



Centennial Valley Water Report - January 2023

Please contact drought@centennialvalleyassociation.org if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Greetings from the Centennial Valley Association!

Montana started 2023 with frigid temperatures and snow, a good sign for the year ahead! During the last few days of January, wind chills across Montana dipped into the -20° 's and -30° 's. Along with cold temperatures came blowing snow and hazardous conditions, prompting I-15 to be closed from Butte to Monida on January 29th. To check road conditions across the state, you can use Montana Department of Transportation's [Traveler Information Map](#), as well as their [Road Condition Report](#). Travel safe this winter!

Above average precipitation and below average temperatures are predicted for the month of February, which will hopefully increase snowpack and decrease drought conditions across the state. Currently, the Jefferson River Basin is at 105% of median snow water equivalent and 106% of median precipitation accumulation.

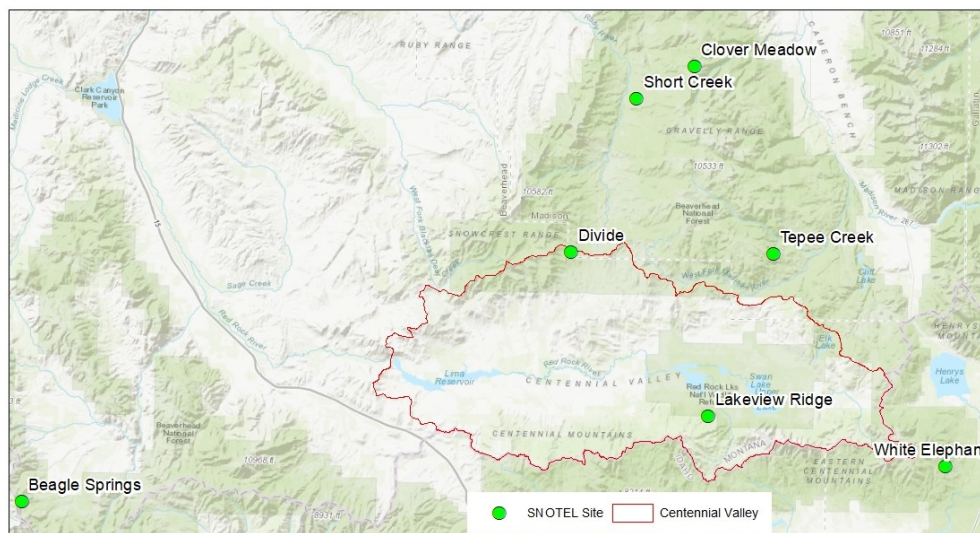
Please remember the Water & Drought Awareness Program Survey is only open for one more week! We are working on growing the program based on community feedback. Our goal is to make sure the program is beneficial to the community and our partners. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts! Click [here](#) to complete the anonymous survey.

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to drought@centennialvalleyassociation.org if you have any suggestions as to how to make these reports more useful to you. Stay safe and warm!

Snowpack and Precipitation Data - As of January 31st, 2023

There are seven Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) SNOTEL sites that surround the Centennial Valley (below). Percent of median for precipitation accumulation for the month of December ranged from 129% (Beagle Springs) to 162% (Divide). Percent of median for snow water equivalent ranged from 131% (Clover Meadow) to 169% (Short Creek). The White Elephant station received the most precipitation (3.9") and the Lakeview rain gauge received the least precipitation (0.07") during the month of January. The White Elephant Station has the deepest snow depth (67") and Short Creek has the lowest snow depth (28").

