

Blackfoot Water Supply Report

January 10, 2022

Montana Water Supply Report data as of January 7, 2022 (from NRCS):

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/snow/>

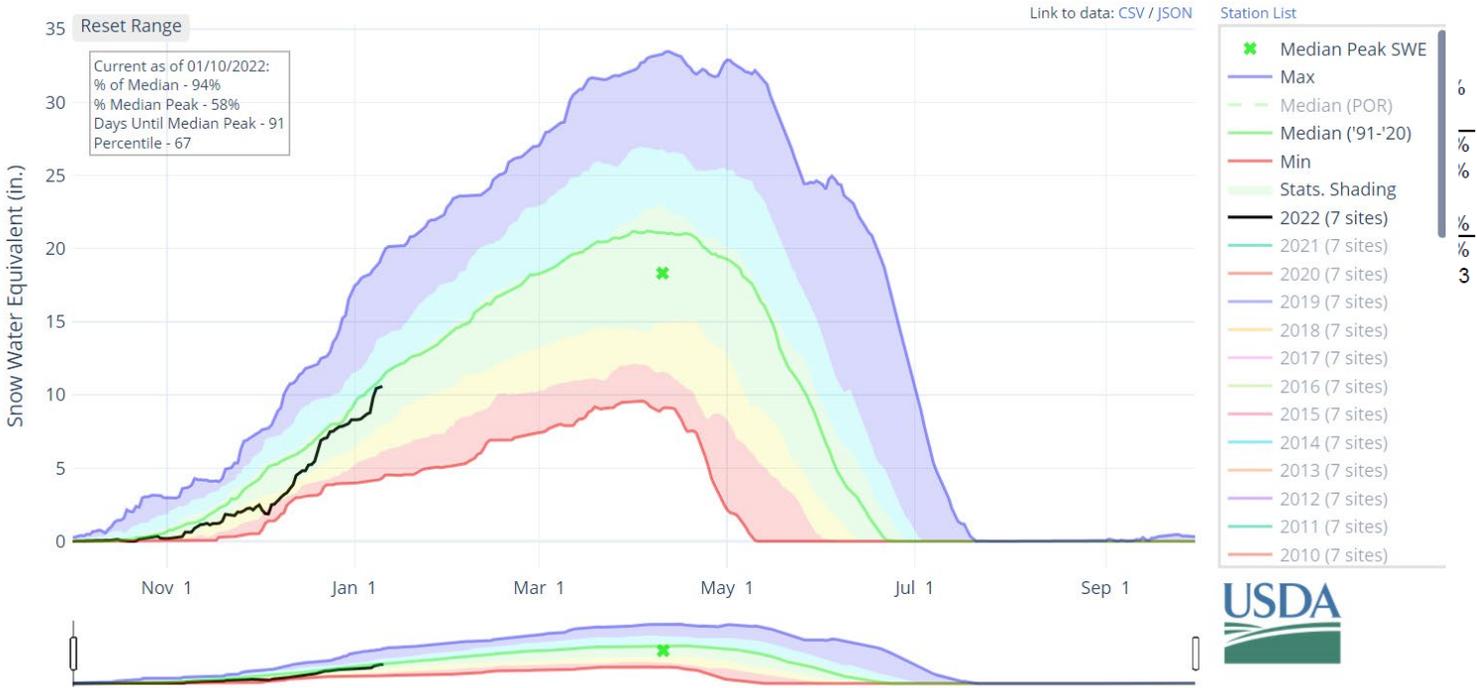
Overview

Following two months of below normal precipitation across most of Montana, snow was welcomed during the month of December. October and November did bring above normal precipitation to portions of southwest and northwest Montana; however, uncharacteristically much of it was rain. As of Dec. 1, the snowpack measured by the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) SNOTEL network was below normal across the state. Fortunately, in December, shifting upper-level circulation brought Arctic air into the region, which collided with moisture from the Pacific and finally delivered much needed snowfall. Most of Montana received well above normal precipitation in December. The northwest corner of Montana received record precipitation. As of Jan. 1, the snowpack west of the Continental Divide is overall above normal, while the snowpack east of the Divide is overall below normal, with central Montana faring the worst.

