

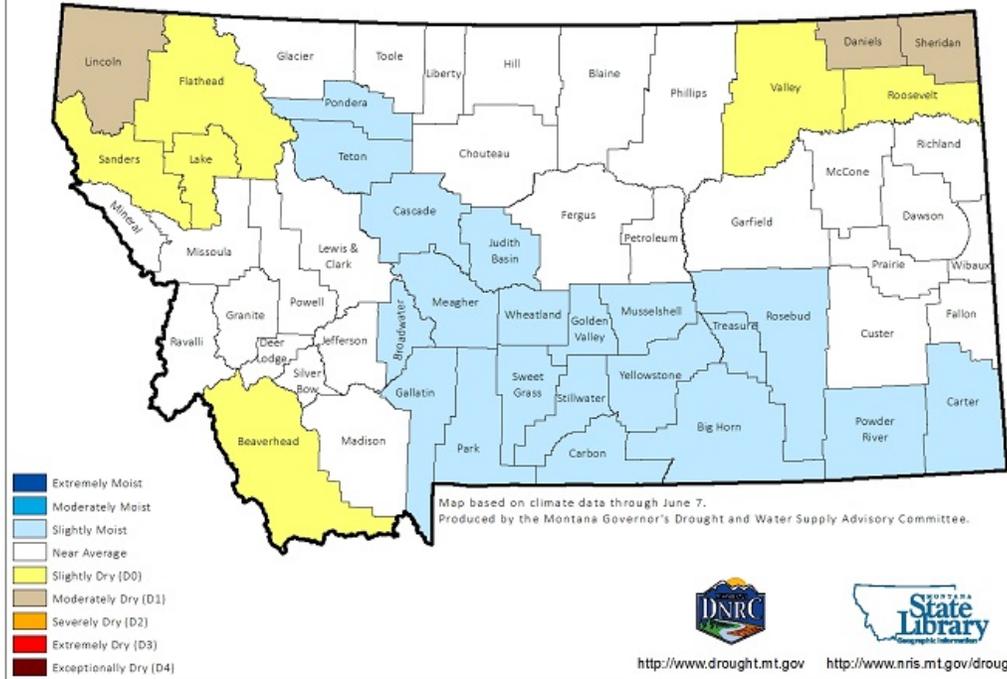
Montana Drought Status

Troy Blandford
Montana State Library

Prepared for the Montana Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee, July 22, 2019

