



# Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: March 31, 2025

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

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, April 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

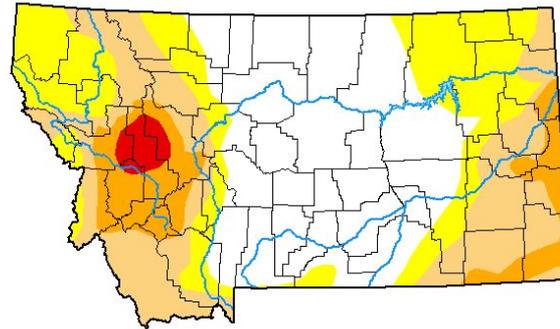
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Montana

## U.S. Drought Monitor Montana

**March 25, 2025**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 27, 2025)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

### • 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, southwestern and eastern MT
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of western, central, southern and eastern MT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	40.87	59.13	35.18	11.65	1.72	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 03-19-2025	38.72	61.28	35.18	13.43	3.07	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 12-24-2024	5.52	94.48	55.40	27.62	13.79	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-01-2025	6.70	93.30	54.22	27.25	13.79	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-01-2024	15.18	84.82	42.24	21.05	9.44	0.90
<b>One Year Ago</b> 03-26-2024	5.76	94.24	41.30	16.51	1.00	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>

Author:

Brad Rippey  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



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



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

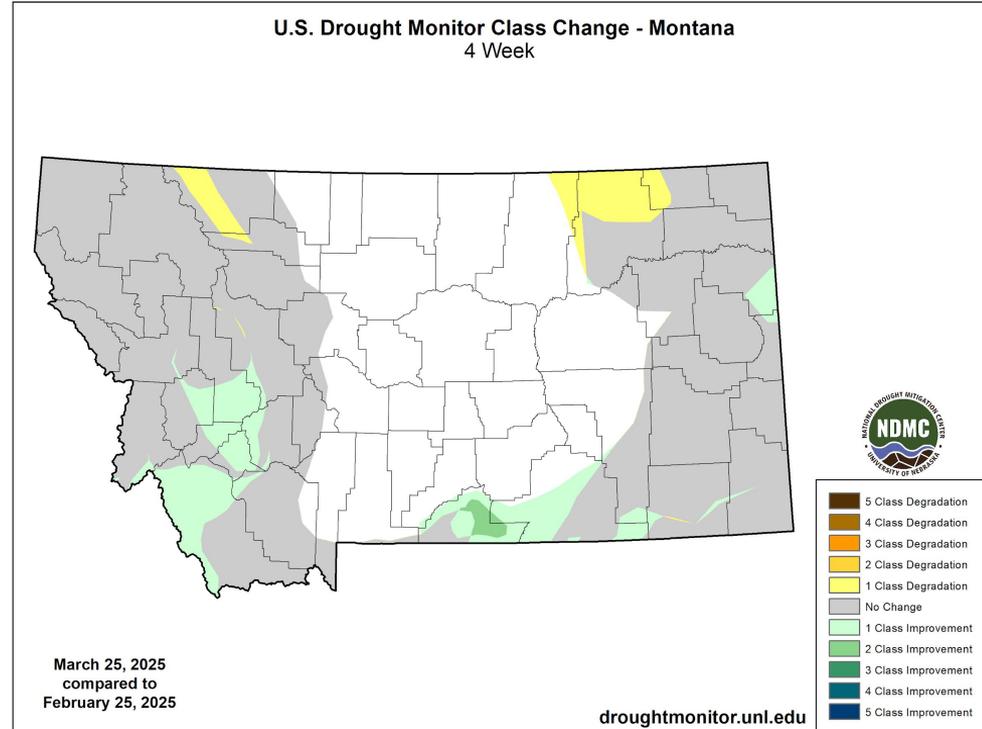
National Weather Service  
Great Falls, Montana



# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

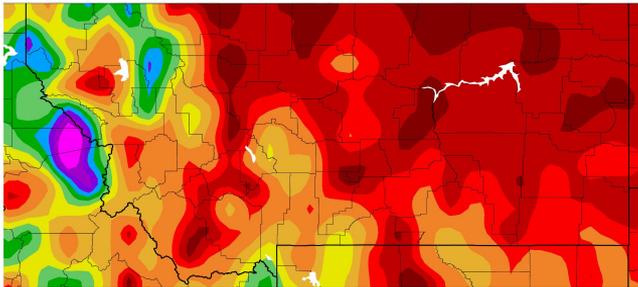
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - **Drought Worsened:** Isolated areas of northwestern and northeastern, MT
  - **No Change:** No change in drought conditions was observed across much of the area.
  - **Drought Improved:** Drought class has improved across portions of western, southern and an isolated area of eastern, MT





