



Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: January 8, 2025

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

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, February 6, 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 - Extreme drought conditions continue across areas of western and eastern MT.





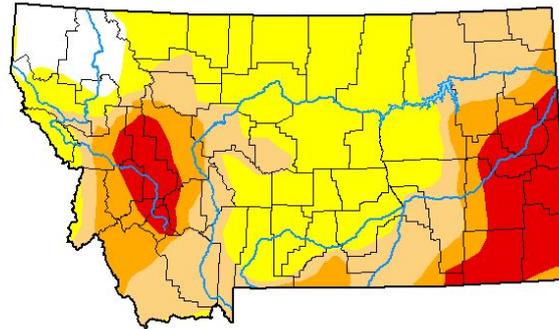
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of western and eastern MT
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of western, central, southern and eastern MT
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of western, central, southern and eastern MT
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of the remainder of the state

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana



December 31, 2024

(Released Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.53	94.47	54.22	27.25	13.79	0.00
Last Week 12-24-2024	5.52	94.48	55.40	27.62	13.79	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-01-2024	15.18	84.82	42.24	21.05	9.44	0.90
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	39.20	60.80	21.30	2.68	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	15.18	84.82	42.24	21.05	9.44	0.90
One Year Ago 01-02-2024	39.20	60.80	21.30	2.68	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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

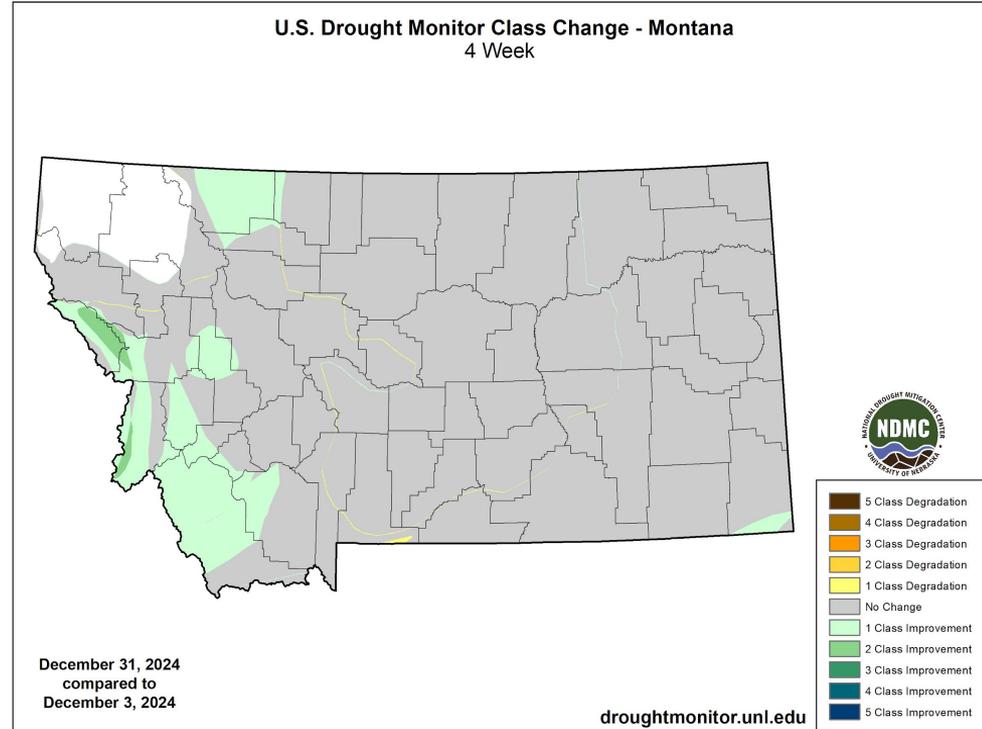
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

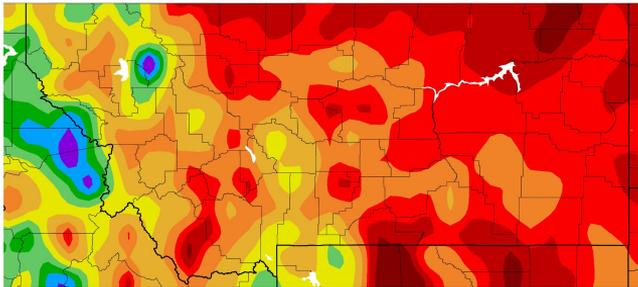
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Worsened:** Generally, over the past month, drought conditions have not worsened.
 - **No Change:** No change in drought conditions was observed over most of The Treasure State.
 - **Drought Improved:** Portions of western MT, as well as, isolated areas in north central and far southeastern MT





