



Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: May 9, 2025

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

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, May 30, 2025, 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 - A portion of western MT continues to experience extreme drought conditions.



U.S. Drought Monitor

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

May 6, 2025

(Released Thursday, May. 8, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	22.68	77.32	55.75	13.25	1.01	0.00
Last Week 04-29-2025	26.38	73.62	56.80	13.25	1.72	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-04-2025	8.44	91.56	53.27	23.95	4.58	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	6.70	93.30	54.22	27.25	13.79	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	15.18	84.82	42.24	21.05	9.44	0.90
One Year Ago 05-07-2024	14.10	85.90	43.37	12.09	1.47	0.00

Intensity:

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

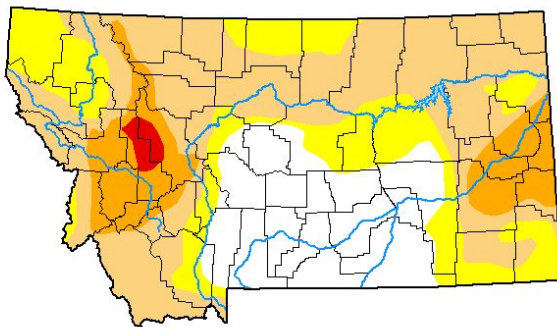
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



• Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** A portion of western MT
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of western, central and eastern MT
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of western, central and eastern MT
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of western, central and eastern MT



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U.S. Department of Commerce

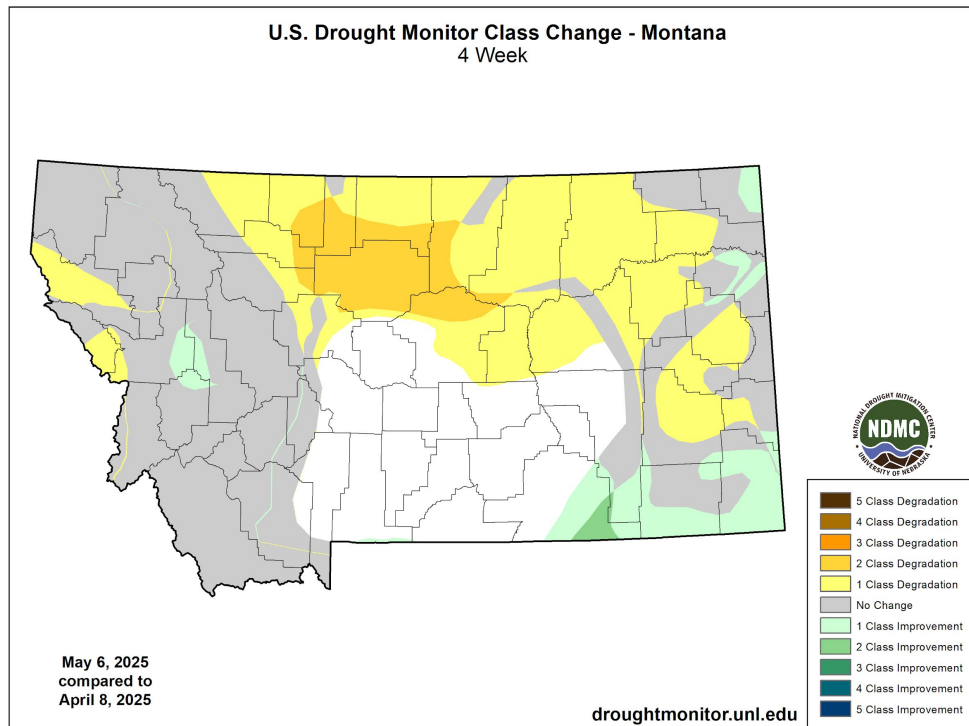
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

