

**Work Meeting Agenda**  
**Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee**  
**Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 9:00 a.m.**

**DNRC Headquarters, Montana Room, 1539 11th Avenue, Helena**

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Welcome – Lt. Governor Mike Cooney, Chair</b>
<b>9:10</b>	Drought Outlook & Transitions Update <b>Ada Montague</b> , DNRC Water Planner, Staff for Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee
<b>9:15</b>	Report from the National Weather Service <b>Don Britton</b> , Meteorologist in Charge, Great Falls, National Weather Service
<b>9:30</b>	Report on Stream Flows from the USGS <b>Kathy Chase</b> , USGS Hydrologist
<b>9:45</b>	Report on Wildfire <b>Bruce Suenram</b> , Deputy Chief, DNRC Fire and Aviation Management
<b>10:00</b>	Report on Reservoirs from the BOR <b>Stephanie Micek</b> , Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Area Office, Reservoir Operations
<b>10:10</b>	Agency Impact Reports and Discussion on Any Actions Needed <b>Committee Members</b>
<b>10:15</b>	Update from the City of Bozeman <b>Jessica Ahlstrom</b> , Water Conservation Technician
<b>10:30</b>	Presentation on Mesonet <b>Kelsey Jensco</b> , State Climatologist for Montana
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Lt. Governor Mike Cooney, Chair</b> Discussion on the Climate Office monitoring conditions for the state. Discussion on the Montana Drought Status by County Map
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., DNRC  
Headquarters, Montana Room, 1539 11th Avenue, Helena**

**STATE OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 6-2017**

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A DROUGHT DISASTER TO EXIST WITHIN  
CERTAIN COUNTIES AND INDIAN RESERVATIONS IN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

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**WHEREAS**, since on or about April 1, 2017, a widespread drought in eastern and central Montana has caused significant and widespread injury to agricultural crops, including livestock forage, imposing economic hardships on Montana's farmers and ranchers;

**WHEREAS**, on June 23, 2017, I issued Executive Order 5-2017, declaring a Drought Emergency to exist within the State of Montana and ordering the Directors of the Montana Departments of Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources and Conservation to fully assist any agent of the United States Department of Agriculture engaged in any activity that would provide for timely economic assistance to affected producers;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 5-2017 compelled the Directors of all other Departments of the State of Montana to fully cooperate with these efforts, and ordered the Montana Department of Transportation to temporarily suspend certain "hours of service" regulations and other rules that would otherwise impede the ability to transport livestock, forage, water, and agricultural implements;

**WHEREAS**, as also directed by Executive Order 5-2017, the Governor's Drought and Water Supply Committee continued to assess drought conditions and impacts in cooperation with the United States Departments of Agriculture and Commerce;

**WHEREAS**, subsequent to the issuance of Executive Order 5-2017, the loss of moisture in soils and vegetation have continued due to the absence of significant precipitation, sustained high temperatures, and desiccating winds, causing a severe worsening and expansion of drought conditions;

**WHEREAS**, fourteen Montana counties, Fort Peck, and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, are now classified as suffering from extreme drought as reported without dissent from the Governor's Drought and Water Supply Committee; with all or portions of an additional twelve counties and the Northern Cheyenne, Crow, and Rocky Boy Indian Reservation now classified as in severe drought status;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Mont. Code. Ann. §§ 10-3-104 and 10-3-303, the Governor has authority to declare a disaster when there is an occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage including drought, and may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or orders or rules of any state agency if the strict

compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency or disaster;

**WHEREAS**, the availability and use of all necessary state government services, equipment, and supplies under this declaration will further the ability to protect and natural and agricultural resources and economic interests of the people of the State of Montana; and

**WHEREAS**, relieving “hours of service” requirements for commercial motor carrier vehicles in Montana, provided for in Mont. Code Ann. § 61-10-154 and A.R.M. § 18.8.1502, will assist Montanans by reducing restrictions on the transport of livestock, forage, water, and agricultural implements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK**, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, Mont. Code Ann., and under other applicable statutes, do hereby declare a drought disaster as defined in Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-103 and 10-3-303, to exist within **Blaine, Big Horn, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley, Yellowstone and Wibaux Counties and the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Rocky Boy Indian Reservation, Crow Indian Reservation, and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation** and order as follows:

- 1) The Directors of the Montana Departments of Agriculture, Livestock, and Natural Resources and Conservation shall compel maximum employee assistance and cooperation with any agent of the United States Departments' of Agriculture and Commerce engaged in collecting information related to drought impacts to include soil conditions, loss of crops and forage, loss of income, and impacts to livestock producers, for the purpose of securing timely economic assistance;
- 2) The Director of the Montana Department of Transportation shall continue to temporarily suspend “hours of service” regulations, as provided in A.R.M. 18.8.1502 (incorporating by reference 49 C.F.R. part 395), as they apply to drivers of commercial vehicles while transporting livestock, forage, water, and agricultural implements.

Allow baled livestock feed with a destination within the **thirty** drought-affected counties or Indian Reservations listed in this Order shall be allowed to be transported during daylight hours and at night two hours before sunrise and two hours after sunset, in vehicles up to 12 feet in width and 15 feet in height and that exceed the statutory limits of weight by 20 percent, provided that the manufactures’ rated capacity for the vehicle, axle or tires is not exceeded, on all highways in the state except those that are part of the Federal aid interstate system.