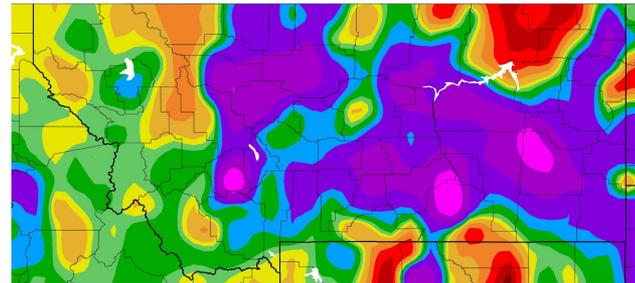
Precipitation

Precipitation (in)
12/9/2024 – 1/7/2025



Generated 1/8/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
12/9/2024 – 1/7/2025



Generated 1/8/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, Isolated portions of northwestern MT received more than 5.0” of precipitation; however, the remainder of the state, generally, received less than 3.5” of moisture, with many areas receiving less than 1.0”.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** The majority of the state has received normal to above normal precipitation, with portions of eastern MT included in the below 50% of normal range.

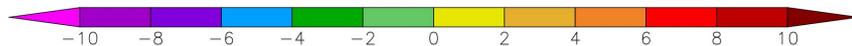
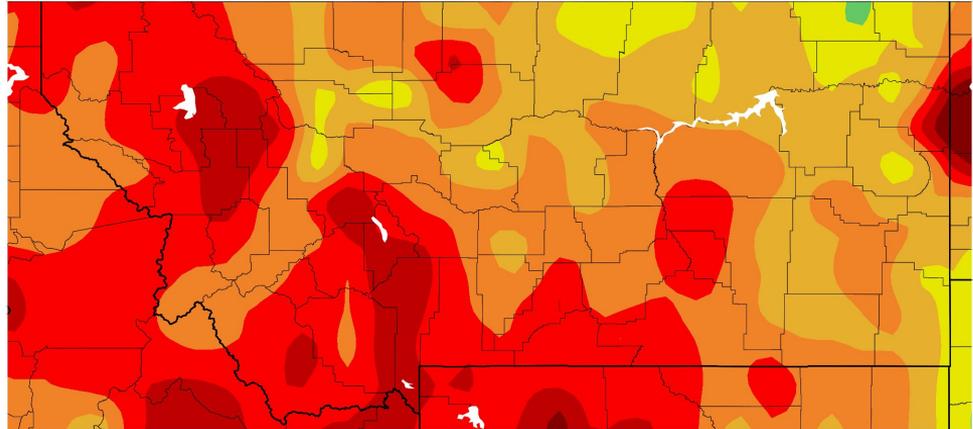




Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/9/2024 – 1/7/2025

- The vast majority of the state of Montana is recorded as warmer than normal for the period of, December 9, 2024 to January 7, 2025, with large portions of the state listed as more than 6F above normal.



Generated 1/8/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

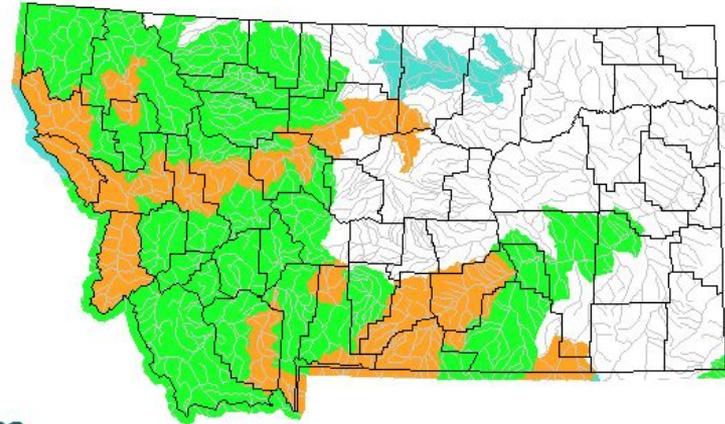




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Wednesday, January 01, 2025

- **Above Normal:** A portion of the Milk Basin is included in an area of above normal average streamflow.
- **Below Normal:** Areas of, “below normal,” stream flow continue to stretch across western, north central, central and southern MT.



