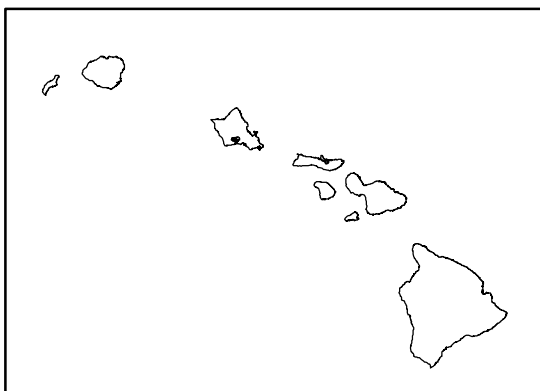
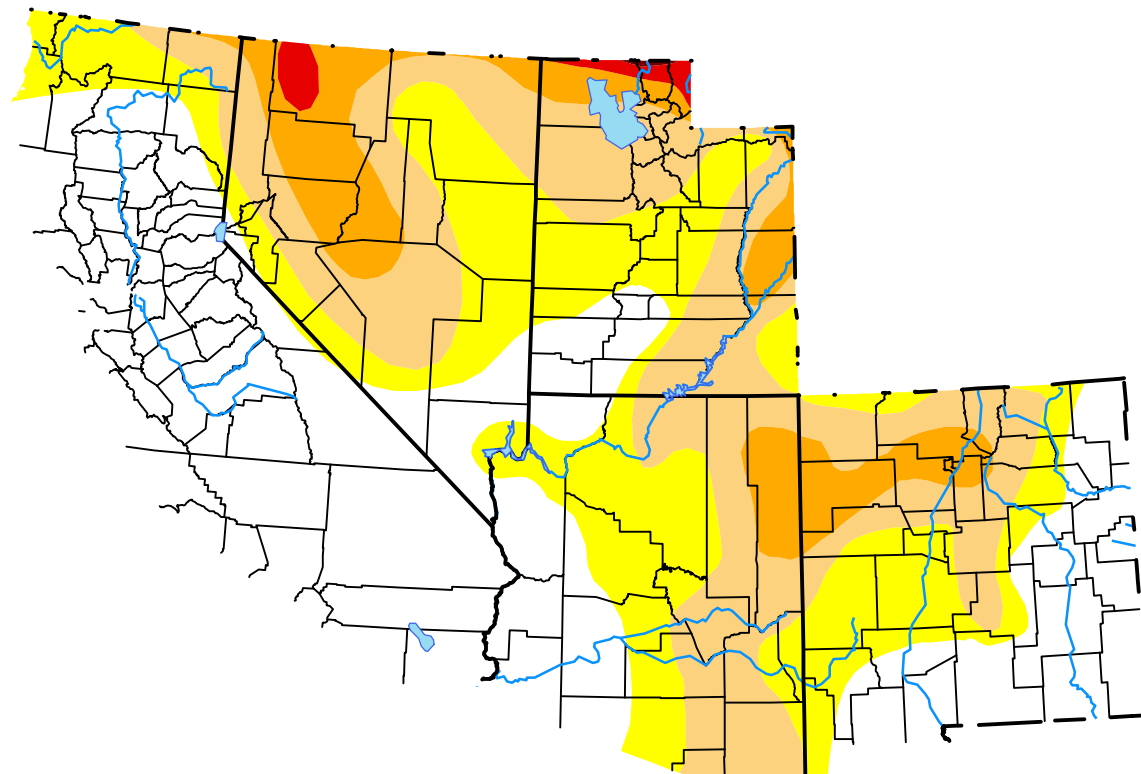


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 22, 2005
(Released Thursday, Mar. 24, 2005)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	42.39	57.61	33.06	9.26	0.79	0.04
Last Week <i>03-17-2005</i>	41.70	58.30	33.06	9.26	0.79	0.04
3 Months Ago <i>12-23-2004</i>	15.73	84.27	66.83	39.53	14.56	0.11
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-06-2005</i>	25.51	74.49	59.32	32.80	11.75	0.11
Start of Water Year <i>09-30-2004</i>	5.68	94.32	80.23	61.56	27.10	0.21
One Year Ago <i>03-25-2004</i>	20.96	79.04	73.92	61.46	34.38	6.81

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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