Source: [NRCS Report Generator](#)



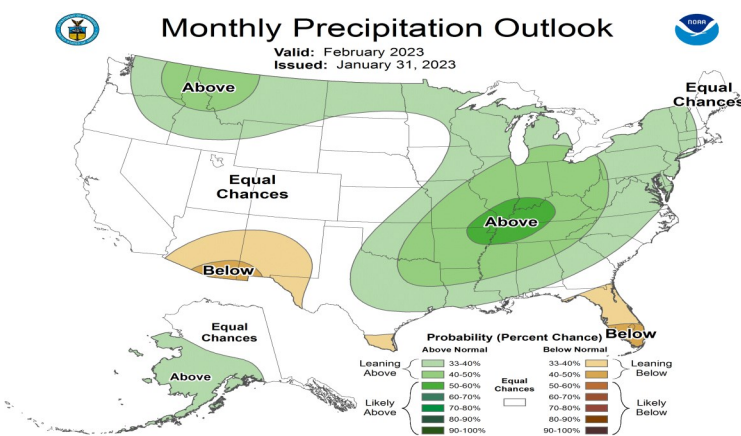
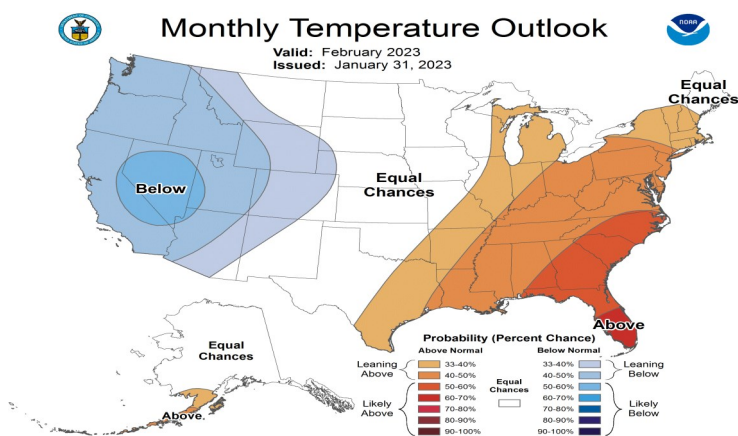
Snowpack and Precipitation Data - End of Day Values for January 31st, 2023

	Precipitation Accumulation (in)	Median Precipitation Accumulation (1991-2020) (in)	Precipitation Accumulation % of Median (1991-2020)	Snow Water Equivalent (in)	Median Snow Water Equivalent (1991-2020)	Snow Water Equivalent % of Median (1991-2020)	Snow Depth (in)
Beagle Springs (8,850 ft)	7.6	5.9	129%	7.6	5.4	141%	34
Clover Meadow (8,600 ft)	13.5	10.4	130%	12.8	9.8	131%	55
Divide (7,800 ft)	11.2	6.9	162%	8.2	6.1	134%	37
Lakeview Ridge (7,400 ft)	13.7	9.0	152%	8.1	5.8	140%	32
Short Creek (7,000 ft)	7.2	5.2	138%	6.1	3.6	169%	28
Tepee Creek (8,000 ft)	13.3	9.3	143%	11.3	8.0	141%	45
White Elephant (7,710 ft)	22.2	16.8	132%	20.0	15.0	133%	67
Red Rock BLM RAWS	0.76	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lakeview Rain Gauge	0.07	-	-	-	-	-	-

Precipitation and Temperature Outlook – February 2023

During the month of February, western Montana has a 40-50% chance of below normal temperatures. Eastern Montana has equal chances of below or above normal temperatures. Western Montana has a 40-50% chance of above normal precipitation while central and eastern Montana have a 33-40% chance of above normal precipitation. The southeast corner of Montana has equal chances of below or above normal precipitation.

