



Drought Information Statement for MONTANA

Valid: December 12, 2024

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

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated, January 3, 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.

- D4 - Exceptional Drought conditions have ended.
- D3 - Extreme drought conditions continue across areas of western and eastern MT.





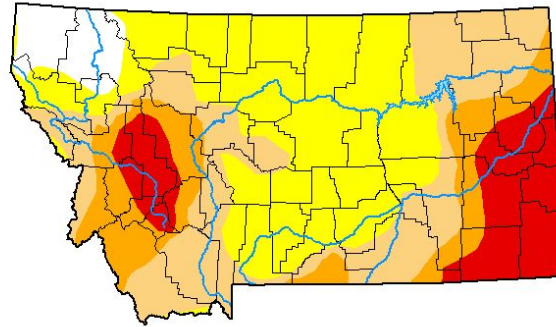
U.S. Drought Monitor

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 10, 2024

(Released Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	5.49	94.51	55.33	27.58	14.04	0.00
Last Week 12-03-2024	5.49	94.51	57.27	30.48	17.01	0.81
3 Months Ago 09-10-2024	0.00	100.00	62.94	23.91	9.33	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 12-12-2023	57.40	42.60	9.77	4.42	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>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

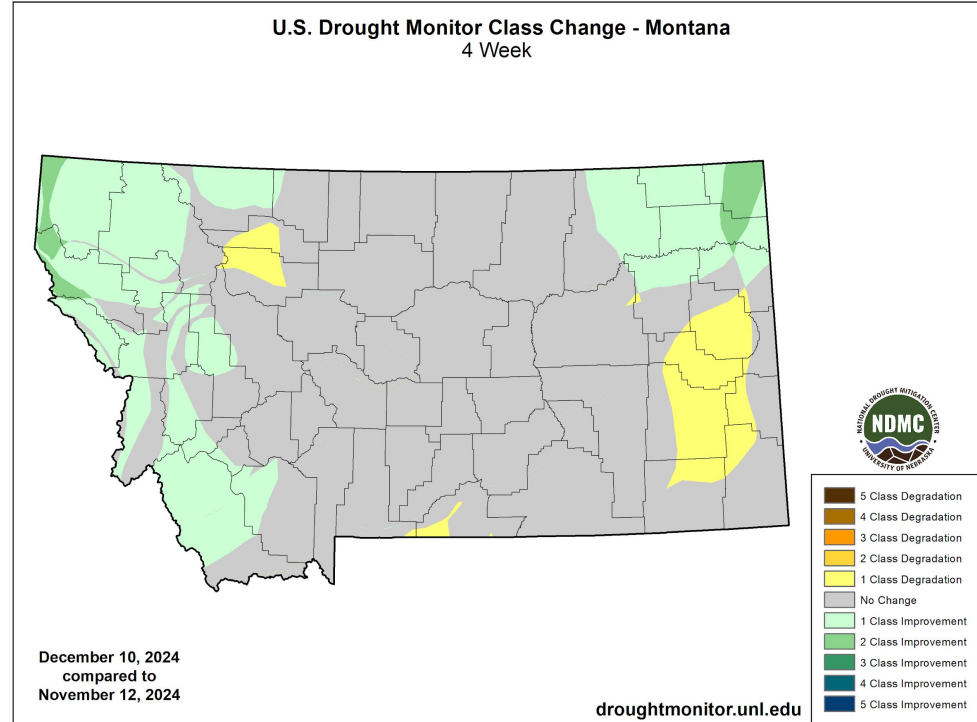
National Weather Service
Great Falls, Montana



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

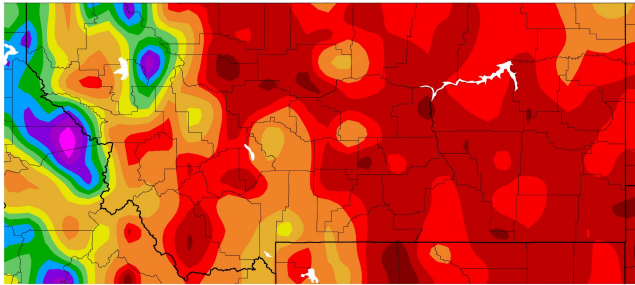
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Worsened:** Across isolated areas of north central, south central and eastern MT
 - **No Change:** No change in drought conditions, over the past month, were observed over most of, The Treasure State.
 - **Drought Improved:** Much of western and northeastern MT, as well as, an isolated area of north central MT