Commercial vehicle carriers, while under this Order, may not require or allow fatigued drivers to operate a motor vehicle; and

- 3) The Directors of other Departments of the State of Montana shall fully cooperate with these efforts; and
- 4) The Governor's Drought and Water Supply Committee shall continue to assess drought conditions and impacts and make recommendations regarding further actions that would protect the welfare of the citizens of the State of Montana.

This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State

# Interagency Fire Information

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July 17, 2017 –11:00 p.m.

Contact: Office of Emergency Services Information Line 406-758-2111

<https://www.facebook.com/FlatheadOES>



## Current Fire Danger: Very High

### Flathead National Forest

#### Active Fires:

- Emery Ridge
  - Started July 16, .1 acres, lightning caused, resources on scene
- Gregg
  - Started July 16, .25 acres, lightning caused, resources on scene
- Devil Creek
  - started July 13, .1 acres, human caused, controlled
- Moose Creek
  - started July 7, 7 acres, lightning caused, controlled

### MT DNRC

#### Active Fires:

- West Brown Meadow
  - Started July 15, .1 acres, lightning caused, on patrol
- South McGregor
  - Started July 15, .2 acres, lightning caused, on patrol
- East Ashley
  - Started July 14, .2 acres, human caused, on patrol
- Lemonade
  - Started July 12, .1 acres, lightning caused, on patrol
- Rogers Mountain – Lazier Creek 3
  - Started July 8, this is a group of five fires located in the Highway 2 corridor, managed by a Type II management team, for detailed information visit the website <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5352/> or call (406) 298-5802

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U.S. Department of  
Interior



National Park Service

U.S. Department of  
Agriculture



Forest  
Service

Montana



County Fire Wardens  
Association

Flathead County  
Montana



Office of Emergency  
Services

State of  
Montana



Department of Natural  
Resources and  
Conservation

# Interagency Fire Information

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## Glacier National Park

- Quartz
  - Started July 14, .1 acres, lightning caused, on patrol

## Flathead County Fire Service Area

No Active Fires to report

## Fire Restrictions

At this time, campfires are banned on Weyerhaeuser property lands in Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Missoula, Sanders and Ravalli counties due to very high fire danger.

Interagency Fire Officials will continue to monitor conditions, and look closely at the number of human caused fire starts to determine if fire restrictions need to be ordered and put in place in the greater Flathead area.

## Media Inquiries

For media inquiries related to a specific fire, contact the appropriate agency from the contacts listed below:

Flathead National Forest: Janette Turk (406-758-5252)

MT DNRC: Nicole Stickney (406-250-4825)

Glacier National Park: Lauren Alley (406-888-5838)

Flathead County Office of Emergency Services: Rick Sacca (406-249-6913)

**Since July 1 there have been a total of 86 reported wildfires in the area. While many were lightning caused, at least half of these were human caused.**

**Fire Prevention Message:** As the forecast continues to call for warm, dry weather, local firefighting resources will continue to be stretched thin. Recent lightning activity in the area has added to the need for resources. The public is encouraged to do their part in preventing human caused fires to help local agencies focus efforts on those non preventable incidents.

*Want to know more about fire activity in Northwestern Montana? Check out Inciweb at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov> by clicking on recent or open incidents.*

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U.S. Department of  
Interior



National Park Service

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Services

State of  
Montana



Department of Natural  
Resources and  
Conservation

# Fire Information

July 17, 2017 – 1300.

Contact: Mark Jacobsen (406) 233-2831

Thunderstorms in the eastern part of MT this afternoon with gusty winds. Predicted thunderstorms moving west to east overnight will become increasingly wet east of Billings. Today mid 80's-low 90's. Warming over the week. Humidity in the teens to 20 percent. Details available online at: <http://bit.ly/2uw4JQN>.

Here is the latest status on fires in Eastern Montana & Western South Dakota:

**Rock Butte Fire: On private land in Harding County, SD.**

Acreage pending. Located 16 miles NE of Camp Crook. BLM and local resources on scene.

**Benny Spring Fire: 2 acres on USFS land in Carter County, MT.**

Located 8 miles W of Camp Crook, SD. BLM resources on scene; contained & controlled today at 1213.

**Maxwell Butte Fire: 600 acres on private land in Custer County, MT.**

Located 42 miles SE of Miles City. Federal and County resources on scene.

**Turtle Fire: 1,000 acres, located 3 miles south of Ashland, MT.**

Federal resources on scene.

**Cook Fire: 2.1 acres on USFS land in Powder River County, MT.**

Located 5 miles NE of Ashland. Federal resources on scene.

**Rough Fire: 10 acres on State land in Rosebud County, MT.**

Located 11 miles SW of Colstrip. BLM resources on scene.

**Fire 214 Smoke Check: On private land in Rosebud County, MT.**

Located approximately 12 miles SW of Colstrip. Count resources responding.

**Bridge Fire: 4.5 acres on private land in Garfield County, MT.**

Located 49 miles W of Jordan. BLM and county resources on scene.

