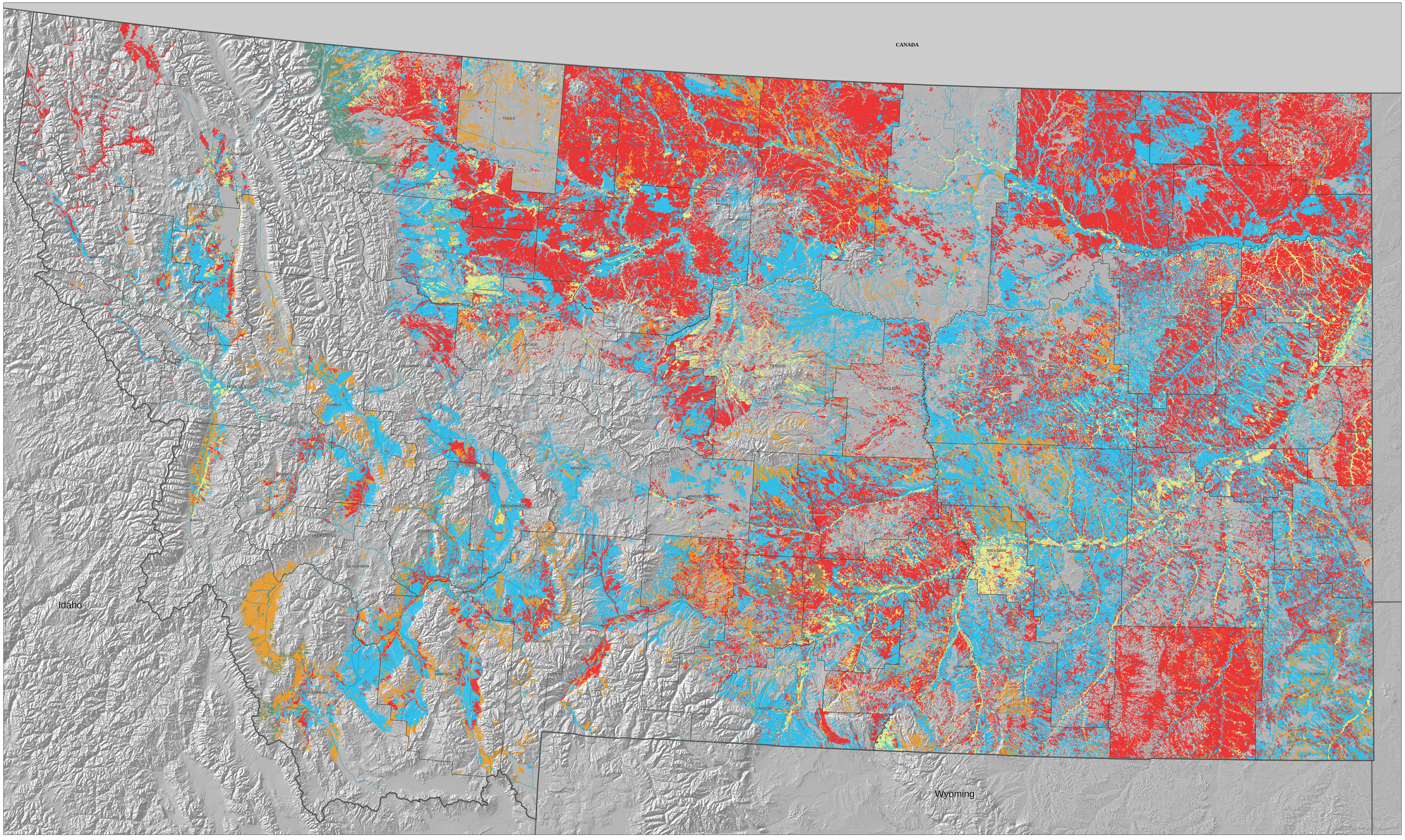
Land Capability Classification (Irrigated) - Montana (2009)



This map was prepared as a general planning aid; on-site soil evaluations may be required prior to making land management decisions. Soils were rated solely on the basis of physical soil properties. Ratings are for soils in their present condition and do not consider current land use.

Geographic proximity to watercourses and land use were not considered in this interpretive rating. In cases where multiple soil series are mapped within a given soil delineation (e.g., a map unit complex), the interpretive rating associated with the most common soil series was applied to the entire delineation.

Irrigated Land Capability Class

Land capability classification shows, in a general way, the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. Crops that require special management are excluded. The soils are grouped according to their limitations for field crops, the risk of damage if they are used for crops, and the way they respond to management. The criteria used in grouping the soils do not include major and generally expensive landforming that would change slope, depth, or other characteristics of the soils, nor do they include possible but unlikely major reclamation projects. Capability classification is not a substitute for interpretations that show suitability and limitations of groups of soils for rangeland, for woodland, or for engineering purposes.

In the capability system, soils are generally grouped at three levels- capability class, subclass, and unit. Only class and subclass are included in this data set.

Capability classes, the broadest groups, are designated by the numbers 1 through 8. The numbers indicate progressively greater limitations and narrower choices for practical use. The classes are defined as follows:

Class 1 soils have few limitations that restrict their use.

Class 2 soils have moderate limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require moderate conservation practices.

Class 3 soils have severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require special conservation practices, or both.

Class 4 soils have very severe limitations that reduce the choice of plants or that require very careful management, or both.

Class 5 soils are subject to little or no erosion but have other limitations, impractical to remove, that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.

Class 6 soils have severe limitations that make them generally unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to pasture, rangeland, forestland, or wildlife habitat.

Class 7 soils have very severe limitations that make them unsuitable for cultivation and that restrict their use mainly to grazing, forestland, or wildlife habitat.

Class 8 soils and miscellaneous areas have limitations that preclude commercial plant production and that restrict their use to recreational purposes, wildlife habitat, watershed, or esthetic purposes.

0 30 60
Kilometers

0 15 30
Miles

Original Map Scale 1:500,000

Original Map Scale is 1:500,000 when printed using a page size of 75"W x 60"H. When printed at other page sizes, the original absolute map scale will no longer be valid and scale bars should be used for reference.

Albers Equal Area Map Projection
North American Datum of 1983

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Land Capability Class

- No Data
- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4
- Class 5
- Class 6
- Class 7
- Class 8
- State Boundaries
- CLAY County Boundaries
- Roads
- Hillshade

Sources:
National Atlas (http://www.nationalatlas.gov/). Roads. (09/2005).
USGS. GNIS. Populated Places. (http://geonames.usgs.gov). (04/2007).
USDA-NRCS. Staff. . 2003. . County Boundaries derived from 1:100,000 (Bureau of Census – TIGER) source as provided by C. Lloyd, USDA-NRCS, Information Technology Center, Fort Collins, CO.
USDA-NRCS. 2008. Land Capability Class - Irrigated Interpretation. Soil Data Mart Source (http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov). Fiscal Year 2009, first quarter edition.
USDA-NRCS. 2008. Land Capability Class - Irrigated Interpretation. Soil Data Mart Source (http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov). Fiscal Year 2009, first quarter edition.
USGS. Analytical Hillshade computed from 30-meter National Elevation Dataset (NED's) using the following parameters: 315 degrees altitude, 45 degrees azimuth, and 2 factor 1x. Prepared by USDA-NRCS-NSDC, Morgantown, WV