Precipitation

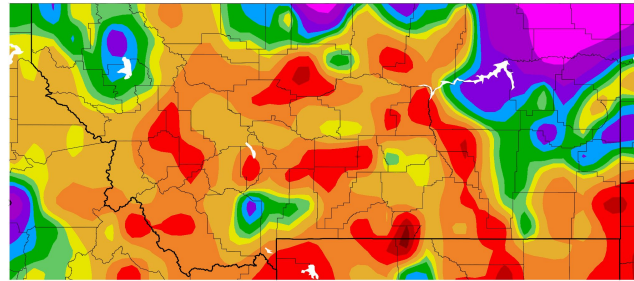
Precipitation (in)
11/12/2024 – 12/11/2024



Generated 12/12/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/12/2024 – 12/11/2024



Generated 12/12/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

- **Precipitation (in):** During the past month, Isolated portions of western MT received more than 4.0” of precipitation; however, the remainder of the state, generally, received less than 3.0” of moisture, with many areas receiving less than 0.5”.
- **Percent of Normal Precipitation (%):** The majority of the state has received below normal precipitation, with much of eastern MT, and isolated areas of northwestern, north central and southwest/south central MT included in the above normal range.

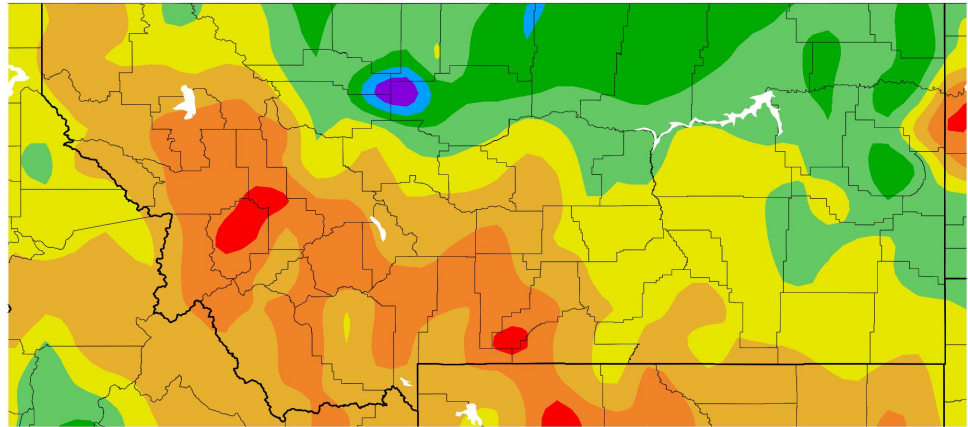




Temperature

Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 11/12/2024 – 12/11/2024

- Generally, from northwestern MT, through portions of central and southwestern MT, and continuing southeastward across southern MT, temperatures were 2F or more above normal, with an isolated portion of far northeastern MT, recorded as 2F or more above normal, as well.
- Most of north central, and northeastern MT, as well as, portions of central and southeastern MT are recorded as cooler than normal.



Generated 12/12/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

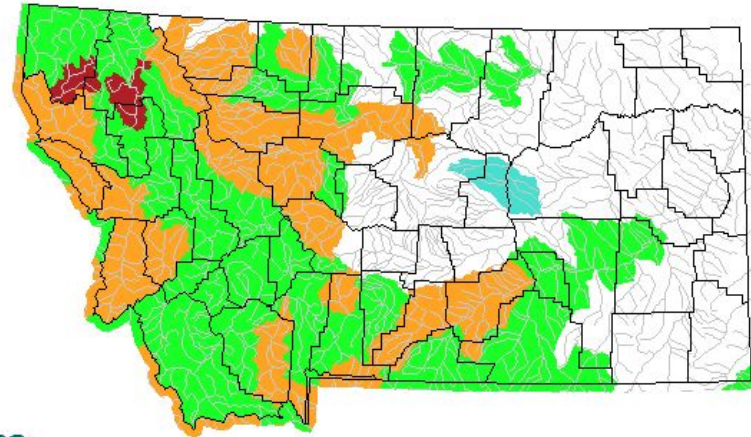




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

- **Above Normal:** There is an area of above normal average streamflow within a portion of the Missouri Main Stem Basin.
- **Below Normal:** Areas of, “below normal,” stream flow continue across portions of western, north central, central and southern MT, with isolated areas of, “much below normal,” streamflow impacting the Kootenai and Flathead Basins.



