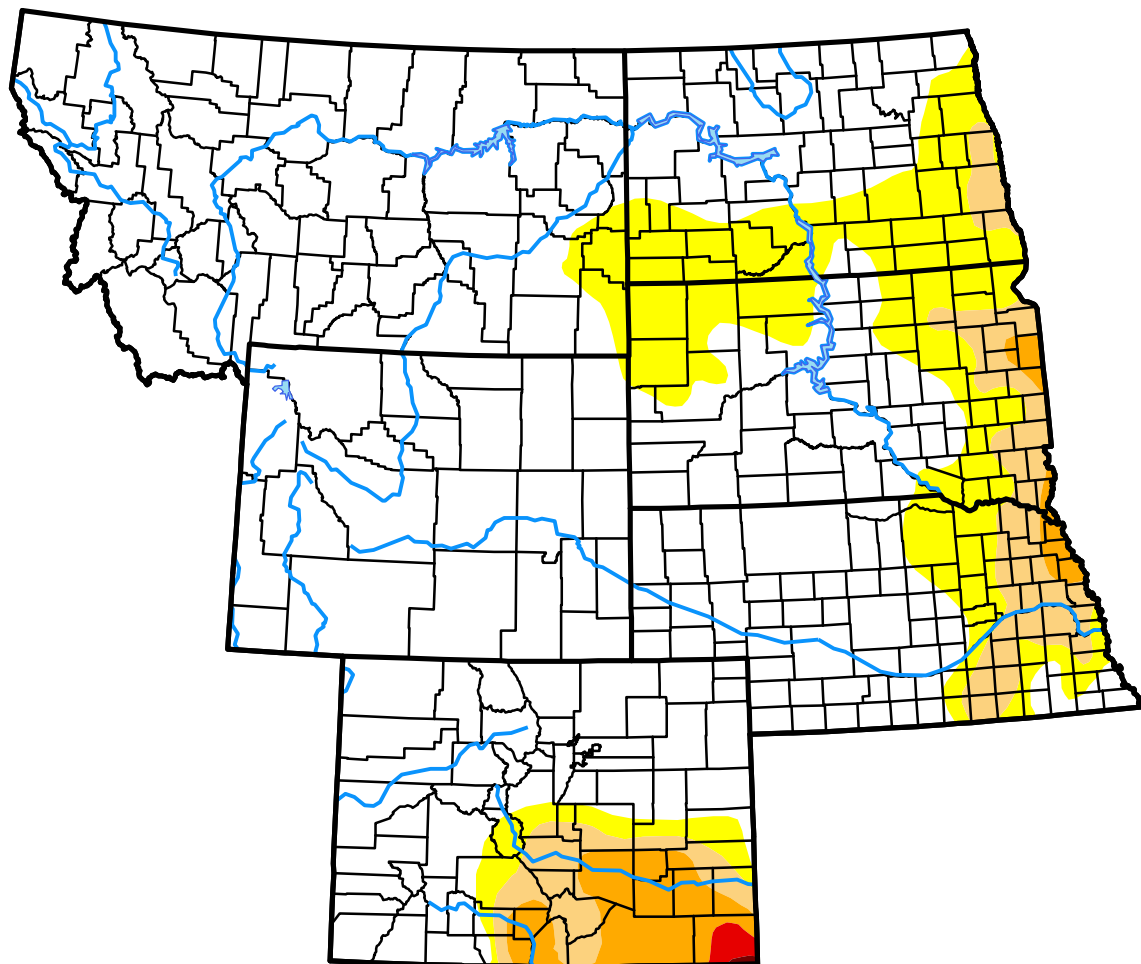


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub

December 13, 2011
 (Released Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	77.52	22.48	8.70	3.25	0.24	0.03
Last Week <i>12-06-2011</i>	77.33	22.67	8.84	3.68	0.24	0.03
3 Months Ago <i>09-13-2011</i>	80.14	19.86	5.80	4.16	1.56	0.10
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2011</i>	76.75	23.25	10.51	1.84	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-27-2011</i>	73.09	26.91	6.01	3.63	1.43	0.10
One Year Ago <i>12-14-2010</i>	76.35	23.65	11.01	1.83	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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

Author:

Matthew Rosencrans
 CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA

