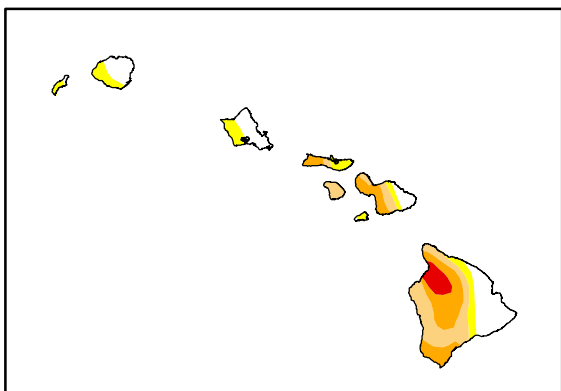
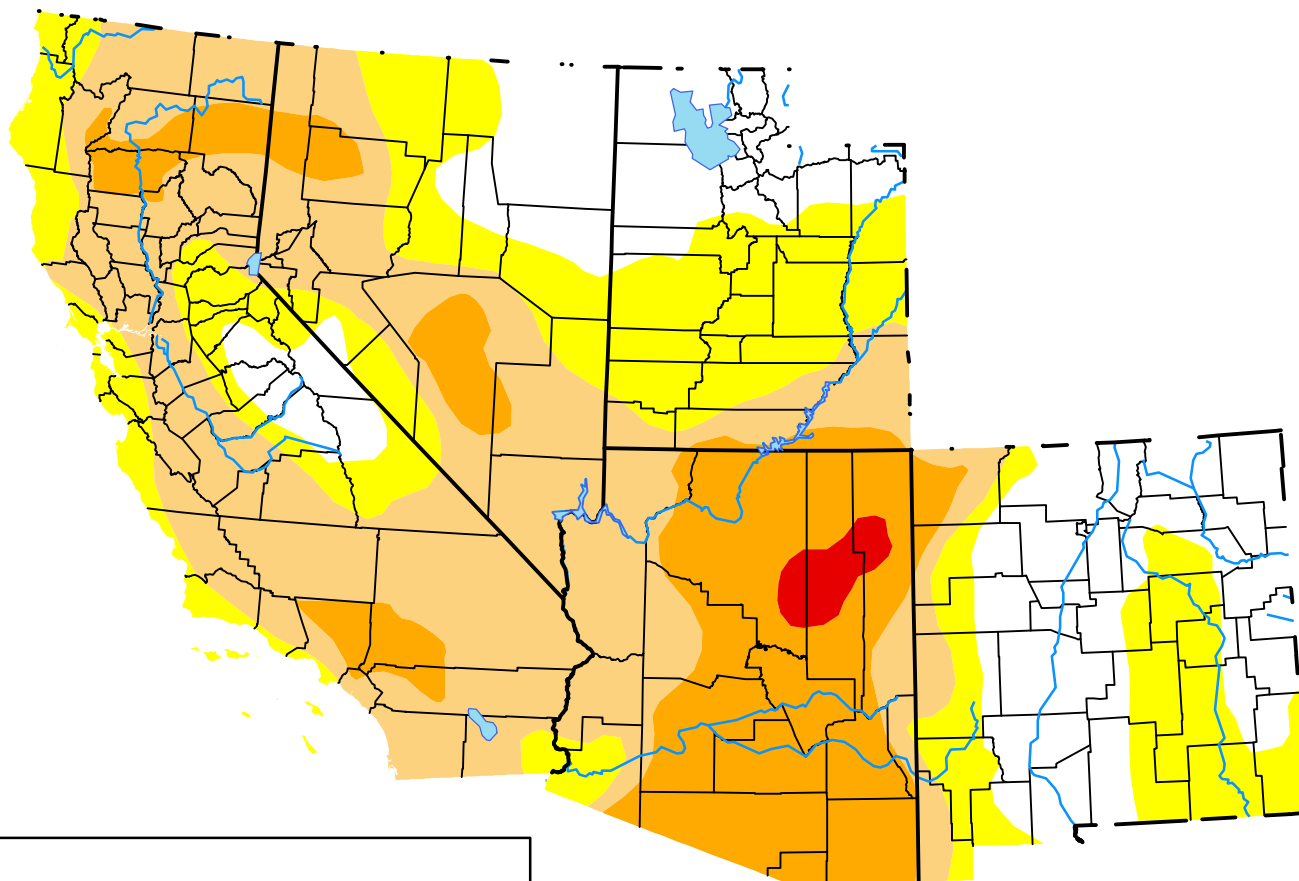


# U.S. Drought Monitor

## USDA Southwest Climate Hub

**December 22, 2009**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



### Intensity:



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

### Author:

Richard Heim  
NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)