“While the recent snowfall is encouraging, it is still too early to tell what this winter will bring in terms of seasonal water supply,” said Mage Hultstrand, NRCS Data Collection Officer for Montana. “The snowpack in Montana typically peaks in mid-April, and at this point any snowpack deficits could easily be recovered in a single storm.”

According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the next week has potential for warmer than normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. However, the 8-14 day forecast calls for increased chances of near normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation. "The good news is that the CPC is calling for a continuation of La Niña conditions into spring, which often indicates cooler temperatures and moisture in Montana," said Hultstrand.

Blackfoot River Basin Snow Water Equivalent



Black line: 2021/2022 Water Year

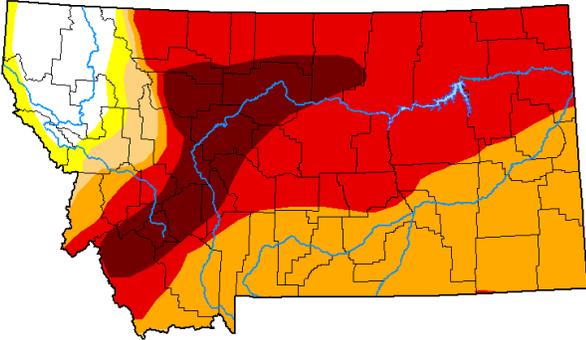
Green line: 30-year median

Reservoir Storage

Reservoir storage is currently below average for this time of year in Western Montana reservoirs and below to the levels at this time last year.

Upper Clark Fork	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)	Current % Capacity	Last Year % Capacity	Median % Capacity	Current % Median	Last Year % Median
East Fork Rock Creek Res	7.4	8.5	7.6	16.0	46%	53%	47%	97%	112%
Nevada Creek Res	4.6	6.4	5.5	12.6	36%	51%	44%	84%	117%
Lower Willow Creek Reservoir				4.9					
Georgetown Lake	25.9	28.2	28.3	31.0	83%	91%	91%	91%	100%
Silver Lake				0.0					
Basin Index					63%	72%	69%	91%	104%
# of reservoirs					3	3	3	3	3

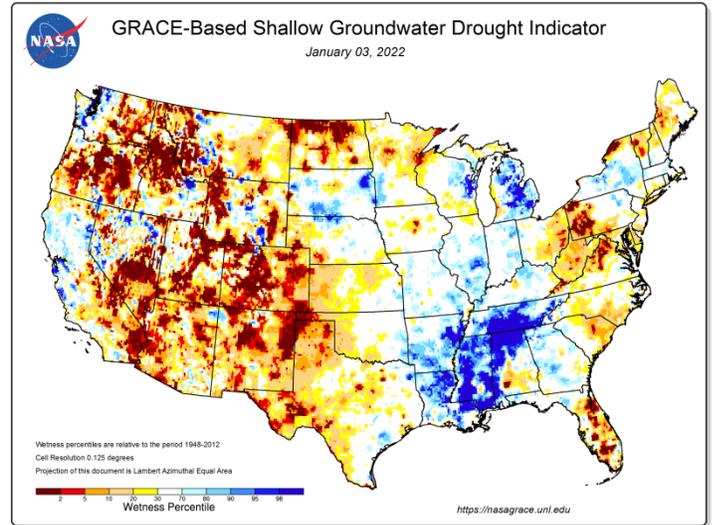
Montana Drought Monitor – Jan. 4, 2022



Drought Intensities

-  None: No Drought
-  D0: Abnormally Dry
-  D1: Moderate Drought
-  D2: Severe Drought
-  D3: Extreme Drought
-  D4: Exceptional Drought

National Root Zone Soil Moisture – Jan. 3, 2022



Montana SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent: January 10, 2022

