

Blackfoot Drought Response Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 1, 2025
Zoom
8:30 am- 9:00 am

Attendees: Stephen Begley, Erin Clinkenbeard, Molly McDevitt, David Mannix, Kyle Kelley, Walker Conyngham, Amy Groen, Robert Ray, Kevin Ertl, Caitlin Mayernik, Eric Hull, Heather McAdams, Gwyneth Hyndman, Clancy Jandreau

SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

- Flows are 883 cfs as of Tuesday, July 1st at 8:00am and have been around the 5th percentile since early June.
- Water temperatures have recently peaked above 70°F in the Blackfoot and 63°F in the North Fork and Monture Creek.
- Notification to drought plan participants will go out this week to begin the confirmation process as drought triggers are expected in the coming weeks.
- A press release for local media outlet was sent out on Wednesday, July 2nd regarding the continuation of extreme drought conditions amid the implementation of the Milltown Water Right.
- The Drought Committee will begin meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am beginning on Tuesday July 8th to review conditions and discuss next steps.

MEETING NOTES

- The committee reviewed current flow and water temperature conditions on the Blackfoot, North Fork, and Monture Creek.
- All stream segments are fast approaching drought triggers for both flow and temperature, though an expected weather system this weekend may bring some relief to rising water temperatures if not providing a temporary boost in flows as well.
- Current forecasts predict that the Blackfoot will drop below 700 cfs by the end of next week and may drop below 500 cfs by the beginning of August.
- Drought signs have been installed and angler brochures placed at 7 fishing access sites from Harry Morgan down to Weigh Station.
- A press release will be sent to local media outlets this week regarding the expected extreme drought conditions and the Drought Committee's approach to implementing the Milltown Water Right.
- FWP reported that as of Tuesday morning, the upper Madison was the only river currently under hoot owl restrictions in the State, but several other rivers were fast approaching triggers

- A question about whether any data exists on the impact of non-angling recreational floating on fisheries was brought up and discussed. None of the Committee members present were aware of any such data but further investigations of this question could be pursued.