



Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: February 18, 2025

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

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, March 28, 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 - Portions of western and eastern MT continue to experience extreme drought conditions.





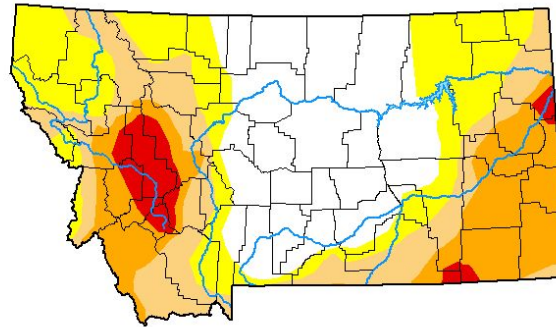
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought intensity and Extent

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Montana



February 11, 2025
(Released Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	33.27	66.73	41.72	22.01	4.58	0.00
Last Week 02-04-2025	8.44	91.56	53.27	23.95	4.58	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-12-2024	0.00	100.00	58.44	37.69	13.96	0.90
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 02-13-2024	12.29	87.71	42.72	18.09	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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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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

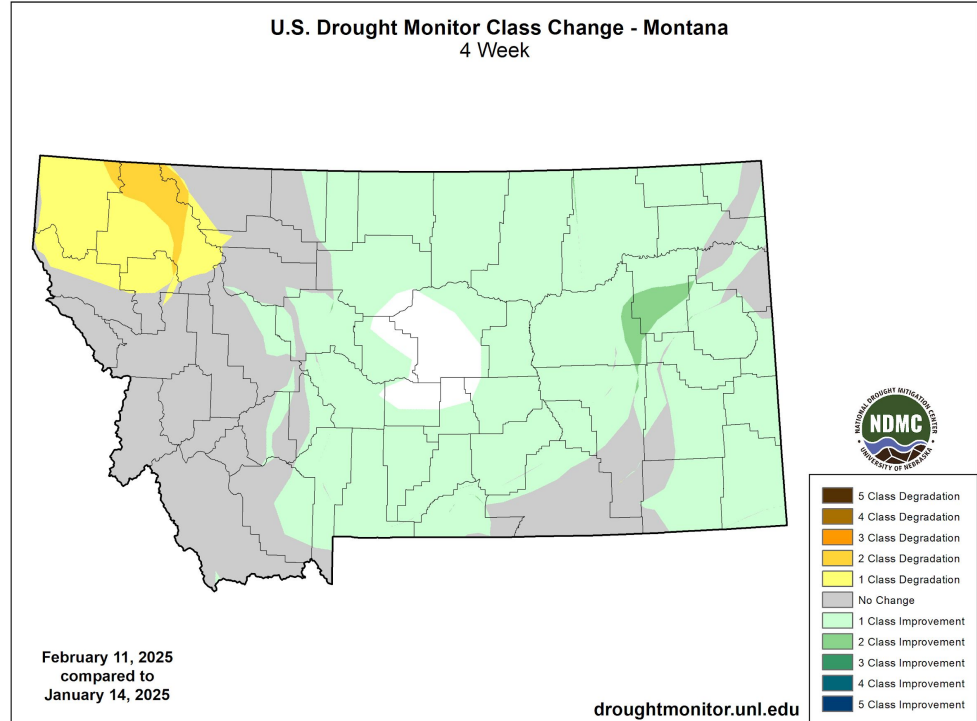
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

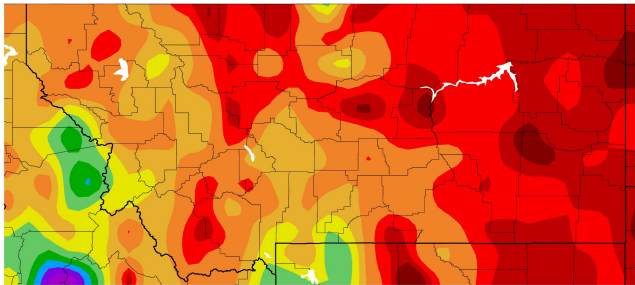
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Worsened:** Northwestern MT
 - **No Change:** No change in drought conditions was observed across portions of western, central, southern and eastern MT.
 - **Drought Improved:** Drought categories have improved across much of central and eastern MT





