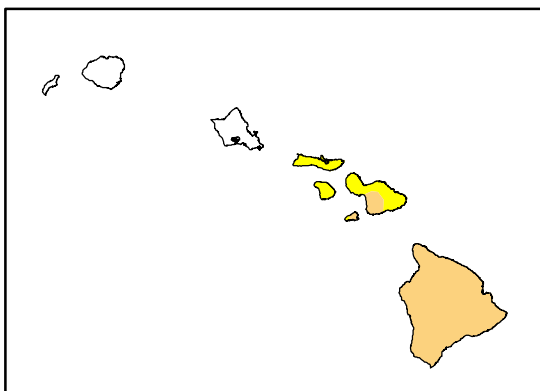
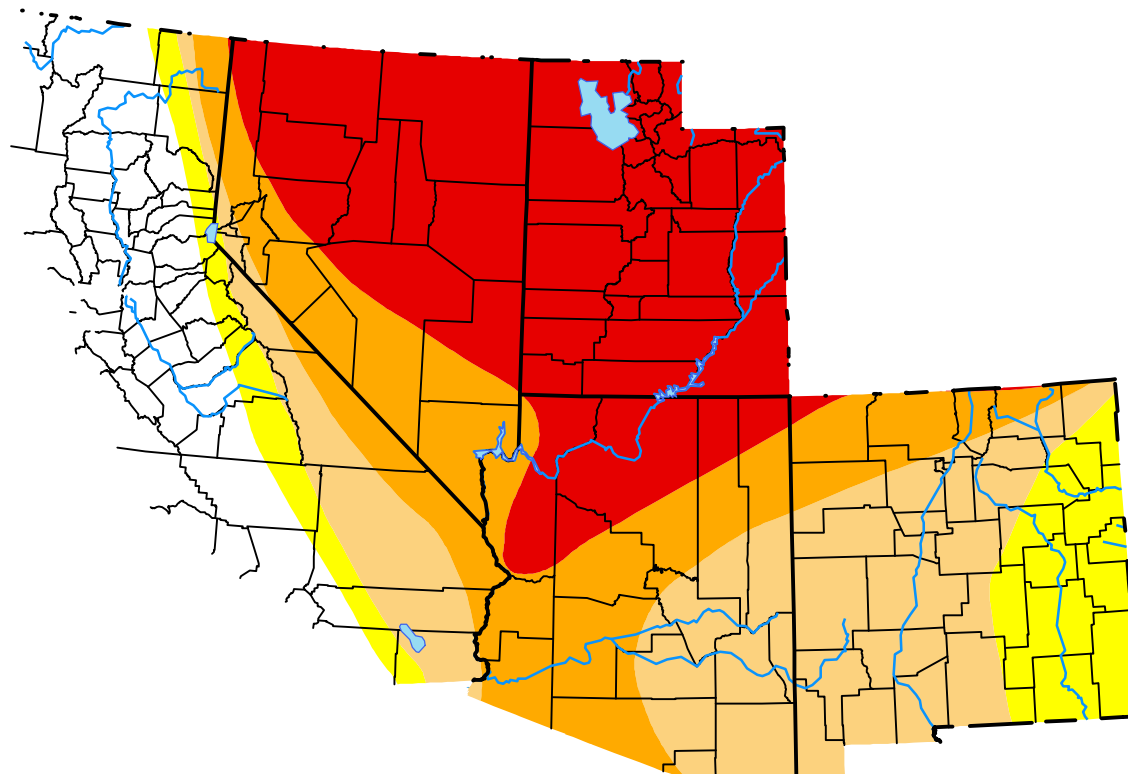


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

April 15, 2003
(Released Thursday, Apr. 17, 2003)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.75	84.25	74.73	51.65	31.76	0.00
Last Week <i>04-10-2003</i>	10.86	89.14	75.48	51.83	32.36	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>01-16-2003</i>	18.36	81.64	73.56	58.35	30.27	2.44
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2003</i>	18.08	81.92	74.19	58.26	21.74	2.37
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>04-18-2002</i>	15.70	84.30	67.70	46.65	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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