



Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: July 21, 2026

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

- This product will be updated, August 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 a portion Central Montana





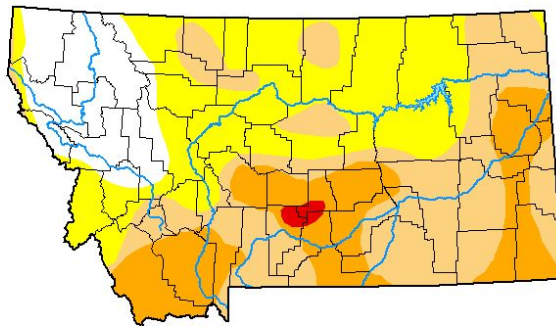
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

• Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** An area of south central MT
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Large portions of southwestern, south central and eastern MT
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most of southwestern, south central & eastern MT, with isolated areas of north central and central MT
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of western, central and northeastern Montana



July 14, 2026

(Released Thursday, Jul. 16, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.10	85.90	52.91	20.58	0.61	0.00
Last Week 07-07-2026	14.10	85.90	52.91	20.58	0.61	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-14-2025	6.51	93.49	57.04	28.30	1.90	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	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 07-15-2025	22.37	77.63	62.96	35.87	10.23	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:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

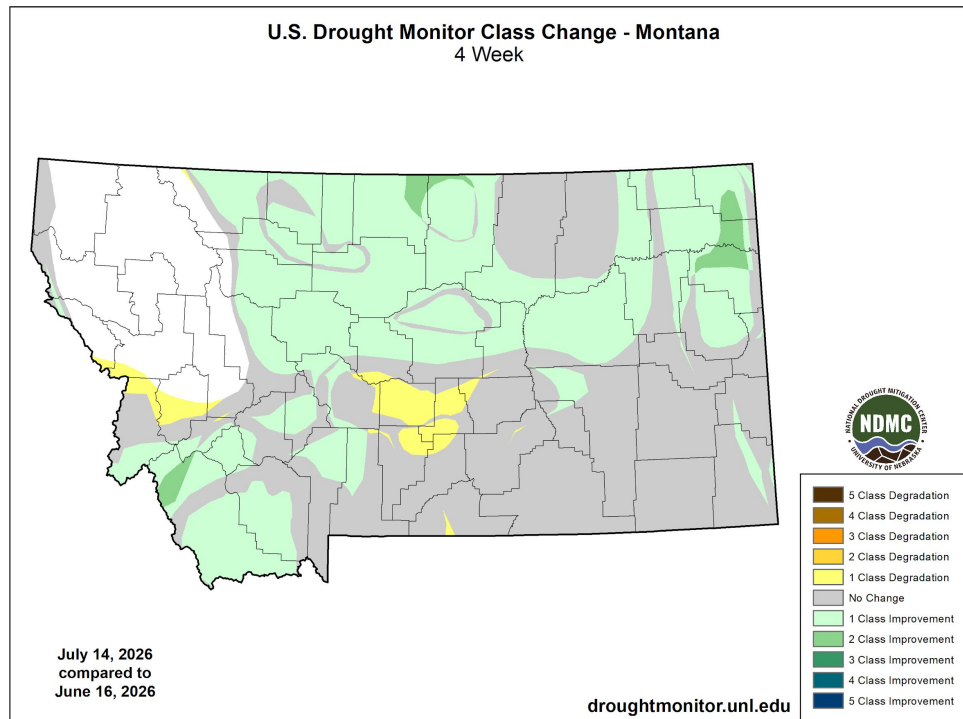
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

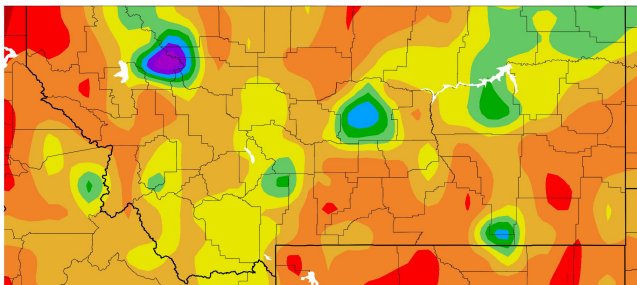
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Worsened:** Across portions of western and south central Montana
 - **No Change:** Much of the state
 - **Drought Improved:** Large portions of north central, northeastern, and southwestern MT, as well as isolated areas of western, south central and south eastern MT