Precipitation

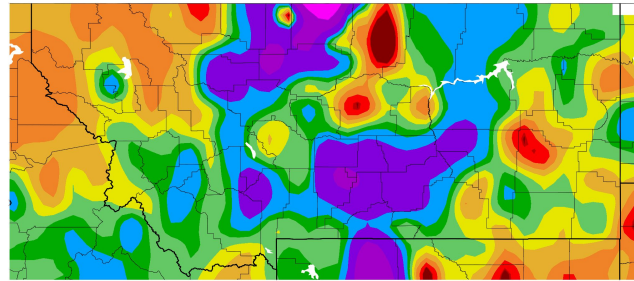
Precipitation (in)
1/18/2025 – 2/16/2025



Generated 2/17/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/18/2025 – 2/16/2025



Generated 2/17/2025 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 1.0” of moisture.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** Large portions of The Treasure State received more than normal precipitation, while significant portions fell in the below normal range.

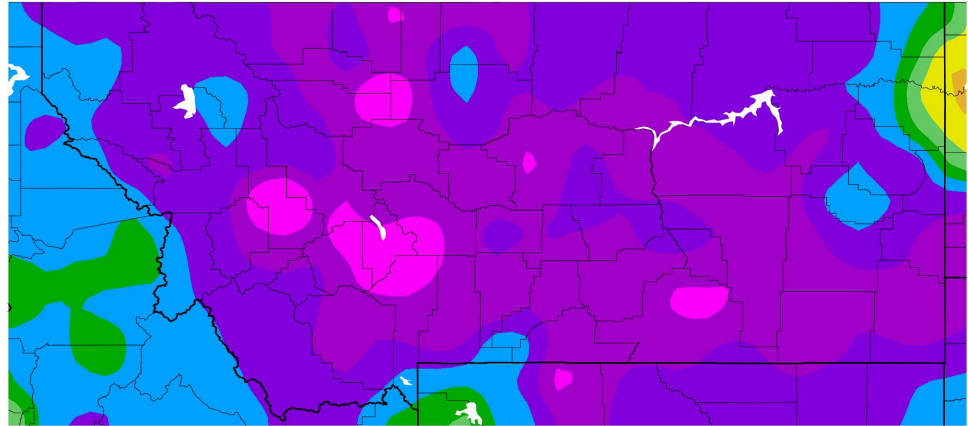




Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/18/2025 – 2/16/2025

- But for a small isolated area of northeastern MT, the state experienced colder than normal temperatures during the period of, January 18, 2025 to February 16, 2025.



Generated 2/17/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

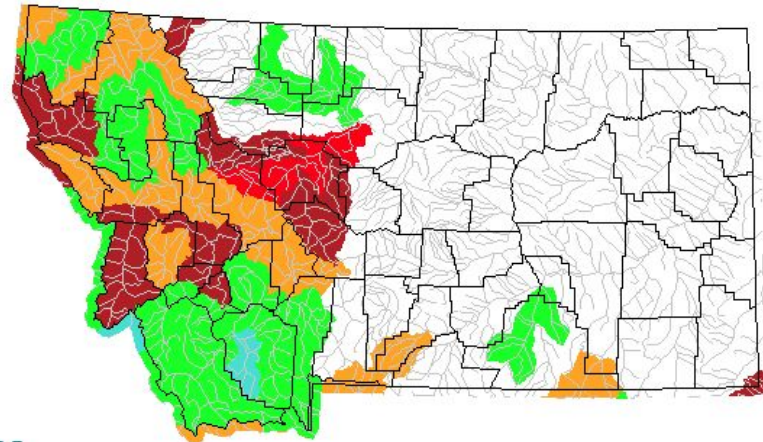




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Monday, February 17, 2025

- **Above Normal:** A portion of the Jefferson Basin is included in an area of above normal streamflow.
- **Normal:** Some basins of western, northern and southern, MT are experiencing streamflow in the normal range.
- **Below Normal:** Areas of western, central and southern MT are included in the below, to much below, normal range, with portions of central MT considered in the low range.



