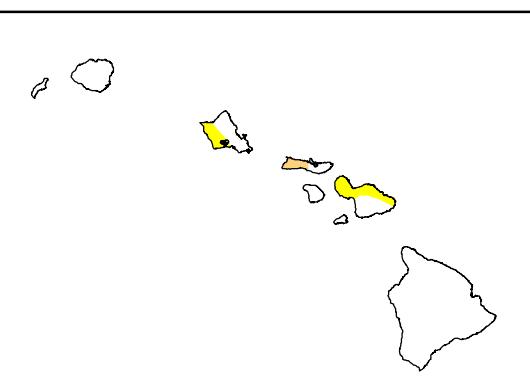
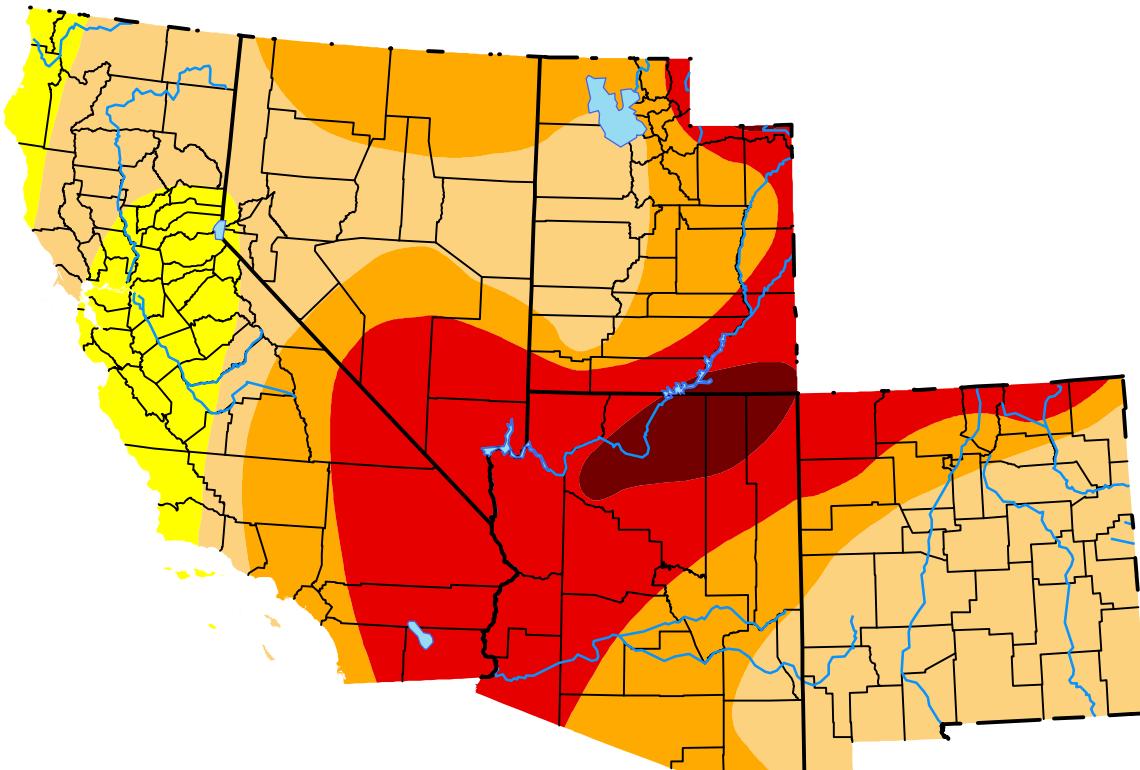


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub



October 15, 2002

(Released Thursday, Oct. 17, 2002)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.94	99.06	90.98	54.55	28.66	3.05
Last Week 10-10-2002	0.93	99.07	91.04	54.85	28.69	3.10
3 Months Ago 07-18-2002	2.78	97.22	86.07	65.01	53.46	16.23
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2002	45.56	54.44	31.77	13.87	4.71	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-03-2002	2.56	97.44	85.89	60.73	32.47	4.53
One Year Ago 10-18-2001	41.73	58.27	39.07	22.79	13.19	0.00

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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