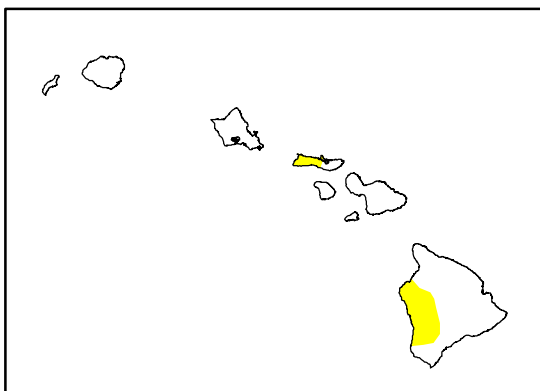
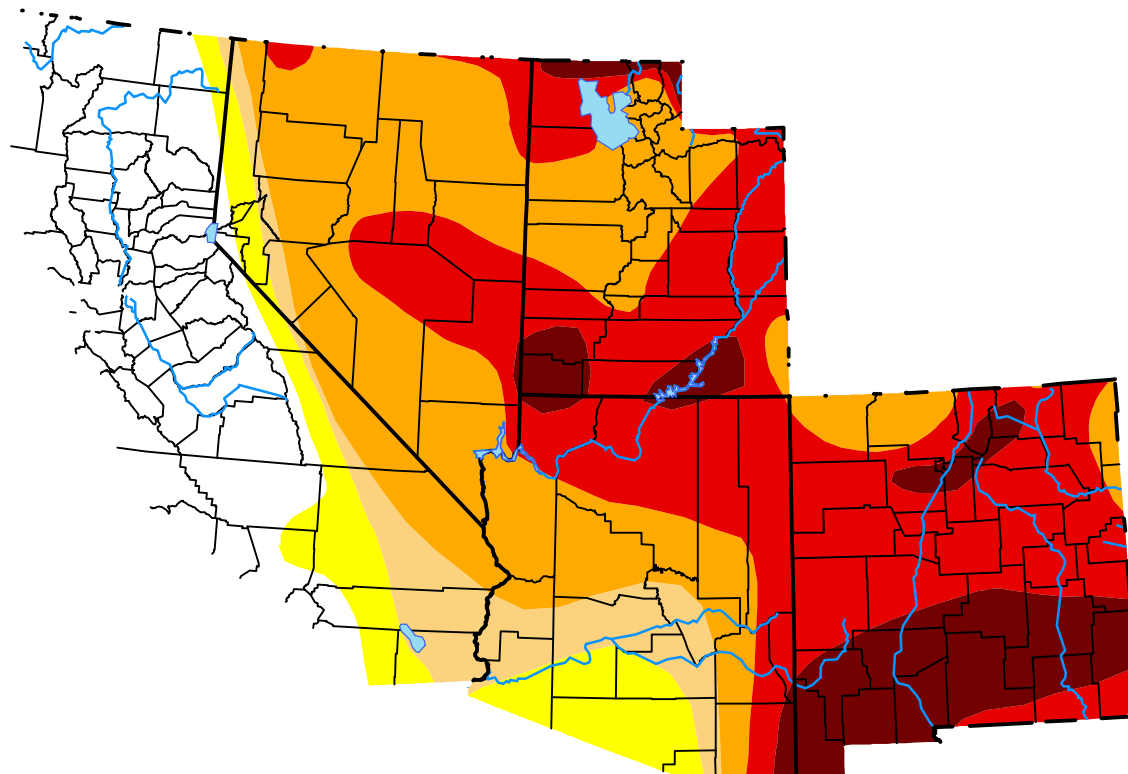


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

February 24, 2004
(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	19.87	7.22	6.51	27.40	29.17	9.82
Last Week <i>02-19-2004</i>	19.03	8.06	6.51	27.40	29.17	9.82
3 Months Ago <i>11-26-2003</i>	12.68	9.37	13.72	19.07	39.32	5.84
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2003</i>	18.57	7.18	8.28	26.93	31.08	7.96
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>02-27-2003</i>	16.91	7.53	17.21	17.52	39.36	1.46

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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