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			

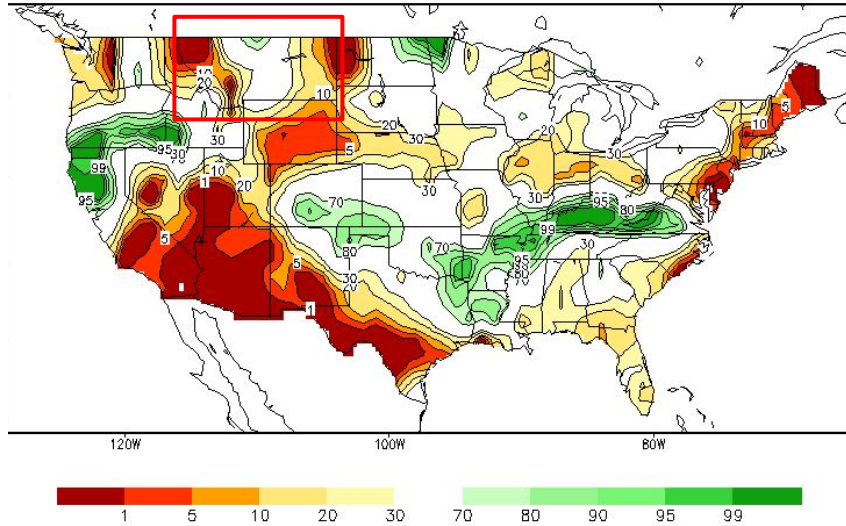
Image Caption: USGS 7-day Average Streamflow HUC Map, valid: February 17, 2025





Agricultural Impacts

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 16, 2025



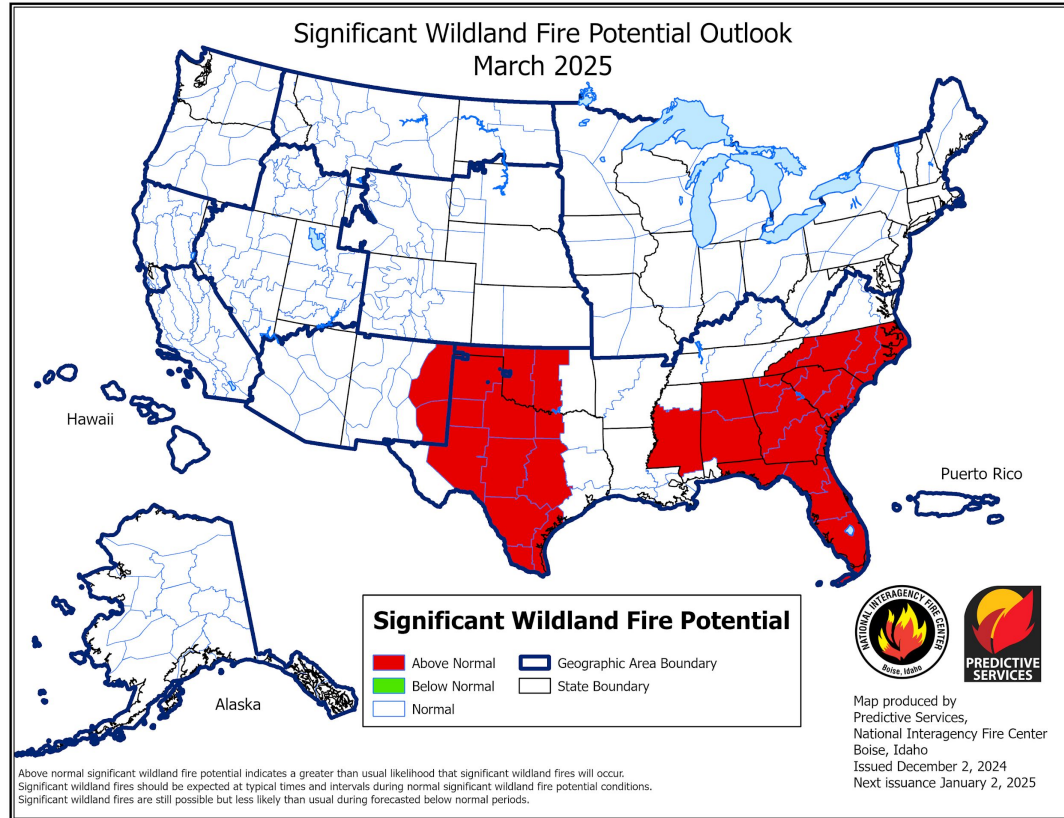
The Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile resides in the lower range across western, portions of central, and eastern MT, with some areas ranked at 1 percentile or less. An isolated area of north-central MT is in the 70 to 90 percentile range, with most of central MT in the 30 to 70 percentile range.