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		

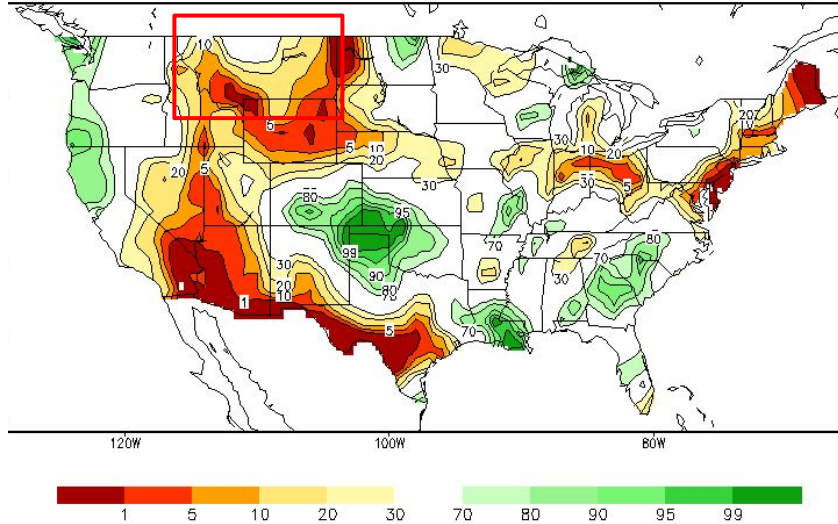
Image Caption: USGS 7-day Average Streamflow HUC Map, valid: December 11, 2024





Agricultural Impacts

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
DEC 11, 2024



The Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile resides in the lower range across most of the state, with portions of northern MT included in the 30 to 70 percentile range.