Precipitation

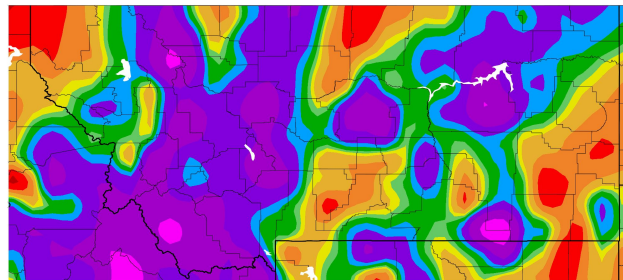
Precipitation (in)
6/19/2026 – 7/18/2026



Generated 7/19/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
6/19/2026 – 7/18/2026



Generated 7/19/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, isolated areas of northwestern, central and southeastern Montana have received as much as 6.0” to 9.0” of precipitation. Much of the rest of the state has received less than 3.0” of moisture, with isolated areas receiving 1.0” or less.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Large portions of the state have received 130% to 300% of normal precipitation, while many areas are recorded in the 25% to 70% of normal range.

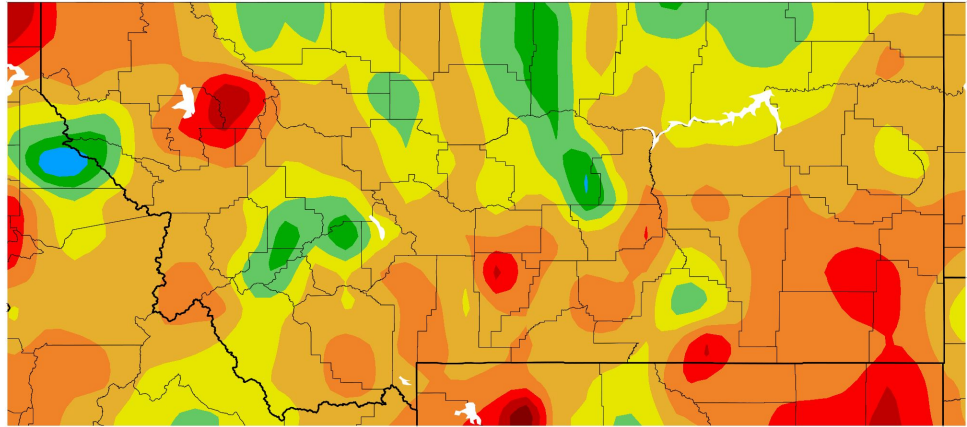




Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/19/2026 – 7/18/2026

- Large portions of the state of MT recorded near normal temperatures, during the past month.
- Most of Montana recorded above normal temperatures with portions of northwestern, central, south central and southeastern MT included in the 3 to 5 degrees above normal range.
- Isolated areas of 2 degrees cooler than normal were recorded.



Generated 7/19/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



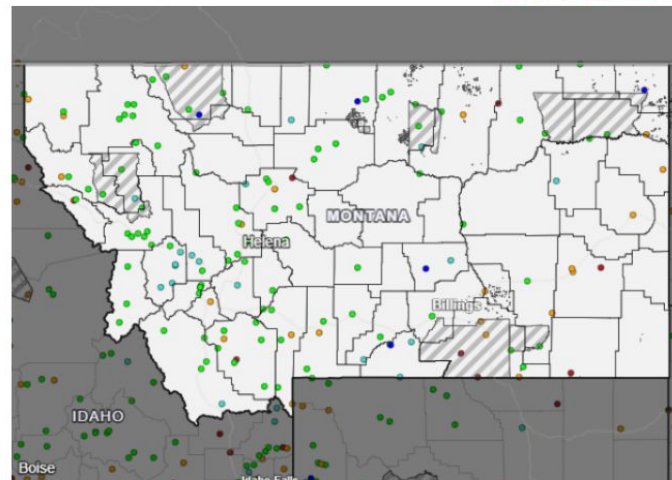


Hydrologic Conditions

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. Areas of focus include, The Crow Nation, the northern portion of The Cheyenne Nation, the northern portion of The Blackfeet Nation, and eastern MT at, and south of, The Missouri River Mainstem.
- **Normal:** Many gages across the state are reporting streamflow within normal range.
- **Above Normal:** Some gages are reporting streamflow in the above normal to much above normal range.

