



Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: May 5, 2026

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

- This product will be updated, June 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
 - Located across a portion of central Montana
 - Developed across a portion of southwestern Montana





U.S. Drought Monitor

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

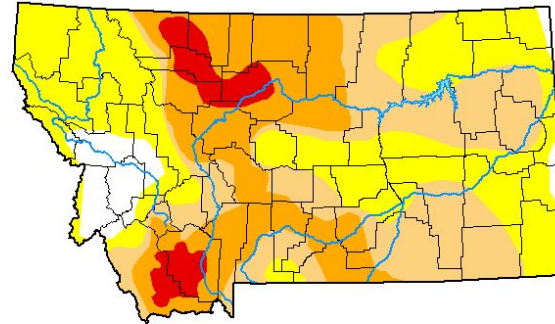
April 28, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

• Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portion of central and southwestern MT
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of northern, central & southern MT
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Large portions of the state
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of the remaining areas of The Treasure State



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.72	94.28	57.18	28.30	5.17	0.00
Last Week 04-21-2026	6.49	93.51	57.04	28.30	3.67	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-27-2026	43.42	56.58	22.85	9.70	1.46	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	48.61	51.39	19.79	8.08	1.46	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	27.06	72.94	40.74	31.81	8.55	0.00
One Year Ago 04-29-2025	26.38	73.62	56.80	13.25	1.72	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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U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

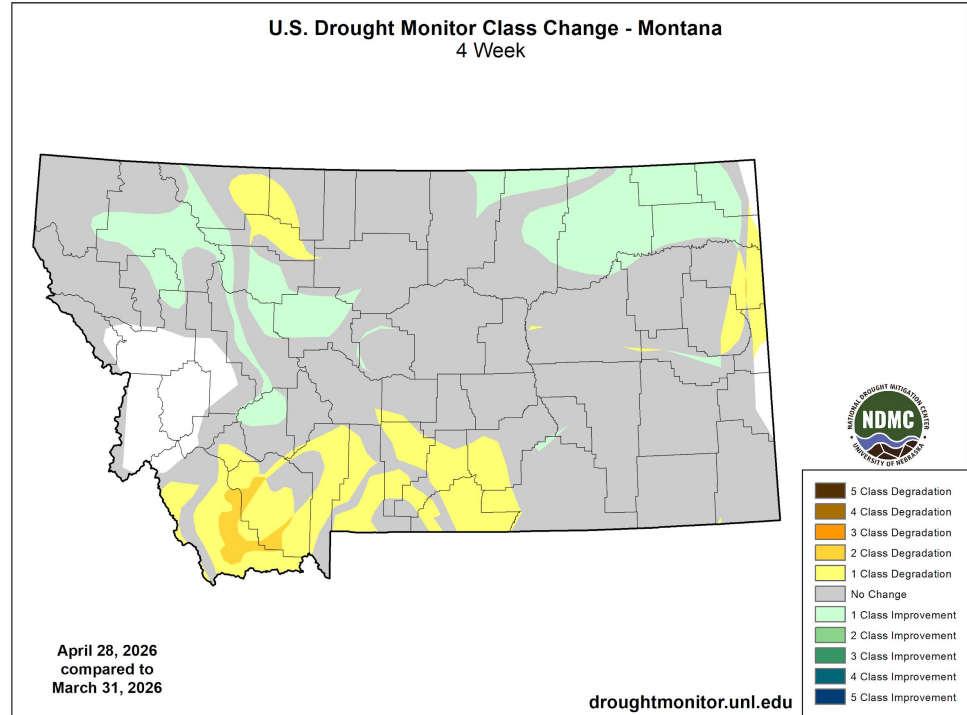
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

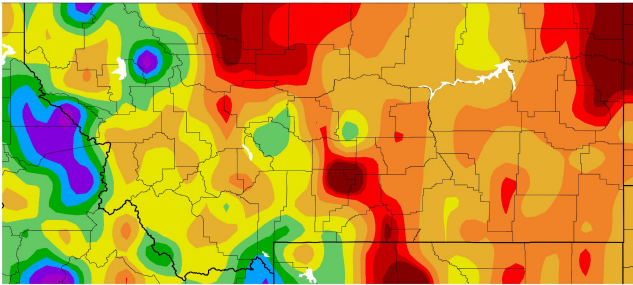
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Worsened:** Across areas of north central, southern and eastern MT
 - **No Change:** Most of the state
 - **Drought Improved:** Portions of western, central and eastern MT