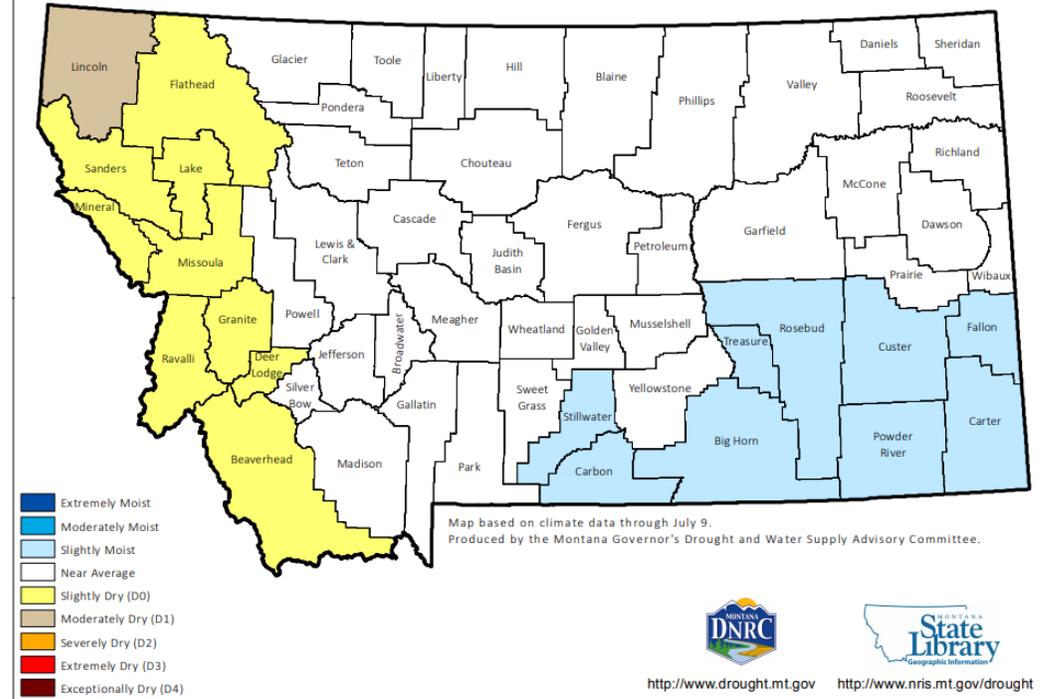
June

Montana Drought Status by County - June 10, 2019

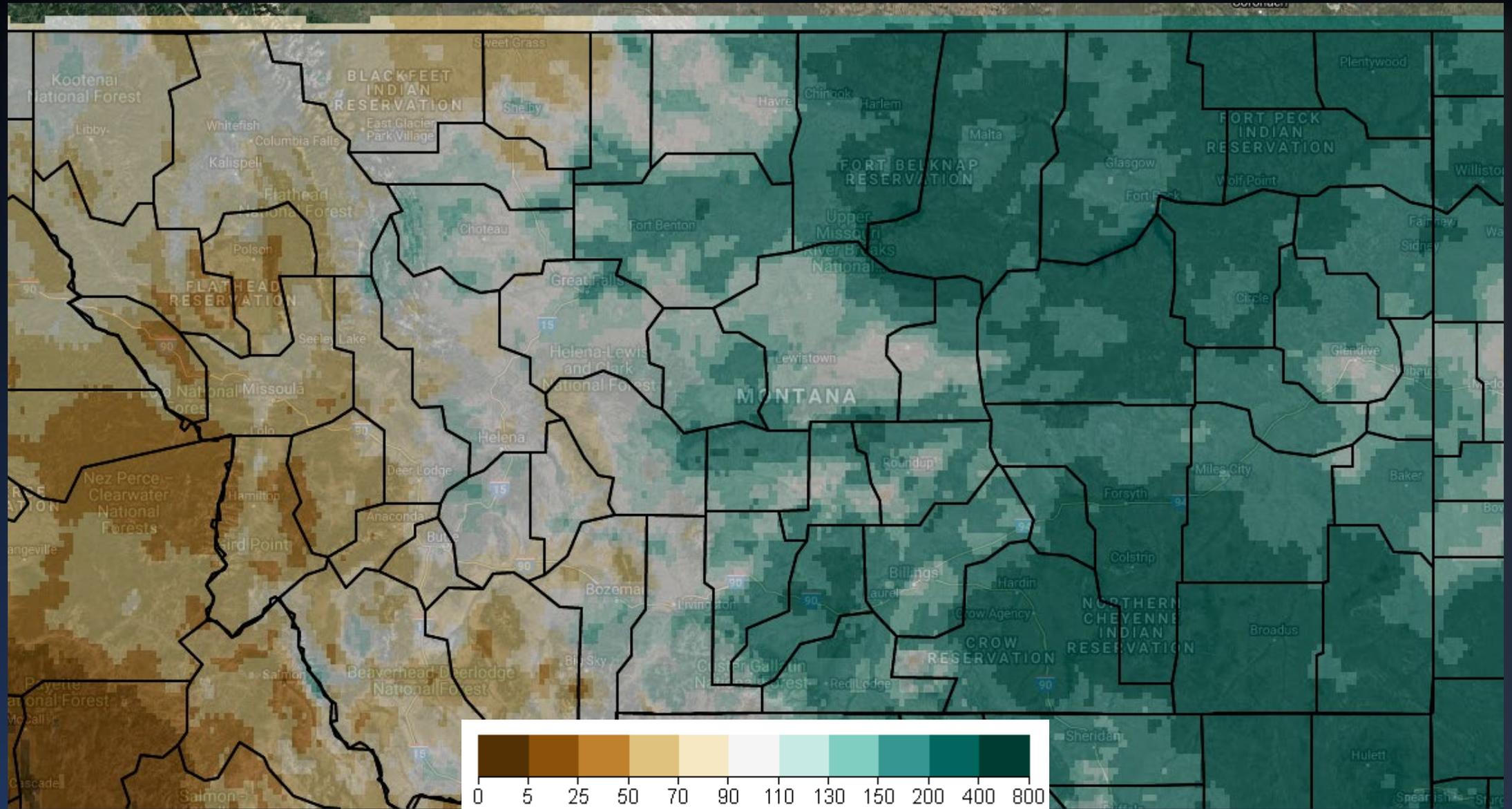


July

Montana Drought Status by County - July 11, 2019

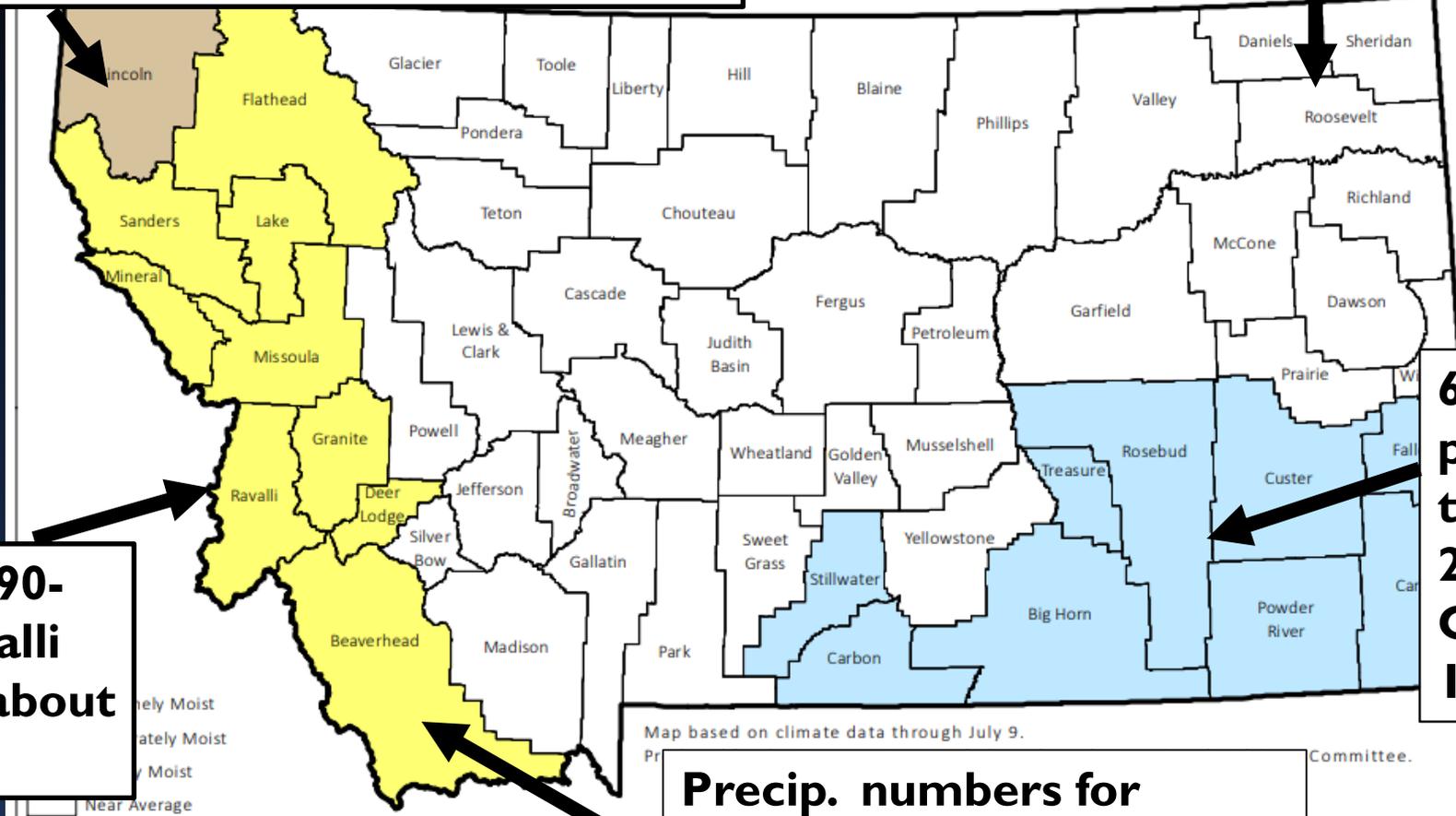


Percent of average precipitation June 10 to July 11



30-day precipitation in NW is close to normal, but longer ranges are below. 28-day avg. streamflow are around the 20th percentile.

In the NE, growing season precip through June 15 was < 50%. Now, it is 120+%.