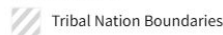
1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



Tribal Nations



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: 07/18/26

Drought.gov



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana

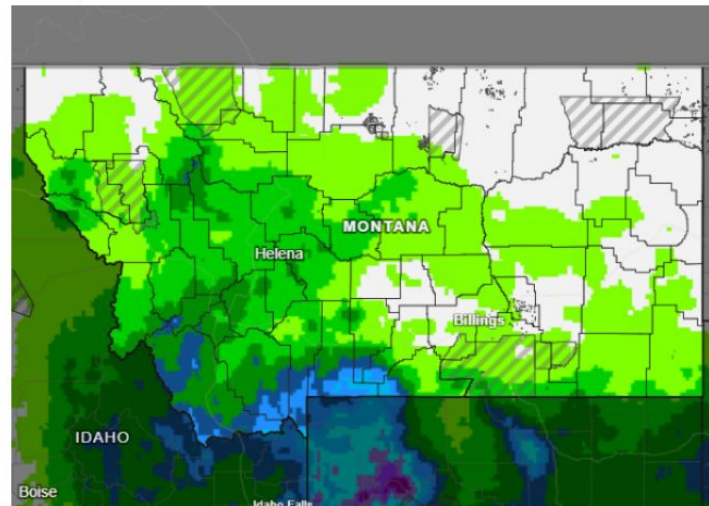


7-Day Precipitation Forecast

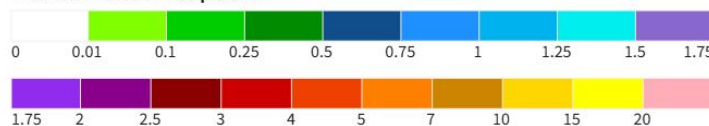
Link: drought.gov/states/montana

- Through, July 26, 2026, large portions of northwestern, north central, and eastern Montana are forecast to receive less than 0.10" of moisture. The closer we get to central Montana, and then, to the southwestern portion of the state, the more precipitation is forecast.
- For this period, the 7-Day Liquid Precipitation Forecast, includes many of the high elevations of southwestern and south central Montana in areas where the forecast includes as much as 1.0" to 1.25" of precipitation.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July 19-26, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

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: 07/19/26

Drought.gov



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

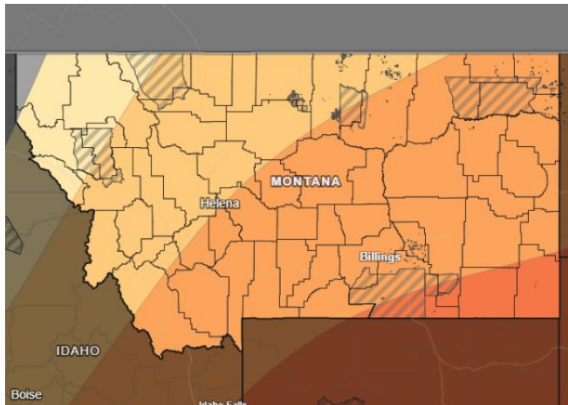
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



8 to 14-Day Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Link: drought.gov/states/montana

8–14 Day Temperature Outlook for July 27–August 2, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Near-Normal Conditions

Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

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: 07/19/26

Drought.gov

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

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for July 27–August 2, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Near-Normal Conditions

Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

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: 07/19/26

Drought.gov

The 8 to 14-Day Precipitation Outlook, generally, shows a better chance for near-normal conditions across the state.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



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, July 27 - August 2, 2026.
- It is worth noting that an area of Rapid Onset Drought Risk lies along the border of Montana and South Dakota.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: July 27 - August 2, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: July 19, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



