

# Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: February 24, 2026

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

- This product will be updated, March 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 have expanded across portions of central Montana.





# U.S. Drought Monitor

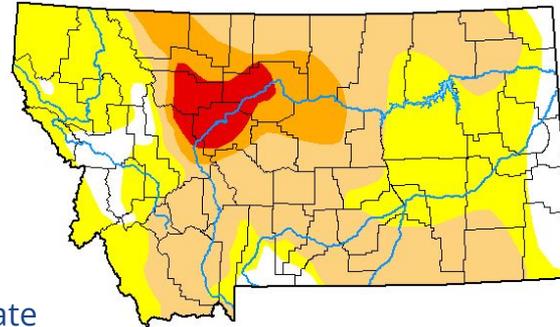
Link: [Latest Montana U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

## U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

**February 17, 2026**  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	9.95	90.05	53.57	13.22	4.17	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 02-10-2026	28.02	71.98	31.88	9.70	1.46	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 11-18-2025	30.32	69.68	52.63	26.33	1.17	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-01-2026	48.61	51.39	19.79	8.08	1.46	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-30-2025	27.06	72.94	40.74	31.81	8.55	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 02-18-2025	33.27	66.73	41.30	21.98	4.58	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>

### Author:

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### 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):** Large portions of the state
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of the remaining areas of The Treasure State

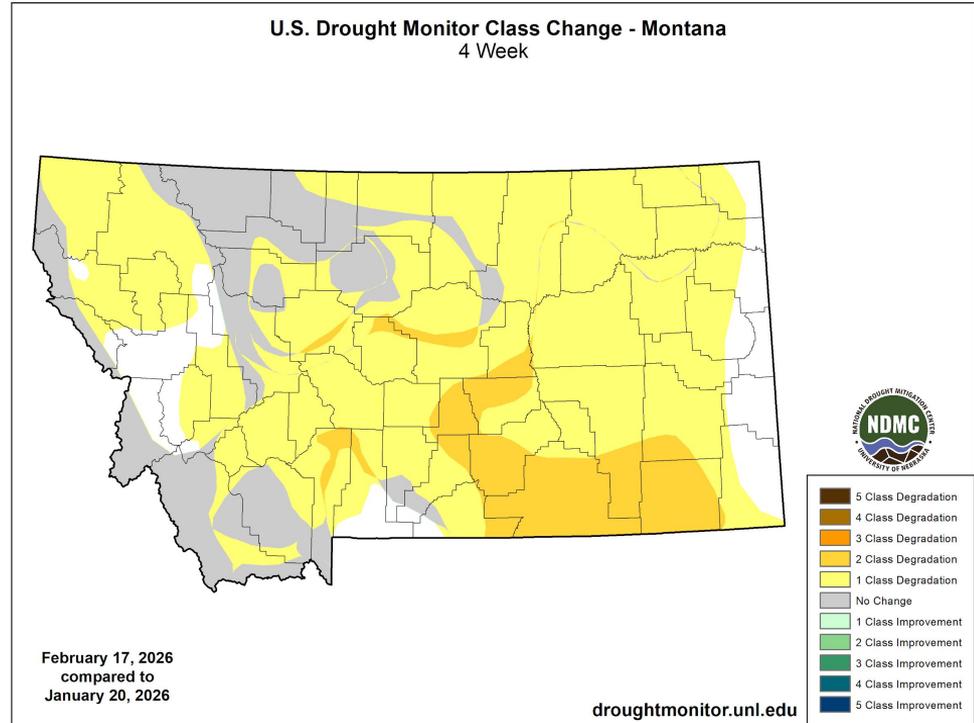




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

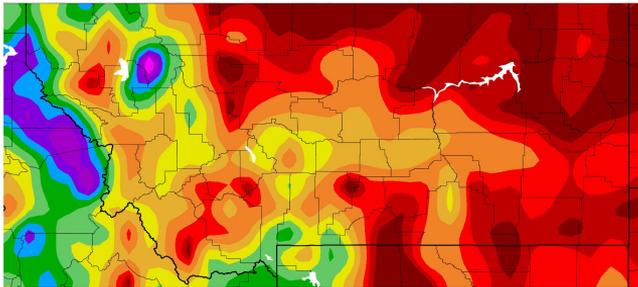
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - **Drought Worsened:** Across large portions of the state
  - **No Change:** Some areas
  - **Drought Improved:** None