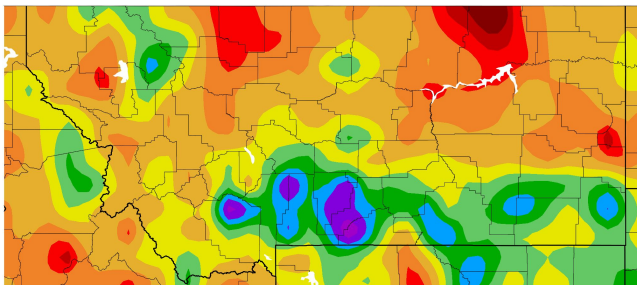
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Worsened:** Areas of western, northern, central and eastern MT
 - **No Change:** No change in drought conditions was observed across portions of western, central and eastern MT.
 - **Drought Improved:** Drought class has improved across areas of western and eastern MT





Precipitation

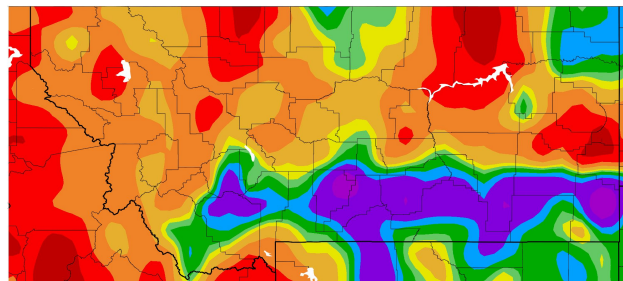
Precipitation (in)
4/9/2025 – 5/8/2025



Generated 5/9/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/9/2025 – 5/8/2025



Generated 5/9/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, most of the state of Montana has received less than 2.0" of precipitation, with large portions of southern MT, and some of the mountains of northwestern and central MT, receiving more than 2.5" of moisture.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Most of The Treasure State received below normal precipitation, while precipitation values for most of southern MT, and portions of northern MT, were in the above normal range.

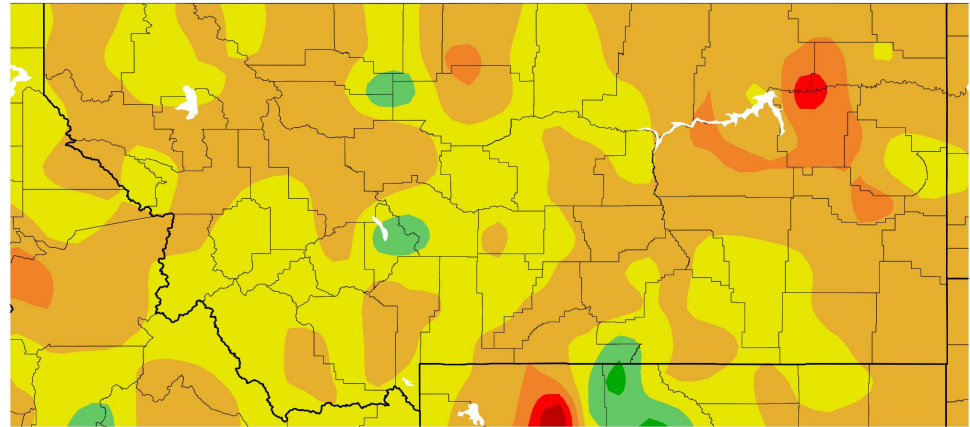




Temperature

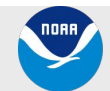
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/9/2025 – 5/8/2025

- Over the past four weeks, temperatures were, generally, above normal for the state of Montana.



Generated 5/9/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



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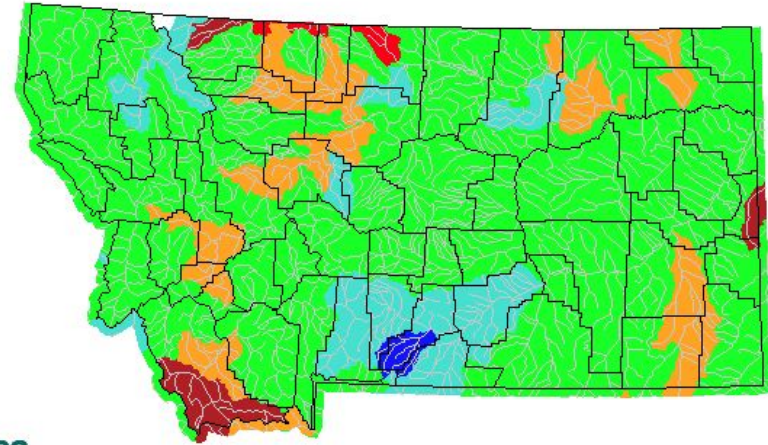
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Thursday, May 08, 2025

