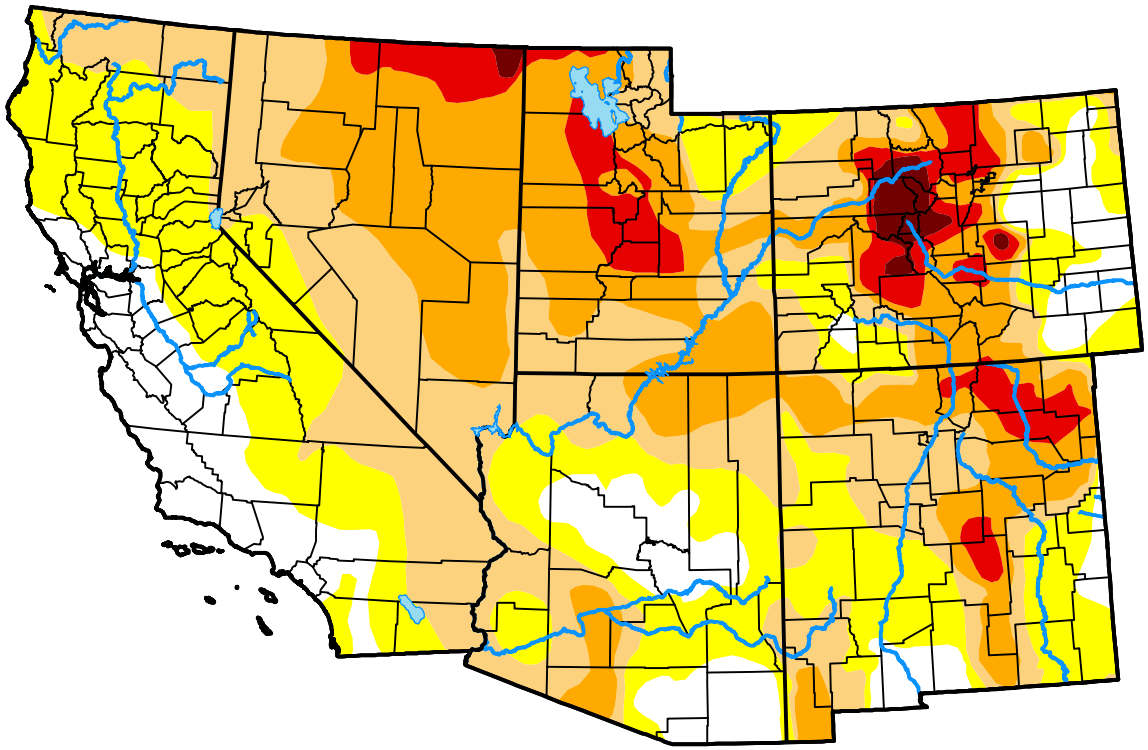
U.S. Drought Monitor

Southwest



October 20, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	14.04	27.67	28.67	22.86	5.75	1.01
Last Week *10-13-2026*	10.72	24.17	29.93	25.91	7.88	1.39
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	10.69	19.06	15.18	33.69	19.17	2.22
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	40.64	16.84	23.18	17.66	1.58	0.10
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	9.57	19.12	29.98	28.72	10.98	1.62
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	24.56	16.68	25.30	27.98	5.48	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- 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. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:

Lindsay Johnson

High Plains Regional Climate Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu