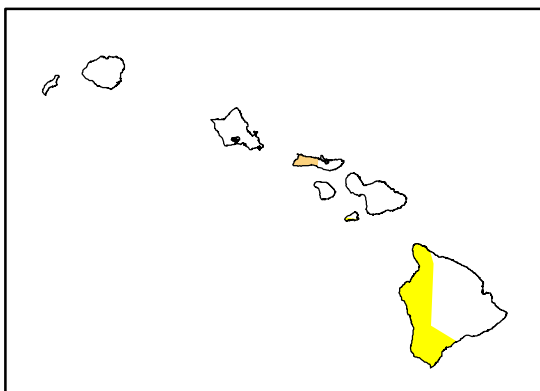
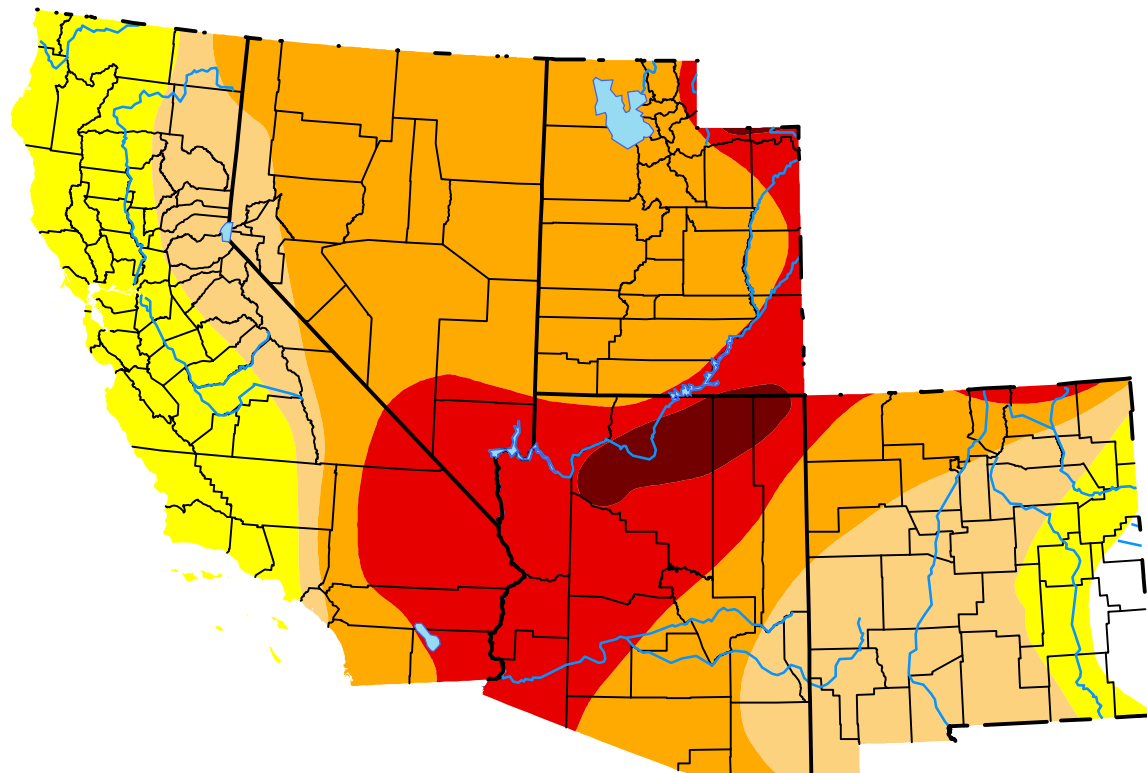


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 10, 2002
(Released Thursday, Dec. 12, 2002)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	2.17	97.83	81.46	61.63	21.64	2.37
Last Week <i>12-05-2002</i>	2.54	97.46	76.40	45.72	21.46	2.13
3 Months Ago <i>09-12-2002</i>	2.34	97.66	86.98	68.19	36.61	8.08
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-03-2002</i>	45.56	54.44	31.77	13.87	4.71	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-03-2002</i>	2.56	97.44	85.89	60.73	32.47	4.53
One Year Ago <i>12-13-2001</i>	38.56	61.44	37.97	17.96	8.41	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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