**Wells Fire: 1 acre on private land in Custer County, MT.**

County resources on scene.

**Downey Fire: 5 acres on BLM land in Rosebud County, MT.**

Located 9 miles NE of Lame Deer. BLM and County resources on scene.



U.S. Department of the Interior



Bureau of Indian Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

U.S. Department of the Interior



Fish and Wildlife Service

State of South Dakota



State Division of Wildland Fire

State of Montana



Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Montana



County Fire Wardens Association

# Fire Information

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**Baseline Fire: 200 acres on private land in Rosebud County, MT.**

Located 12 miles SW of Colstrip. Federal and county resources on scene.

Some counties, state and federal lands may have fire bans and restrictions in place. Go to the national fire restrictions site for current information at [firerestrictions.us](http://firerestrictions.us). Remember the smallest spark has the potential to cause significant damage, so do your part to prevent wildfires.

*Want to know about Fire Activity in Eastern Montana and Northwest South Dakota? Check out our WildWeb at: <http://www.wildcad.net/WCMT-MCC.htm> by clicking on Recent or Open incidents.*

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U.S. Department of the Interior



Bureau of Indian Affairs

U.S. Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of Agriculture



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Fish and Wildlife Service

State of South Dakota



State Division of Wildland Fire

State of Montana



Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Montana



County Fire Wardens Association



STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION  
**MONTANA DIVISION OF FORESTRY**  
2705 Spurgin Road  
Missoula, Montana 59804

**Montana Wildfire Situation Report**

Monday, July 17, 2017

<b>Preparedness Level:</b>	Northern Rockies	4	National	4
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The Northern Rockies Area has had 57 new fires (6 BIA, 5 BLM, 10 local county/local government, 26 FS, 3 ID, 7 MT) totaling 3,304 acres in the last 24 hours. Of the 27 new fires 3 are new large fire incidents for a total of 9 uncontained large fires in Northern Rockies Area. Four Type 2 Incident Management Teams and one Type 1 Incident Management Team are committed in the area.

County/local government, state, and federal fire crews are keeping busy with initial attack. All the zones within the Northern Rockies Area are doing good keeping up with the fire demands. The area is not experiencing any resource shortages now.

**DNRC Fire Situation**

**Eastern Land Office:** 25 fire this past week, conditions are dry and fire danger is extreme. Largest new fire is the Maxwell Butte Fire, 600 acres on private land in Custer County, MT. This fire is located 42 miles SE of Miles City. Federal and county resources on scene.

**Southern Land Office:** 6 fires this past week. Largest new fire is the 10 Miles Fire burning on the Crow Reservation, 500 acres, located 20 miles west of St. Xavier. The DNRC is assisting local and federal resources with initial attack when needed. Fire danger is very high.

**Northeastern Land Office:** 60 fires reported this past week. Largest new fire is the Four Buttes Fire, 200 acres, north of Scobey. Due to the high fire danger DNRC engines are being staffed in Lewistown, Zortman, and Glasgow. 50% of the fires are human-caused, primarily started by equipment.

**Central Land Office:** 22 fires this past week. Fire activity has increased since 7/14, due to lightning. DNRC has assisted the City of Helena with new fire starts within Helena city limits.

Lookout Fire Central Land Office, MT-DNRC. 390 acres; started 7/15; 0% contained; Type 1 IMT is in place (IC Turman). Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 7 miles NW of Sieben, MT. Timber (grass and understory). Active fire behavior.

Flat Creek Fire 100 acres, 3 outbuildings burned, DNRC provided mutual aid to local government.

Highway 435 Fire 1000 acres, DNRC provided mutual aid to local government, fire is currently in mop-up phase.

**Northwestern Land Office:** 14 fires this past week. Largest new fire this week is the Burke Lane Fire, 2 acres, within Columbia Falls city limits, DNRC provided mutual aid. Fire danger is high.

Lazier Creek 3 / Rogers Mtn. Fire Northwest Land Office, MT-DNRC. 1,145 acres; started 7/8; 70% contained; Type 2 IMT (Thomson IC); 436 personnel. Team will look to turn fire back over to local unit on 7/19. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 38 miles NE of Thompson Falls, MT. Timber (grass and understory). Minimal fire behavior with creeping and smoldering. The

team is also managing the Rogers Mountain Fire, 78 ac (90%). For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5352/>.

**Southwestern Land Office:** 15 fires this past week, 3 were human-caused. The largest fire for DNRC was the Pattee Fire, 1.5 acres. Current fire danger is very high. DNRC is working closely with the Lolo National Forest on the Sliderock Fire and provided assistance to county resources for the Kelly Island Fire (18 acres). Railroad and vehicles are the human-caused fire concerns at this time.

### Other Large Fire Incidents

**Whetstone Ridge Fire** - Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF. 371 acres; started 7/13; 0% contained, Type 3 IMT in place (IC Hutton); 36 personnel. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 25 miles SW of Philipsburg, MT. Timber (litter and understory) and heavy logging slash. Active fire behavior with group torching, short crown runs and spotting. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5363/>.