# Precipitation

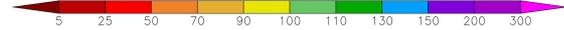
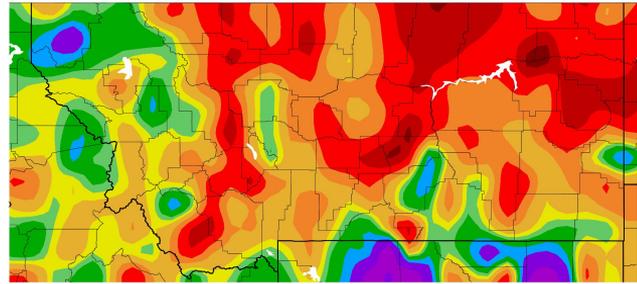
Precipitation (in)  
2/26/2025 – 3/27/2025



Generated 3/28/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
2/26/2025 – 3/27/2025



Generated 3/28/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, virtually, the entire state of MT has received less than 3.0” of precipitation, with a large portion of the state receiving less than 0.5” of moisture.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Most of The Treasure State received below normal precipitation, while precipitation values for some areas were in the above normal range.

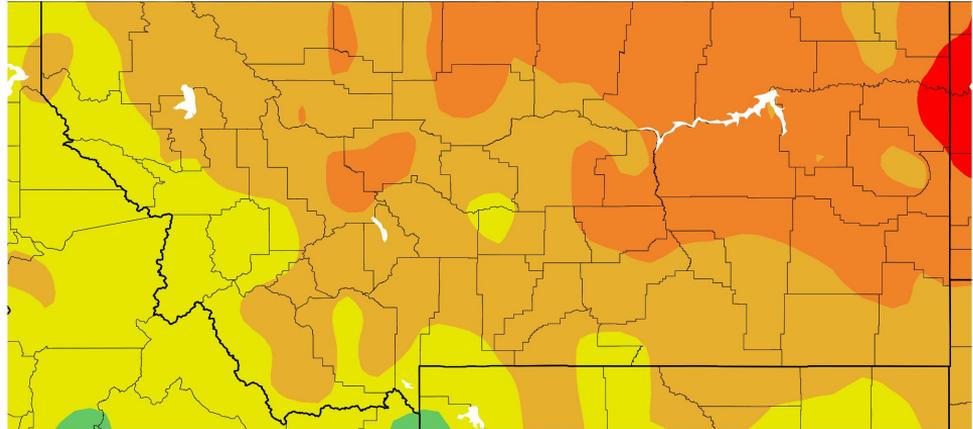




# Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/26/2025 – 3/27/2025

- Over the past month, temperatures were recorded to be above normal for the entire state of Montana.



Generated 3/28/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

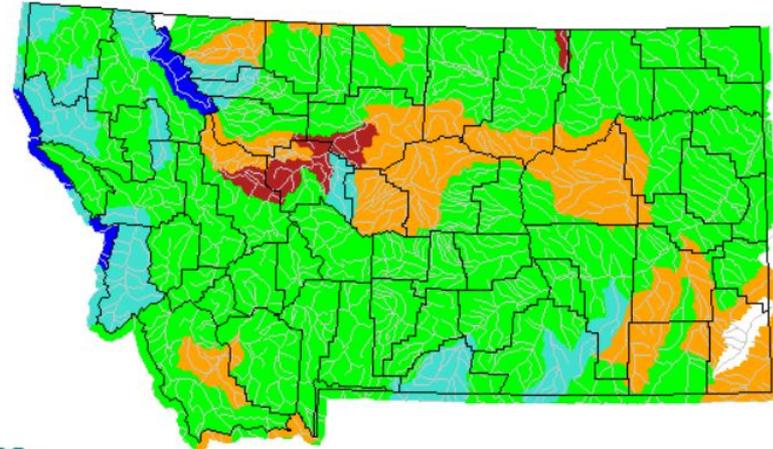




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Saturday, March 29, 2025

- **Above Normal:** 7-day Average Streamflow for some basins in western, north central, central and southern MT are included in the above normal, to 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 north central, central, southwestern and eastern MT are included in the below, to much below, normal range.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90		
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	No Data