Fire Hazard Impacts

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

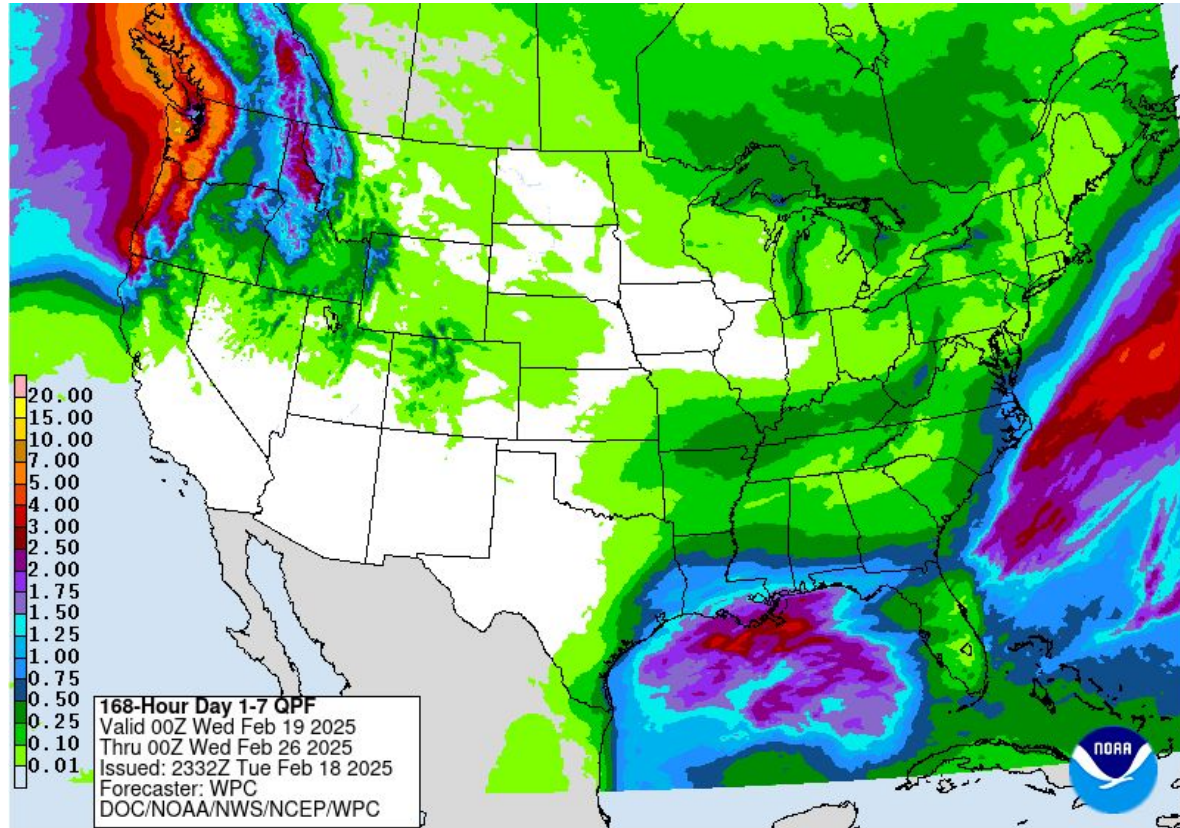
- February and March, we continue in an area of normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- During the week of, February 19 - 26, 2025, MT forecast precipitation values, generally, range from 0.01" to as much as 0.50", east of The Continental Divide, with more than 1.00", west of The Divide, and higher amounts across higher elevations.