- **Above Normal:** 7-day Average Streamflow for some basins in northwestern and central MT are included in the above normal, range, with an area along The Yellowstone included in the much above normal range.
- **Normal:** Most of the state is experiencing streamflow in the normal range.
- **Below Normal:** Streamflow for some of the basins of western, central and eastern MT, are included in the below, to much below, normal range, with portions of The Milk River Basin in the low percentile class.



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		

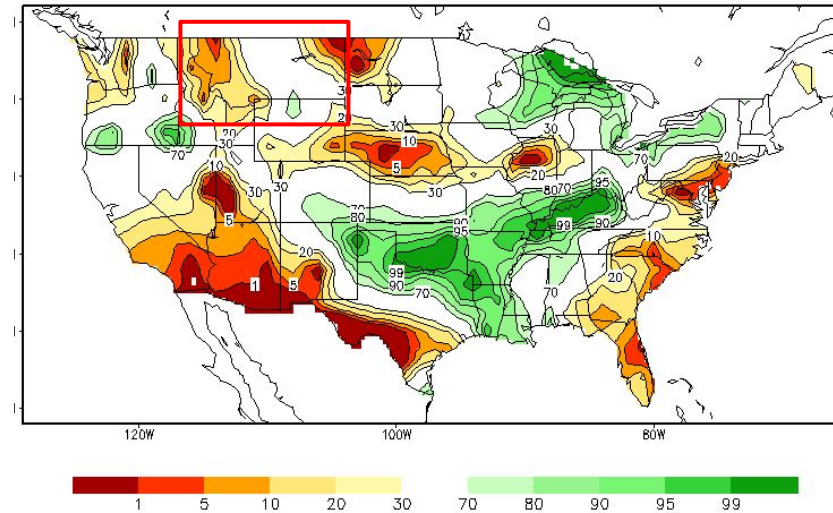
Image Caption: USGS 7-day Average Streamflow HUC Map, valid: May 8, 2025





Agricultural Impacts

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAY 08, 2025



The Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile resides in the lower range across western and portions of eastern MT, with most of central, MT included in the 30 to 70 percentile range, and an isolated area of south central, MT recorded as above normal.

