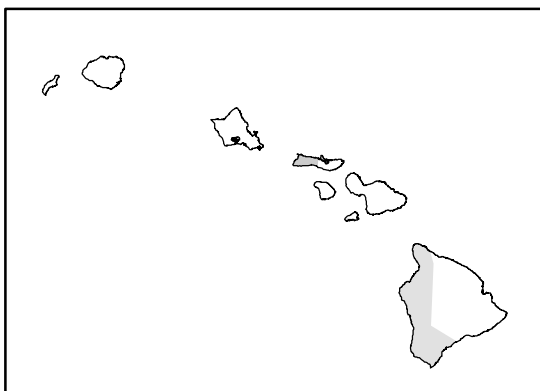
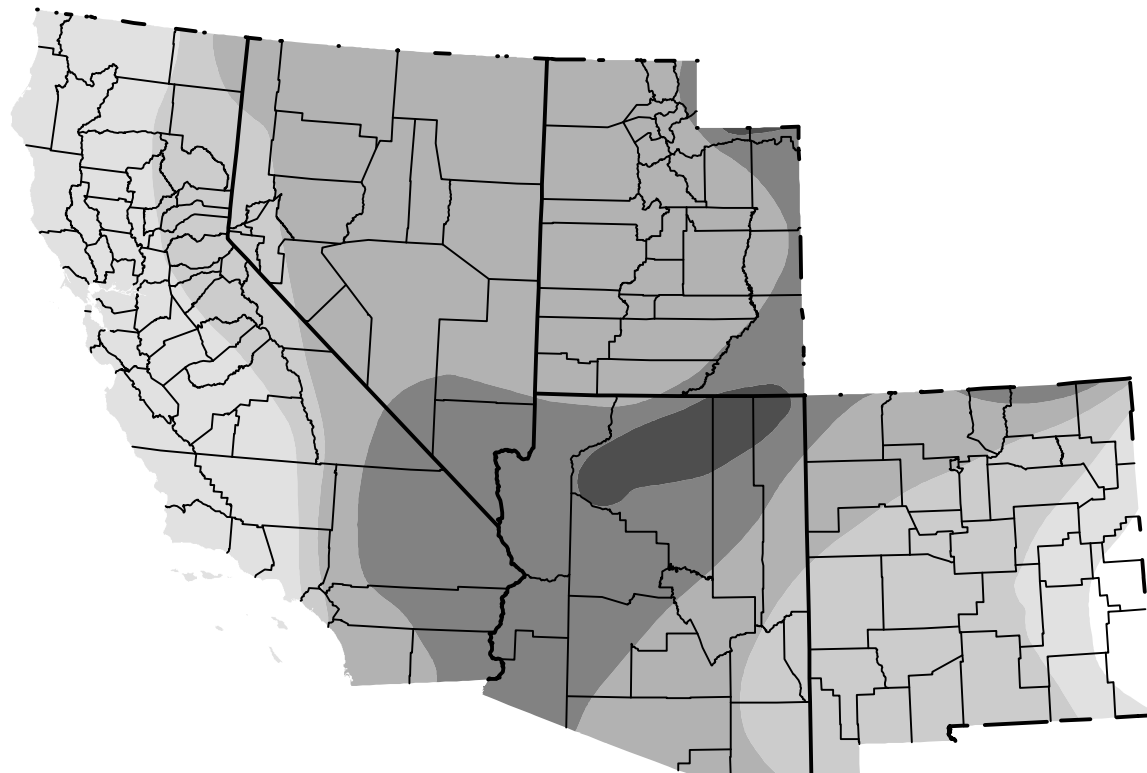


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 10, 2002
(Released Thursday, Dec. 12, 2002)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	2.17	16.37	19.83	39.99	19.27	2.37
Last Week <i>12-05-2002</i>	2.54	21.06	30.68	24.25	19.33	2.13
3 Months Ago <i>09-12-2002</i>	2.34	10.69	18.78	31.58	28.53	8.08
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-03-2002</i>	45.56	22.67	17.91	9.16	4.71	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>10-03-2002</i>	2.56	11.55	25.16	28.26	27.95	4.53
One Year Ago <i>12-13-2001</i>	38.56	23.48	20.00	9.55	8.41	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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