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

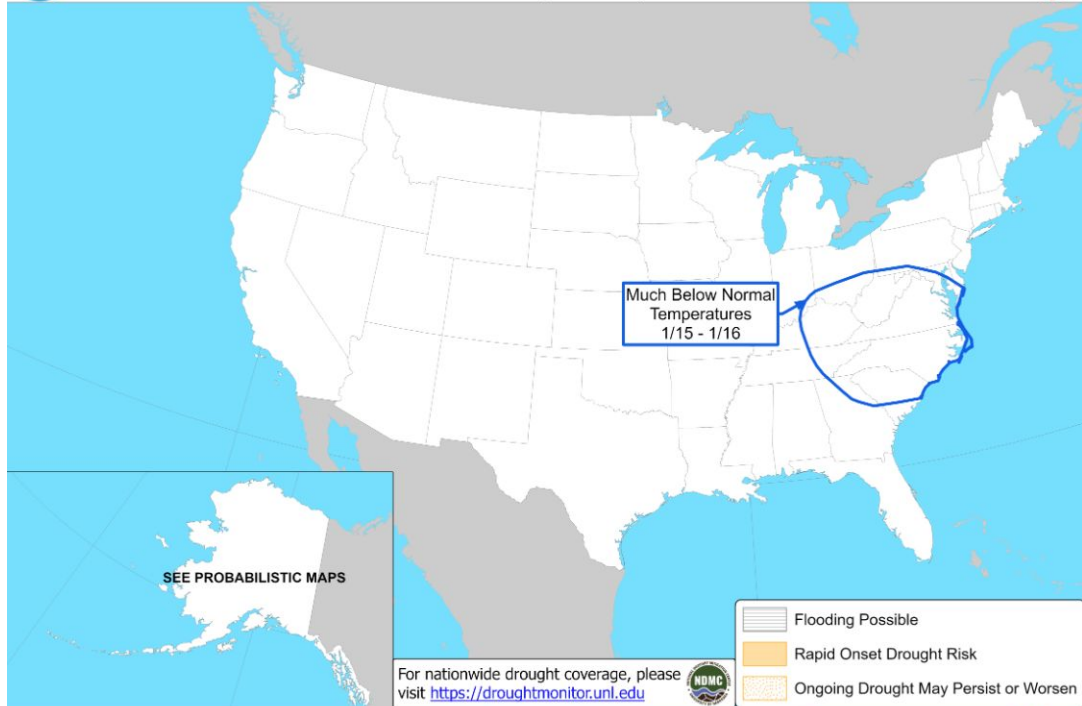
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- 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

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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 February, the Temperature Outlook shows equal chances for above or below normal temperatures across portions of southern MT, with better chances for colder than normal temperatures across the remainder of the state.

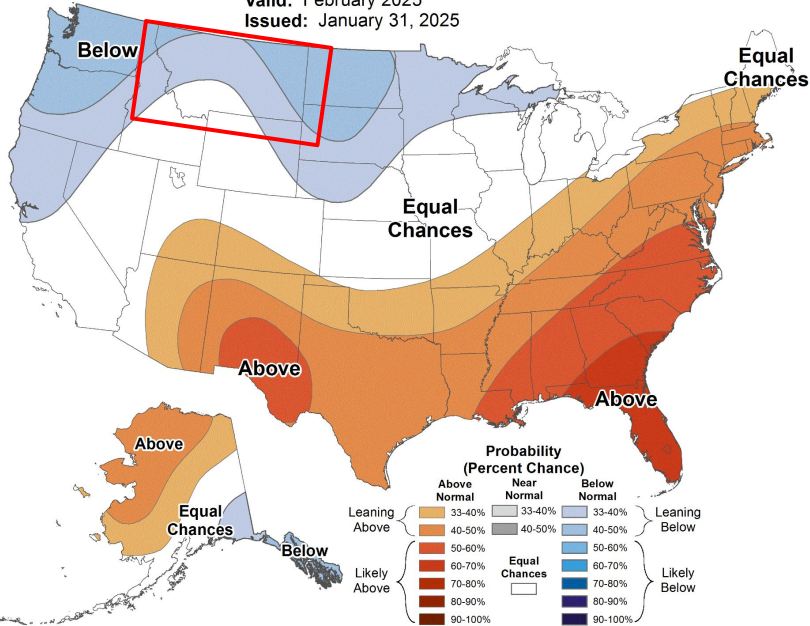
- The Precipitation Outlook shows better chances for above normal precipitation across most of the state, while eastern MT is included in an area of equal chances for above or below normal precipitation.



