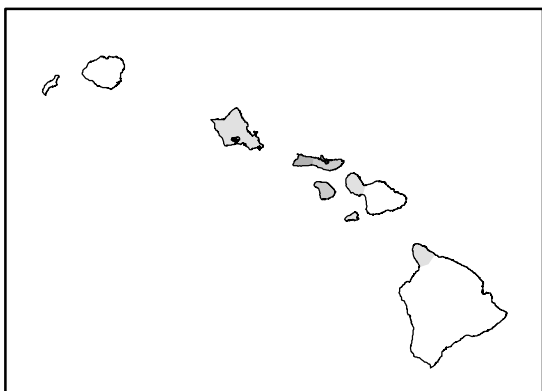
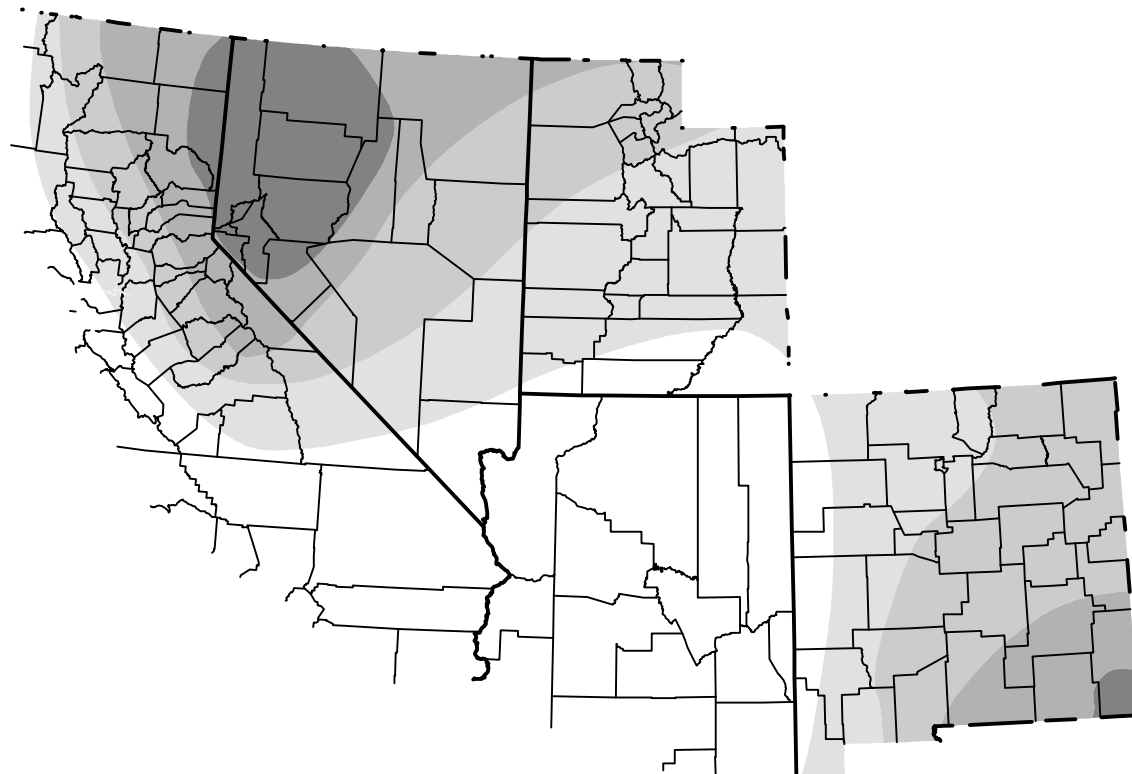


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

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



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	39.38	60.62	37.71	17.38	6.84	0.00
Last Week <i>12-13-2001</i>	38.56	61.44	37.97	17.96	8.41	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>09-20-2001</i>	42.73	57.27	39.13	22.36	13.29	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-04-2001</i>	83.72	16.28	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-27-2001</i>	42.72	57.28	39.13	22.36	13.29	0.00
One Year Ago <i>12-21-2000</i>	90.71	9.29	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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