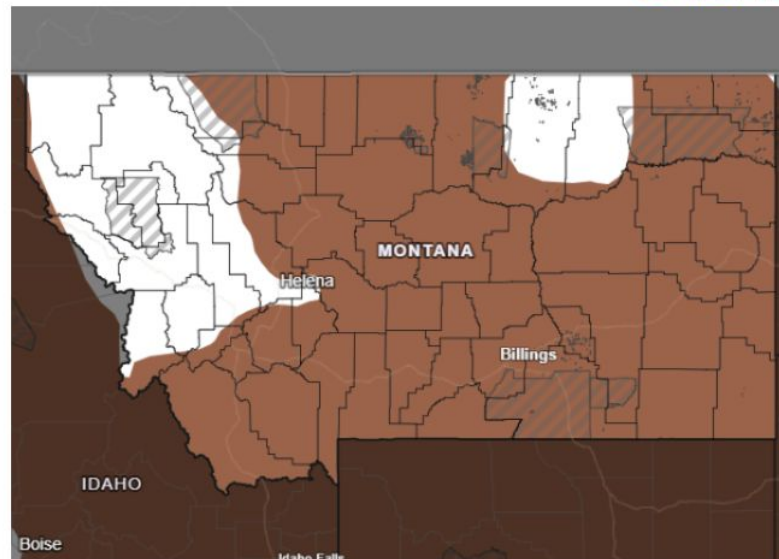
Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

Please note: This map is updated once per month.

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

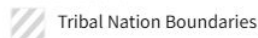
1-Month Drought Outlook for July 1–31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Tribal Nations



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: 06/30/26

Drought.gov



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration**
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



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 western third of The Treasure State, while the outlook for the remainder of the state favors equal chances for above or below normal temperatures.

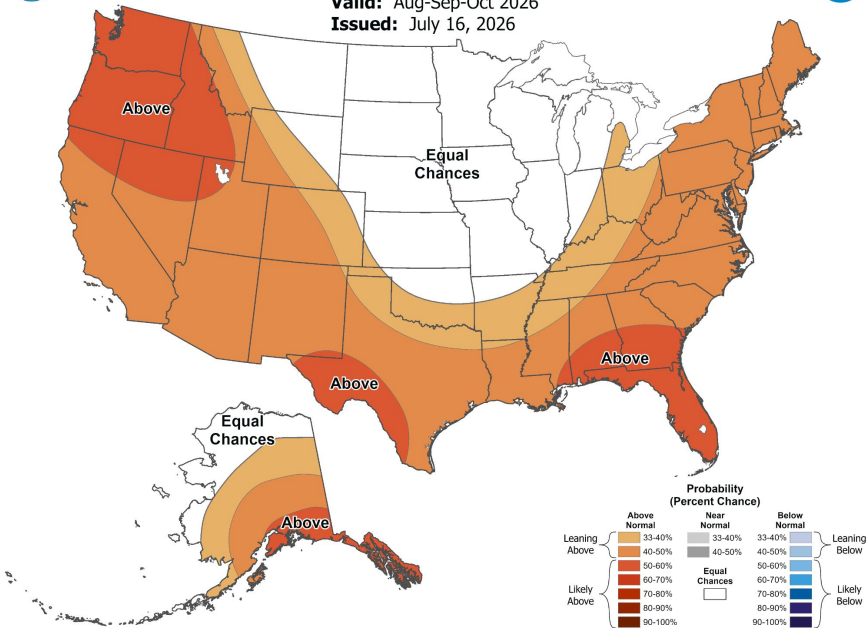
The Seasonal Precipitation Outlook favors equal chances for above or below normal precipitation statewide.