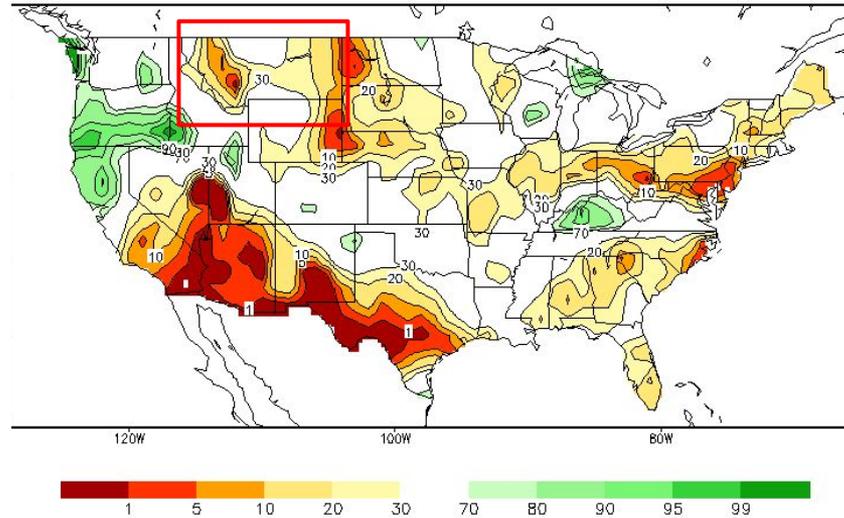
Image Caption: USGS 7-day Average Streamflow HUC Map, valid: March 29, 2025





# Agricultural Impacts

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAR 27, 2025



The Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile resides in the lower range across most of the Treasure State.

