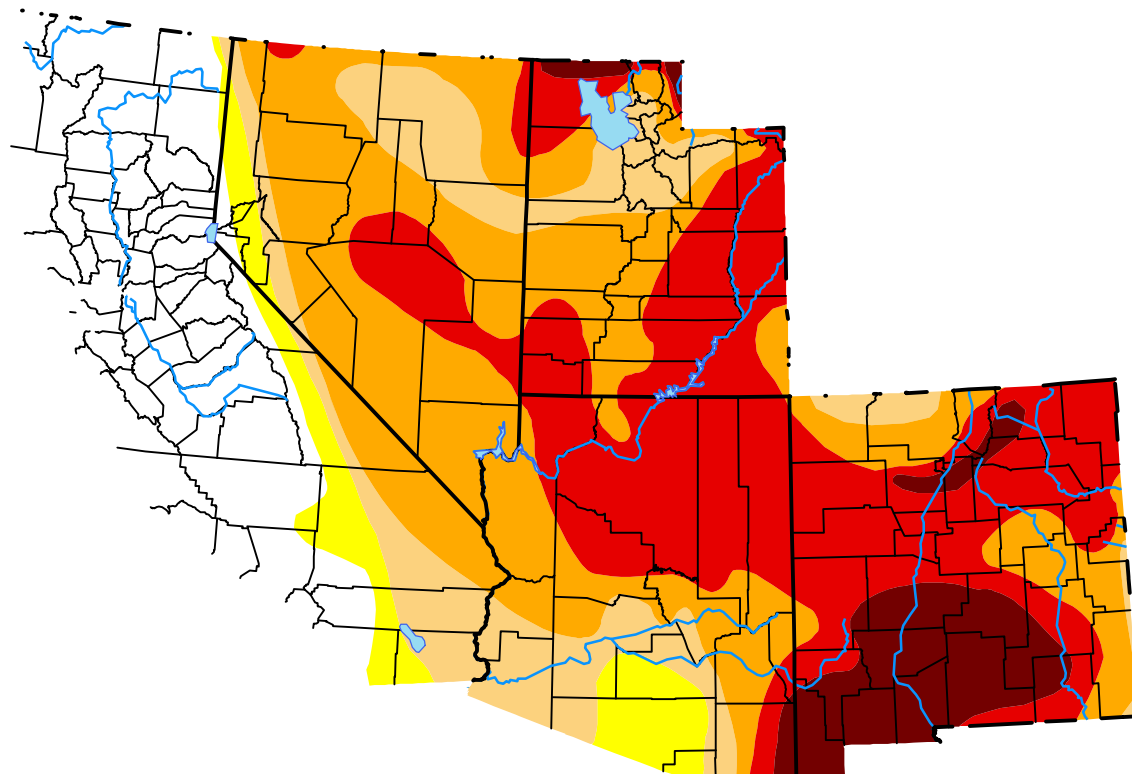


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 16, 2004
(Released Thursday, Mar. 18, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	20.96	5.11	12.47	27.78	26.86	6.81
Last Week 03-11-2004	20.96	5.11	12.37	27.86	26.88	6.81
3 Months Ago 12-18-2003	13.57	8.75	13.72	18.55	39.16	6.25
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2003	18.57	7.18	8.28	26.93	31.08	7.96
Start of Water Year 10-02-2003	18.46	4.16	11.20	21.71	40.95	3.52
One Year Ago 03-20-2003	13.78	11.01	23.16	19.15	32.87	0.03

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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