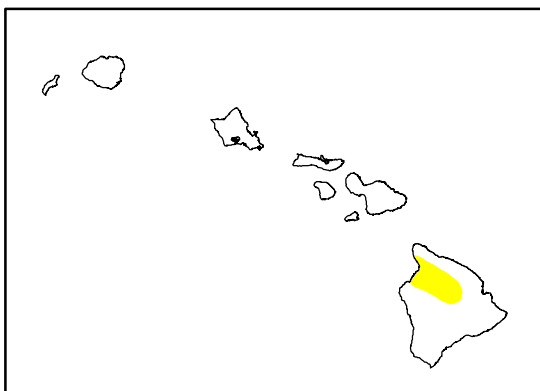
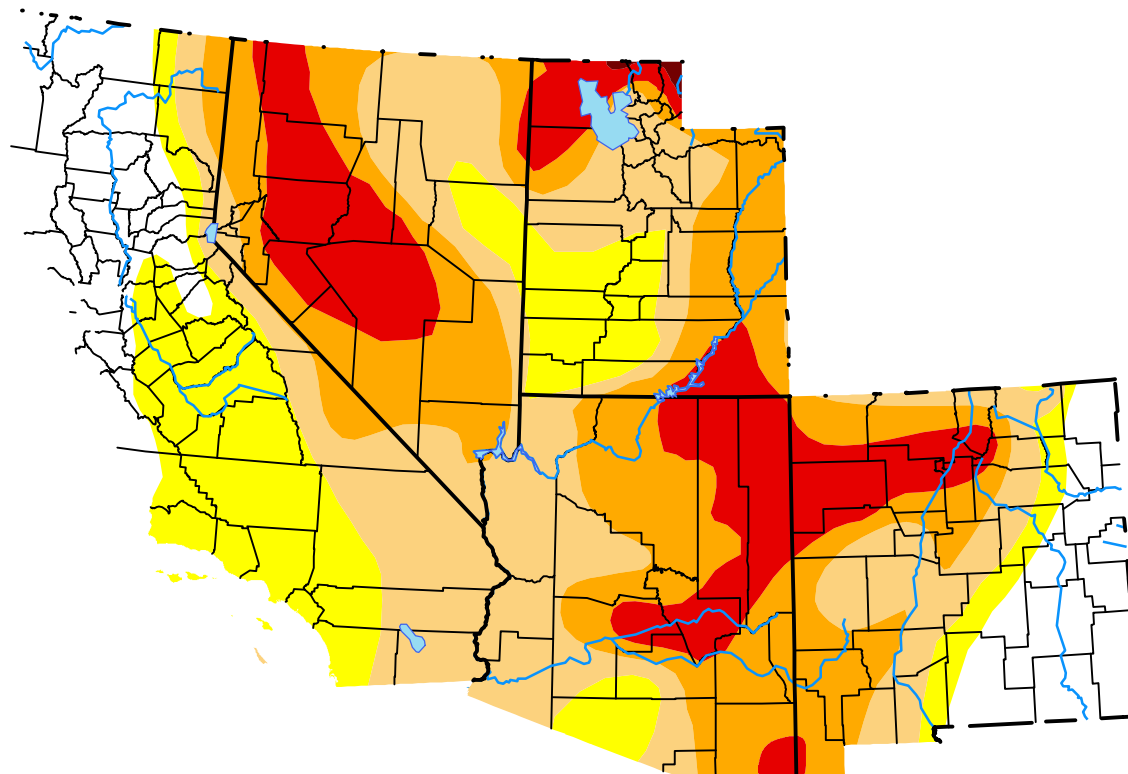


U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 14, 2004
(Released Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	15.73	17.32	27.29	25.09	14.47	0.11
Last Week 12-09-2004	14.20	18.64	26.77	25.78	14.51	0.11
3 Months Ago 09-16-2004	5.25	14.31	18.88	31.61	29.73	0.21
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2003	18.57	7.18	8.28	26.93	31.08	7.96
Start of Water Year 09-30-2004	5.68	14.09	18.68	34.46	26.89	0.21
One Year Ago 12-18-2003	13.57	8.75	13.72	18.55	39.16	6.25

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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