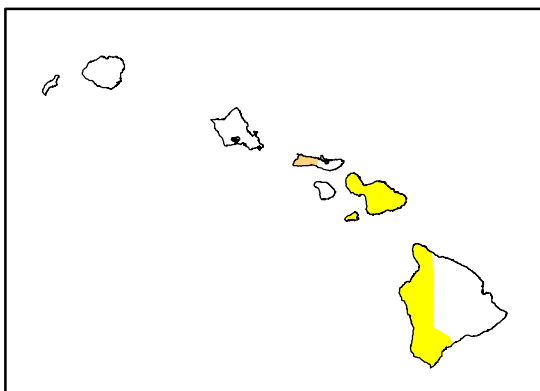
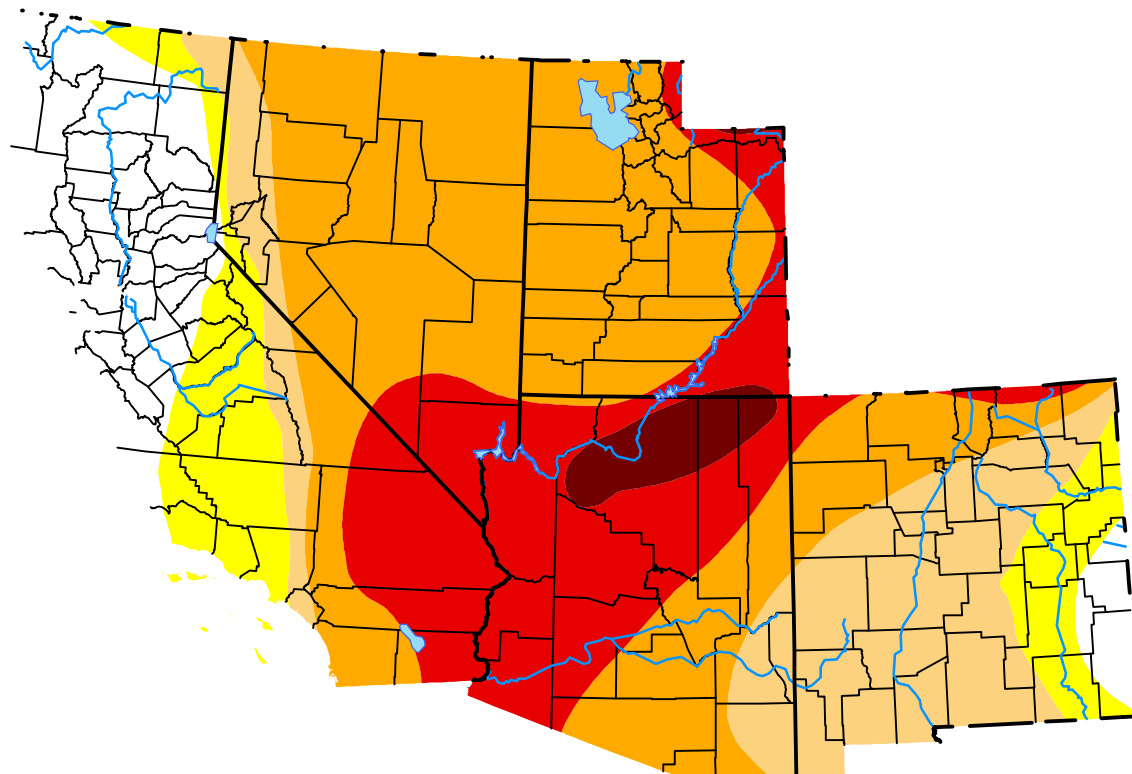


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 17, 2002
(Released Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	13.23	9.80	16.46	38.61	19.51	2.38
Last Week <i>12-12-2002</i>	2.17	16.37	19.83	39.99	19.27	2.37
3 Months Ago <i>09-19-2002</i>	2.51	10.33	21.82	29.51	28.41	7.41
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-03-2002</i>	45.56	22.67	17.91	9.16	4.71	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-03-2002</i>	2.56	11.55	25.16	28.26	27.95	4.53
One Year Ago <i>12-20-2001</i>	39.38	22.92	20.32	10.54	6.84	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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