**Sliderock Fire** - Lolo NF. 185 acres; started 7/13; 0% contained; Type 2 IMT in place (Leach, IC); 107 personnel. Full suppression and point zone protection management strategy. Lightning caused, located 28 miles SE of Missoula, MT. Timber (litter, grass and understory) and closed timber. Active fire behavior with single tree torching, creeping and smoldering. BPA powerlines, historic lookout, communications site and other structures threatened. Evacuations, road and trail closures in effect. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5364/>.

**Park Creek Fire** - Helena-Lewis and Clark NF. 1,455 acres; started 7/14; 0% contained; Type 2 IMT in place (Hutton, IC); 99 personnel. Full suppression and point zone protection management strategy. Lightning caused, located 2 miles N of Lincoln, MT. Timber (litter and understory). Active fire behavior with uphill runs, short crown runs and short-range spotting. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5367/>.

**Blue Ridge Complex** - Miles City Field Office, BLM. 3,034 acres; started 7/11; 85% contained; Type 4 IMT in place (IC Breninger); 74 personnel. Full suppression management strategy. Unknown cause, located 39 miles NW of Jordan, MT. Hardwood litter, timber (grass and understory), and brush (2 feet). Complex includes: the Russell, Curry and Westholder fires which burned together 2,848 ac (85%), 5011 201 ac (85%) and Germaine 34 ac (100%). Minimal fire behavior with smoldering. Anticipated containment 07/17. No new information received. Last report unless significant activity occurs. For more information visit <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5355/>.

**July Fire** - Lewistown Field Office, BLM. 11,699 acres; started 7/3; 95% contained; Type 2 IMT will close out today and turn fire back over to local unit; 39 personnel. Full suppression management strategy. Human caused, located on the SW edge of Zortman, MT. Timber (litter, grass and understory) and short grass (1 foot). Minimal fire behavior. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

**North Delphia Fire** - Musselshell County, MT. 3,700 acres; started 7/14; 90% contained; resources being demobilized today and fire will be turned back over to local resources. Full suppression management strategy. Lightning caused, located 15 miles NE of Roundup, MT. Timber (grass and understory). Minimal fire behavior.

