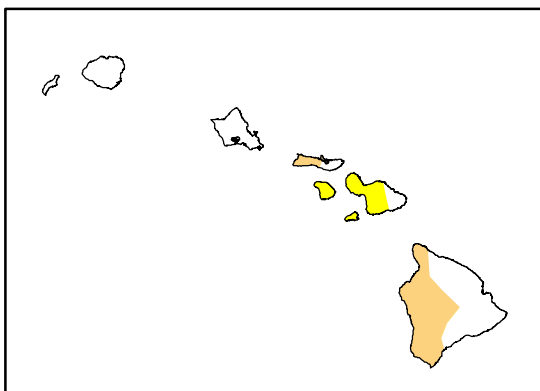
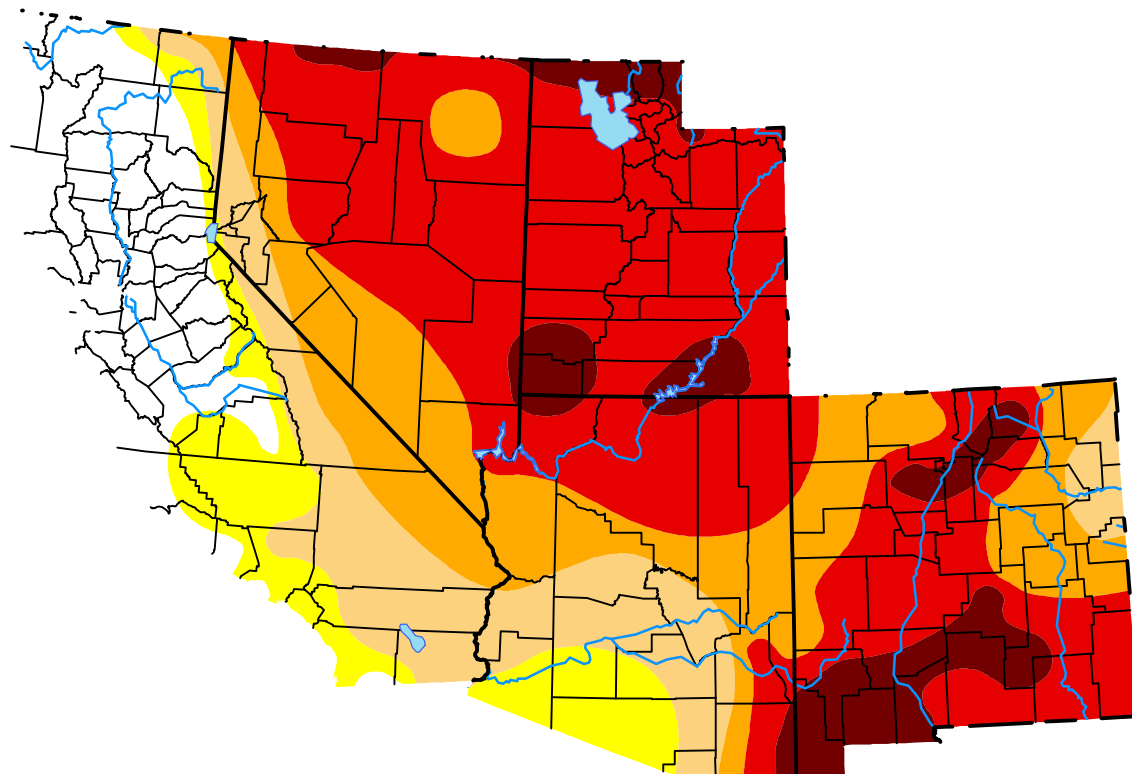


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 23, 2003
 (Released Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2003)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	13.29	8.23	13.12	18.86	38.22	8.28
Last Week <i>12-18-2003</i>	13.57	8.75	13.72	18.55	39.16	6.25
3 Months Ago <i>09-25-2003</i>	18.18	2.33	11.46	23.02	41.56	3.44
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>12-26-2002</i>	17.09	7.18	15.99	37.74	19.62	2.37

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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