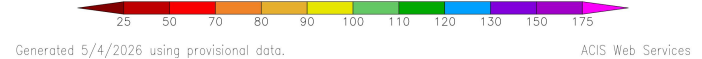
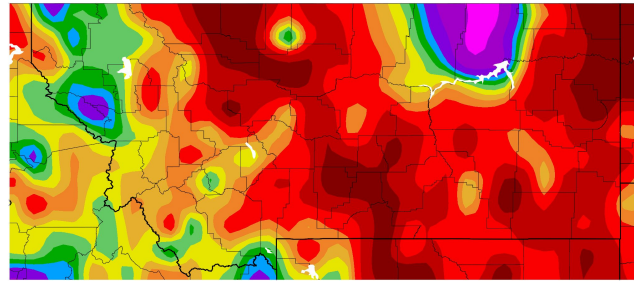


Precipitation

Precipitation (in)
4/4/2026 – 5/3/2026



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/4/2026 – 5/3/2026



- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, some of the mountains of northwestern and southwestern MT have received as much as 3.25” to 5.5” of precipitation with higher amounts at the highest elevations, while much of the rest of the state has received less than 1.75” of moisture. Some areas have received less than a trace of moisture.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Portions of western and northern MT have received above normal precipitation, with most of the state receiving below normal to much below normal precipitation.

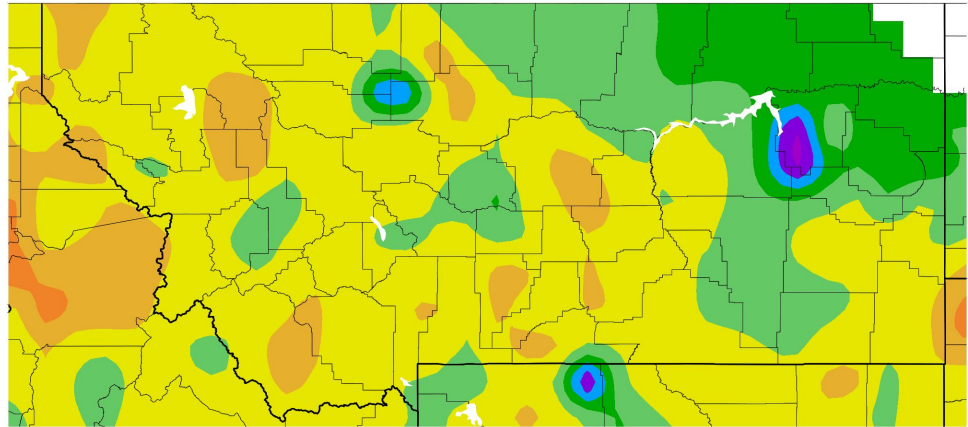




Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/4/2026 – 5/3/2026

- Much of the state of MT recorded near normal temperatures, during the past month.
- Isolated areas of warmer than normal temperatures are recorded.
- A large portion of northeastern MT reported below normal temperatures, for this period.



Generated 5/4/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



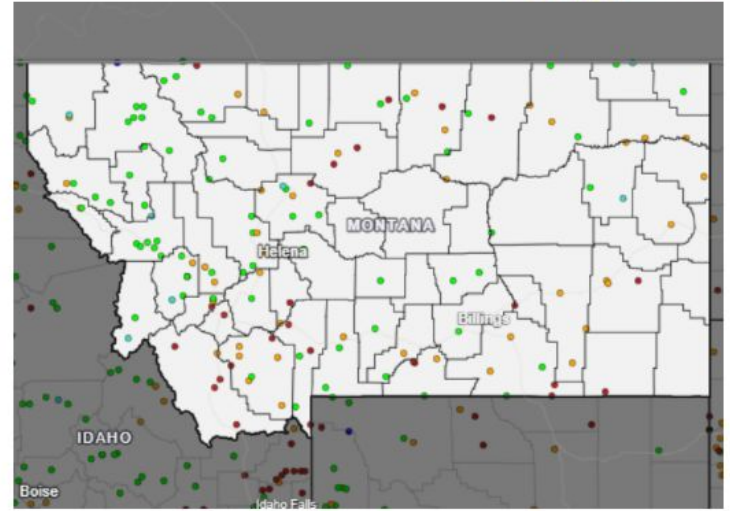


Hydrologic Conditions

Link: [1-Day Average Streamflow Compared to Historical](#)

- **Below Normal:** Many watersheds across the state, are experiencing streamflow in the below normal to much below normal range.
- **Normal:** Gage points across the state are reporting streamflow within normal range.
- **Above Normal:** Some gage points across the state are reporting streamflow in the above normal range.