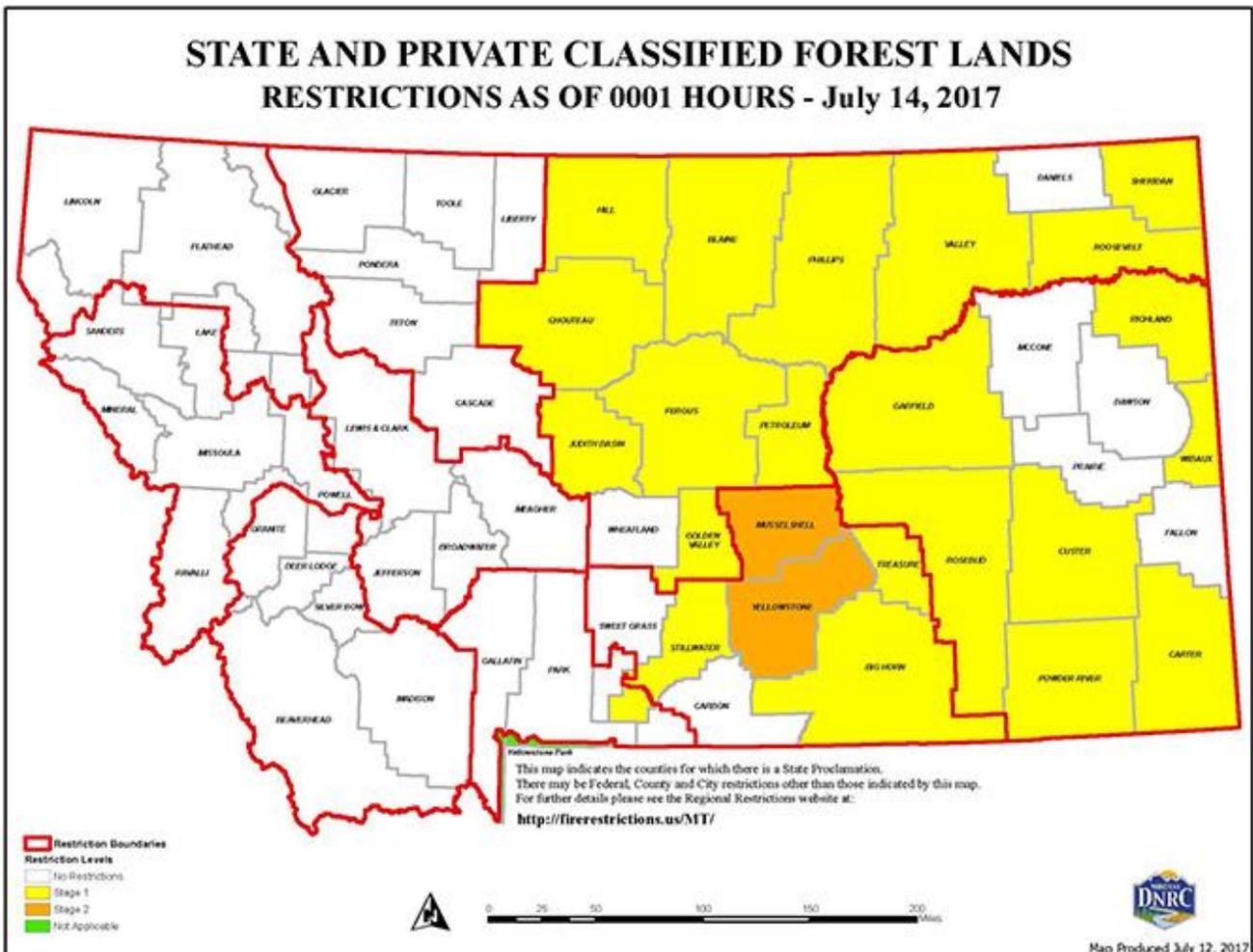
### Fire Information

<b>Fire &amp; Aviation Management Bureau</b>	Crystal Beckman	406-542-4251
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### Links to Other Information

<b>Montana Fires on Inciweb</b>	<a href="http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/27/">http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/state/27/</a>
<b>Wildfire Smoke Update</b>	<a href="http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/smokereport/mostrecentupdate.aspx">http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/smokereport/mostrecentupdate.aspx</a>

<b>Fire Weather Watches/Warnings</b>	<a href="http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm">http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm</a>
<b>Montana Weather</b>	<a href="http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm">http://gacc.nifc.gov/nrcc/predictive/weather/weather.htm</a>
<b>Northern Rockies 7 Day Fire Potential</b>	<a href="http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/forecast/#/outlooks?state=sideBySide&amp;gacclid=5">http://psgeodata.fs.fed.us/forecast/#/outlooks?state=sideBySide&amp;gacclid=5</a> (if link does not open, cut and paste it into internet address bar)
<b>National Fire News</b>	<a href="http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm">http://www.nifc.gov/fireInfo/nfn.htm</a>
<b>National Situation Report</b>	<a href="http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf">http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf</a>
<b>Current Fire Restrictions in Montana</b>	Stage I Fire Restrictions in yellow. Stage II Fire Restrictions in orange.



## Stage I Fire Restrictions



**CAMPFIRES** and other fires are **prohibited** except in approved recreation sites, as designated on the fire prevention order. Liquid petroleum and LPG stoves that can be turned on and off are allowed.



**SMOKING** is **prohibited** outside of vehicles, buildings, and developed recreation sites, unless you are in a 3-foot-diameter area cleared of all burnable vegetation.

For more information about fire restrictions, go to:  
<http://firerestrictions.us/>



Please do your part to prevent unwanted wildland fires.

## Stage II Fire Restrictions



**CAMPFIRES** and other fires are **prohibited** everywhere. Liquid petroleum and LPG stoves that can be turned on and off are allowed.



**SMOKING** is **prohibited** outside of vehicles, buildings, and developed recreation sites, unless you are in a 3-foot-diameter area cleared of burnable vegetation.



**OPERATING** motorized vehicles off designated roads and trails is **prohibited**.



**OPERATING** any internal combustion engine, welding, operating a torch with open flame and using an explosive are **prohibited from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.** A 1-hour patrol following cessation of work is required.

# MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
**MONTANA FIELD OFFICE**  
 10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3100, Helena, MT 59626  
 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 July 17, 2017

Contact: Eric Sommer  
 (800) 835-2612

## CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 16, 2017

**AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY:** Another week of hot dry windy weather with very limited precipitation occurred for a majority of the state, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. High temperatures ranged from the lower 90s to middle 100 degrees and low temperatures ranged from 37 degrees in West Yellowstone to the lower 60s. The highest amount of precipitation was recorded in Pompey's Pillar with 0.55 of an inch of moisture while other stations recorded between zero and 0.54 of an inch of moisture. Crop conditions continue to deteriorate due to the hot dry weather. Soil moisture conditions continue to decline with 88 percent of topsoil rated very short to short and 80 percent of subsoil rated very short to short compared with 30 percent of topsoil last year rated of very short to short and 36 percent of subsoil last year rated very short to short. Winter harvested has started currently at 9 percent complete compared to 2 percent last year. Winter wheat condition is rated 69 percent fair to good compared with 61 percent last year rated good to excellent.

### CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
First cutting .....	83	65	96	91
Second cutting .....	13	11	NA	NA
Barley				
Headed .....	85	56	94	93
Coloring .....	12	NA	63	40
Camelina				
Emerged .....	85	80	NA	NA
Blooming .....	50	40	57	86
Coloring .....	3	--	NA	NA
Canola				
Emerged .....	95	90	100	NA
Blooming .....	61	57	NA	NA
Coloring .....	15	1	39	30
Corn				
Silking .....	10	8	NA	NA
Dry edible beans				
Blooming .....	93	90	NA	NA
Dry edible peas				
Harvested .....	11	2	6	5
Durum wheat				
Boot stage .....	91	88	NA	NA
Headed .....	79	60	82	63
Flaxseed				
Blooming .....	95	80	89	80
Lentils				
Blooming .....	95	94	NA	NA
Harvested .....	4	NA	3	4
Mustard seed				
Blooming .....	76	69	NA	NA
Coloring .....	2	--	46	36
Oats				
Boot stage .....	96	93	NA	NA
Headed .....	76	61	93	82
Other hay				
First cutting .....	80	60	95	85
Second cutting .....	1	1	NA	NA
Potatoes				
Emerged .....	95	91	NA	NA
Safflower				
Planted .....	95	90	100	100
Emerged .....	80	75	NA	NA
Blooming .....	25	20	60	67
Spring wheat				
Boot stage .....	93	89	NA	NA
Headed .....	84	60	88	82
Winter wheat				
Coloring .....	93	70	95	80
Harvested for grain .....	9	1	2	3

