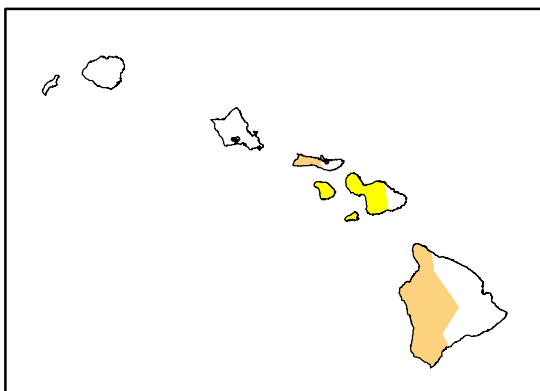
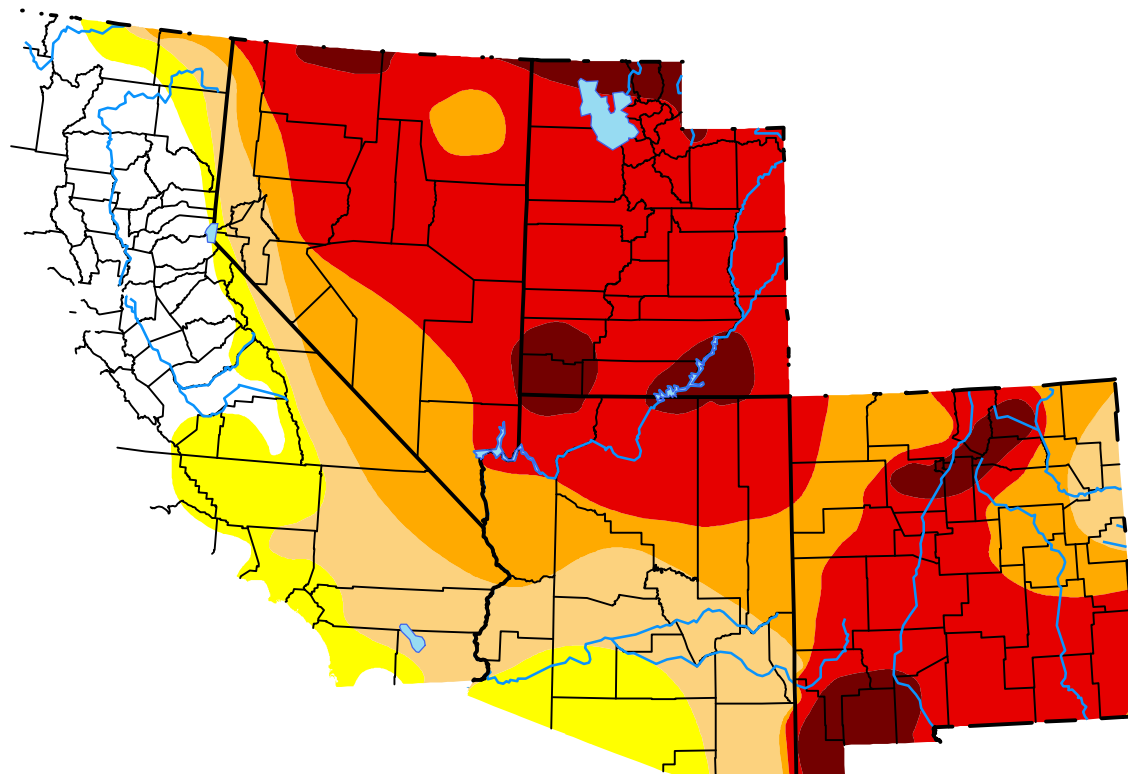


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 9, 2003
(Released Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	13.16	9.50	14.48	17.92	38.79	6.15
Last Week <i>12-04-2003</i>	12.08	10.15	14.03	18.47	39.02	6.24
3 Months Ago <i>09-11-2003</i>	17.91	1.84	12.22	25.79	38.48	3.77
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2003</i>	18.08	7.73	15.93	36.52	19.37	2.37
Start of Water Year <i>10-02-2003</i>	18.46	4.16	11.20	21.71	40.95	3.52
One Year Ago <i>12-12-2002</i>	2.17	16.37	19.83	39.99	19.27	2.37

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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