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			

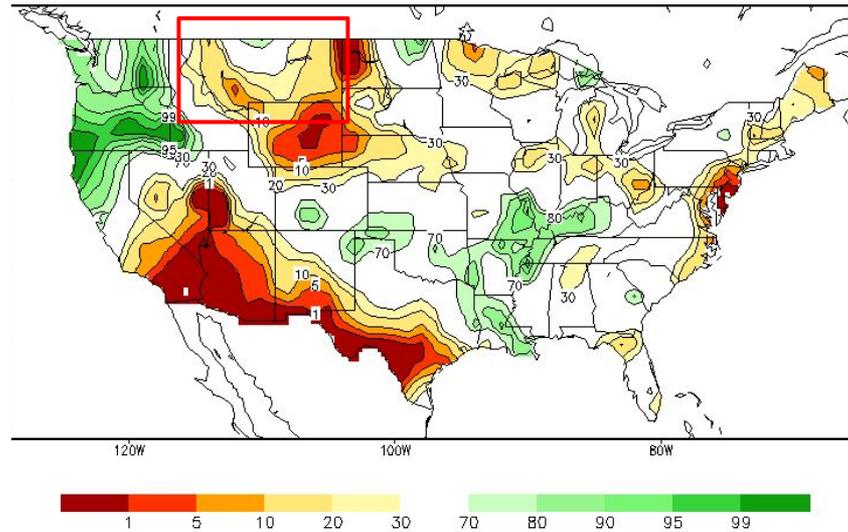
Image Caption: USGS 7-day Average Streamflow HUC Map, valid: December 11, 2024





Agricultural Impacts

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
JAN 07, 2025



The Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile resides in the lower range across most of the state, with areas of eastern Montana ranked at 1 percentile or less. Portions of northern Montana are included in the 30 to 70 percentile range, with an isolated area along the north central Montana border included in the 70 to 80 percentile range.