NA – not available  
 (--) – zero

**DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION**

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	6.7	6.9	4.6	6.2
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	59	62	10	15
Short.....	29	27	20	35
Adequate.....	12	11	59	45
Surplus.....	--	--	11	5
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	34	37	10	13
Short.....	46	42	26	33
Adequate.....	20	20	58	49
Surplus.....	--	1	6	5

NA – not available

(--) – zero

**CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION<sup>1</sup>**

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Barley				
Very poor.....	8	10	1	3
Poor.....	15	19	4	8
Fair.....	38	41	33	34
Good.....	30	21	40	40
Excellent.....	9	9	22	15
Corn				
Very poor.....	5	7	--	1
Poor.....	10	14	2	5
Fair.....	50	58	31	33
Good.....	29	20	52	47
Excellent.....	6	1	15	14
Dry edible peas				
Very poor.....	13	19	2	3
Poor.....	29	29	4	5
Fair.....	42	36	32	30
Good.....	13	11	49	47
Excellent.....	3	5	13	15
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	28	37	2	5
Poor.....	29	28	3	7
Fair.....	36	31	44	34
Good.....	6	3	46	48
Excellent.....	1	1	5	6
Lentils				
Very poor.....	25	31	2	5
Poor.....	26	25	4	8
Fair.....	42	39	38	35
Good.....	6	4	48	47
Excellent.....	1	1	8	5
Oats				
Very poor.....	21	22	1	3
Poor.....	26	24	4	7
Fair.....	35	36	28	32
Good.....	15	16	61	50
Excellent.....	3	2	6	8
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	30	23	10	11
Poor.....	28	28	16	18
Fair.....	21	28	36	33
Good.....	19	18	33	31
Excellent.....	2	3	5	7
Spring wheat				
Very poor.....	31	33	1	2
Poor.....	30	29	4	6
Fair.....	23	27	30	32
Good.....	12	8	50	48
Excellent.....	4	3	15	12
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	8	7	2	2
Poor.....	15	17	7	9
Fair.....	47	50	30	28
Good.....	22	21	37	42
Excellent.....	8	5	24	19

<sup>1</sup>Current conditions for Camelina, Canola, Dry Edible Beans, Flaxseed, Mustard Seed, Potatoes, Safflower and Sugarbeets are available using the QuickStats on-line database at: [https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick\\_Stats/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/)

NA – not available

(--) – zero

Montana’s weather data can be accessed at the following:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Montana/Publications/Crop\\_Progress\\_&\\_Condition/2017/MT\\_Weather\\_07162017.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2017/MT_Weather_07162017.pdf)

