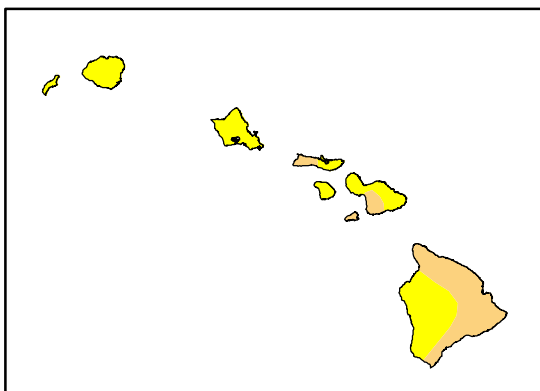
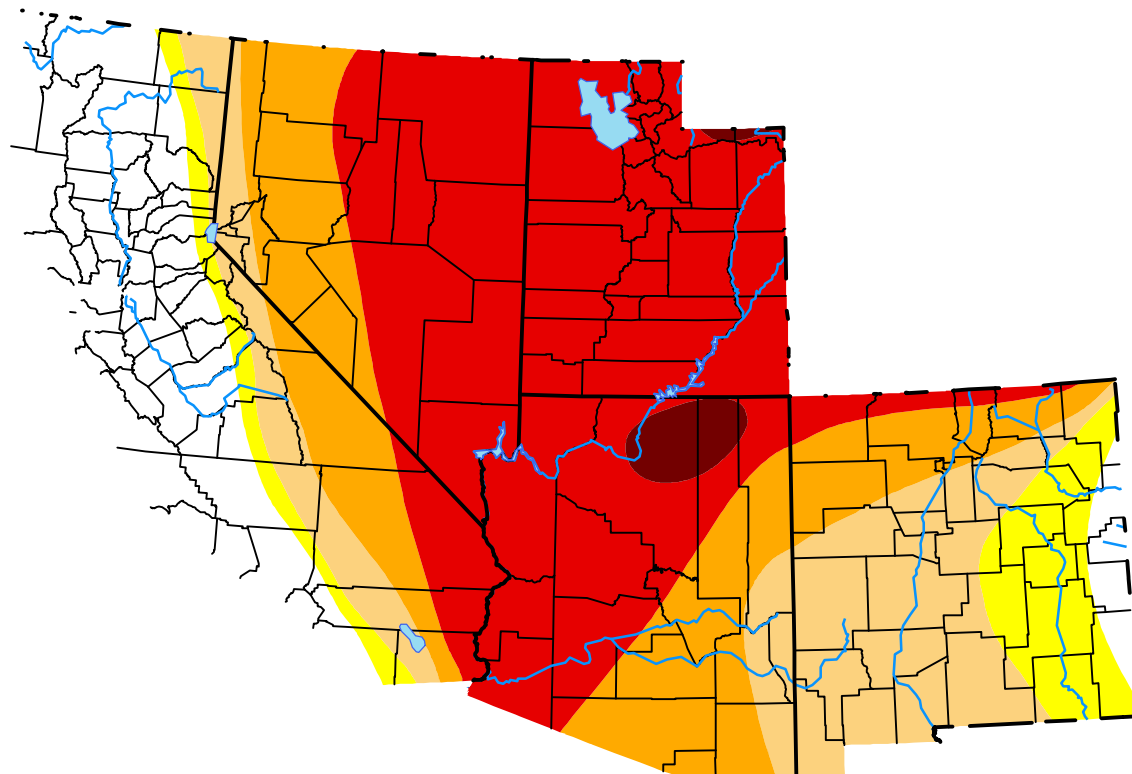


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

February 18, 2003
(Released Thursday, Feb. 20, 2003)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	16.58	7.43	16.49	18.37	39.70	1.44
Last Week <i>02-13-2003</i>	12.85	10.17	15.48	17.65	41.42	2.43
3 Months Ago <i>11-21-2002</i>	2.51	20.75	30.97	23.10	20.37	2.30
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2003</i>	18.08	7.73	15.93	36.52	19.37	2.37
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>02-21-2002</i>	19.08	43.91	31.89	5.12	0.00	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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