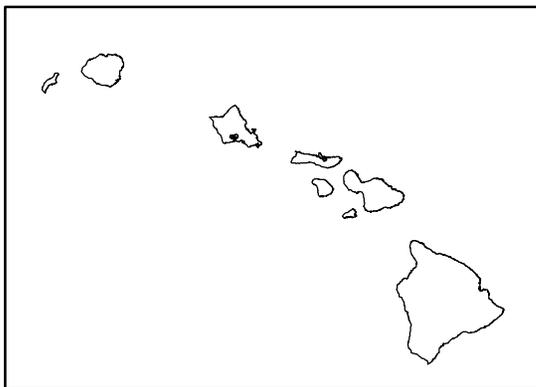
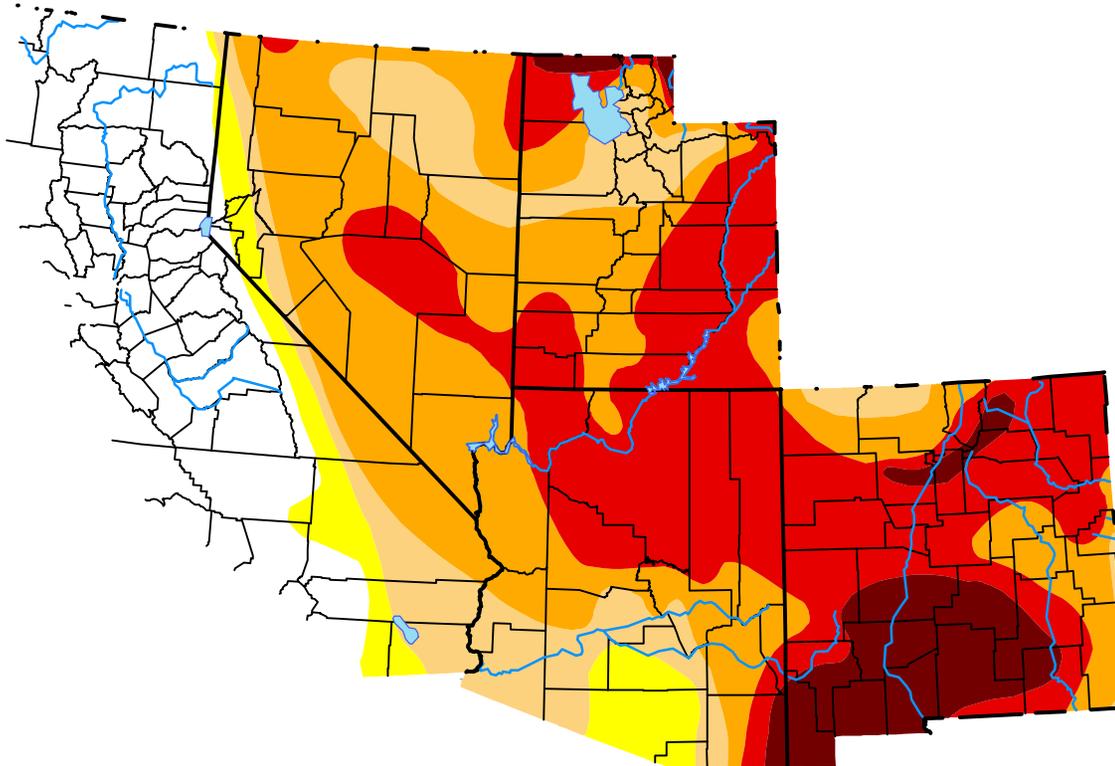


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 16, 2004
(Released Thursday, Mar. 18, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	20.96	79.04	73.92	61.46	33.67	6.81
Last Week <i>03-11-2004</i>	20.96	79.04	73.92	61.55	33.69	6.81
3 Months Ago <i>12-18-2003</i>	13.57	86.43	77.68	63.96	45.41	6.25
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2003</i>	18.57	81.43	74.25	65.97	39.04	7.96
Start of Water Year <i>10-02-2003</i>	18.46	81.54	77.38	66.18	44.47	3.52
One Year Ago <i>03-20-2003</i>	13.78	86.22	75.21	52.05	32.90	0.03

Intensity:



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

Author:

Candace Tankersley
 NOAA/NESDIS/NCEI



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