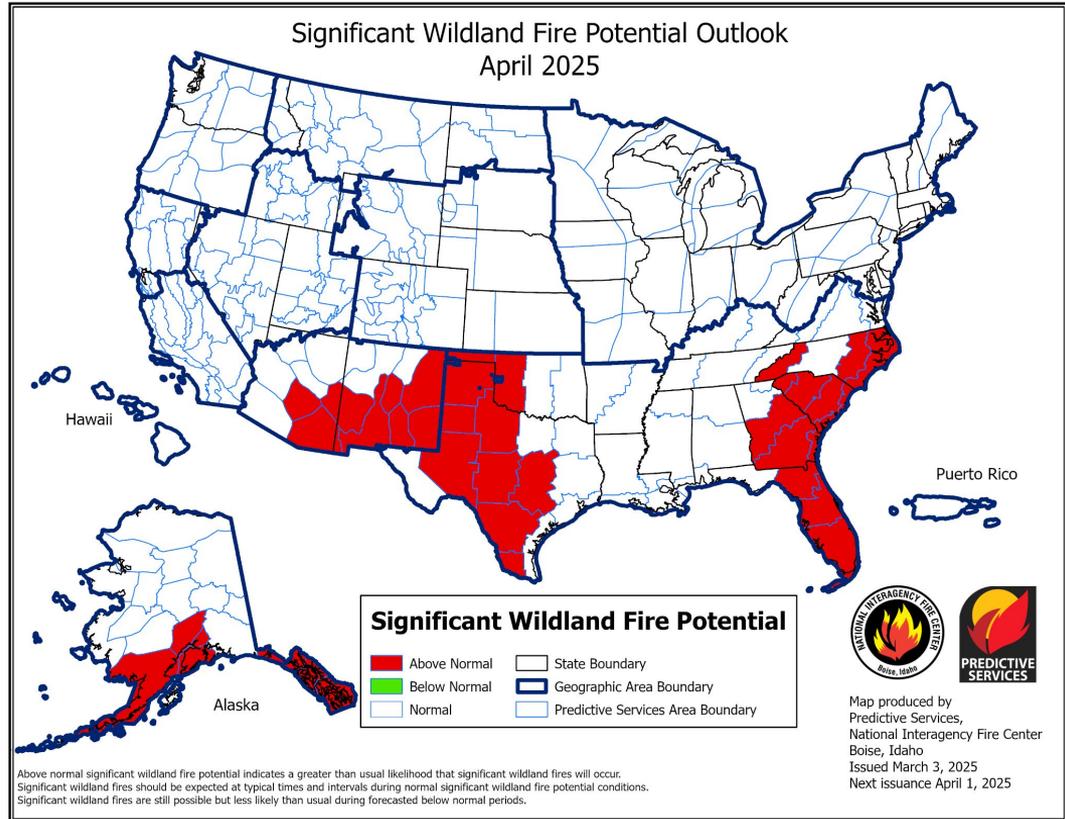




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

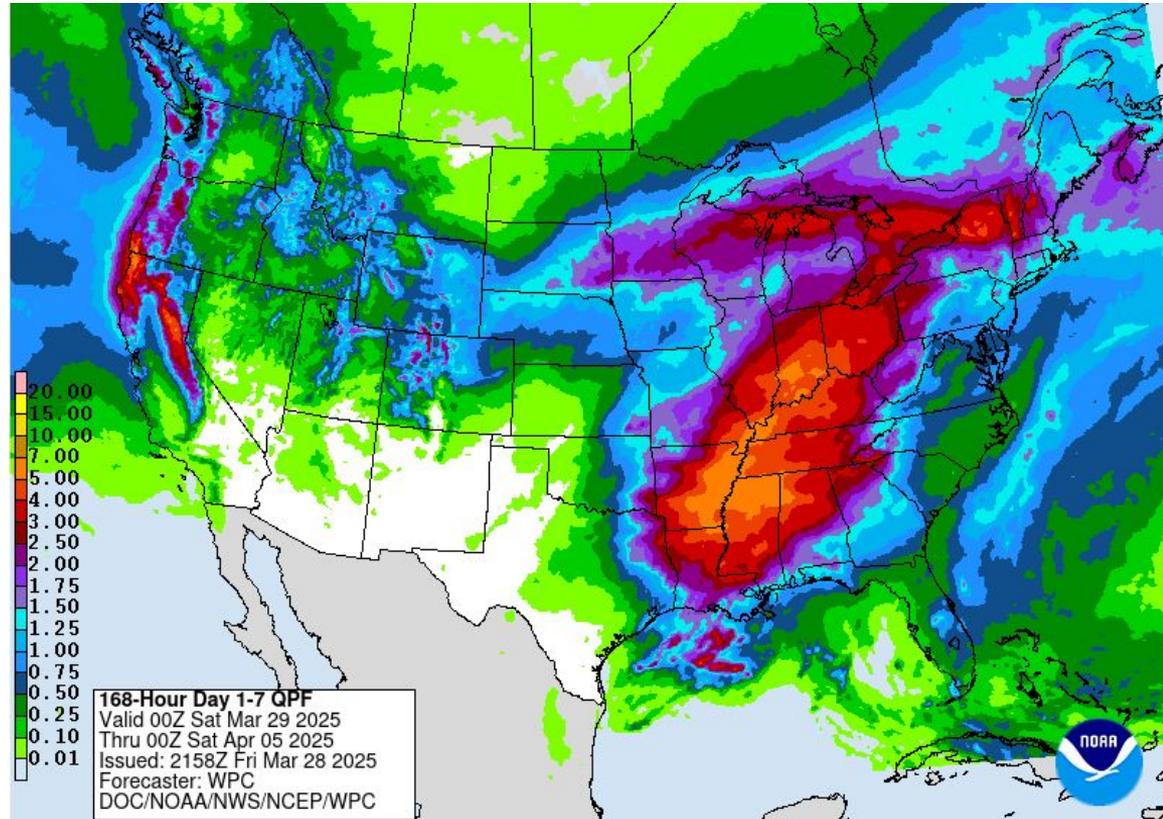
- During the month of April, Montana continues in an area of normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.
- Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Through, April 5, 2025, MT forecast precipitation values, generally, range from 0.01" to as much as 1.25".
- The greatest amounts of precipitation fall across western, central and southern Montana.,
- The lowest amounts of precipitation fall across much of northern and eastern, Montana.





# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

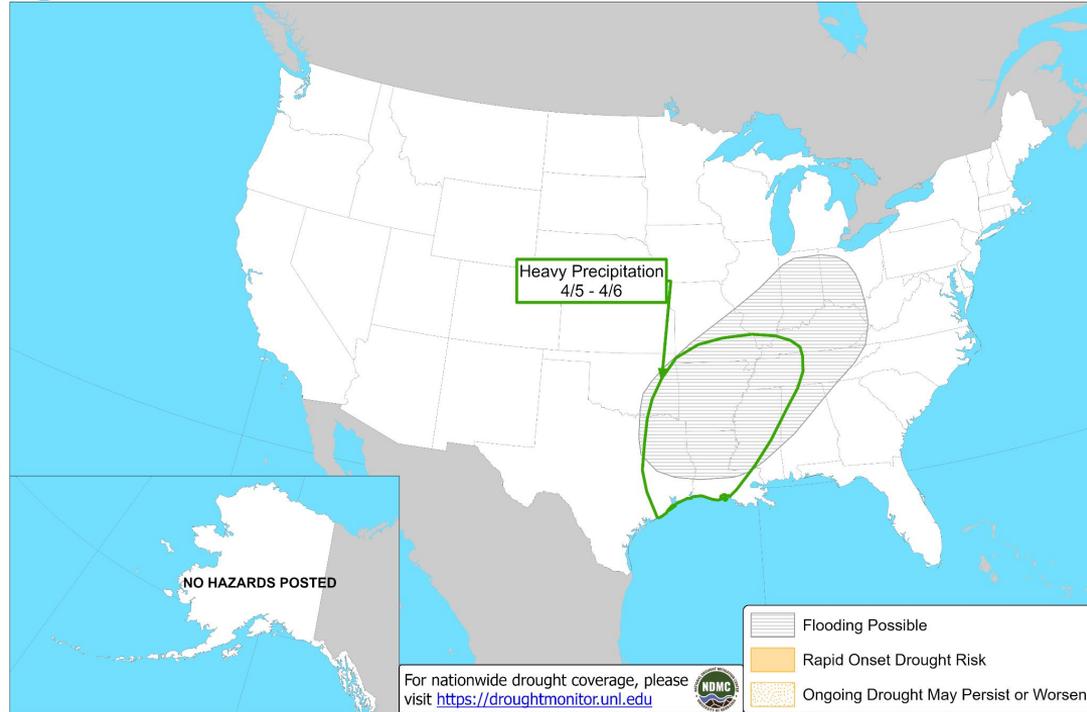
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- As of this time, no significant hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State from, April 5th to 11th.



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

Valid: April 5 - 11, 2025



Climate Prediction Center

Released: March 28, 2025 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:

[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

National Weather Service  
Great Falls, Montana



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce



# Long Range Outlooks

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

- For the month of April, the Temperature Outlook shows equal chances for above or below normal temperatures, statewide.

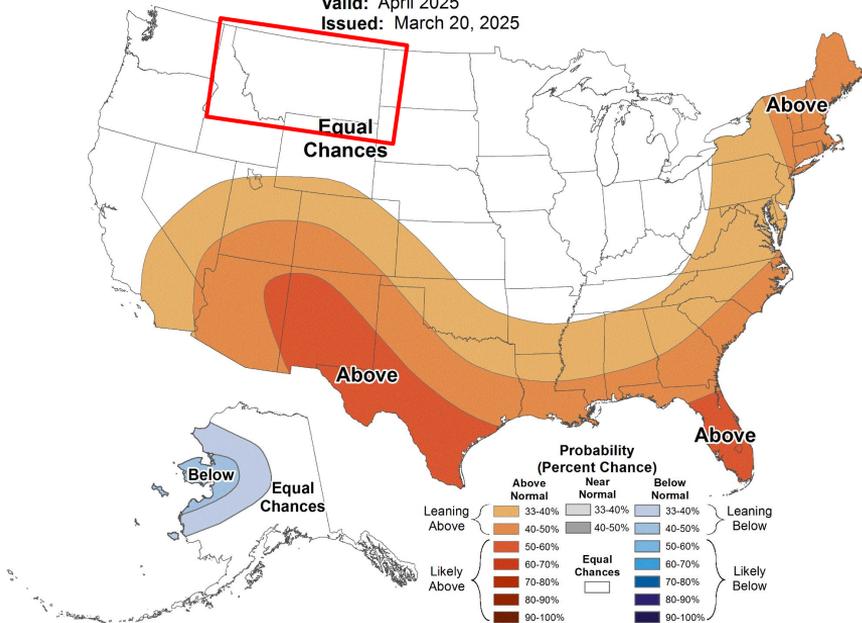
The Precipitation Outlook shows equal chances for above or below normal precipitation across most of the state of Montana, with the northwestern portion of the state leaning toward above normal precipitation.