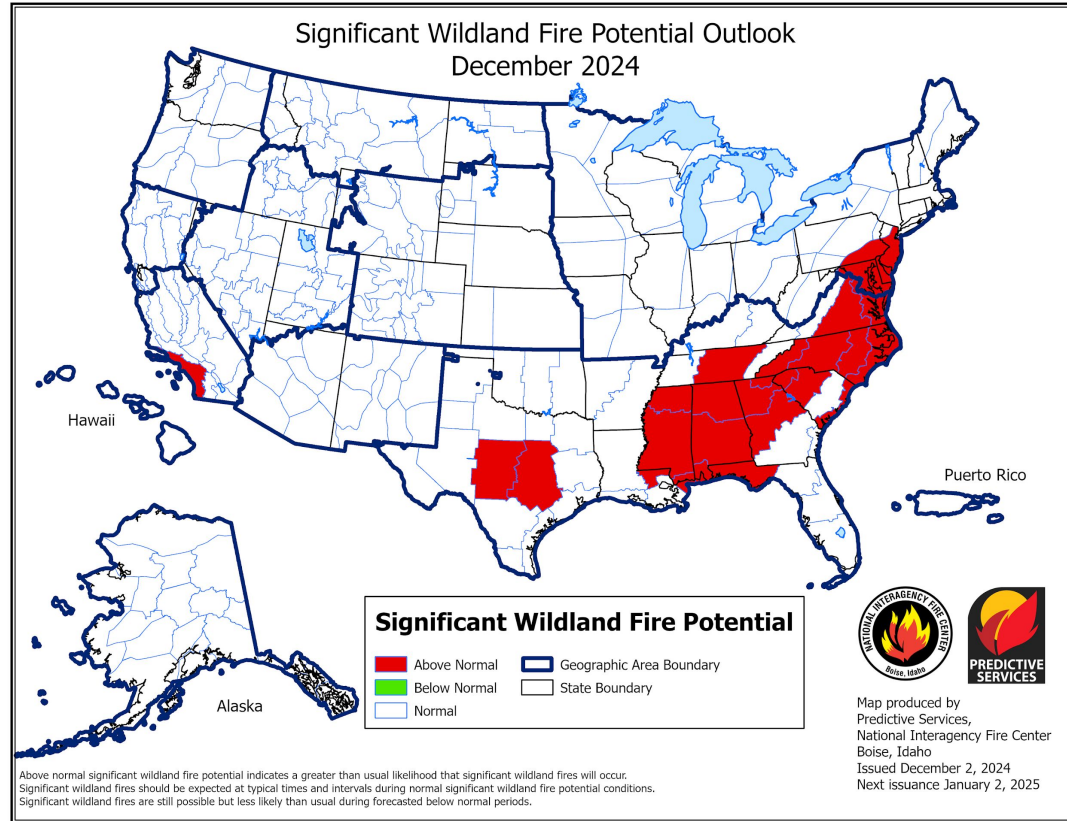




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

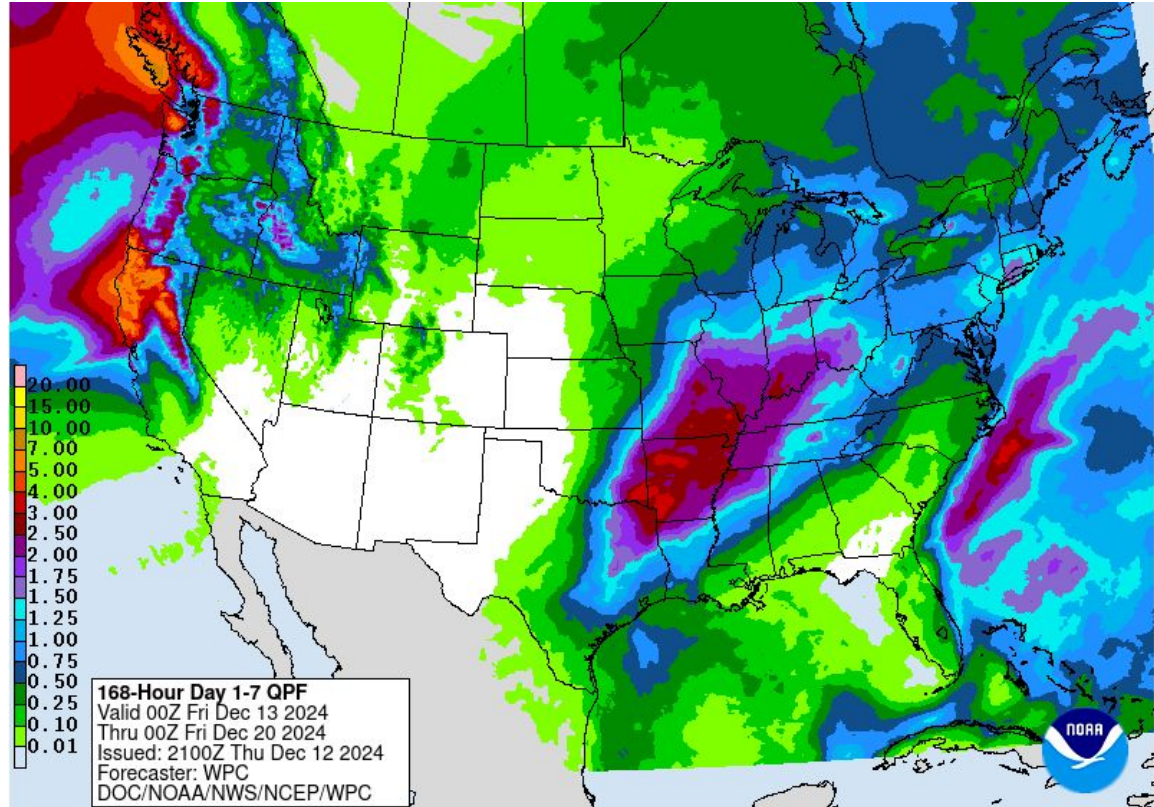
- This month, we continue in an area of normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- During the week of, December 13 - 20, 2024, Montana forecast precipitation values, generally, range from 0.01" to 0.25", with some isolated areas forecast to receive up to 0.50". Some portions of The Great Divide may receive about 1.0" of liquid precipitation, during this period.





