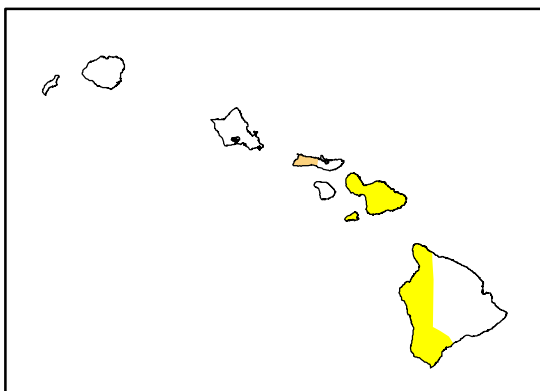
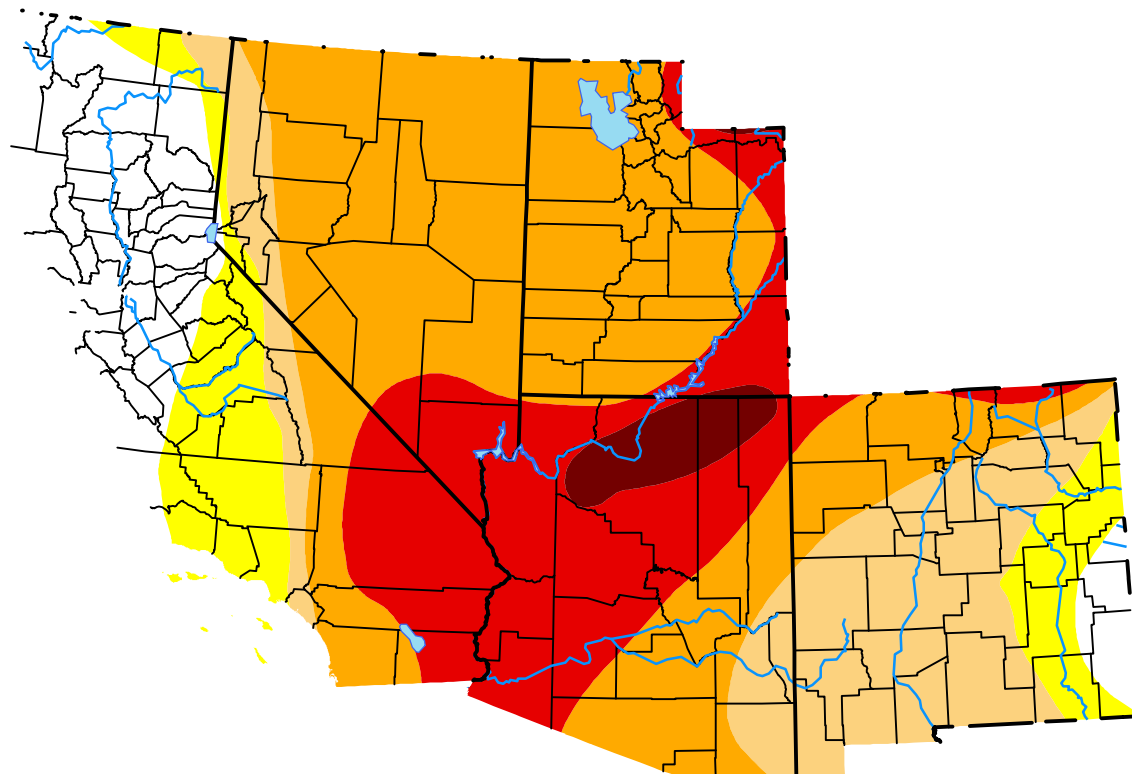


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

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



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.23	86.77	76.97	60.51	21.89	2.38
Last Week <i>12-12-2002</i>	2.17	97.83	81.46	61.63	21.64	2.37
3 Months Ago <i>09-19-2002</i>	2.51	97.49	87.15	65.33	35.82	7.41
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>12-20-2001</i>	39.38	60.62	37.71	17.38	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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