

Slim chance of drought this summer means it's a good time to plan ahead

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Ovando, MT - Each summer, we anxiously watch the river gages – hoping that the snowpack and spring rains will be kind. This year, the Blackfoot River and major tributaries have held steady at or above average flows, and it is now very unlikely that the Blackfoot Drought Response Committee will implement any water use restrictions.

A quiet year on the drought front is also a good time to plan ahead. **With change on the horizon for the Blackfoot Drought Response Plan from the Milltown water right, Blackfoot Challenge staff are gearing up to help water users** update individual water conservation plans or set up new plans for those who haven't taken part in drought response before.

You may soon be hearing from our newest staff member, Kate Clyatt. Through a partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, we hired Kate as a water program technician. **Our goal is to work with landowners to develop better long-term drought resilience on their properties and ensure that drought year water restrictions don't become a hardship.**

We welcome your questions about how you can participate in voluntary drought response and how the Milltown water right's 1904 priority date may affect you. To review your drought plan options with the Challenge staff, contact Blackfoot Water Steward Jennifer Schoonen at jennifer@blackfootchallenge.org. Thank you for your interest and participation!