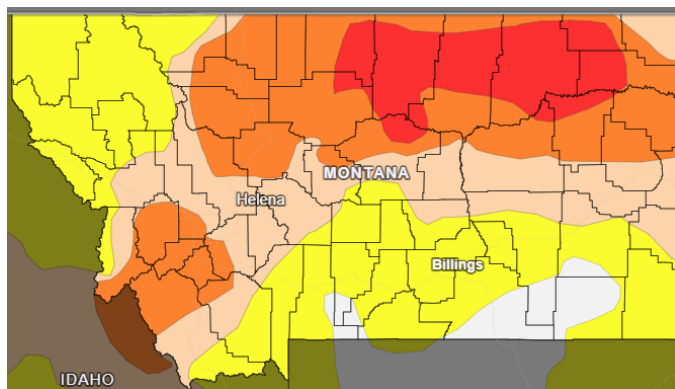
Source: [NWS NOAA Climate Prediction Center](https://www.noaa.gov/climate-prediction-center)



Drought Data - January 2023

During the month of January, the percentage of Montana experiencing some level of drought increased from 87.9% to 95.2%. The percentage of the state experiencing extreme drought has decreased from 12.2% in December to 10.8% in January. Currently, 76.4% of Beaverhead County is experiencing a drought, a slight decrease from 77.1% in December. The Centennial Valley is currently listed as experiencing abnormally dry conditions.

Source: [National Integrated Drought Information System](https://www.drought.gov/)



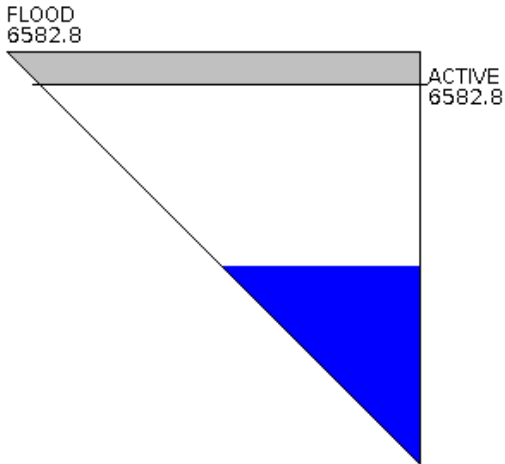
2023 content is property of the Centennial Valley Association. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed with written permission.

Lima Reservoir Data - As of February 5th, 2023

As of February 5th, the Lima Reservoir has a pool elevation of 6566.8 feet and is 26.9% full. The reservoir inflow is 54.1 CFS and the outflow is 0.0 CFS. As of January 4th, the Lima Reservoir had a pool elevation of 6565.9 feet and was 24.4% full. The reservoir inflow was 62.3 CFS and the outflow was 0.0 CFS.

Source: [Bureau of Reclamation](#)

Water Users Irrigation Company Current Reservoir Data for Lima Reservoir, MT



Daily Reservoir Data as of 02/05/2023

Pool Elevation is 6566.8 Feet
Reservoir Storage is 22588.5 Acre-Feet
Reservoir Inflow is 54.1 CFS
Reservoir Outflow is 0.0 CFS
Reservoir is 26.9 % Full*
Reservoir Flood Control Pool is filled 0.0 %

Montana Water Supply Outlook Report

NRCS publishes monthly water supply outlook reports for the state of Montana. Within this report, you can find current data like snowpack and precipitation, as well as an outlook for the upcoming month. Click the link below to check it out!

Link: https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/support/states/MT/webpage/wsor/2023/WSOR_February2023.pdf

North Central U.S. Climate and Drought Summary and Outlook Webinar

Are you curious what the coming months have in store for Montana drought conditions? Join this free webinar, hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and climate partners (U.S. Department of Agriculture, American Association of State Climatologists, National Drought Mitigation Center) on Thursday, February 16th from 2:00PM to 3:00PM MST to learn about current and past drought conditions, soil moisture conditions, temperature, snowpack, and precipitation. Click the link below to register!



Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/98150532442280278>

If you have any questions, comments, or trouble interpreting the data, please contact drought@centennialvalleyassociation.org!



Helpful Links:

[Montana Drought Status Percentage](#)
[NRCS SNOTEL Report Generator](#)
[USGS Streamflow Data](#)
[Lima Reservoir](#)
[Palmer Drought Severity Index](#)
[BLM Weather Station](#)