County-average 90-day SPEI for Ravalli and Lincoln are about the same (-0.8).

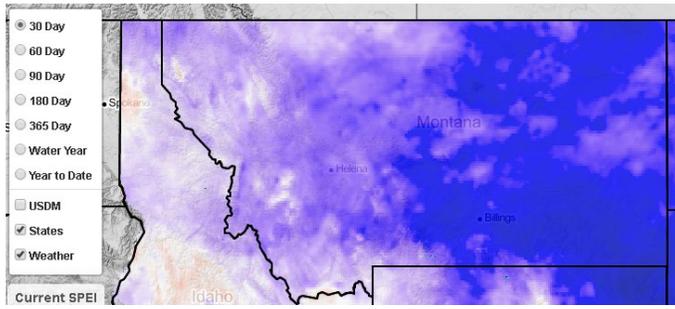
60-day precipitation in the SW is 140% to 200+% of normal. Growing season is 150%+

Precip. numbers for Beaverhead County have recently improved.

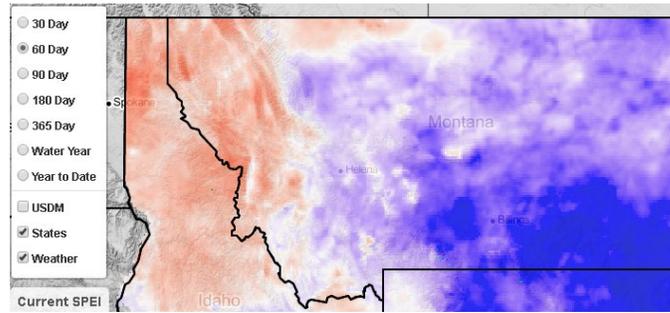
- Near Average
- Slightly Dry (D0)
- Moderately Dry (D1)
- Severely Dry (D2)
- Extremely Dry (D3)
- Exceptionally Dry (D4)

Map based on climate data through July 9.