# Precipitation

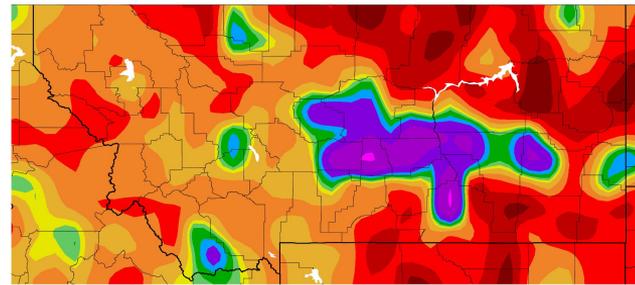
Precipitation (in)  
1/25/2026 – 2/23/2026



Generated 2/24/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
1/25/2026 – 2/23/2026



Generated 2/24/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, isolated areas of northwestern and southern MT received in excess of 2.0 inches of precipitation, while most of the state received less than 1.5 inches of moisture.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Portions of central, southwestern and eastern Montana received above normal precipitation, while most of the state recorded below normal precipitation.

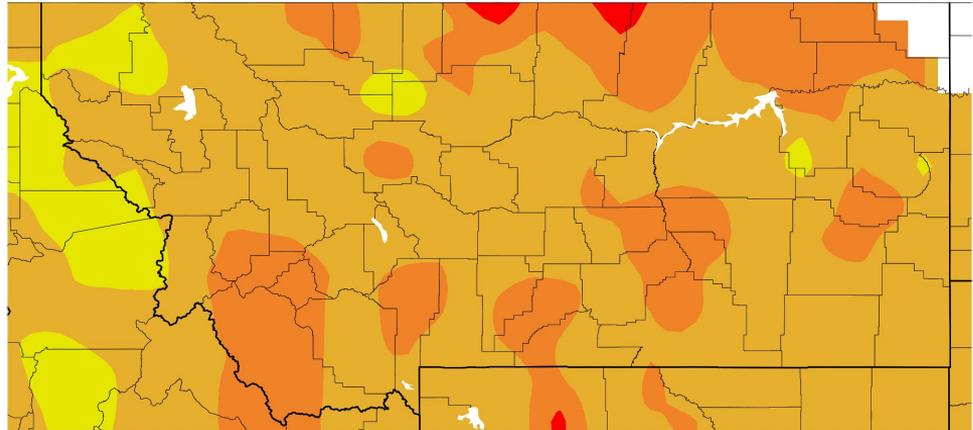




# Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/25/2026 – 2/23/2026

- The state of MT recorded warmer than normal temperatures, during the past month, with some areas reporting temperatures of more than 8 degrees above normal, for this period.



Generated 2/24/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



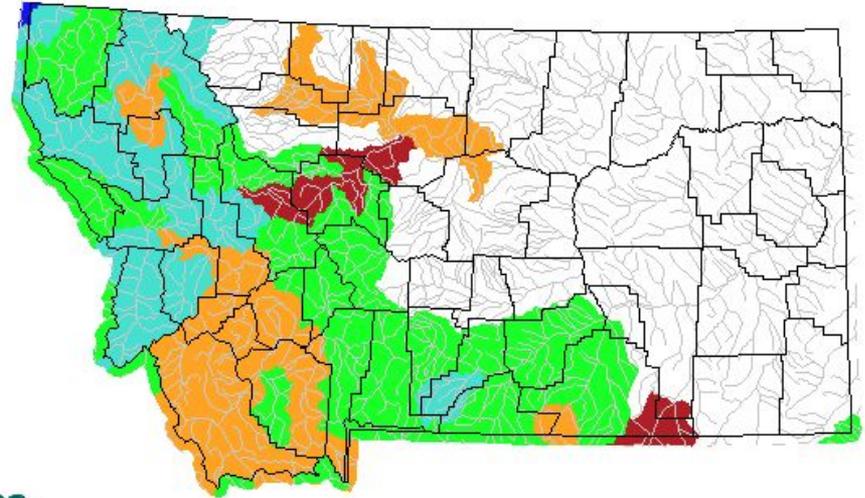


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Monday, February 23, 2026

- **Below Normal:** Watersheds of western, central and southern MT, are experiencing streamflow in the below normal to much below normal range.
- **Normal:** Streamflows across areas of western, central and southern Montana are reporting within normal range.
- **Above Normal:** Streamflows of western MT and a portion of the Yellowstone are reported in the above normal range.



