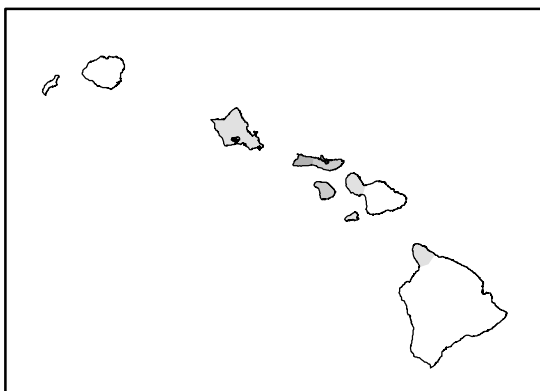
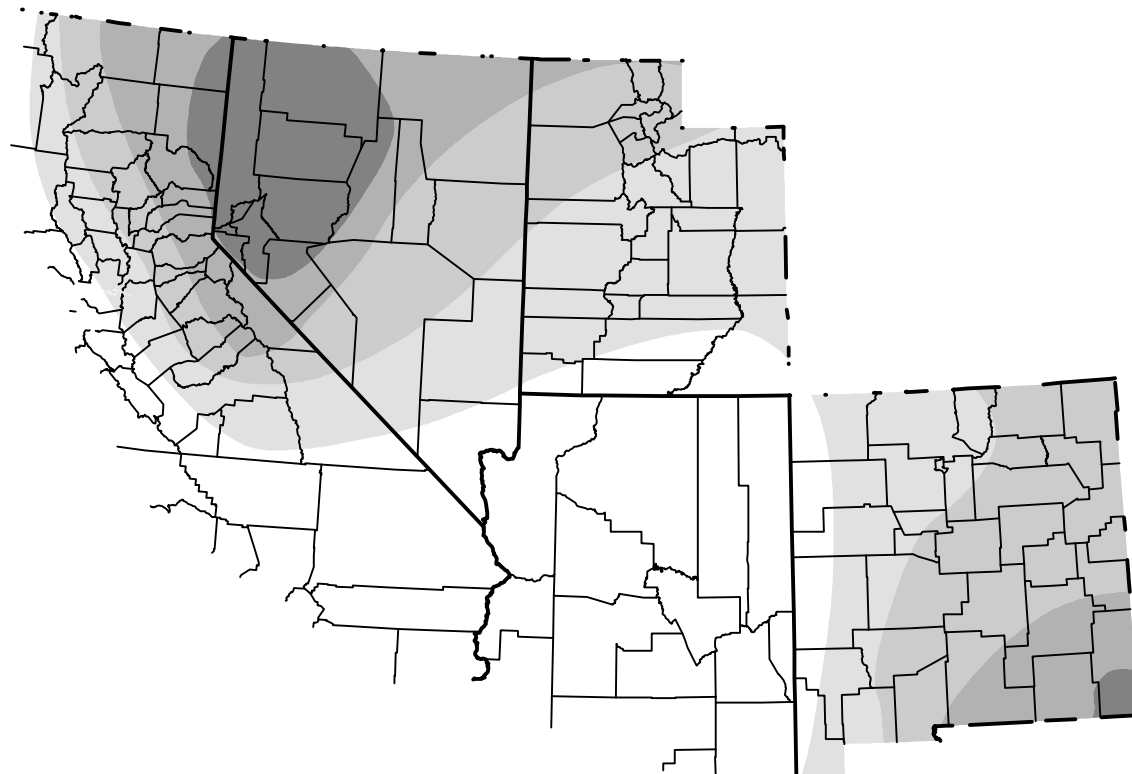


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 18, 2001
(Released Thursday, Dec. 20, 2001)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	39.38	22.92	20.32	10.54	6.84	0.00
Last Week <i>12-13-2001</i>	38.56	23.48	20.00	9.55	8.41	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>09-20-2001</i>	42.73	18.13	16.78	9.07	13.29	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2001</i>	83.72	14.98	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-27-2001</i>	42.72	18.14	16.78	9.07	13.29	0.00
One Year Ago <i>12-21-2000</i>	90.71	7.84	1.46	0.00	0.00	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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