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



This map shows 1-day average streamflow conditions for yesterday compared to historical conditions for the same day of the year. Both 1-day and historical streamflow values are calculated as mean discharge (cubic feet per second) over a 24-hour period. Only streamgages with 30 or more years of data are included in this map. Click on a streamgage to view current data from the U.S. Geological Survey. These streamflow data are provisional and subject to revision.

Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey
Data Valid: 05/03/26

Drought.gov

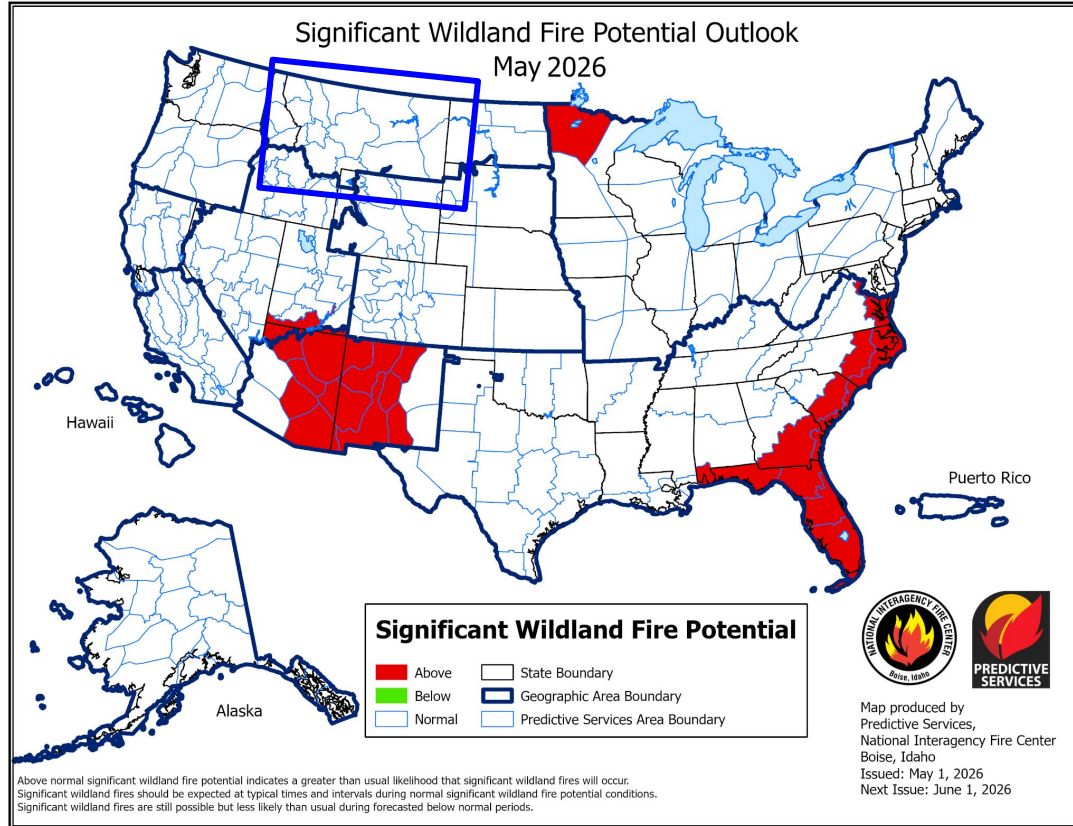




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- For the month of May 2026, 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.



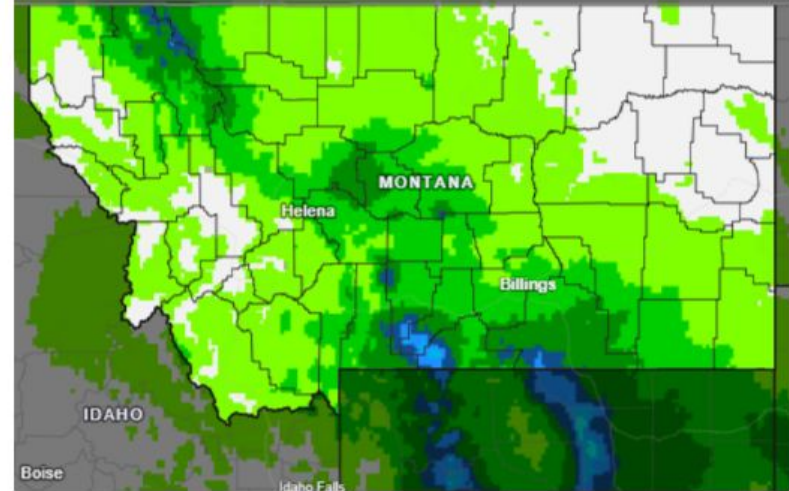


7-Day Precipitation Forecast

Link: drought.gov/states/montana

- Through, May 11, 2026, the 7-Day Liquid Precipitation Forecast, includes higher elevation moisture of about 0.1” to 0.5”, with greater amounts at the highest elevations.
- Low elevation forecast precipitation values, generally, range from no precipitation to 0.1”, for this 7-day period.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 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: 05/04/26

Drought.gov





8 to 14-Day Hydrologic Hazards Outlook

Link: [Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\) Home Page](#)

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



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: May 12 - 18, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: May 4, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



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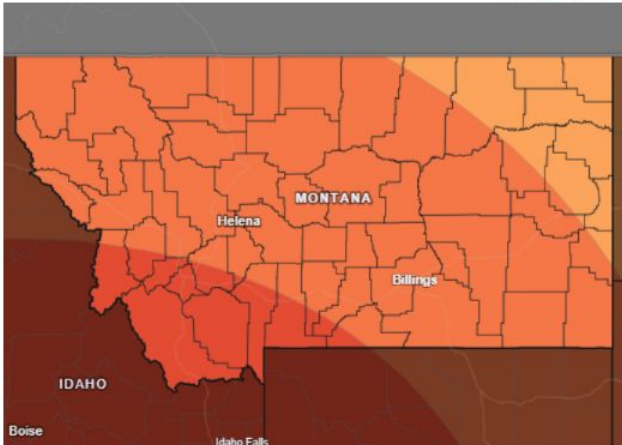
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



8 to 14-Day Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Link: drought.gov/states/montana

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for May 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.

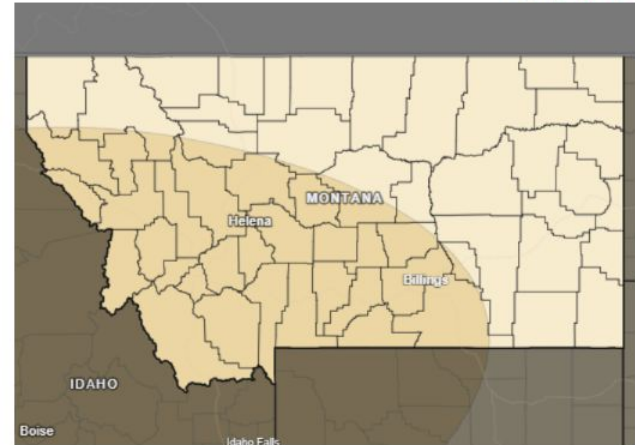
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Last Updated: 05/03/26

Drought.gov

The 8 to 14-Day Temperature Outlook shows a better chance for warmer than normal temperatures, statewide.

Across the state, the 8 to 14-Day Precipitation Outlook shows a better chance for below normal precipitation.

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for May 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: 05/03/26

Drought.gov





Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

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

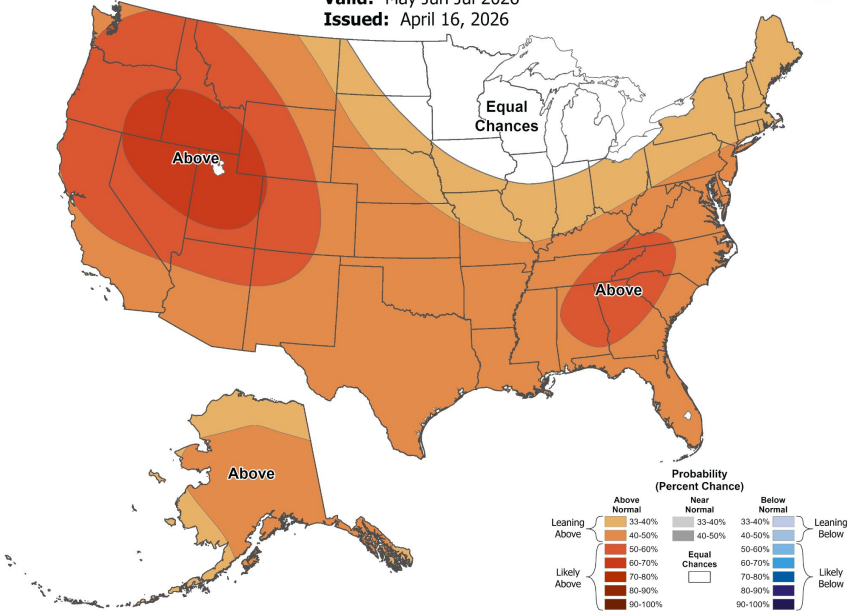
The Seasonal Temperature Outlook, shows a better chance for warmer than normal temperatures across The Treasure State.

The Seasonal Precipitation Outlook shows better chances for below normal precipitation from western through central and southern MT, with equal chances for above or below normal precipitation, for much of eastern MT.



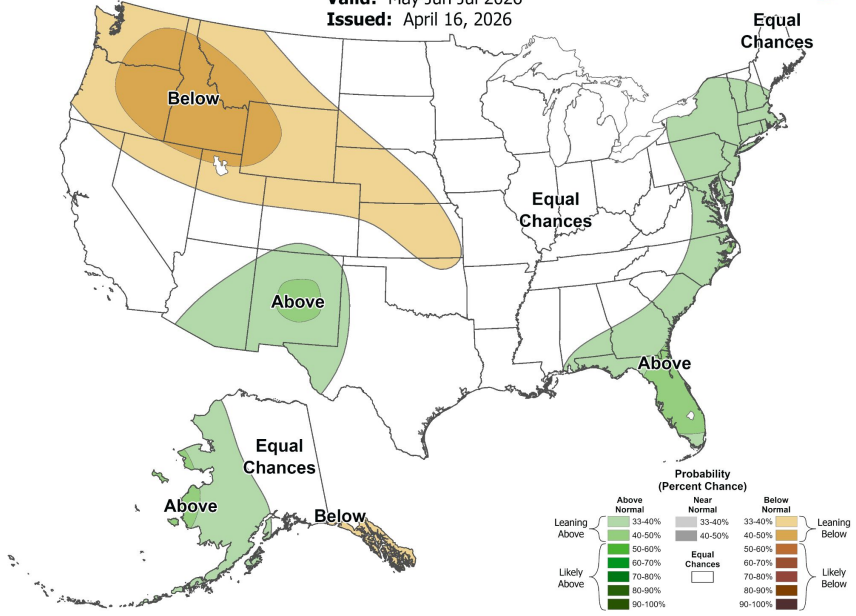
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026





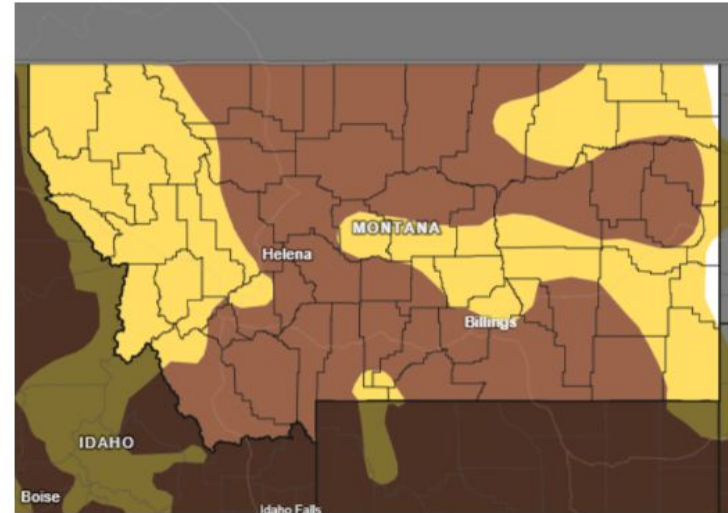
Seasonal Drought Outlook

- **Persisting:** Most of the state of Montana
- **Developing:** Most of the remainder of the state

Please note: This map is updated once per month.

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

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30–July 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: 04/30/26

Drought.gov

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Mountain snowpack, generally, continues below normal for this time of year.

Agricultural Impacts

- With portions of the state continuing in Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) Drought Intensity Levels, impacts to crops and grasslands are occurring as decisions are made on what crops to plant.
- Swings in temperature impact winter wheat production.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire prevention efforts continue important.

Other Impacts & Messaging

- April 28, 2026, KRTV Reports, “Water shortage worsens in Fairfield, prompting emergency response at schools.” (accessed, May 5, 2026)
- Reservoir operations are impacted as decisions are made on storage and release of water.
- Elevated drought conditions can impact outdoor recreation and tourism as we move into spring activities.

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.