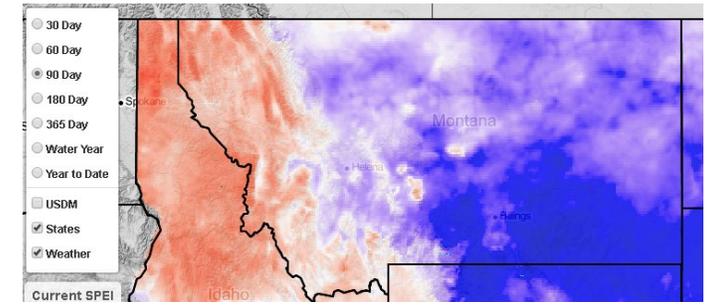




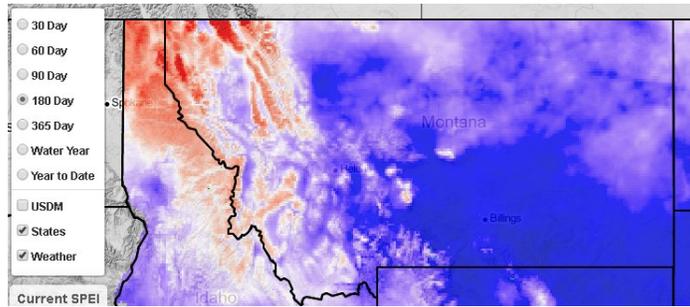
30-Day SPEI



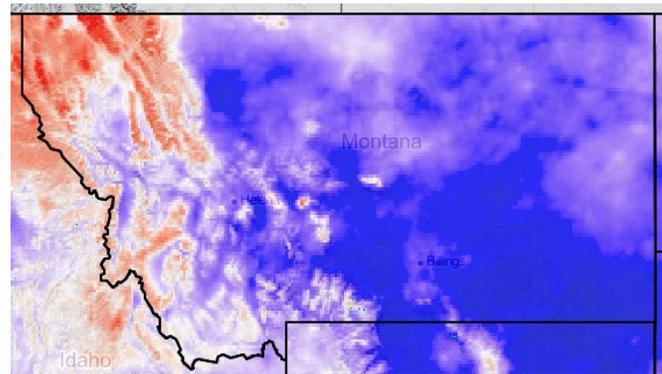
60-Day SPEI



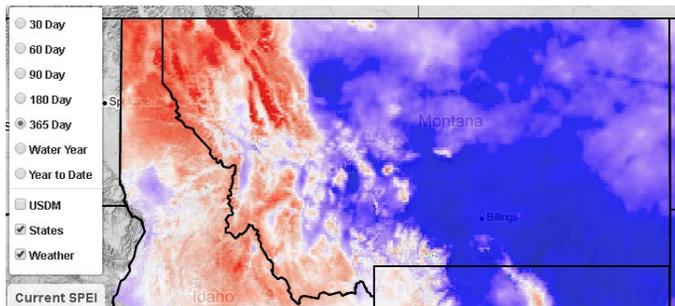
90-Day SPEI



180-Day SPEI



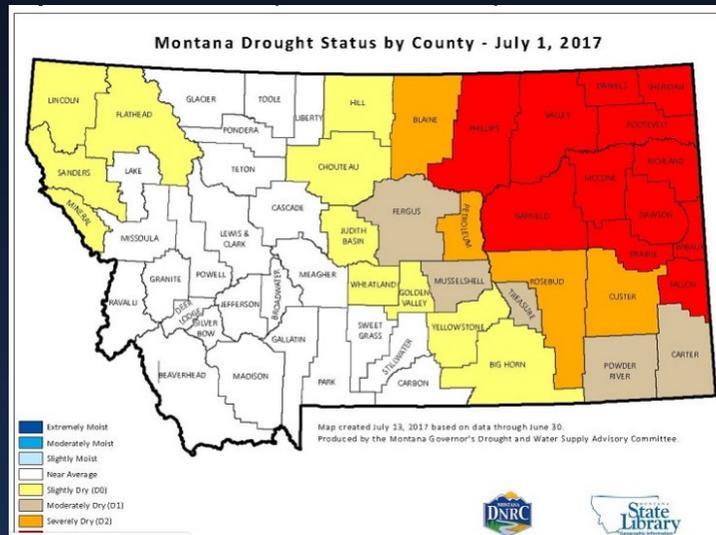
Water Year SPEI



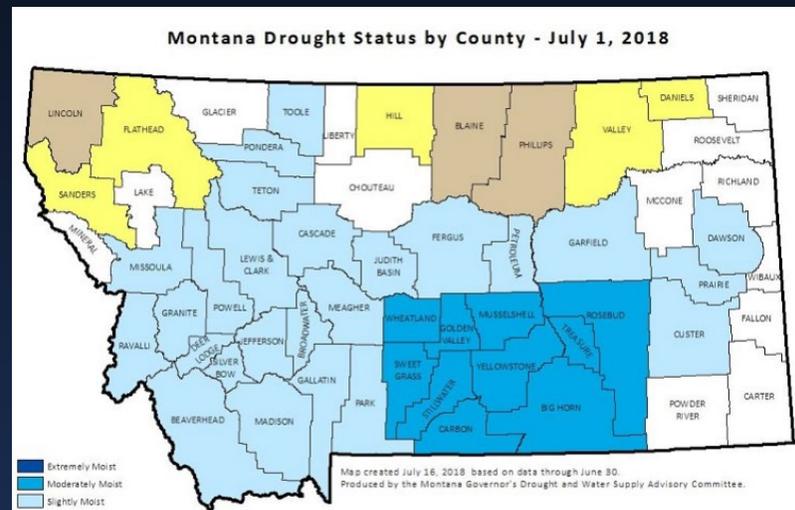
365-Day SPEI

New product in
development at
the Montana
