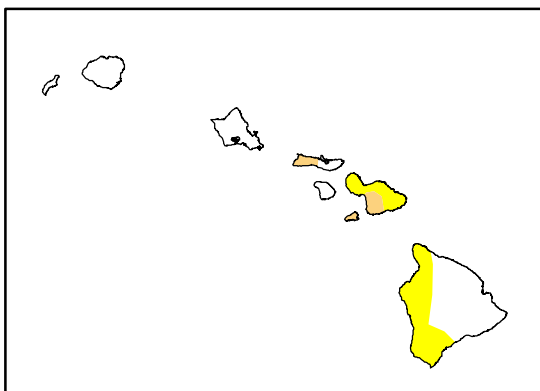
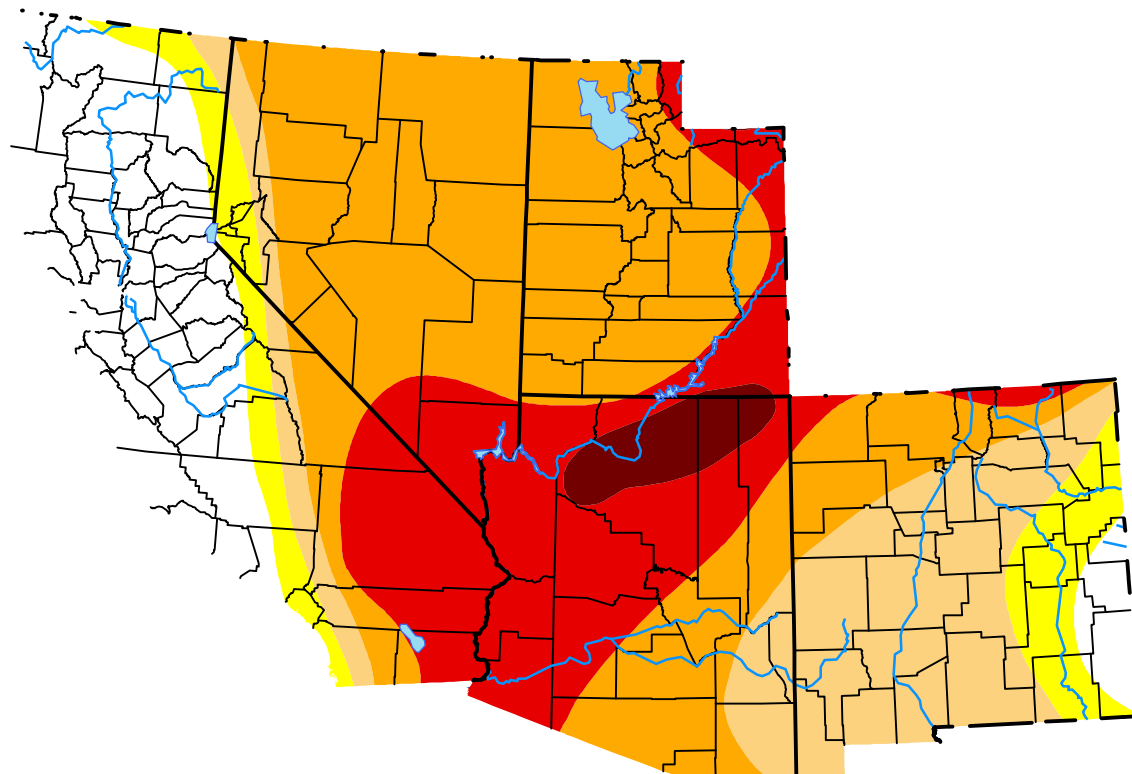


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 24, 2002
(Released Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.09	82.91	75.72	59.74	22.00	2.37
Last Week <i>12-19-2002</i>	13.23	86.77	76.97	60.51	21.89	2.38
3 Months Ago <i>09-26-2002</i>	2.44	97.56	87.29	63.89	34.63	5.23
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>12-27-2001</i>	43.38	56.62	34.60	15.32	5.27	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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