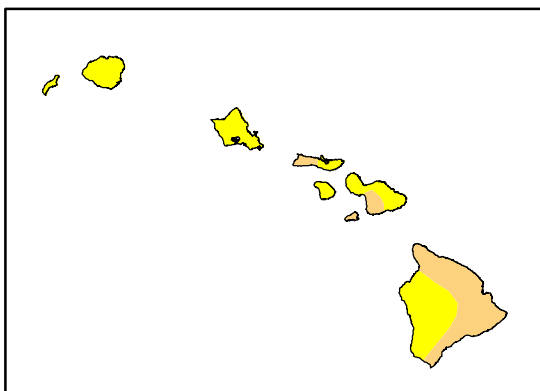
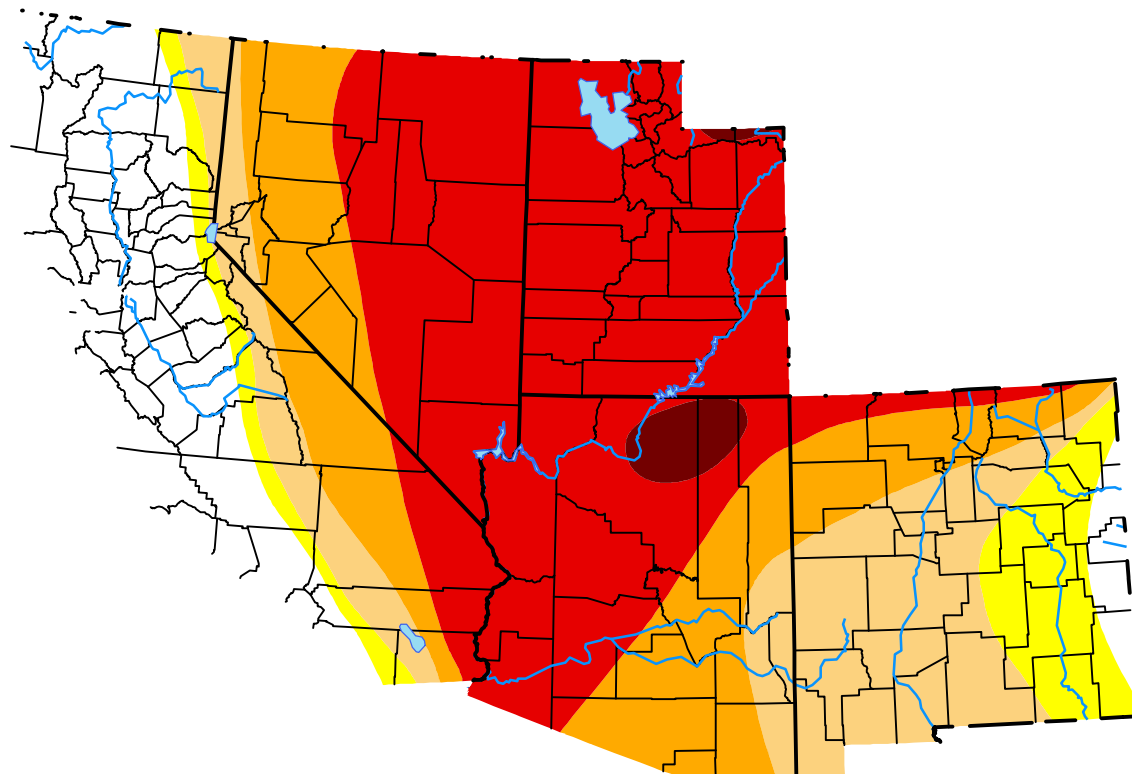


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

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



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	16.58	83.42	76.00	59.51	41.14	1.44
Last Week 02-13-2003	12.85	87.15	76.98	61.50	43.85	2.43
3 Months Ago 11-21-2002	2.51	97.49	76.74	45.76	22.67	2.30
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2003	18.08	81.92	74.19	58.26	21.74	2.37
Start of Water Year 10-03-2002	2.56	97.44	85.89	60.73	32.47	4.53
One Year Ago 02-21-2002	19.08	80.92	37.01	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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