Climate Office

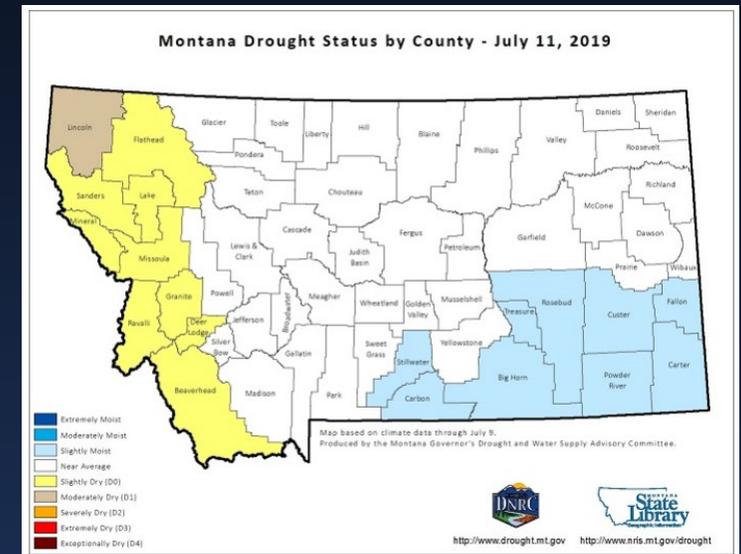
July 2017



July 2018

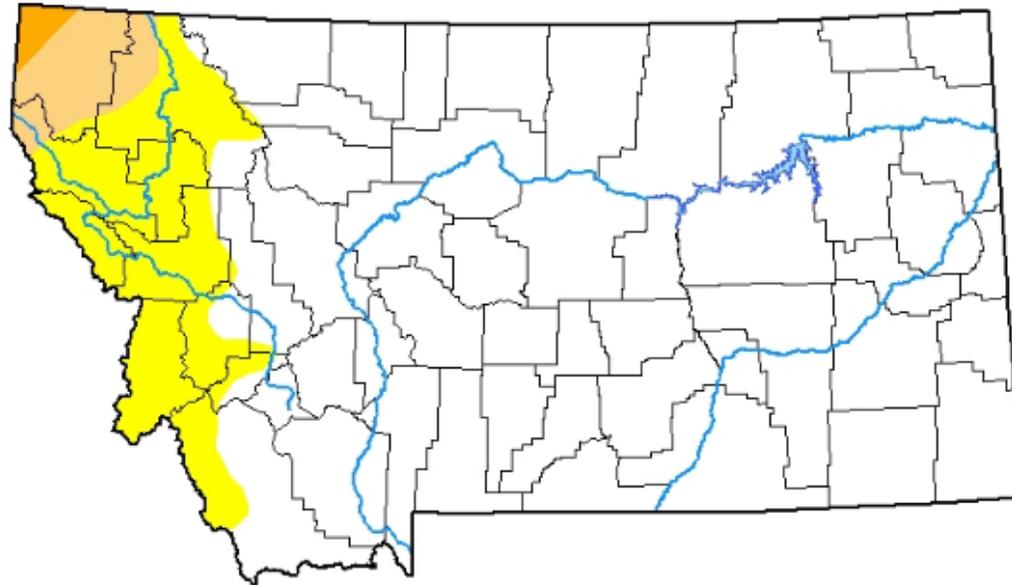


July 2019



U.S. Drought Monitor
Montana

July 16, 2019
(Released Thursday, Jul. 18, 2019)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

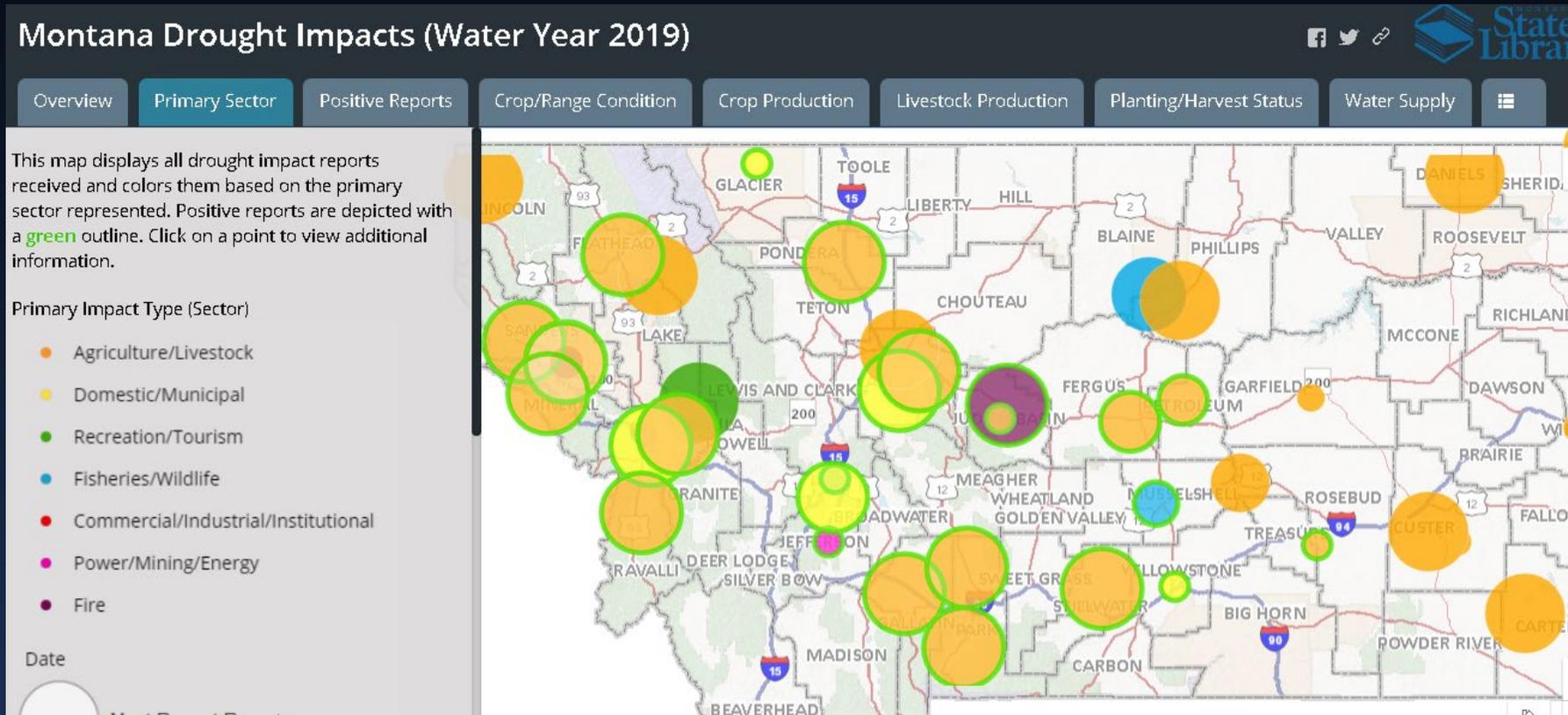
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Montana Drought Impact Reporter