**Montana Weather Data: Week Ending July 16, 2017**

Station	Temperature			GDDs		Precipitation							
	Hi	Low	Avg	B50	DFN	Weekly		Since April 1			Since October 1		
						Total	DFN	Total	DFN	%NRM	Total	DFN	%NRM
<b>NORTHWEST</b>													
Alberton.....	101	47	74	172	63	0.00	-0.28	3.61	-1.54	70	20.30	9.41	186
Corvallis.....	100	45	75	173	65	0.00	-0.21	4.36	-0.28	93	11.69	2.81	131
Creston.....	96	47	72	153	63	0.00	-0.47	5.35	-2.41	68	19.28	3.31	120
Deer Lodge.....	95	35	69	136	61	0.11	-0.24	5.42	0.73	115	8.35	1.25	117
Hamilton.....	98	50	74	171	66	0.00	-0.25	4.39	-0.37	92	11.94	1.26	111
Heron.....	93	43	68	130	41	0.00	-0.39	7.43	-0.72	91	38.29	8.5	128
Kalispell.....	98	43	70	143	57	0.00	-0.36	4.64	-1.43	76	18.35	4.48	132
Libby.....	97	53	76	179	118	0.00	-0.33	3.63	-2.69	57	19.71	-1.35	93
Missoula.....	101	49	76	182	73	0.00	-0.28	4.11	-1.04	79	13.96	3.07	128
Olney.....	98	43	70	139	64	0.00	-0.46	7.13	0.13	101	19.04	0.23	101
Polson.....	98	43	70	142	28	0.00	-0.32	4.24	-1.99	68	16.24	3.59	128
Saint Ignatius.....	101	51	76	182	72	0.00	-0.35	5.91	-0.89	86	14.60	1.6	112
Seeley Lake.....	98	41	70	142	62	0.00	-0.31	3.15	-2.49	55	12.69	-4.51	73
Superior.....	101	48	76	185	68	0.00	-0.28	3.95	-1.21	76	19.09	5.6	141
Thompson Falls.....	101	50	75	174	50	0.00	-0.32	4.27	-2.1	67	23.24	3.37	116
Yaak.....	97	38	68	126	33	0.00	-0.44	3.41	-4.92	40	25.09	-5.93	80
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Brady.....	99	55	76	184	70	0.06	-0.29	4.84	-0.72	87	10.45	1.85	121
Bynum.....	95	56	74	173	92	0.00	-0.39	6.17	-0.63	90	10.48	0.38	103
Chester.....	102	46	74	168	59	0.00	-0.38	5.87	0.65	112	11.40	3.79	149
Chinook.....	102	44	74	171	46	0.00	-0.42	2.52	-3.64	40	7.79	-1.42	84
Choteau.....	96	48	71	151	43	0.00	-0.32	5.93	0.60	111	10.24	3.15	144
Cut Bank.....	97	46	72	155	70	0.00	-0.38	5.47	-0.67	89	8.36	-0.21	97
Dunkirk.....	97	46	73	164	72	0.00	-0.38	5.92	-0.52	91	9.42	-0.14	98
Fort Assiniboine.....	102	48	75	174	49	0.00	-0.43	1.69	-4.39	27	7.26	-2.04	78
Fort Benton.....	102	53	76	187	57	0.12	-0.21	6.16	-0.27	95	10.91	0.83	108
Fort Belknap.....	102	46	74	172	49	0.00	-0.48	1.78	-3.79	31	8.41	0.39	104
Goldbutte.....	93	53	73	164	72	0.00	-0.38	4.07	-2.37	63	7.10	-2.46	74
Havre.....	103	47	76	188	67	0.00	-0.35	1.68	-3.44	32	7.50	-0.72	91
Heart Butte.....	97	46	71	145	86	0.00	-0.43	5.09	-2.88	63	9.97	-13.51	42
Loma.....	102	49	76	184	55	0.05	-0.30	5.45	-0.61	89	11.93	2.39	125
Malta.....	98	61	79	206	80	0.00	-0.48	3.01	-3.37	47	11.08	1.76	118
Port of Morgan.....	99	47	75	176	55	0.00	-0.54	1.00	-4.58	17	9.22	1.95	126
Rudyard.....	99	49	75	174	64	0.00	-0.30	3.68	-1.45	71	8.11	1.16	116
Saco.....	97	57	75	180	57	0.00	-0.42	1.41	-4.22	25	8.62	0.11	101
Shelby.....	96	50	73	164	70	0.00	-0.31	6.08	0.20	103	10.88	2.06	123
Turner.....	99	50	75	176	68	0.00	-0.50	2.08	-3.56	36	8.38	0.51	106
Zortman.....	94	60	76	186	63	0.10	-0.39	3.86	-2.98	56	13.04	2.91	128
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Bredette.....	101	53	76	184	57	0.00	-0.63	1.62	-4.77	25	6.43	-2.36	73
Brockway.....	104	54	79	206	70	0.00	-0.44	3.00	-2.81	51	5.66	-2.28	71
Circle.....	104	56	80	209	71	0.00	-0.49	2.29	-3.87	37	5.68	-3.70	60
Culbertson.....	101	55	79	201	64	0.00	-0.60	2.04	-4.63	30	5.87	-3.46	62
Glasgow.....	103	61	79	207	73	0.00	-0.44	1.23	-4.07	23	5.95	-1.90	75
Glendive.....	101	60	82	222	70	0.07	-0.39	3.44	-2.95	53	6.96	-2.63	72
Jordan.....	104	55	78	200	58	0.00	-0.43	1.60	-4.46	26	6.59	-2.77	70
Nashua.....	104	57	80	210	60	0.00	-0.55	1.20	-4.48	21	5.15	-2.79	64
Plentywood.....	100	52	74	170	44	0.00	-0.57	1.34	-4.91	21	8.14	-0.85	90
Saint Marie.....	101	60	79	203	69	0.00	-0.44	1.32	-3.98	24	4.31	-3.54	54
Savage.....	102	57	78	198	52	0.28	-0.29	2.09	-4.71	30	5.65	-4.21	57
Scobey.....	98	46	72	156	46	0.01	-0.53	2.17	-4.19	34	6.03	-2.58	70
Sidney.....	101	57	79	204	61	0.00	-0.56	3.45	-3.24	51	8.92	-1.22	87
Wolf Point.....	104	57	80	208	60	0.02	-0.47	1.46	-4.28	25	3.81	-4.57	45
<b>CENTRAL</b>													
Denton.....	95	51	73	162	72	0.00	-0.46	6.15	-1.00	86	11.25	0.67	106
Grass Range.....	96	54	76	180	73	0.00	-0.50	3.24	-4.79	40	11.29	-1.01	91
Great Falls.....	99	50	75	176	69	0.00	-0.35	7.62	0.97	114	12.38	1.33	112
Harlowton.....	99	48	74	169	66	0.00	-0.45	4.41	-2.45	64	9.02	-1.18	88
Helena.....	102	51	78	199	82	0.02	-0.33	3.31	-1.68	66	8.01	-0.10	98
Judith Gap.....	93	52	72	155	80	0.00	-0.53	5.67	-1.57	78	11.50	0.43	103
Lewiston.....	96	52	74	167	74	0.01	-0.51	5.93	-2.02	74	11.59	-1.61	87
