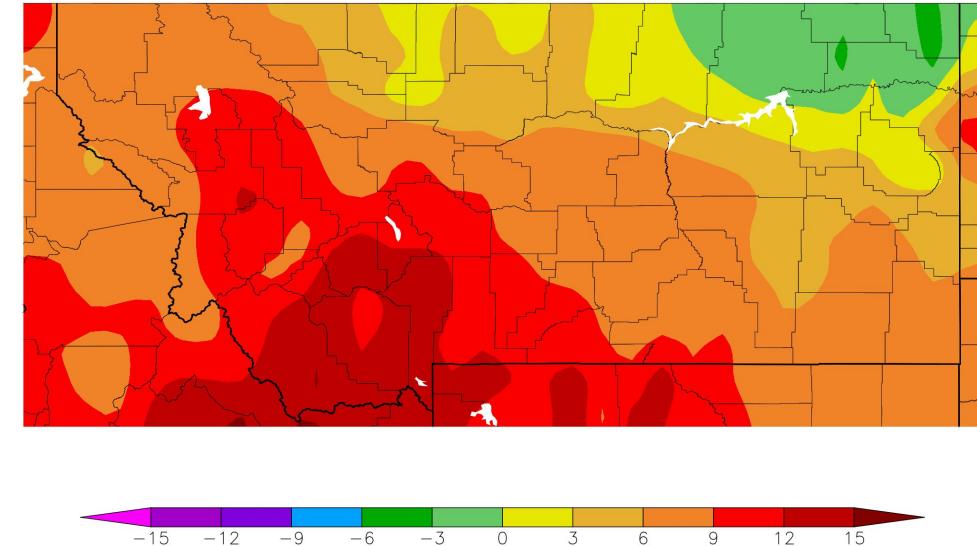




# Temperature

- Most of the state recorded warmer than normal temperatures, with a large portion of southwestern MT reporting temperatures of 12 to 15 degrees above normal, during the past month.
- A large portion of northeastern MT reported near normal to below normal temperatures.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/2/2025 – 12/31/2025



Generated 1/1/2026 using provisional data.

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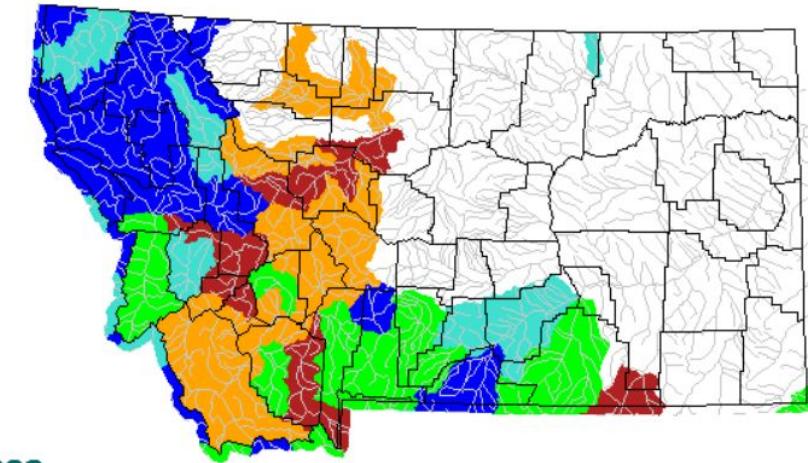
# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Link: [USGS 7-day Average Streamflow Compared to Historical](#)

- **Below Normal:** Watersheds of central and southwestern MT, along with an isolated portion of southeastern MT, are experiencing streamflow in the below normal to much below normal range.
- **Normal:** Streamflows across areas of western and southern Montana are reported within normal range.
- **Above Normal:** Not surprisingly, the streamflows of northwestern MT are reported as above normal to much above normal. Additionally, isolated areas of northern and southern MT are included in the above normal to much above normal percentile class ranges.