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026

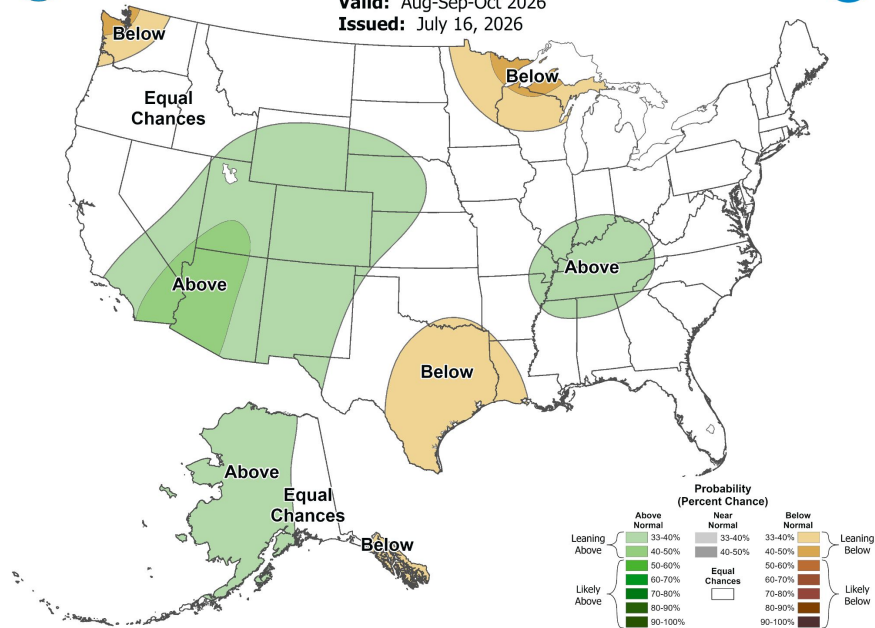
Issued: July 16, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026

Issued: July 16, 2026



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

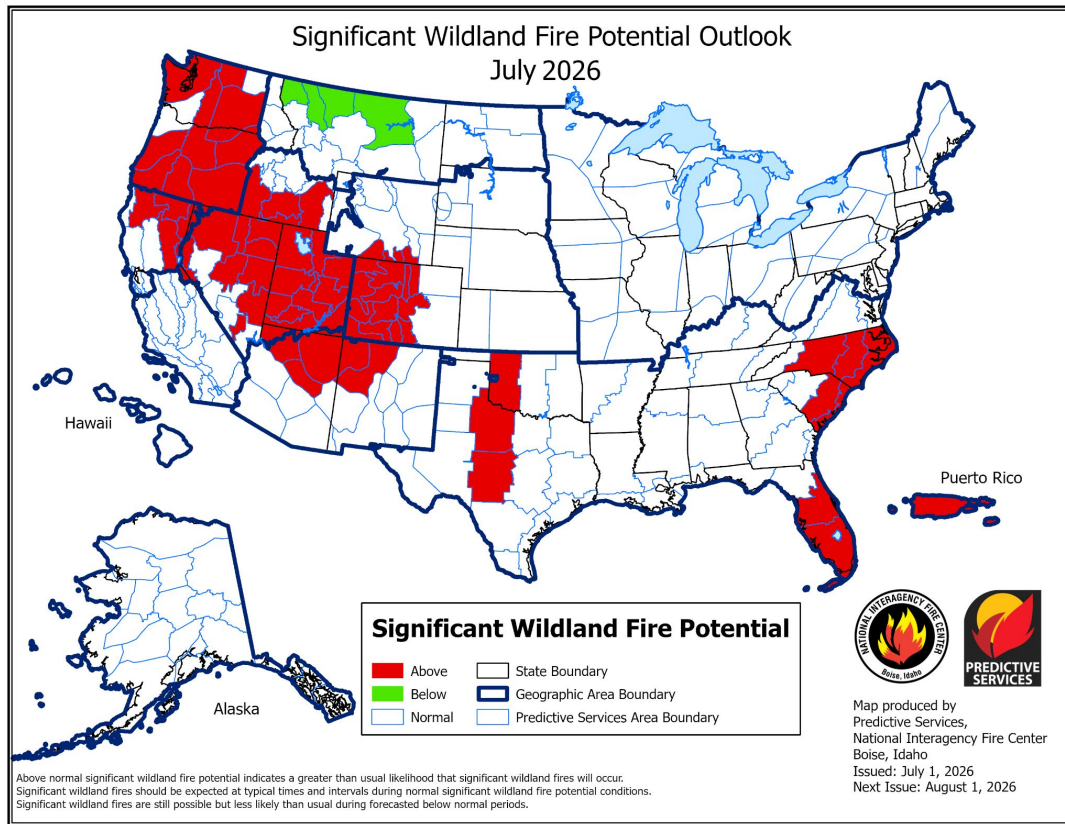
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- It is noteworthy that, recently, the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook has been downgraded across some areas.
- A large portion of the state is listed as, “below normal.”
- Normal Significant Wildland Fire Potential continues across the remainder of the state.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