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		

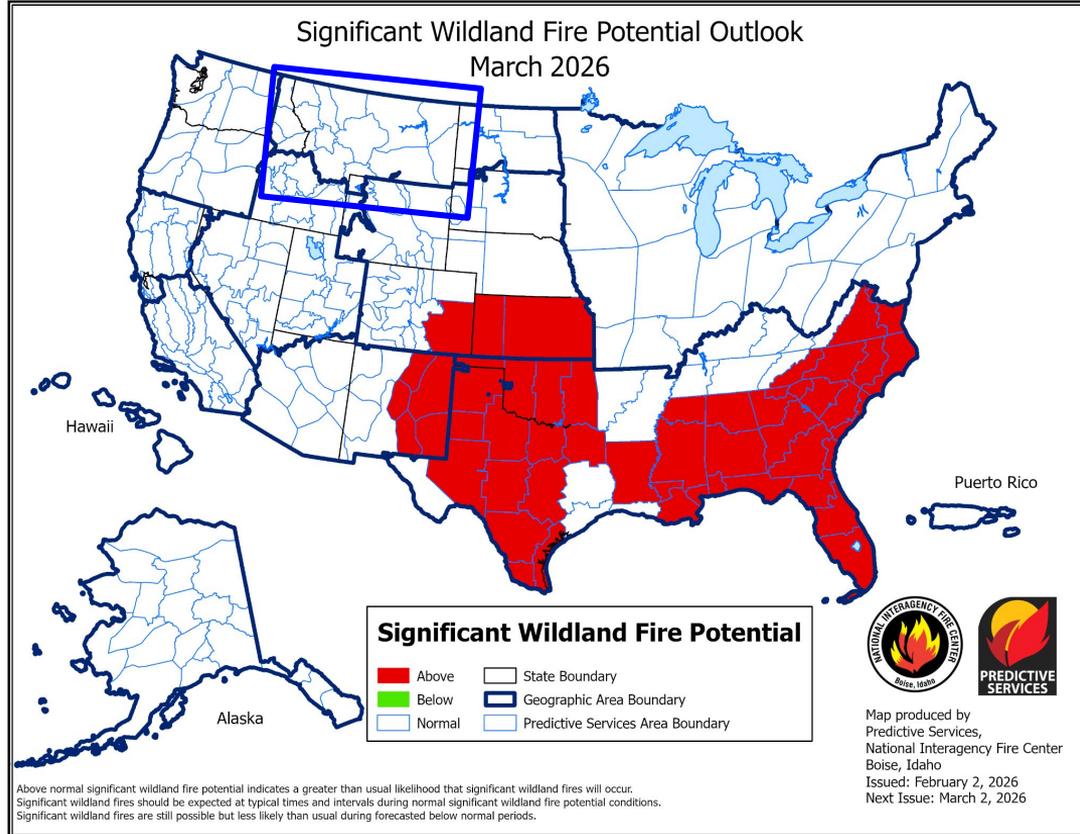




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- For the month of March, 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.

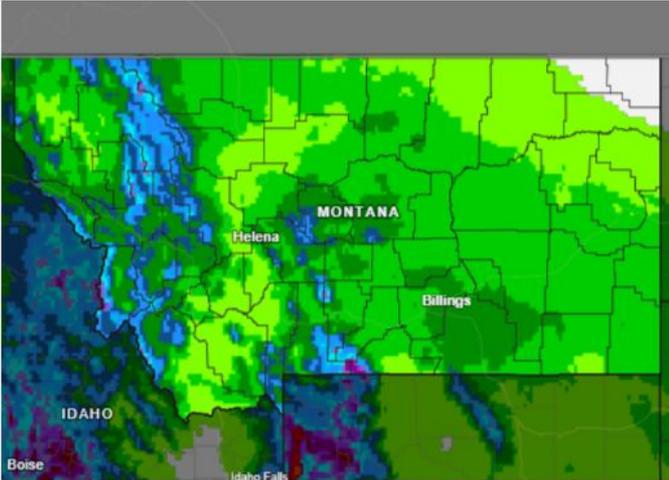




# 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

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

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for  
February 24–March 3, 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: 02/24/26

**Drought.gov**

- Through, March 3, 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 0.01” to 0.5”, for this 7-day period..





# 8 to 14-Day Hydrologic Hazards Outlook

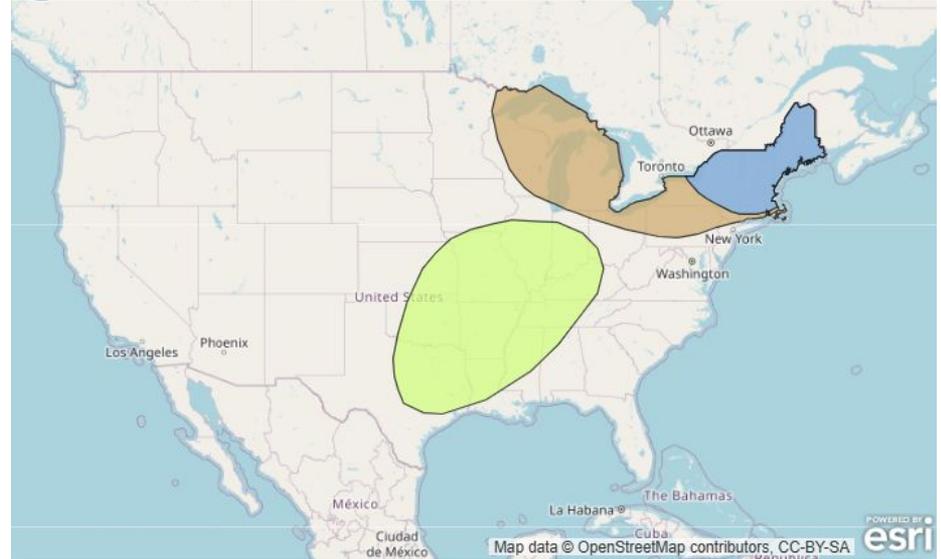
Link: [Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14-day Hazards Outlook](#)

- As of this time, no significant flooding or rapid onset drought hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State during the period of, March 4 - 10, 2026.



## Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: March 4 - 10, 2026



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

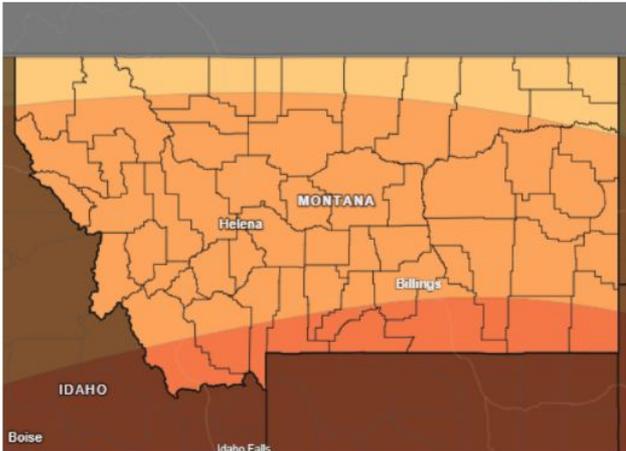




# 8 to 14-Day Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

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

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for March 3-9, 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: 02/23/26

[Drought.gov](#)

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

The 8 to 14-Day Precipitation Outlook shows a better chance for near-normal precipitation across most of the state, with a portion of northwestern through north central MT showing a better chance for above-normal moisture.

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for March 3-9, 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: 02/23/26

[Drought.gov](#)





# Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

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

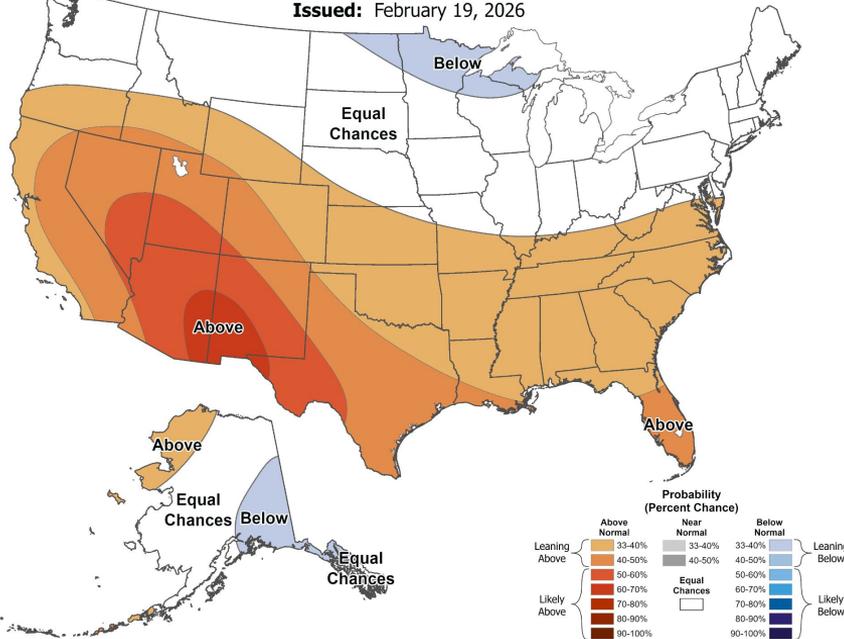
The Seasonal Temperature Outlook, generally, shows equal chances for above or below normal temperatures.

