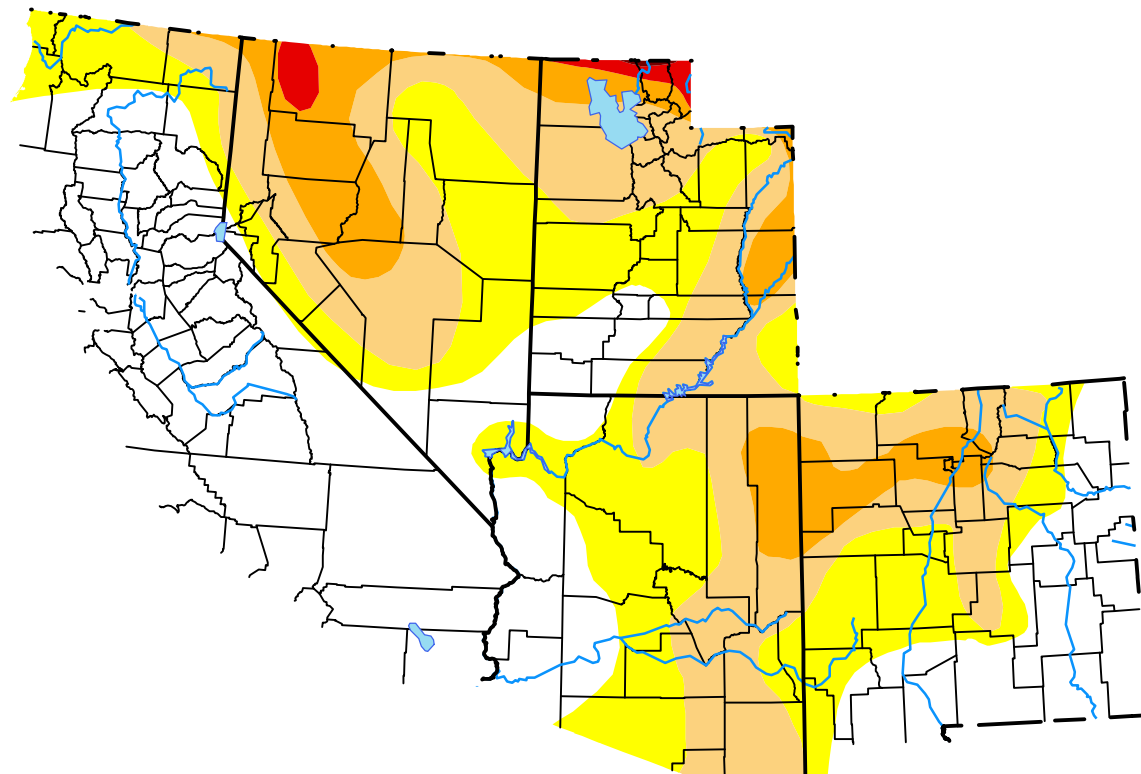


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 15, 2005
(Released Thursday, Mar. 17, 2005)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	41.70	25.23	23.80	8.47	0.75	0.04
Last Week <i>03-10-2005</i>	42.28	24.92	23.08	8.48	1.25	0.01
3 Months Ago <i>12-16-2004</i>	15.73	17.32	27.29	25.09	14.47	0.11
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-06-2005</i>	25.51	15.17	26.52	21.06	11.64	0.11
Start of Water Year <i>09-30-2004</i>	5.68	14.09	18.68	34.46	26.89	0.21
One Year Ago <i>03-18-2004</i>	20.96	5.11	12.47	27.78	26.86	6.81

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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