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

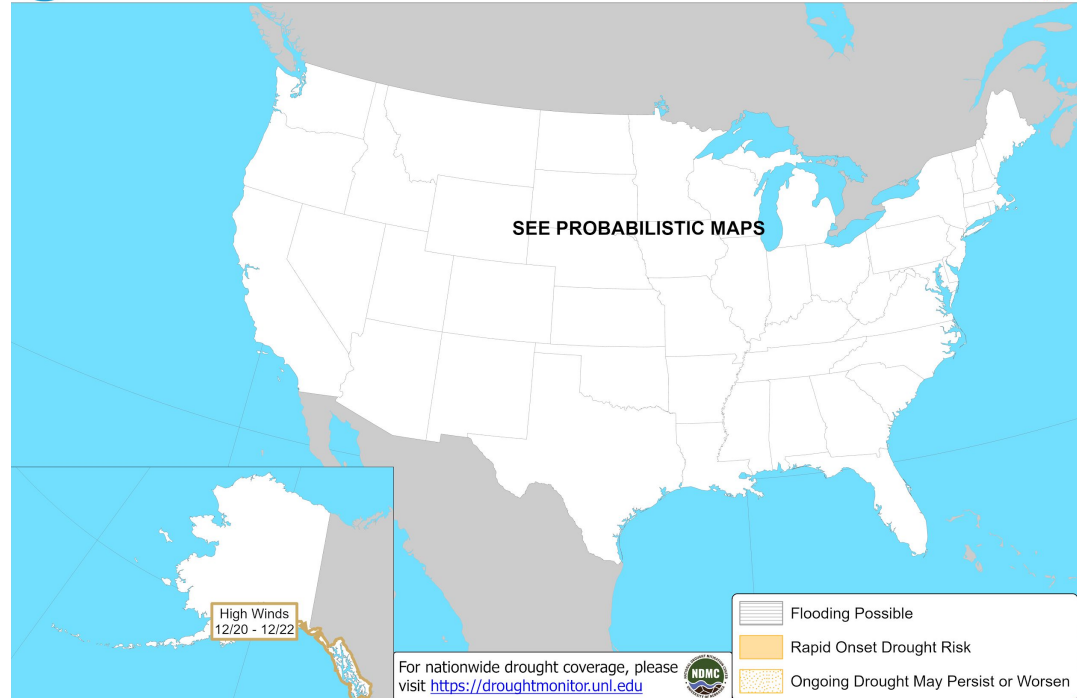
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- As of this time, no significant hazards are forecast to occur across The Treasure State from, December 20th to 26th.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: December 20 - 26, 2024



Climate Prediction Center

Released: December 12, 2024 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 December, the Temperature Outlook shows equal chances for above or below normal temperatures, statewide.

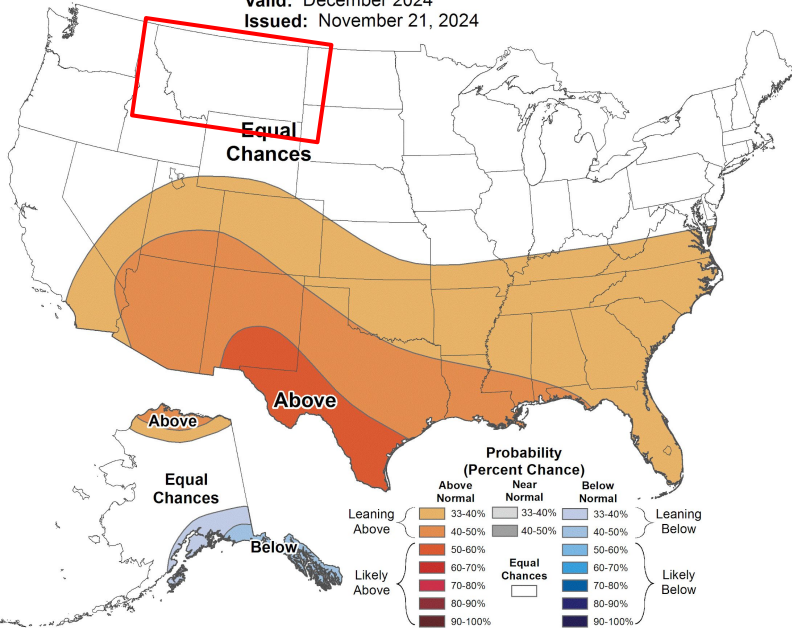
- The Precipitation Outlook shows better chances for above normal precipitation across the western half of the state, with equal chances for above or below normal precipitation across the eastern half.



