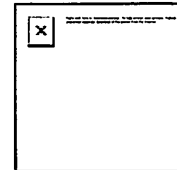


Glenda Wiles

From: DNRC <amontague@mt.gov@mail141.suw14.mcdlv.net> on behalf of DNRC <amontague@mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: June 2017 Basin Water Supply Report

Clark Fork and Kootenai Basin Water Supply Report: May 2017

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(Holland Lake near Holland Falls. "Holland Lake is sits at the base of the Swan Mountains about 25 miles north of Seeley Lake, Montana. The area offers camping, hiking, swimming, and boating." www.fs.usda.gov/recreation/flathead/recreation Photo Credit: Forest Service Northern Region)

Hello!

Drought:

Summer has officially arrived and so have unforeseen drought conditions in Eastern Montana, even as streamflows in much of the state remain above normal.

On Friday, June 23, Governor Bullock issued an Executive Order declaring a drought emergency in the following counties: Blaine, Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, Hill, McCone, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Valley, and Wibaux - in addition to the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Indian Reservations.

The rapid onset of this drought was, in large part, due to well-below average precipitation coupled with extreme winds in May and June (typically the area's wettest months). This lack of rainfall happened during a critical time period for Eastern Montana dryland producers and has led to various reports of total crop loss, poor crop progress, and early sell off of cow/calf pairs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has [immediately authorized](#) haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in affected areas. To learn more about this authorization and other Farm Service Agency (FSA) drought relief programs, contact [your local FSA Agent](#).

While drought concerns remain at bay in western Montana for now, water users remain vigilant after the last two years of early run-off and below average streamflows. Areas such as the Upper Clark Fork and Blackfoot, remain just shy of a true comfort zone.

Keep tabs on changing drought conditions at [US Drought Monitor - Montana](#) and view the latest NRCS basin-specific [Water Supply Outlook Report](#) (click on "June 1, 2017") for the most current summary

of precipitation, snowpack, streamflow, and reservoir storage information in Montana.

Tools:

Want the latest streamflow information sent straight to your phone? USGS's [WaterNow Program](#) lets you choose a stream gage of interest and receive emails or text messages with current streamflow information.

You can view the [May 2017 DNRC Drought Report Here](#).

The next meeting of the [Governor's Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee](#) will be on July 18th from 9-11 am at the DNRC Headquarters, Montana Room, 1539 Eleventh Avenue in Helena. The livestream link for this meeting is: <http://stream.vision.net/MT-gov/>
You can [watch a recording of the June 20th meeting here](#).

Have drought impacts to report? Send comments to Ada Montague at amontague@mt.gov or call 406-444-6628.

News:

It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that I am leaving the Water Management Bureau of the DNRC to return to practicing law. I won't be going far, though, as I will join the DNRC Legal Staff to represent the Trust Lands Division. It has been a pleasure working with many of you and I will certainly miss the important work of building drought resilience in Montana. But an opportunity like this is rare, and I feel honored and compelled to take it. I will be available to address your needs in this time of transition until July 24th. The State is in a tricky spot right now with budget cuts and it is not clear when a replacement for my position will be hired. In the meantime, the other three planners at the DNRC Water Management Bureau are here to help you, [Sara Meloy](#), [Ann Schwend](#) and [Michael Downey](#). You can also turn to the newly minted [Clark Fork and Kootenai Basin Commission](#), a regional coordinating entity built on the history of the Clark Fork Task Force and the Upper Clark Fork Steering Committee.

Sincerely,
Ada C. Montague
State Water Planner for the Clark Fork & Kootenai Basins
Staff for the Governor's Water Supply Advisory Committee
DNRC Water Management Bureau
amontague@mt.gov
(406) 444-6628

USGS Real-Time Streamflow	Water Quality	Wildfire
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		Soil Moisture

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Monitor Map**

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**Surface Water
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