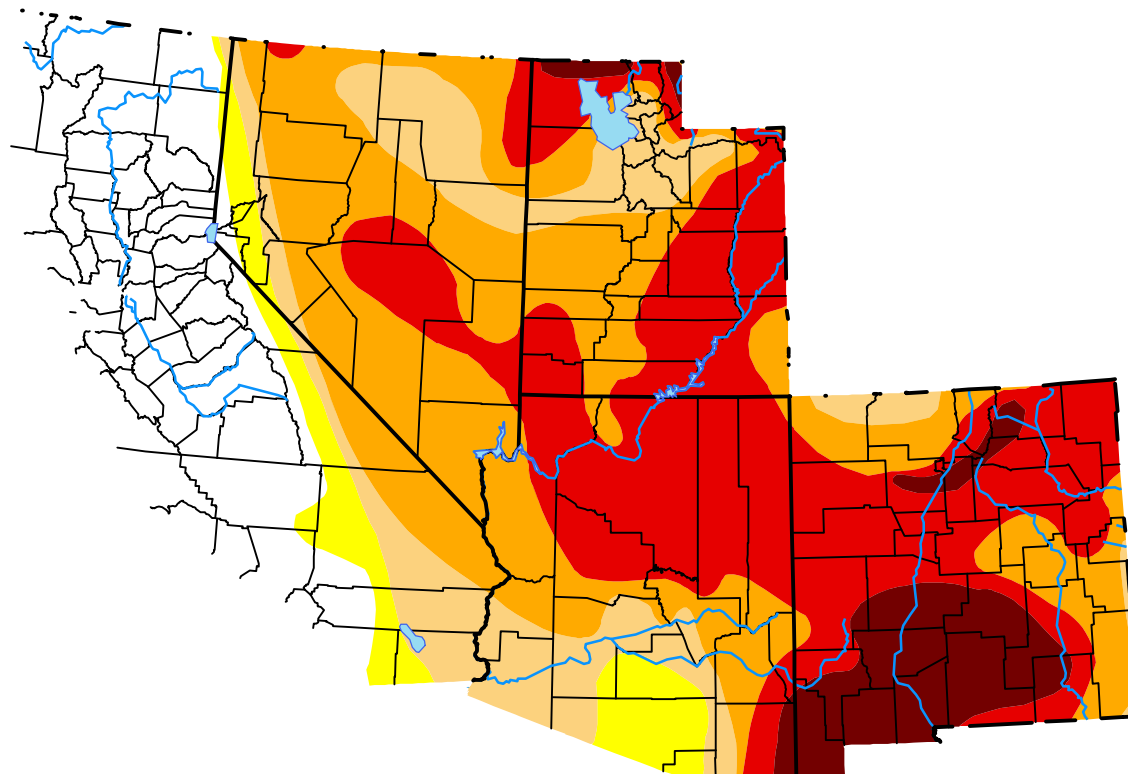


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 23, 2004
(Released Thursday, Mar. 25, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	20.96	79.04	73.92	61.46	34.38	6.81
Last Week <i>03-18-2004</i>	20.96	79.04	73.92	61.46	33.67	6.81
3 Months Ago <i>12-24-2003</i>	13.29	86.71	78.48	65.36	46.51	8.28
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2003</i>	18.57	81.43	74.25	65.97	39.04	7.96
Start of Water Year <i>10-02-2003</i>	18.46	81.54	77.38	66.18	44.47	3.52
One Year Ago <i>03-27-2003</i>	13.87	86.13	75.03	52.24	32.26	0.06

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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