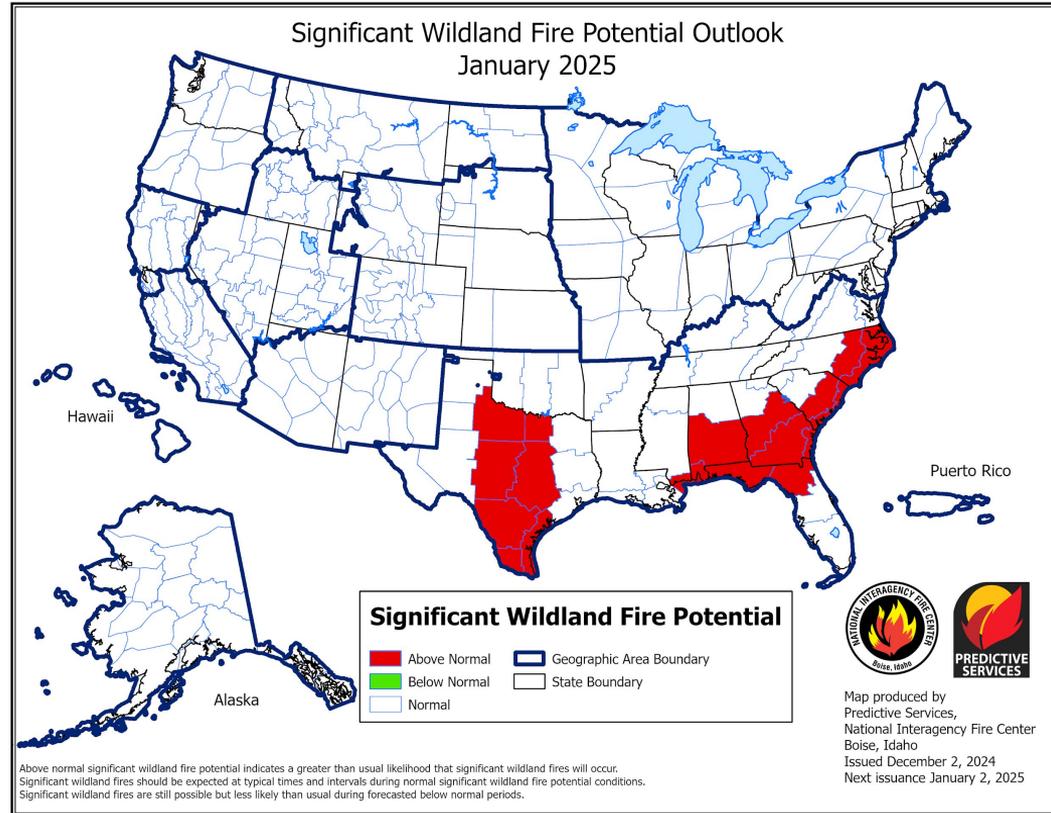




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

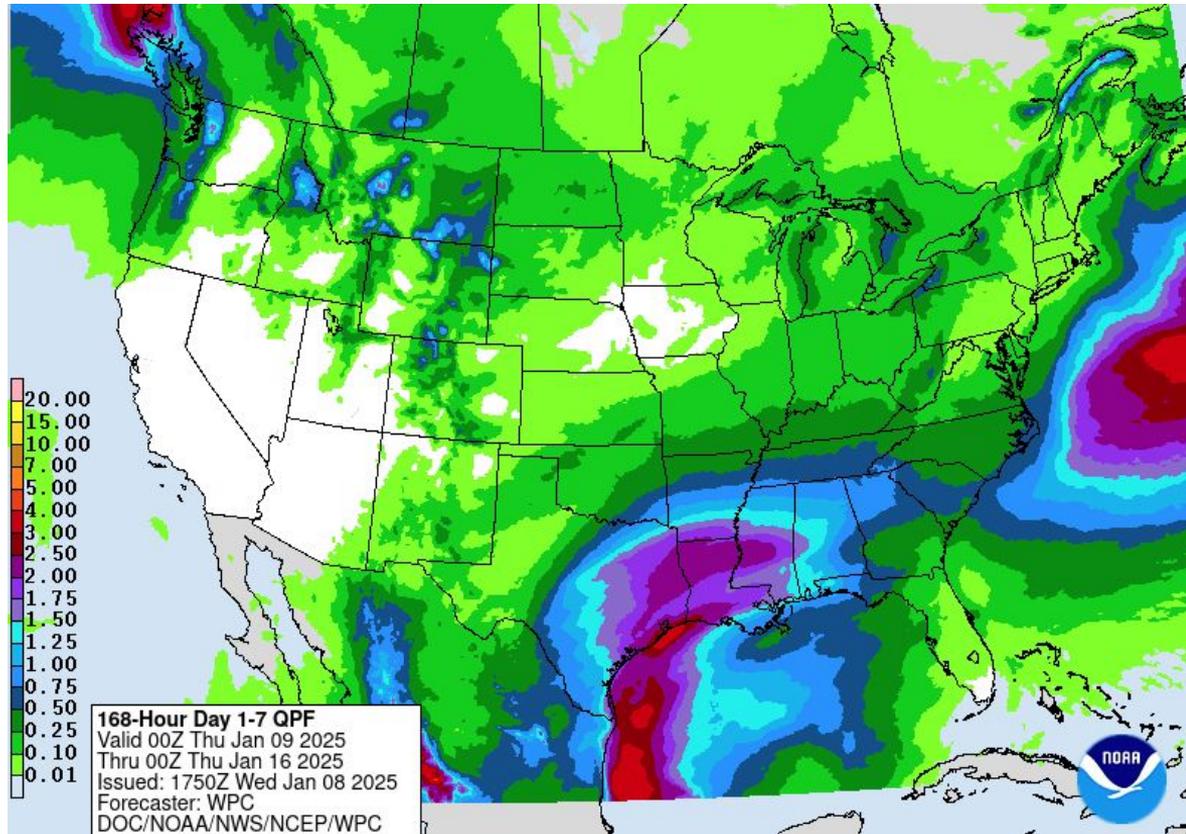
- This month, we continue in an area of normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- During the week of, January 9 - 16, 2025, Montana forecast precipitation values, generally, range from 0.01" to 0.50", with some isolated areas forecast to receive about 1.00" to 1.75" of liquid precipitation, during this period.