Monthly Temperature Outlook



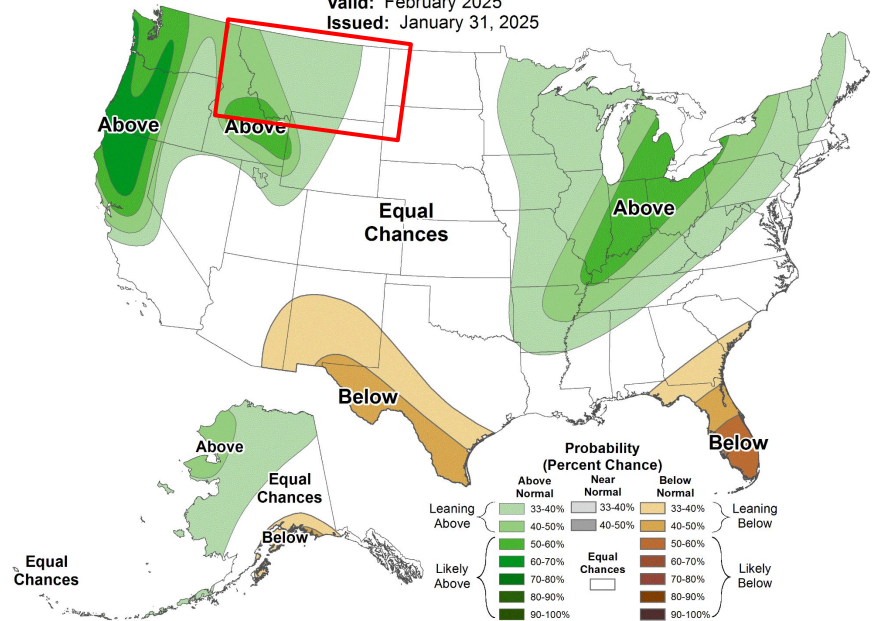
Valid: February 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: February 2025
Issued: January 31, 2025





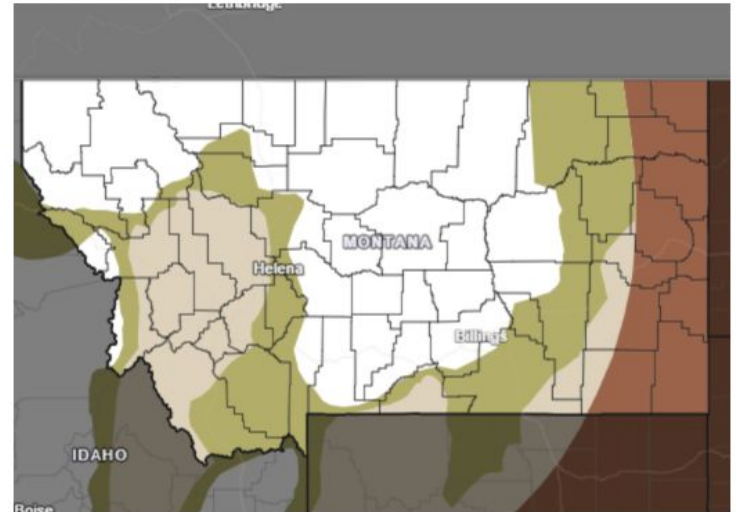
Drought Outlook

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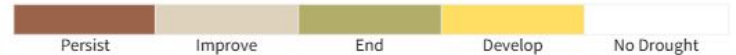
- **Persisting:** Drought conditions are predicted to persist across areas of eastern MT.
- **Developing:** None
- **Improving:** Improving drought conditions cover portions of western, central, southern and eastern MT.
- **Ending:** Drought conditions are predicted to be in the process of ending across portions of western, central, southern and eastern MT.
- **No Drought:** Portions of northern, central and southern MT are 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 January 31–April 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: 01/31/25

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- With the Bears Paw and Rocky Boy area showing Snow Water Equivalent at 205% of median, careful attention is due during periods of rain and melt.

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

- The state has been experiencing river ice jams, with flooding in some areas.
- Ice Jam behavior is unpredictable and dangerous.
- Safety First. Stay off the ice.
- Never drive through flooded areas.

Mitigation Actions

- Communication, coordination and collaboration between partners is key.