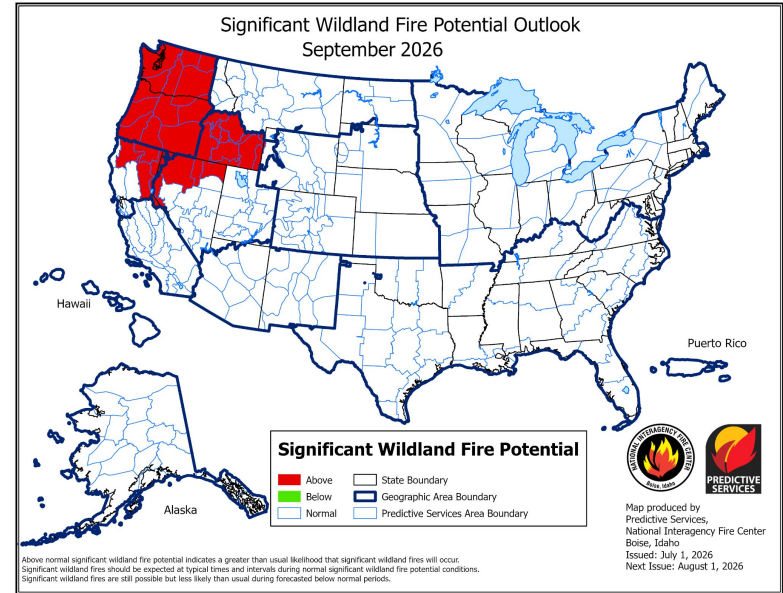
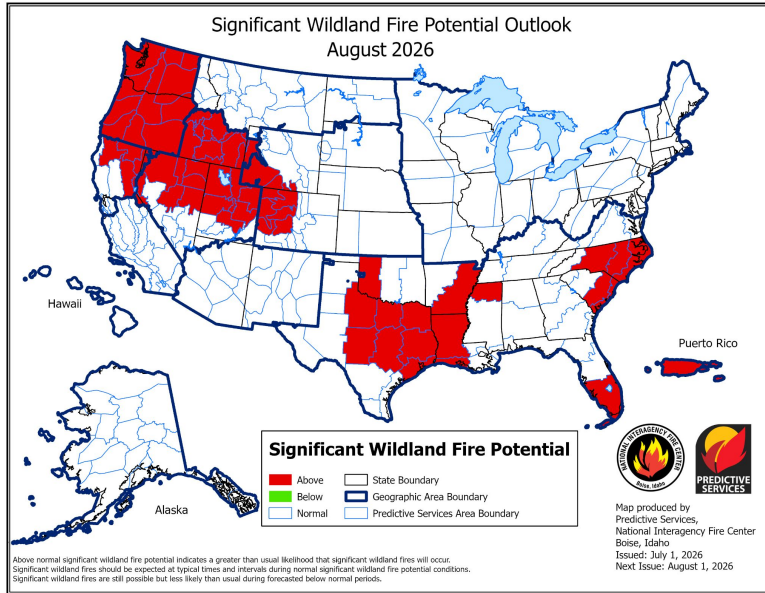
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Fire Hazard Impacts

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



- The July and August 2026 Wildfire Potential Outlooks include The Treasure State in Normal Significant Wildland Fire Potential conditions.
 - Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Some producers and observers in the area that extends from The Rocky Mountain Front to Hill County report that the area looks better than it has in a long time.
- Producers in areas, such as much of eastern Montana, are experiencing much different conditions.

Agricultural Impacts

- Recent warm weather can quickly begin to dry out soils.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although the state of MT is included in areas of normal to below normal Significant Wildland Fire Potential, fire safety practices continue very important.

Other Impacts & Messaging

- “When Thunderstorm Roars, Go Indoors!”
- During flash flooding, “Climb to Safety!”

Mitigation Actions

- Thunderstorm season is here. High focus is applied to flood and fire concerns.
- Special attention is warranted for burn scar areas where flash flooding and debris flow can be an issue.