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

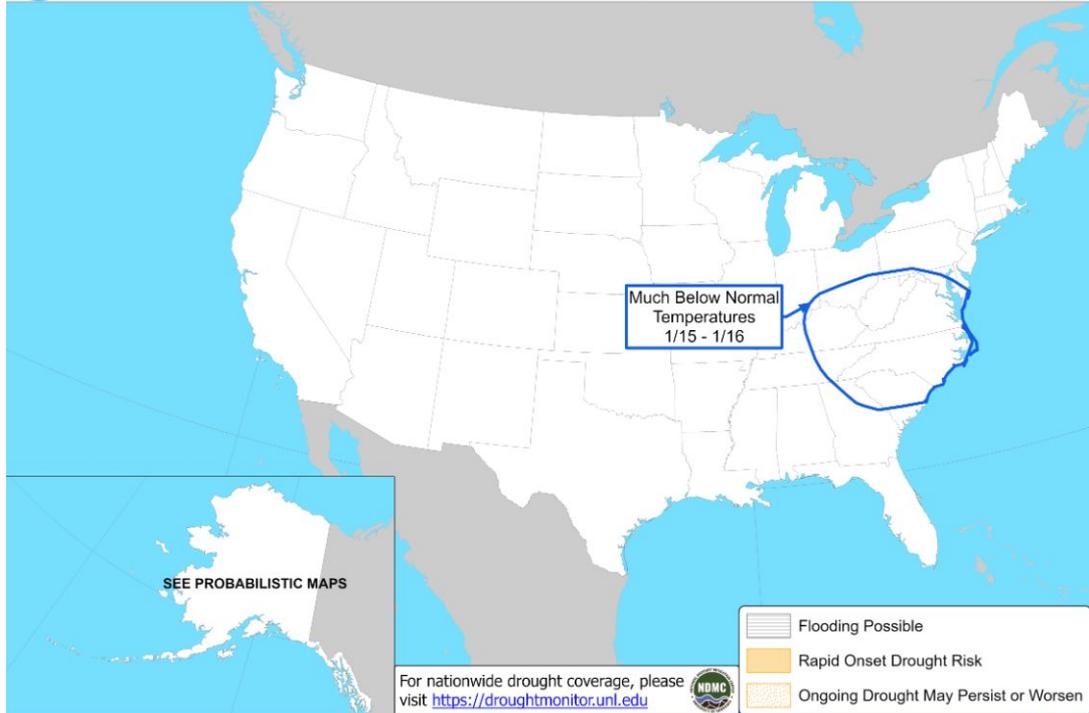
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- As of this time, no significant hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State from, January 15th to 21st.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: January 15 - 21, 2025



Climate Prediction Center

Released: January 7, 2025 3:00 PM EST

Follow us:

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Long Range Outlooks

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

- For the month of January, the Temperature Outlook shows equal chances for above or below normal temperatures across the central portion of the state, with much of western Montana leaning toward above normal temperatures, and much of eastern Montana leaning toward below average temperatures.

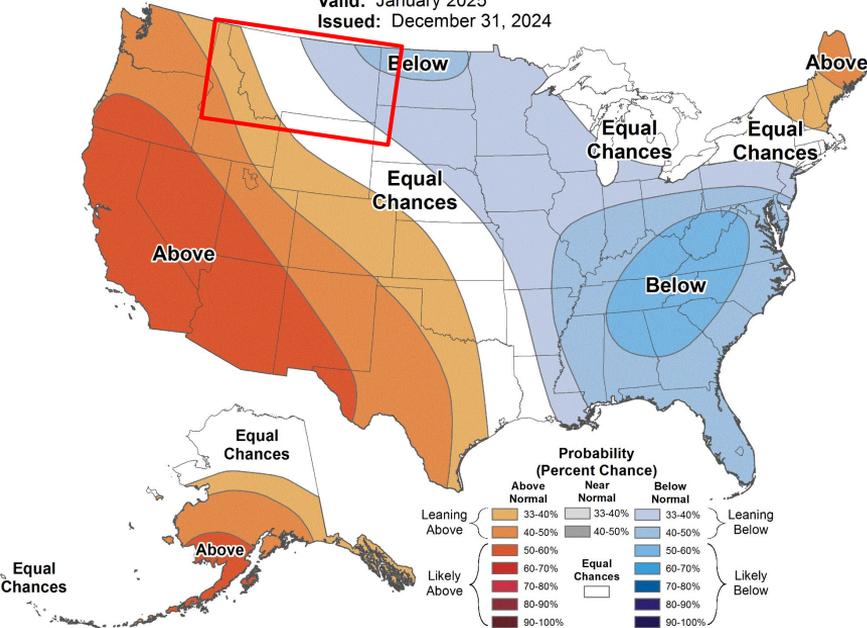
- The Precipitation Outlook shows better chances for above normal precipitation, statewide.