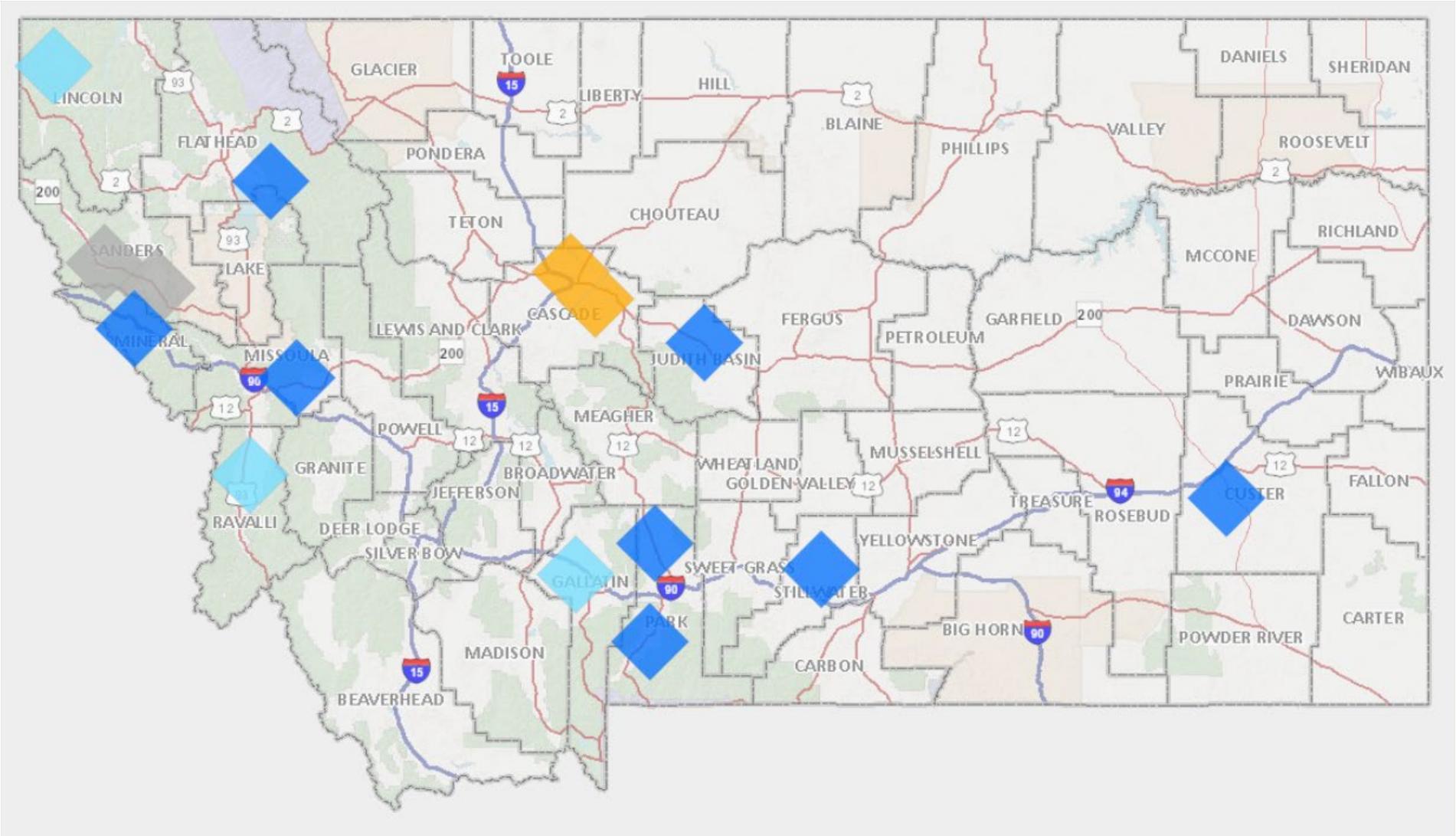
<http://nris.mt.gov/droughtimpacts>



43 reports received since May 7

Moisture Status

reports received since July 1