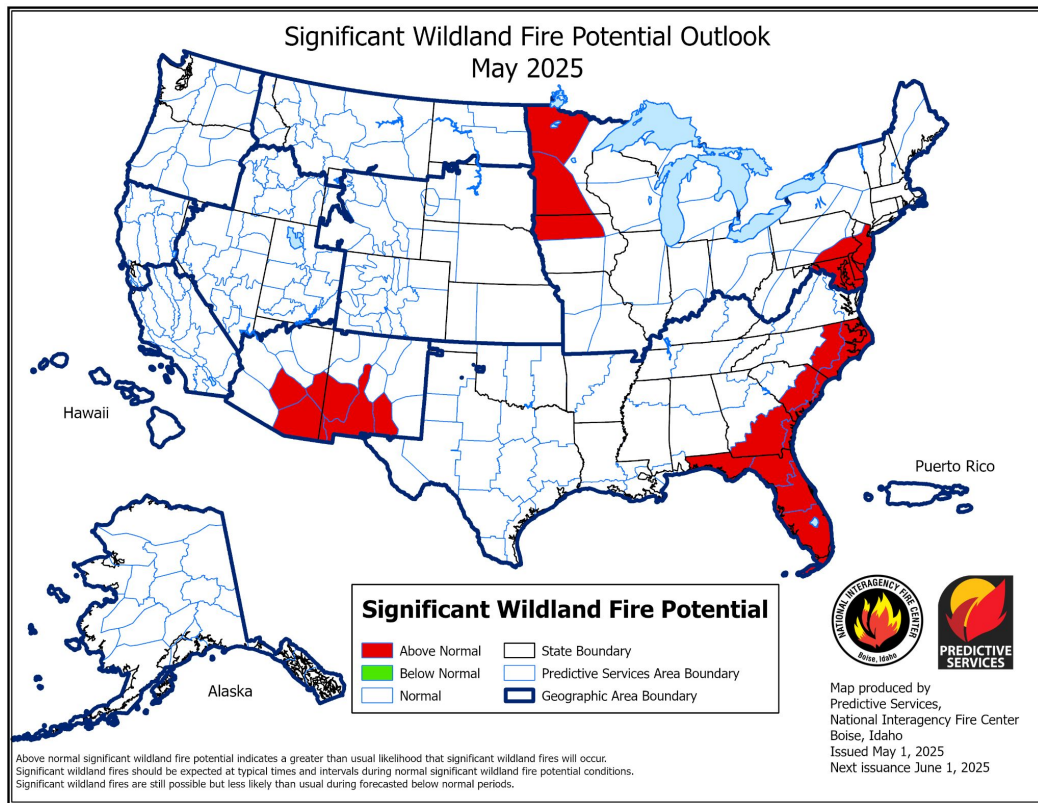




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- During the month of May, Montana continues 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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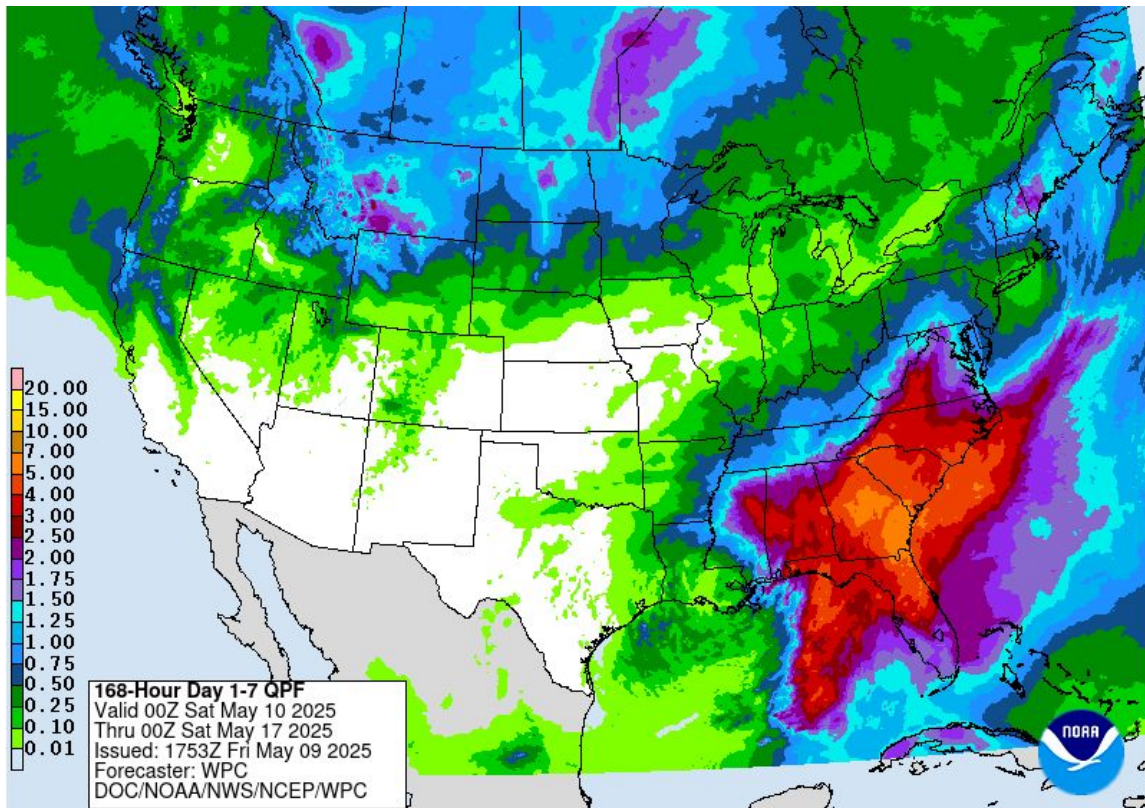
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Through, May 17, 2025, the liquid precipitation forecast, generally, shows widespread precipitation values from 0.50" to 2.00".
- As much as 2.50" of precipitation are forecast to fall across the higher elevations of central and southern MT.
- The lowest amounts of precipitation fall across portions of northern and far southeastern MT.