Monthly Temperature Outlook



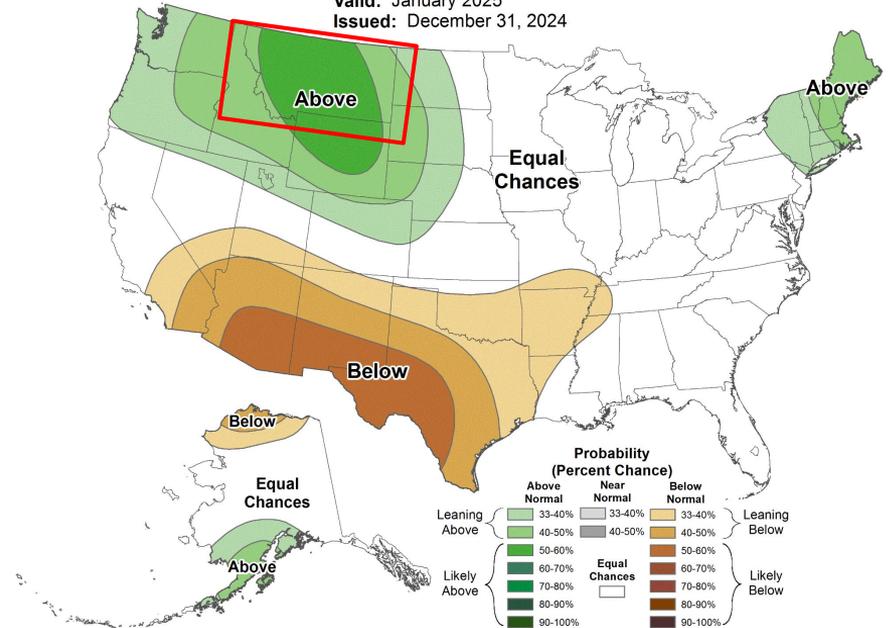
Valid: January 2025
Issued: December 31, 2024



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: January 2025
Issued: December 31, 2024





Drought Outlook

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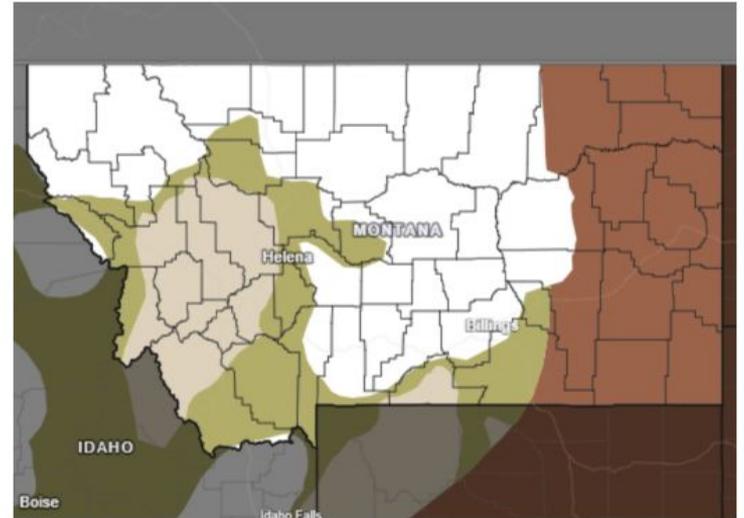
- **Persisting:** Drought conditions are predicted to persist across much of eastern MT.
- **Developing:** None
- **Improving:** Improving drought conditions cover portions of western and central MT, with an isolated area of improving conditions in southern MT.
- **Ending:** Drought conditions are predicted to be ending across portions of western, north central, central, and southern MT.
- **No Drought:** Portions of northwestern, north central, central and southern MT are included in an area of, “no drought,” during this 3-month outlook period.

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

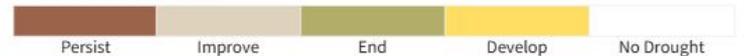
Links to the latest:

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

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 31, 2024–March 31, 2025



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: 12/31/24

Drought.gov





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- It is still too early in the season to assess snowpack and its impacts to the region.
- With temperatures, generally, trending warmer than normal and precipitation insufficient to compensate for an extended dry period, drought conditions are slow to improve.

Agricultural Impacts

- Ongoing impacts to crops and grasslands

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although this is our cold season, winter fires do occur. Fire safety continues relevant.

Other Impacts

- River ice jams are a concern, during periods of cold temperatures.
- About 26% of the state of Montana is reported, “moderately dry,” with an additional, 59% reported, “severely dry.”
Montana State Library | National Drought Mitigation Center. 2024. Drought Impacts. [accessed September 27, 2024].
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/76204aa1271a4a7f8a775fc2bba9ef83>

Mitigation Actions

- Coordination and collaboration between partners is key.