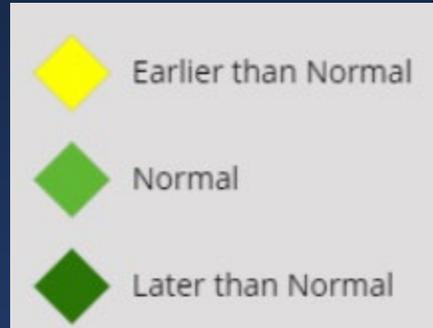
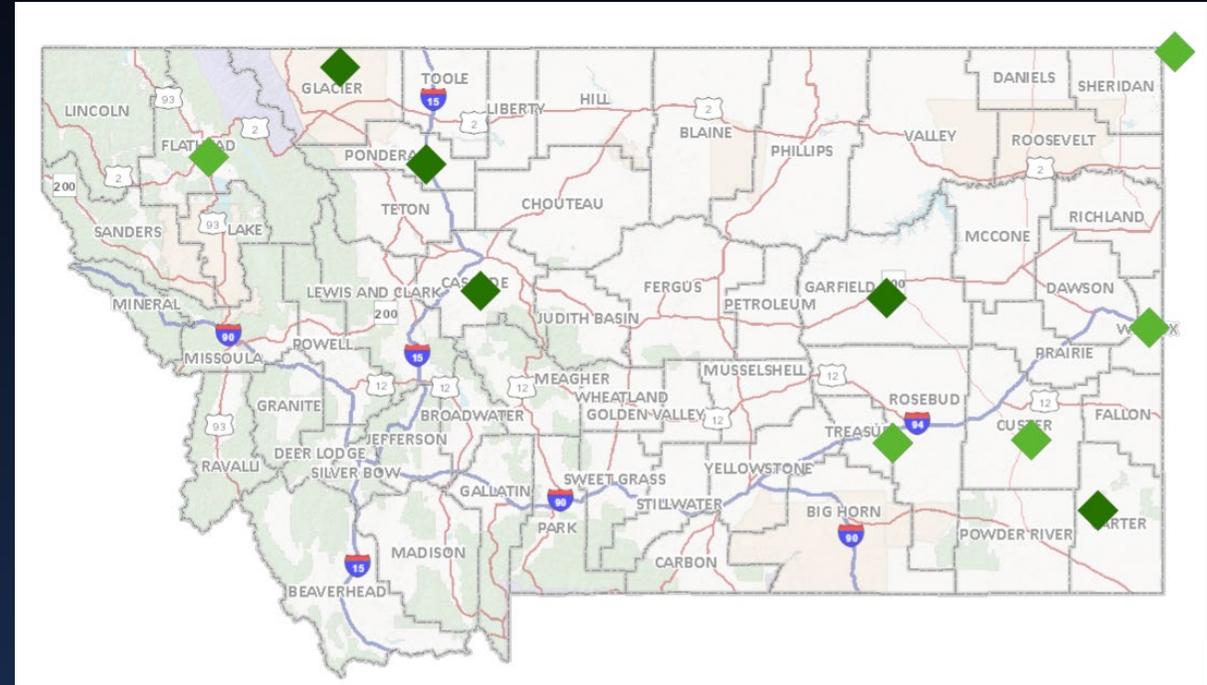
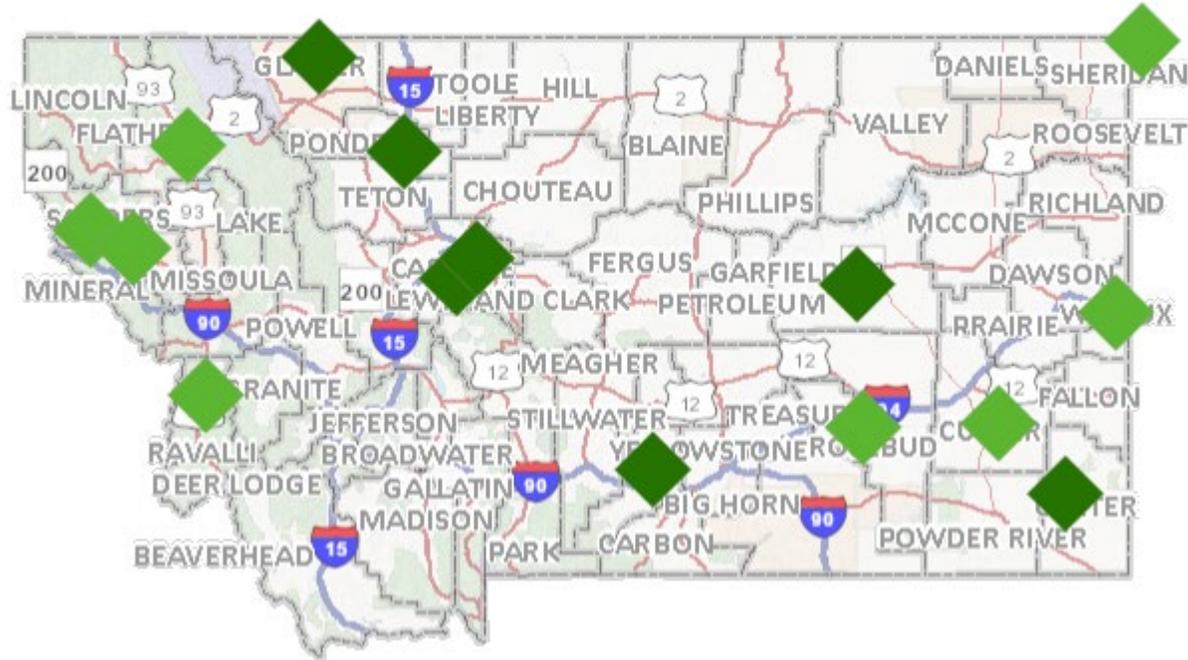


How dry or wet is it?