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

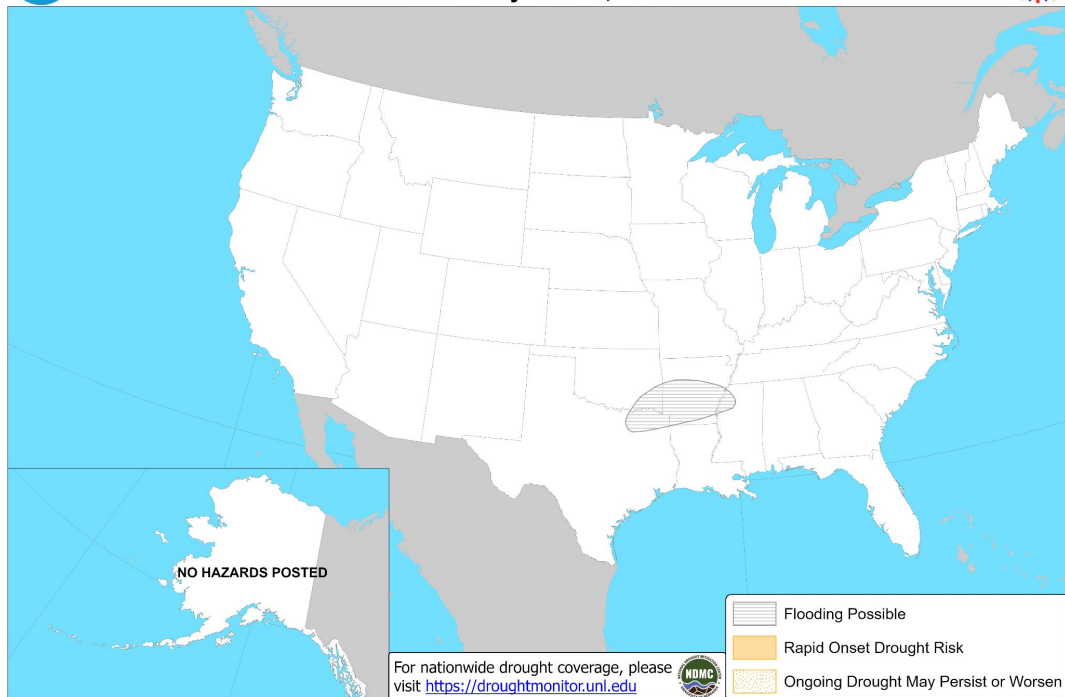
Link to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Hazards Outlook](#)

- As of this time, no significant hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State from, May 17th to 23rd.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: May 17 - 23, 2025



