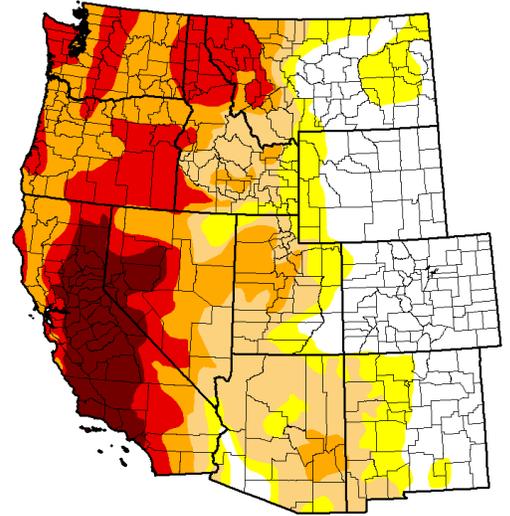


## Blackfoot Drought Update: August 20, 2015

All across the West, people are feeling the impacts of severe drought. This year's conditions have kept the Blackfoot Drought Response Committee very busy. We deeply appreciate the shared sacrifice that residents of and visitors to the Blackfoot are making this year to help steward our water resources. Updates from the Drought Committee include:

- [Hoot owl fishing restrictions have been lifted for the main Blackfoot but remain in place for key bull trout tributaries](#) (Landers Fork, North Fork, Copper, Monture, Cottonwood, Morrell, Gold, and Belmont creeks). Changes to fishing restrictions may be possible, so please watch for future announcements.
- All irrigators with water rights junior to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Murphy Right should have implemented their water conservation plans by late July. Those without plans were asked to cease water use in a recent mailing from FWP. If you would like to establish a drought plan, please contact Jennifer Schoonen at [jennifer@blackfootchallenge.org](mailto:jennifer@blackfootchallenge.org) or 406-360-6445.
- Anything you can do to conserve water helps add to the collective "shared sacrifice." Rotating your pump use, cutting back on watering lawns, improving your irrigation system efficiency all make a difference when we work together.



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Today the Blackfoot River at the Bonner gage is running at 446 cfs. The median for this date historically is 775 cfs. Find daily streamflow information at the [USGS web site here](#).

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Since the U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared drought disaster in Montana, agricultural producers are eligible for drought relief support in many counties – including Missoula, Powell and Lewis & Clark. Contact the [Montana offices of the Farm Service Agency](#) for assistance.

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Weekly updates on soil moisture, climate and crop water use are still available through the Challenge's [irrigation scheduling reports online](#). Or contact us at [jennifer@blackfootchallenge.org](mailto:jennifer@blackfootchallenge.org) if you'd like to be added to the email distribution list.

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Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is considering several new fishing regulation changes. [Read and comment online](#), or attend a public meeting in Missoula on August 27.