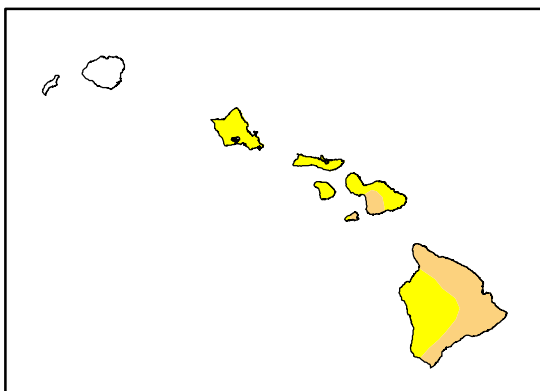
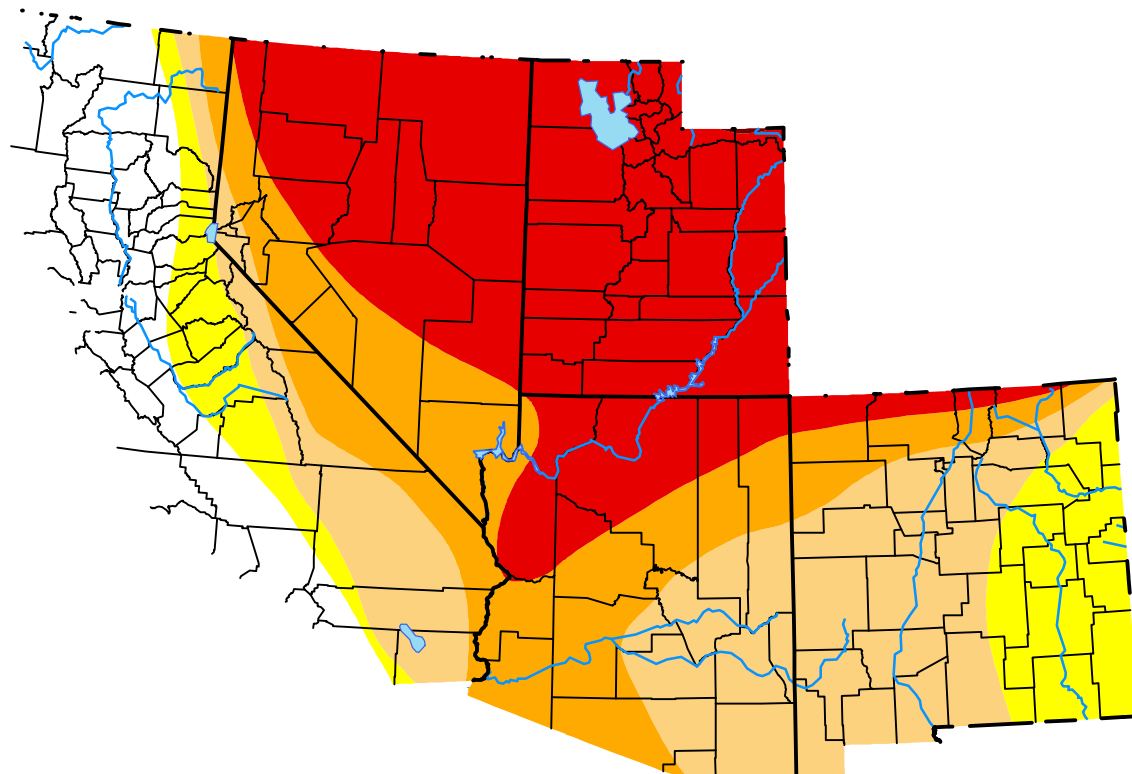


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 18, 2003
(Released Thursday, Mar. 20, 2003)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.78	86.22	75.21	52.05	32.90	0.03
Last Week 03-13-2003	12.09	87.91	75.31	54.89	33.39	0.07
3 Months Ago 12-19-2002	13.23	86.77	76.97	60.51	21.89	2.38
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 03-21-2002	16.08	83.92	61.06	5.98	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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