## Monthly Temperature Outlook



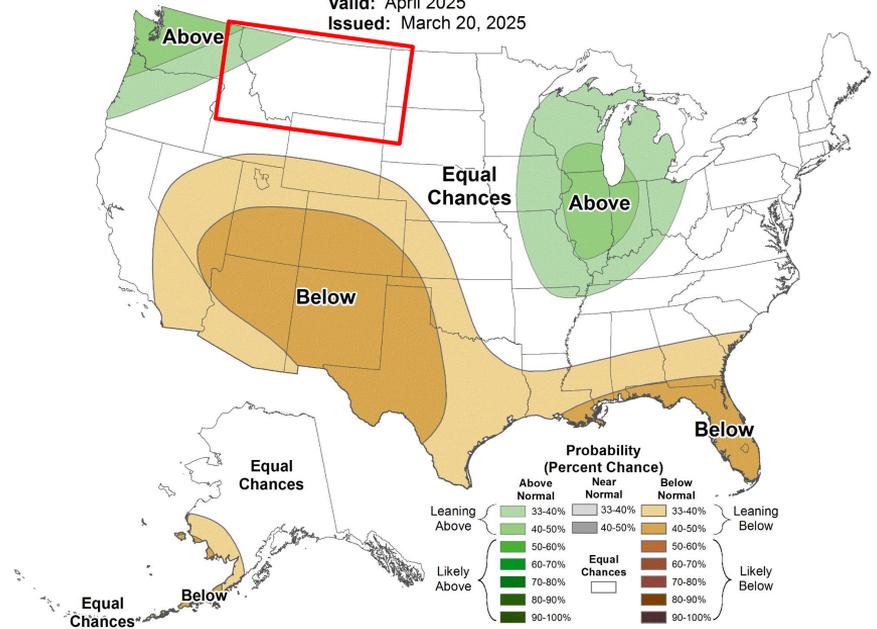
Valid: April 2025  
Issued: March 20, 2025



## Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: April 2025  
Issued: March 20, 2025





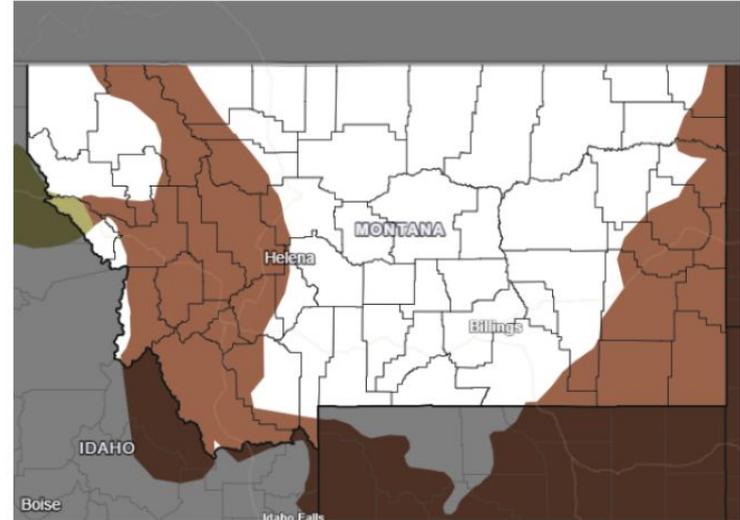
# Drought Outlook

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

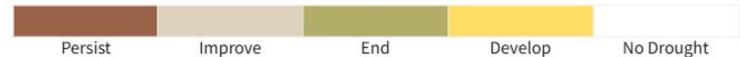
- **Persisting:** Drought conditions are predicted to persist across areas of western, central, southwestern and eastern MT.
- **Developing:** None
- **Improving:** A small, isolated area of far western, MT.
- **Ending:** None
- **No Drought:** A large portion of the state is included in an area of, “no drought,” during this 3-month outlook period.

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

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 20–June 30, 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: 03/20/25

**Drought.gov**

Links to the latest:

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





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- More than 54% of the state of Montana is reported, “severely dry,” with an additional, greater than 12% reported as, “moderately dry.” Montana State Library | National Drought Mitigation Center. 2025. Drought Impacts. [accessed March 30, 2025]. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/76204aa1271a4a7f8a775fc2bba9ef83>

## Agricultural Impacts

- Ongoing impacts to crops and grasslands

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although we are entering our wet season, fires can still occur. Fire safety continues relevant.

## Other Impacts

- Recreation: As we enter our wet season, and mountain snow melts, some rivers begin to run fast and cold.
- Never drive through flooded areas. “Turn around. Don’t Drown.”
- During flash flooding, “Climb to Safety.”

## Mitigation Actions

- Heightened focus over burn scar areas.
- Communication, coordination and collaboration between partners is key.