Melstone.....	100	61	81	214	72	0.00	-0.42	3.75	-3.45	52	7.61	-3.73	67
Millegan.....	99	45	71	150	77	0.13	-0.43	8.13	0.40	105	14.85	1.29	109
Neihart.....	99	50	75	176	96	0.00	-0.56	5.91	-3.52	62	10.73	-5.07	67
Roundup.....	95	51	74	167	30	0.00	-0.42	6.69	0.34	105	14.16	4.55	147
Ryegate.....	98	52	75	179	68	0.10	-0.27	6.42	0.63	110	11.58	2.66	129
Stanford.....	93	50	75	175	72	0.00	-0.53	6.14	-1.83	77	11.70	-0.72	94
Townsend.....	94	48	74	168	58	0.25	-0.10	5.80	0.84	116	8.83	1.39	118
Valentine.....	102	54	77	193	76	0.00	-0.42	2.12	-4.24	33	8.82	-0.93	90
White Sulphur Springs.....	97	50	73	161	74	0.01	-0.38	5.27	-0.95	84	10.31	0.51	105
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>													
Boulder.....	95	50	73	160	66	0.30	-0.05	3.55	-1.62	68	6.20	-1.79	77
Bozeman.....	93	53	74	169	60	0.00	-0.38	8.91	0.27	103	18.14	3.06	120
Butte.....	93	45	69	138	57	0.02	-0.34	5.74	0.12	102	10.67	1.30	113
Dillon.....	95	50	73	161	65	0.02	-0.26	4.73	-0.21	95	8.15	1.00	113
Divide.....	102	51	77	191	118	0.01	-0.31	5.27	-0.16	97	9.61	0.74	108
Ennis.....	95	45	70	141	46	0.11	-0.24	5.12	-1.15	81	11.17	1.03	110
Logan.....	98	49	72	157	53	0.05	-0.28	8.14	1.38	120	13.19	1.78	115
Twin Bridges.....	95	50	73	160	65	0.01	-0.29	5.14	0.20	104	9.28	2.27	132
West Yellowstone.....	89	37	63	96	35	0.02	-0.44	5.10	-1.43	78	25.9	8.19	146
Wisdom.....	93	38	67	117	65	0.00	-0.30	6.46	1.57	132	12.38	3.45	138
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Big Timber.....	97	53	75	178	56	0.14	-0.27	7.78	0.03	100	16.88	4.28	133
Billings.....	100	61	81	215	68	0.00	-0.35	7.26	0.70	110	16.50	4.75	140
Busby.....	100	47	76	184	56	0.01	-0.33	4.86	-1.74	73	12.70	1.10	109
Gardiner.....	99	39	71	148	26	0.00	-0.28	2.89	-1.15	71	11.41	4.22	158
Hardin.....	102	54	79	203	49	0.00	-0.29	5.93	0.51	109	16.06	6.66	170
Huntley.....	100	54	77	193	64	0.00	-0.35	4.44	-1.90	70	12.35	1.65	115
Hysham.....	98	55	78	200	57	0.25	-0.10	4.64	-1.62	74	11.1	0.95	109
Joliet.....	99	50	73	164	40	0.03	-0.25	7.91	0.92	113	15.17	2.65	121
Livingston.....	99	48	74	169	57	0.00	-0.4	7.39	-0.02	99	14.07	2.20	118
Melville.....	99	49	71	151	78	0.06	-0.48	8.37	-0.07	99	15.31	2.11	115
Pompey's Pillar.....	100	52	77	189	46	0.55	0.23	3.27	-3.21	50	9.68	-1.19	89
Rapeeje.....	95	55	74										

# SBA loans available to small businesses affected by drought in Montana

Posted: Jul 05, 2017 3:00 PM MDT

Updated: Jul 05, 2017 3:00 PM MDT

By MTN News

GREAT FALLS - Small non-farm businesses in 13 Montana counties and three neighboring North Dakota counties are eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.



The loans are designed to offset economic losses because of reduced revenues caused by the drought in the following primary counties; the drought was formally declared on June 20:

Primary Montana counties: Daniels, Garfield, McCone, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley;

Neighboring Montana counties: Custer, Dawson, Petroleum, Phillips, Prairie, Richland and Rosebud;

Neighboring North Dakota counties: Divide, McKenzie and Williams.

Tanya Garfield, director of the SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center-West, said in a press release, "Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3.215 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years and are available to small businesses and most private nonprofits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship."

Garfield noted, "SBA eligibility covers both the economic impacts on businesses dependent on farmers and ranchers that have suffered agricultural production losses caused by the disaster and businesses directly impacted by the disaster."

Small non-farm businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private non-profit organizations of any size may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred, according to the press release from the SBA.

By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. The Secretary declared this disaster on June 28, 2017.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration. However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance in drought disasters.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

They may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for information on SBA disaster assistance.

Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for these loans is February 28, 2018.