Climate Prediction Center

Released: May 9, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

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Long Range Outlooks

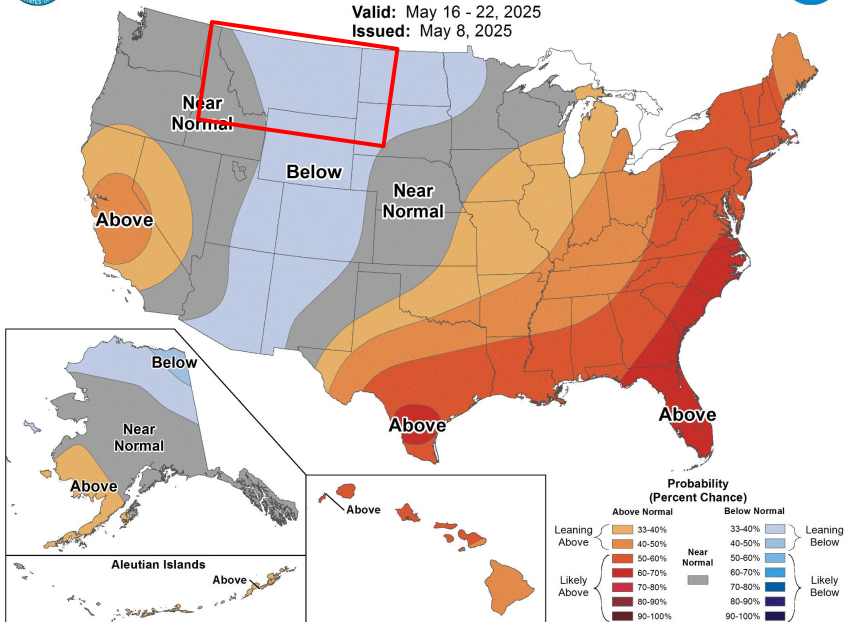
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- For the month of May, the Temperature Outlook shows temperatures that lean below normal across most of The Treasure State, with a better chance for near normal temperatures across much of western MT.
- The Precipitation Outlook shows precipitation that leans above normal for most of the state, with much of western MT falling in the near normal range.



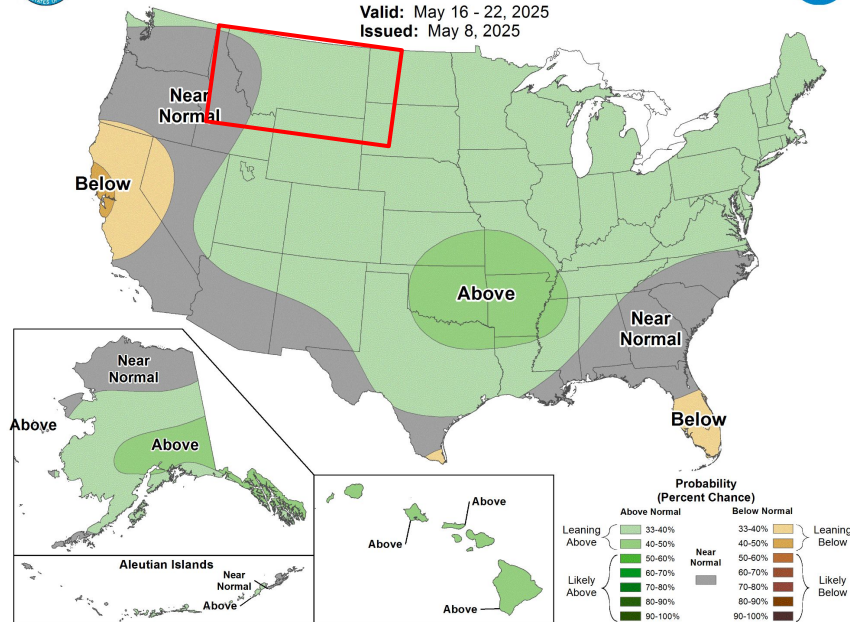
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: May 16 - 22, 2025
Issued: May 8, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May 16 - 22, 2025
Issued: May 8, 2025





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Near 63% of the state of Montana is reported as, “severely dry,” with an additional, near 27% reported as, “moderately dry.” Montana State Library | National Drought Mitigation Center. 2025. Drought Impacts. [accessed May 9, 2025]. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/76204aa1271a4a7f8a775fc2bba9ef83>

Agricultural Impacts

- Grasses are experiencing drought stress, across many areas.
- Some report an inability to turn cattle out to pasture, due to little to no grasses.
- Due to loss of vegetation, many reports state the necessity to feed hay / full feed, and to sell off cattle, early.
- Some have resorted to planting dryland crops.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although we are within our wet season, fires can, and do, ignite and spread. Please, exercise fire safety practices.

Other Impacts

- Recreation
 - With mountain snow melting, rivers run high, fast and cold.
 - Life jackets save lives.
- Never drive through flooded areas. “Turn around. Don’t Drown.”
- During flash flooding, “Climb to Safety.”

Mitigation Actions

- As we continue to progress through our wet season, and thunderstorm season has begun, special attention is paid to burn scar areas.
- Communication, coordination and collaboration between partners is key.

