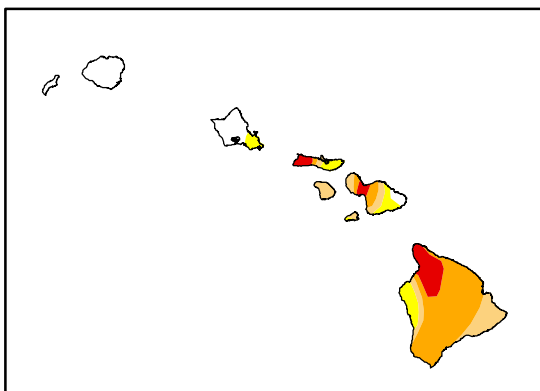
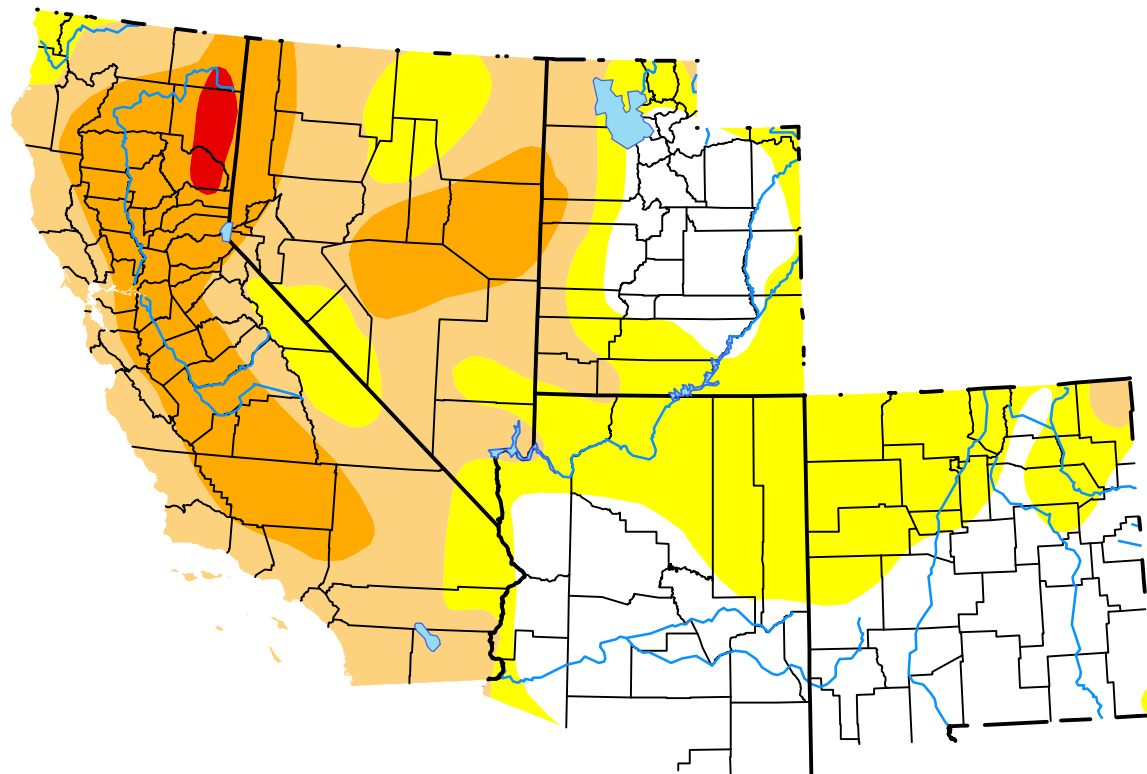


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 23, 2008
 (Released Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.81	70.19	42.46	17.71	0.86	0.00
Last Week 12-18-2008	26.07	73.93	43.90	19.76	1.67	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-25-2008	38.93	61.07	43.48	18.91	0.65	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2008	20.86	79.14	63.29	45.33	5.44	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-02-2008	38.93	61.07	43.48	18.91	0.65	0.00
One Year Ago 12-27-2007	20.86	79.14	63.30	45.33	5.44	0.00

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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