USGS 7-Day Average Streamflow HUC Map

Saturday, January 03, 2026



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		



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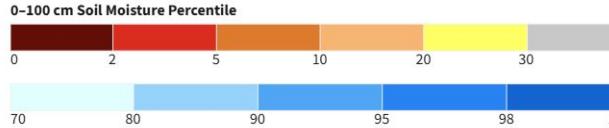
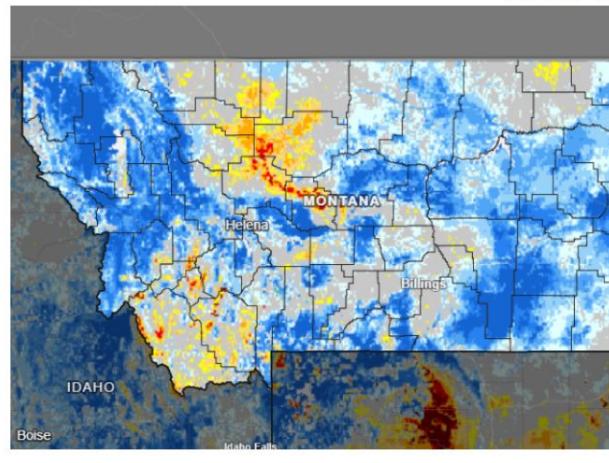
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# Agricultural Impacts

Link: [drought.gov/states/montana](https://drought.gov/states/montana)

NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



An accurate depiction of soil moisture conditions can provide valuable insights for agricultural monitoring, weather prediction, and drought and flood early warning. This map shows the moisture content of the top 1 meter of soil compared to historical conditions from 1981–2013, based on NASA's Short-term Prediction and Transition Center – Land Information System (SPoRT-LIS). Red and orange hues indicate drier soils, while greens and blues indicate greater soil moisture.

Source(s): NASA  
Data Valid: 01/03/26

**Drought.gov**

- Areas of the state continue dry, with the driest soil conditions measured across portions of central and southwestern MT, where the Soil Moisture Percentile for some locations is measuring in the 2 to 5 percentile range.
- Soil Moisture Percentile is at 70% and above across most of the remainder of the state.



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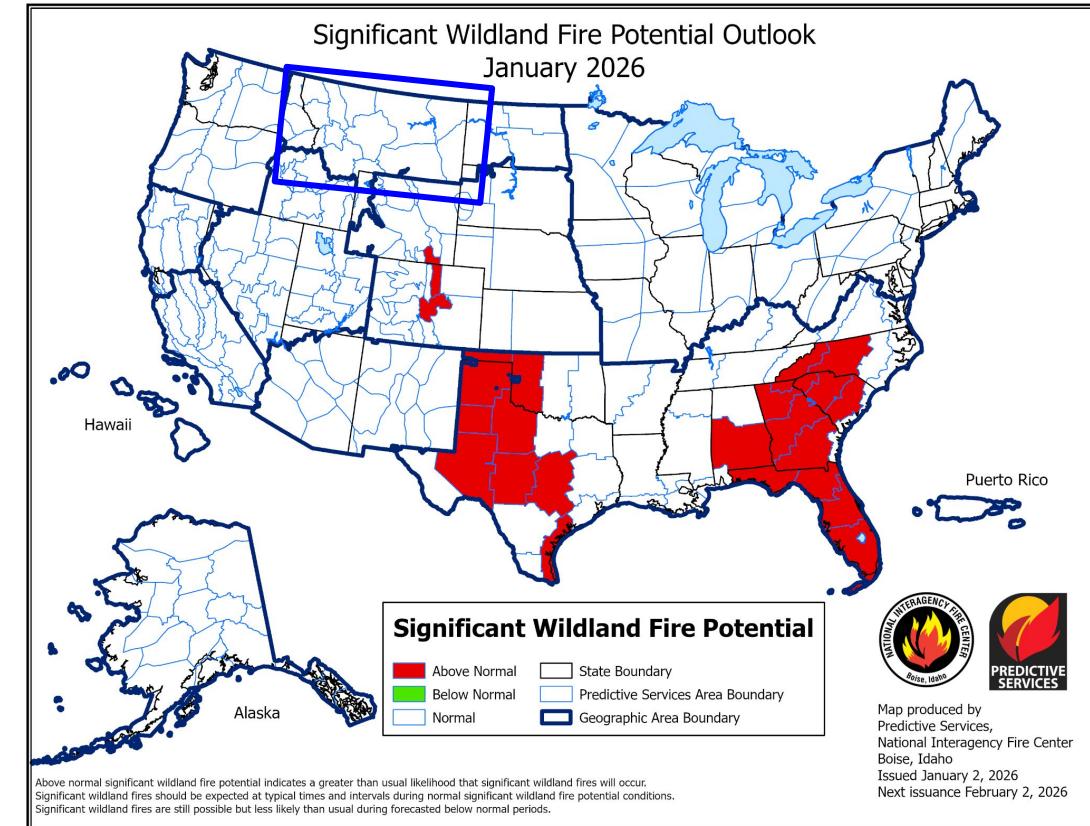
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# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- For the month of January, the state of MT is included in an area of normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.
  - Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.



