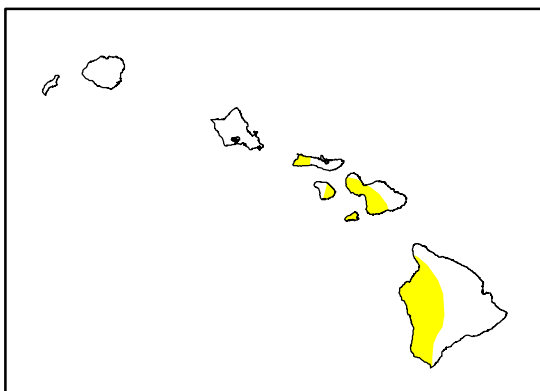
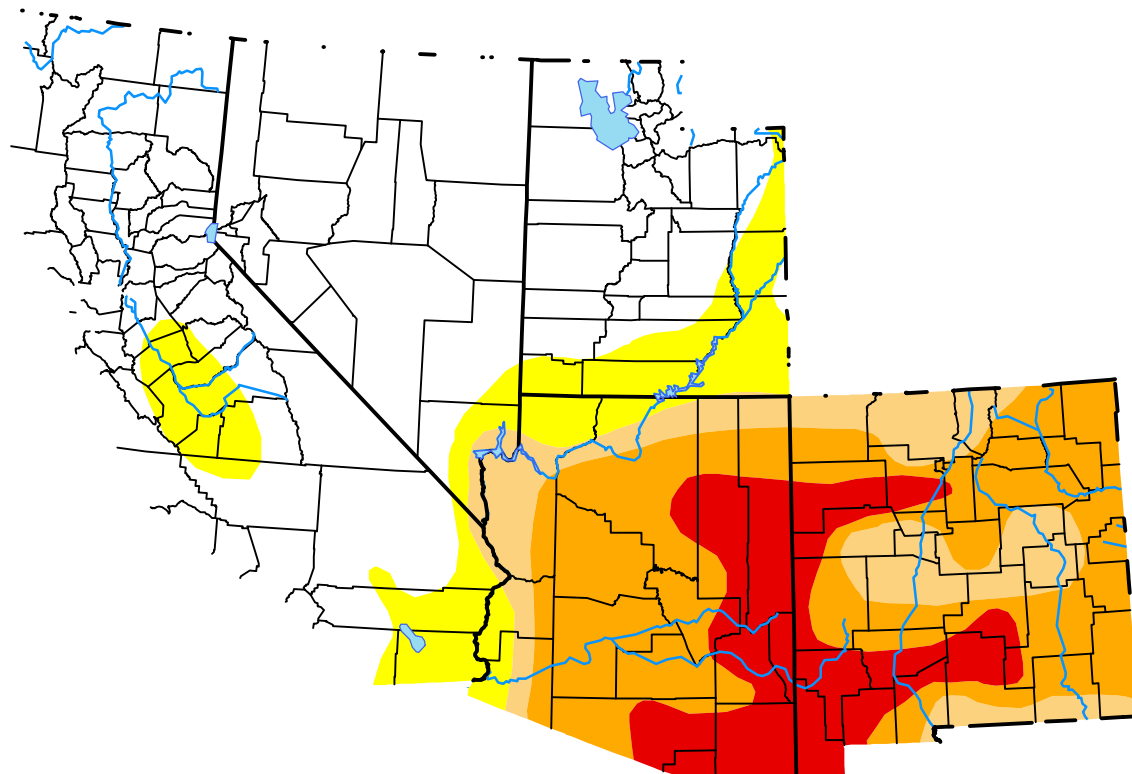


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 14, 2006
(Released Thursday, Mar. 16, 2006)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	50.57	10.95	9.10	19.42	9.96	0.00
Last Week <i>03-09-2006</i>	48.63	12.81	9.21	16.03	13.32	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>12-15-2005</i>	58.91	32.57	8.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-05-2006</i>	57.15	29.90	12.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-29-2005</i>	76.22	16.98	6.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>03-17-2005</i>	41.70	25.23	23.80	8.47	0.75	0.04

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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