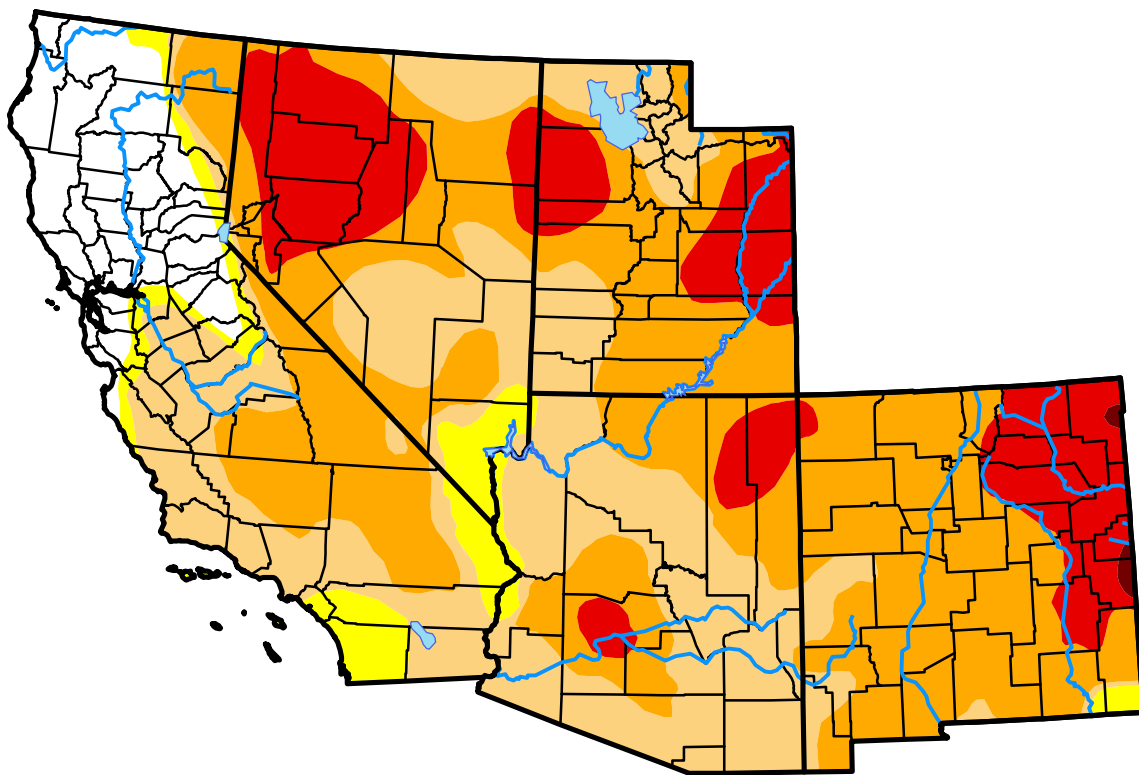


# U.S. Drought Monitor

## USDA Southwest Climate Hub

**December 18, 2012**  
 (Released Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012)  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

|  | None  | D0    | D1    | D2    | D3    | D4   |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>Current</b>                                     | 8.31  | 5.20  | 30.71 | 39.70 | 15.88 | 0.20 |
| <b>Last Week</b><br><i>12-11-2012</i>              | 8.32  | 4.57  | 30.49 | 40.52 | 15.90 | 0.20 |
| <b>3 Months Ago</b><br><i>09-18-2012</i>           | 3.21  | 5.13  | 44.10 | 35.36 | 12.07 | 0.14 |
| <b>Start of Calendar Year</b><br><i>01-03-2012</i> | 29.23 | 22.34 | 26.47 | 16.60 | 3.80  | 1.56 |
| <b>Start of Water Year</b><br><i>09-25-2012</i>    | 3.21  | 5.15  | 44.08 | 35.36 | 12.07 | 0.14 |
| <b>One Year Ago</b><br><i>12-20-2011</i>           | 48.02 | 22.18 | 7.84  | 13.59 | 4.70  | 3.67 |

***Intensity:***

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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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