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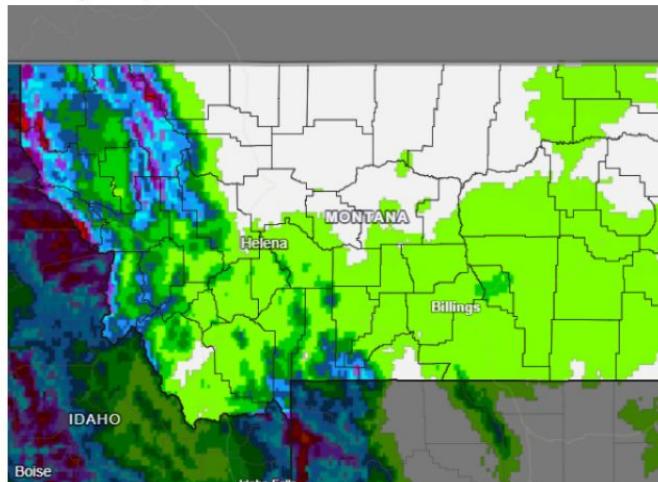
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# 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

Link: [drought.gov/states/montana](https://drought.gov/states/montana)

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for  
January 4-11, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



This map shows the amount of liquid precipitation (in inches) expected to fall over the next 7 days, according to the National Weather Service.

Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 01/04/26

- Through, January 11, 2026, the 7-Day Liquid Precipitation Forecast, includes high elevation moisture of about 0.75" to 2.0", with greater amounts at the highest elevations.
- Low elevation forecast precipitation values, generally, range from 0.0" to 0.5", for this 7-day period..

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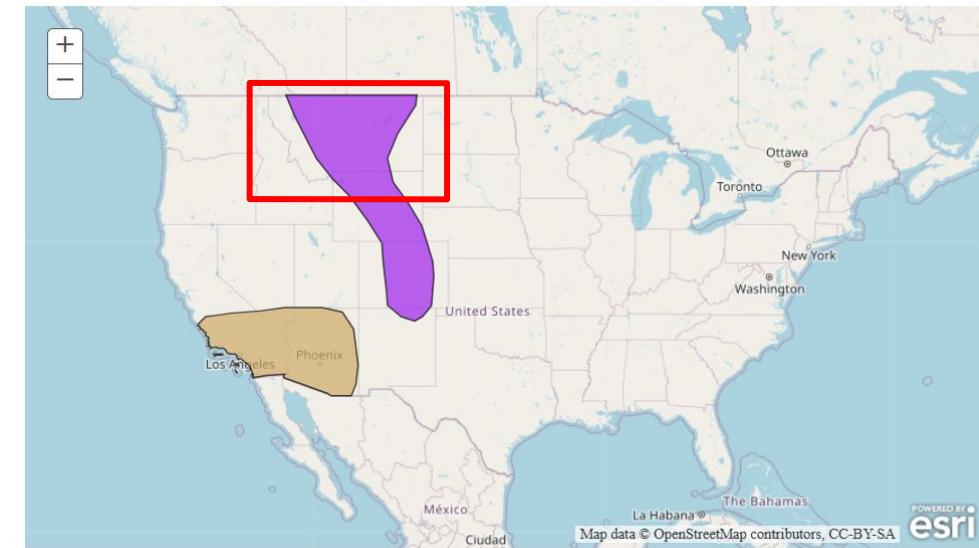


# 8 to 14-Day Hydrologic Hazards Outlook

Link: [Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14-day Hazards Outlook](#)

U.S. Week-2 Hazards Outlook - Made January 04, 2026

- As of this time, no significant flooding or rapid onset drought hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State during the period of, January 12-18, 2026.