Montana SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report							
Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites							
Provisional data, subject to revision							
Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00) for Monday, January 10, 2022							
Basin Site Name	Elev (ft)	Snow Water Equivalent		Water Year-to-Date Precipitation			
		Current (in)	Median (in)	Pct of Median	Current (in)	Average (in)	Pct of Average
UPPER CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN							
Barker Lakes	8250	8.0	6.6	121	9.4	7.8	121
Basin Creek	7180	2.9	4.0	72	4.9	4.9	100
Black Pine	7210	6.3	5.0	126	6.5	7.0	93
Combination	5600	3.4	2.4	142	5.2	5.4	96
Copper Bottom	5200	4.4	4.8	92	11.1	9.0	123
Copper Camp	6950	14.0	23.5(17)	60	20.9	16.2(17)	129
Lubrecht Flume	4680	4.3	2.8	154	7.7	6.2	124
Nevada Ridge	7020	6.9	7.0(26)	99	9.0	9.2(26)	98
N Fk Elk Creek	6250	6.0	5.4	111	9.4	7.4	127
North Fork Jocko	6330	22.1	19.2	115	20.7	27.2	76
Peterson Meadows	7200	4.5	4.7	96	6.7	6.3(22)	106
Skalkaho Summit	7250	11.4	10.4	110	13.9	12.2	114
Stuart Mountain	7400	16.4	15.8(26)	104	18.2	17.0(26)	107
Warm Springs	7800	11.6	10.1	115	13.0	11.7	111
Basin Index (%)		100			106		

January 10, 2022 USGS Real Time Flow Conditions

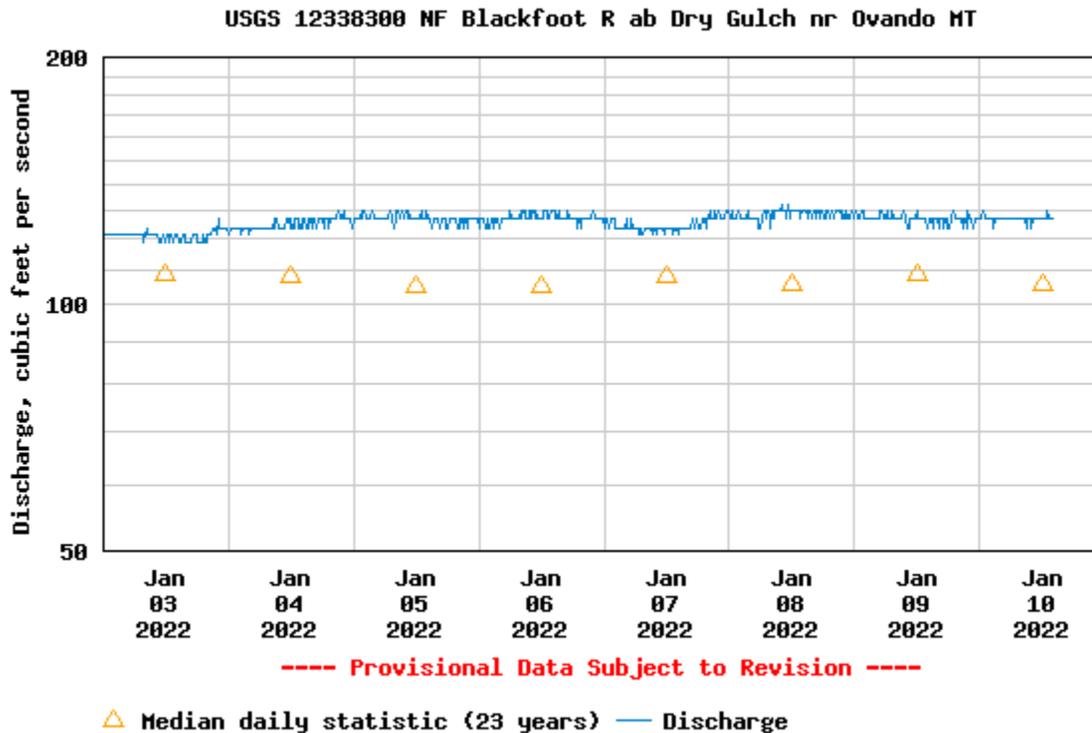
Nevada Creek above Reservoir

NO READING DUE TO ICE

North Fork Blackfoot

Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent instantaneous value: 127 on 1/10/2022 at 14:00 MST



Daily discharge, cubic feet per second -- statistics for Jan 10 based on 23 water years of record [more](#)

Min (2014)	25th percentile	Median	Mean	75th percentile	Most Recent Instantaneous Value Jan 10	Max (2009)
85.0	95	106	110	120	127	160

Blackfoot River at Bonner

NO READING DUE TO ICE

Blackfoot River above Nevada Creek

NO READING DUE TO ICE

Three-Month Outlook: January 2022

From
National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Higher chance for above average precipitation
for January through March.

Higher chance for normal to below normal
temperatures from January through March.

