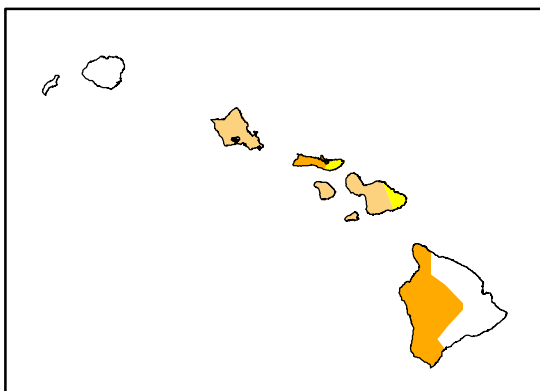
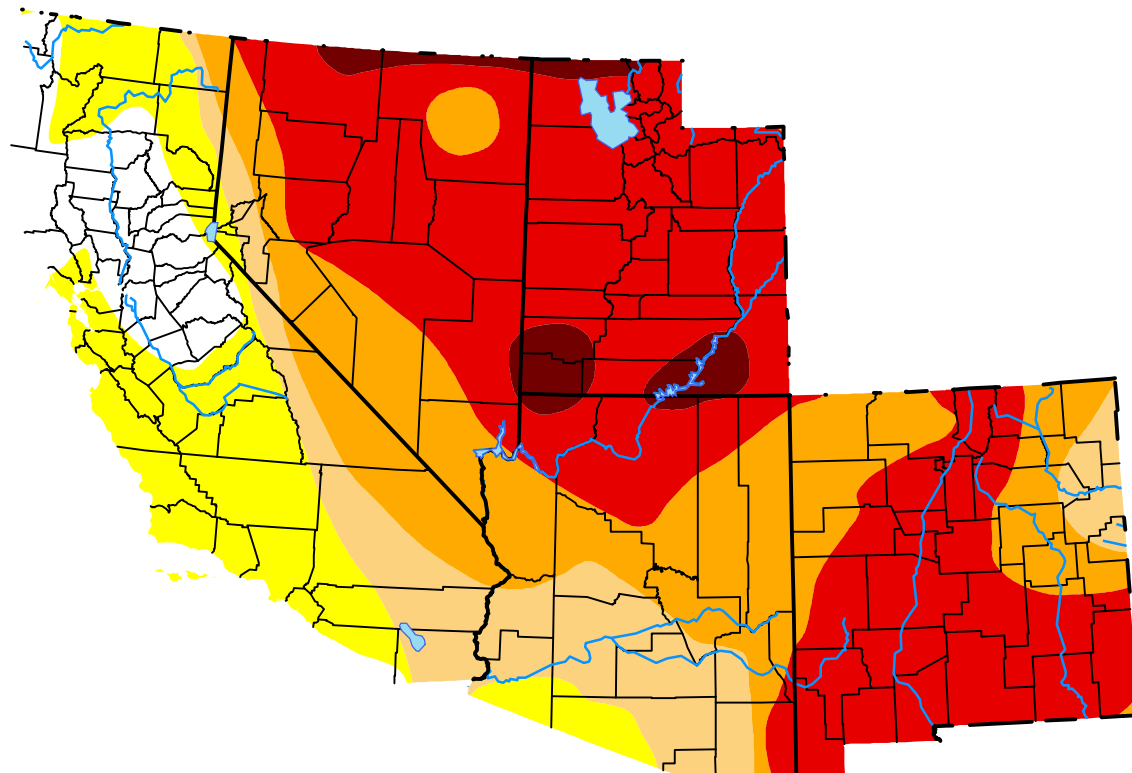


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

October 21, 2003
(Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 2003)
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	7.52	13.91	12.08	22.94	40.53	3.03
Last Week <i>10-16-2003</i>	7.91	14.79	11.45	20.49	42.11	3.25
3 Months Ago <i>07-24-2003</i>	16.82	4.58	11.87	23.67	38.99	4.07
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>10-02-2003</i>	18.46	4.16	11.20	21.71	40.95	3.52
One Year Ago <i>10-24-2002</i>	1.04	7.64	36.48	26.01	25.74	3.09

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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