<b>Extreme Heat</b>	<b>Much Above Normal Temperatures</b>	<b>Heavy Precipitation</b>	<b>Composite</b>
High Risk	High Risk	High Risk	Flooding Possible
Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	Moderate Risk	Rapid Onset Drought
Slight Risk	Slight Risk	Slight Risk	
<b>Much Below Normal Temperatures</b>	<b>High Winds</b>	<b>Heavy Snow</b>	
High Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	
Moderate Risk	Slight Risk	Moderate Risk	
Slight Risk		Slight Risk	



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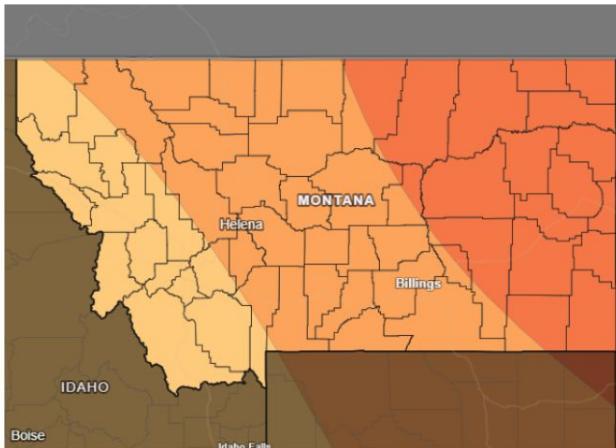
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# 8 to 14-Day Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

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

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for January 11-17, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Near-Normal Conditions

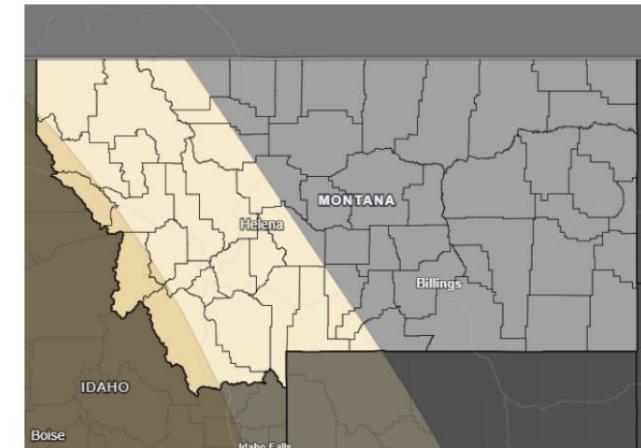
This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal temperature 8 to 14 days in the future.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 01/03/26

**Drought.gov**

The 8 to 14-Day Temperature Outlook shows a better chance for warmer than normal temperatures across the state of MT.

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for January 11-17, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Near-Normal Conditions

This map shows the probability (percent chance) of above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal precipitation 8 to 14 days in the future.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 01/03/26

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# Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

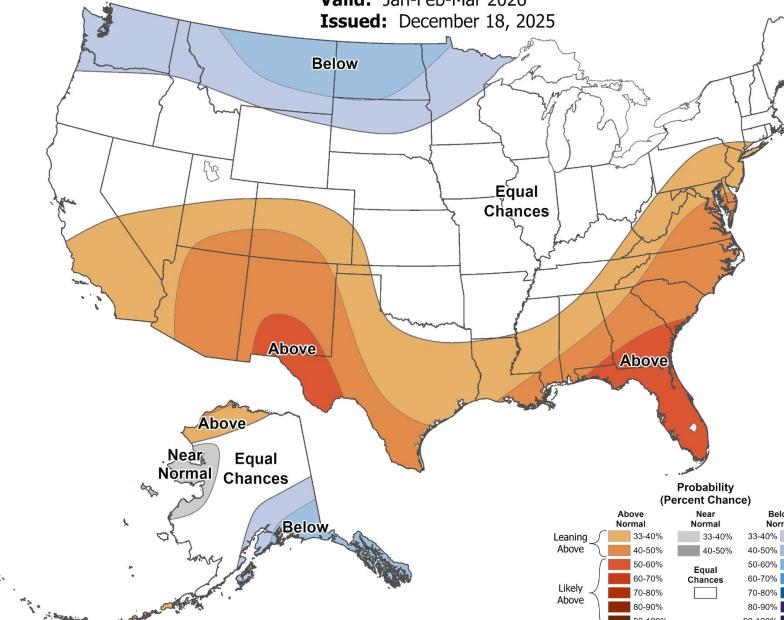
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC Homepage](#)

The Seasonal Temperature Outlook shows better chances for below normal temperatures for most of the state. The outlook for a portion of southwestern MT is for equal chances for above or below normal temperatures..



## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2026  
Issued: December 18, 2025

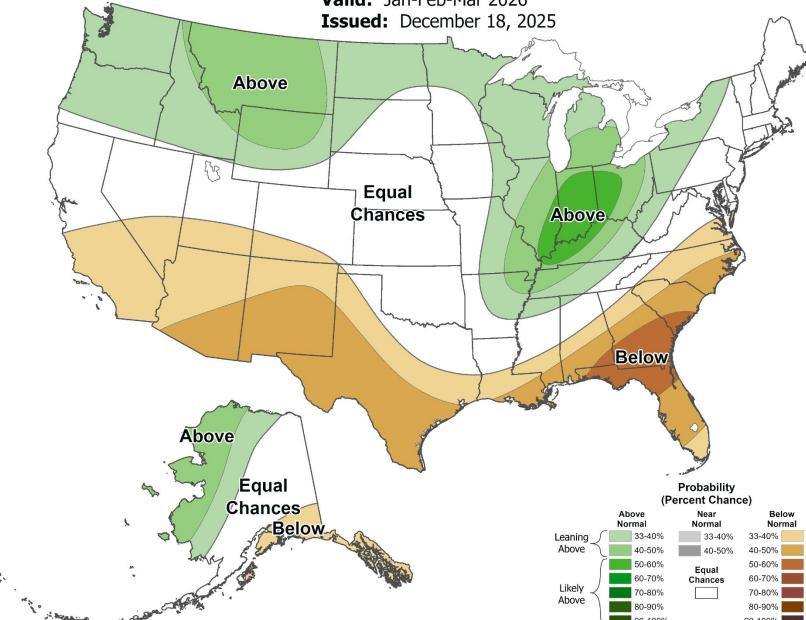


The Seasonal Precipitation Outlook is for better chances for above normal precipitation, statewide, for the period of, January through March 2026.



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2026  
Issued: December 18, 2025



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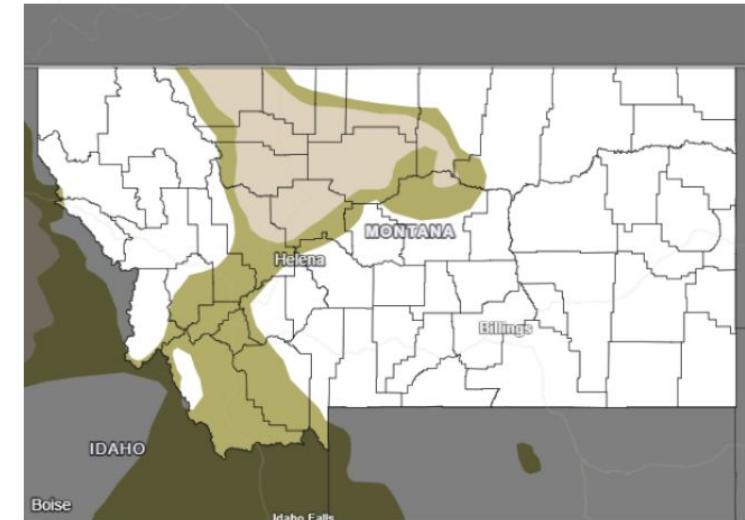
# Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

- **Persisting:** None
- **Developing:** None
- **Improving:** An area of central MT
- **Ending:** Portions of central and southwestern MT
- **No Drought:** Most of the state

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

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 31, 2025–March 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



The Seasonal Drought Outlook predicts whether drought will develop, remain, improve, or be removed in the next 3 months or so.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 12/31/25

**Drought.gov**

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)  
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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# Summary of Impacts

Links: Submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and View the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- As of this time, it is too early in the season to assess snowpack and its impacts to the region.

## Agricultural Impacts

- With portions of the state continuing in Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) Drought Intensity Levels, impacts to crops and grasslands are possible.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire safety practices are always important.

## Other Impacts & Messaging

- Montana has entered Ice Jam season.
- Ice Jam behavior is unpredictable and dangerous.
- Safety First. Stay off ice.
- Never drive through flooded areas.

## Mitigation Actions

- Montana State Drought Monitor authors work to create maps with the highest level accuracy based upon the a deep dive into the available data, providing partners with valuable information to assist with action planning.
- Communication and collaboration amongst partners continues extremely important.