The Seasonal Precipitation Outlook shows equal chances for above or below normal precipitation, for the period of, March through May 2026.



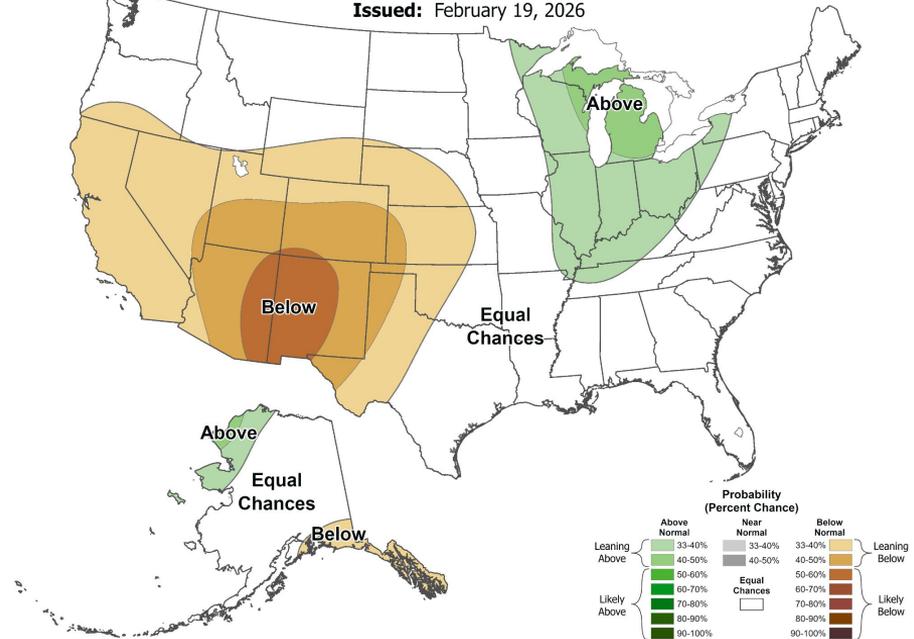
## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

**Valid:** Mar-Apr-May 2026  
**Issued:** February 19, 2026



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

**Valid:** Mar-Apr-May 2026  
**Issued:** February 19, 2026





# Seasonal Drought Outlook

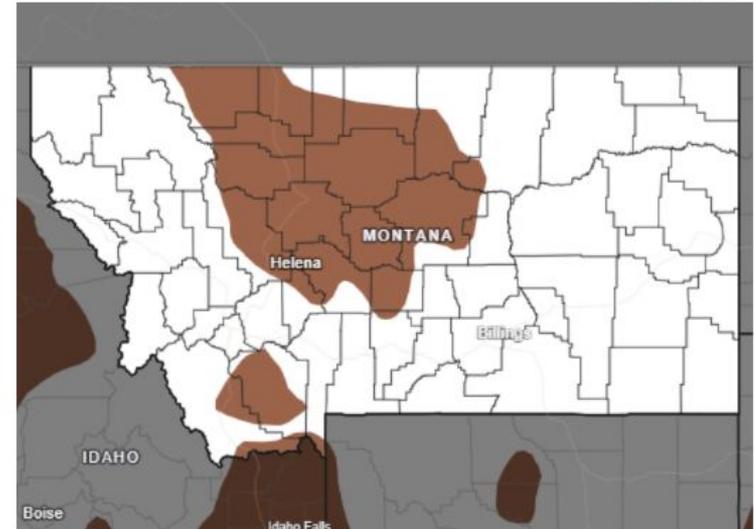
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- **Persisting:** Especially, portions of central and southwestern MT

**Please note:** This map is updated once per month.

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

## 1-Month Drought Outlook for February 1–28, 2026



### Drought Is Predicted To...



The Monthly Drought Outlook predicts whether drought will develop, remain, improve, or be removed in the next calendar month.

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Last Updated: 01/31/26

**Drought.gov**

Links to the latest:

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





# 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 prevention efforts continue important.

## Other Impacts & Messaging

- Some of our rivers are experiencing river ice buildup.
- River ice behavior is unpredictable and dangerous.
- Safety First. Stay off ice.
- Never drive through flooded areas.

## Mitigation Actions

- Communication and collaboration amongst partners continues extremely important.