Monthly Temperature Outlook



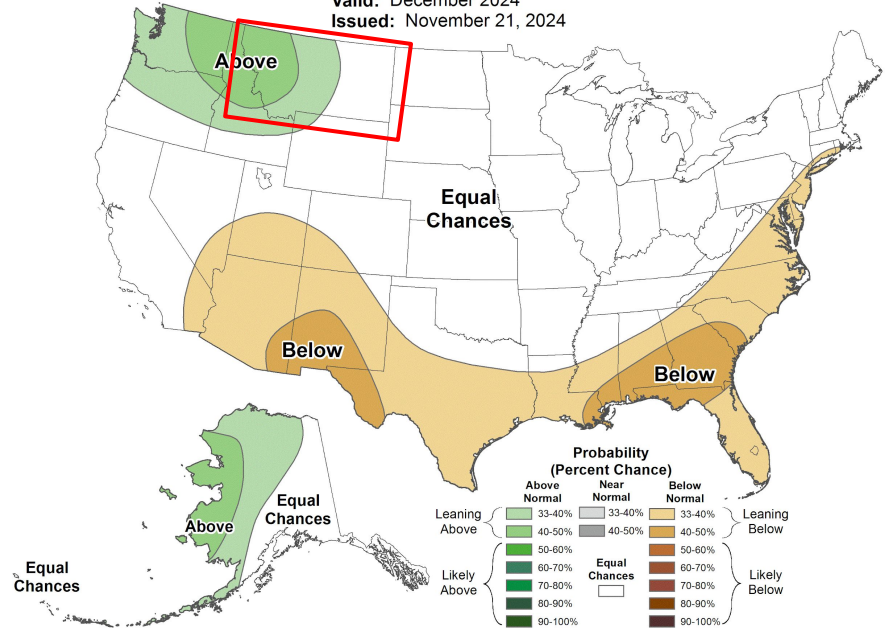
Valid: December 2024
Issued: November 21, 2024



Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Valid: December 2024
Issued: November 21, 2024





Drought Outlook

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

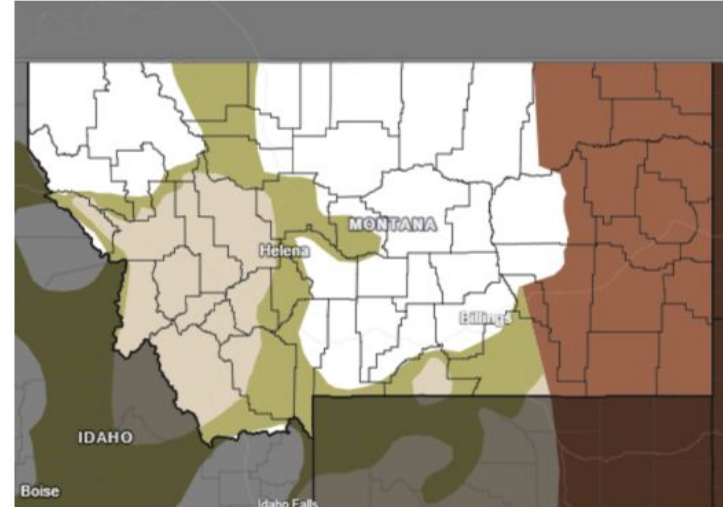
- **Persisting:** Drought conditions are predicted to persist across much of eastern MT.
- **Developing:** None
- **Improving:** Improving drought conditions cover portions of western/southwestern and central MT, with isolated improving conditions for portions of southern MT.
- **Ending:** Drought conditions 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>

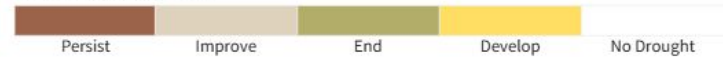
Links to the latest:

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

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 30, 2024–February 28, 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: 11/30/24

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.

Agricultural Impacts

- Ongoing impacts to crops and grasslands

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Although this is our cold season, winter fires do occur. Following fire safety practices continues to be relevant.

Other Impacts

- With extended periods when temperatures have trended warmer than normal and precipitation has not been sufficient to compensate for a dry October and November, drought conditions are slow to improve.

Mitigation Actions

- As temperatures get colder, river ice jams become a concern.
- The National Weather Service continues to make Impact-based Decision Support Services a top priority.