- ◆ Severely Dry
- ◆ Moderately Dry
- ◆ Mildly Dry
- ◆ Near Normal
- ◆ Mildly Wet
- ◆ Moderately Wet
- ◆ Severely Wet

Planting Status

Harvest Status



Positive Reports

65% of reports have indicated favorable moisture conditions

Current precipitation is above normal for Banfield Mountain area 17.70 inches thus far as of July 18, 2019

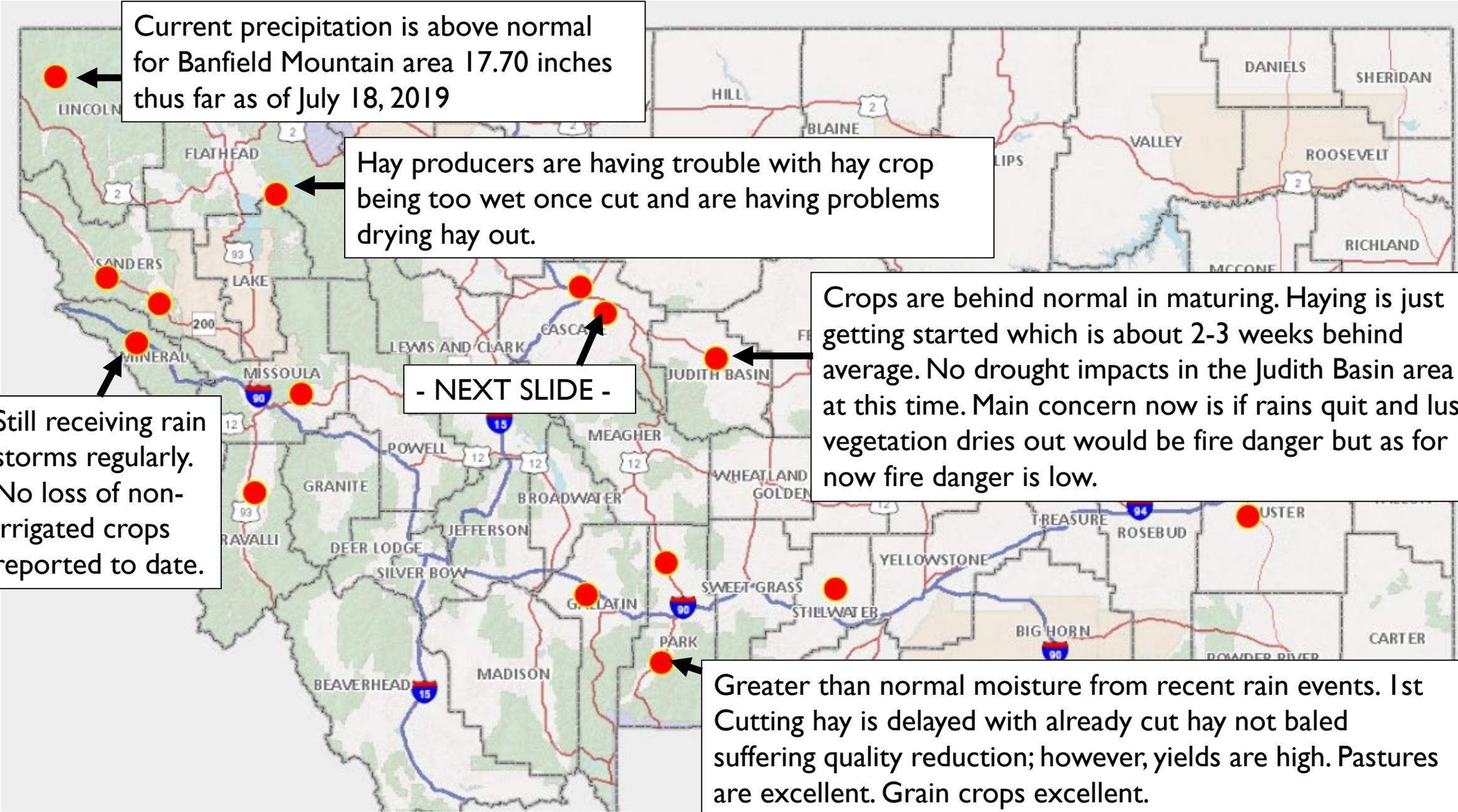
Hay producers are having trouble with hay crop being too wet once cut and are having problems drying hay out.

Crops are behind normal in maturing. Haying is just getting started which is about 2-3 weeks behind average. No drought impacts in the Judith Basin area at this time. Main concern now is if rains quit and lush vegetation dries out would be fire danger but as for now fire danger is low.

- NEXT SLIDE -

Still receiving rain storms regularly. No loss of non-irrigated crops reported to date.

Greater than normal moisture from recent rain events. 1st Cutting hay is delayed with already cut hay not baled suffering quality reduction; however, yields are high. Pastures are excellent. Grain crops excellent.



Cascade County, July 16

“This year has been a challenge for ag producers in Cascade County. We started February with the coldest on record. This is usually when our ranchers calve. The rains came which made it difficult to get planting done. The rains have continued, which is wonderful but now is hindering haying progress that is usually wrapped up by now and some people are just getting started. The crops and pastures were looking great, but in the last month 4 major hail storms have taken out crops and damaged pastures to the point that producers have had to move livestock off the pastures due to lack of grass and some had claims of 70%-100% hail loss on crops and have sprayed out thousands of acres. It has been a challenging weather year for the producers of Cascade County.”

Discussion/Questions
Thank You.

tblandford@mt.gov
nris.mt.gov/drought