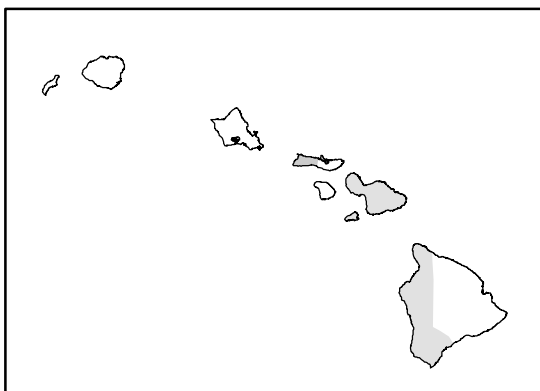
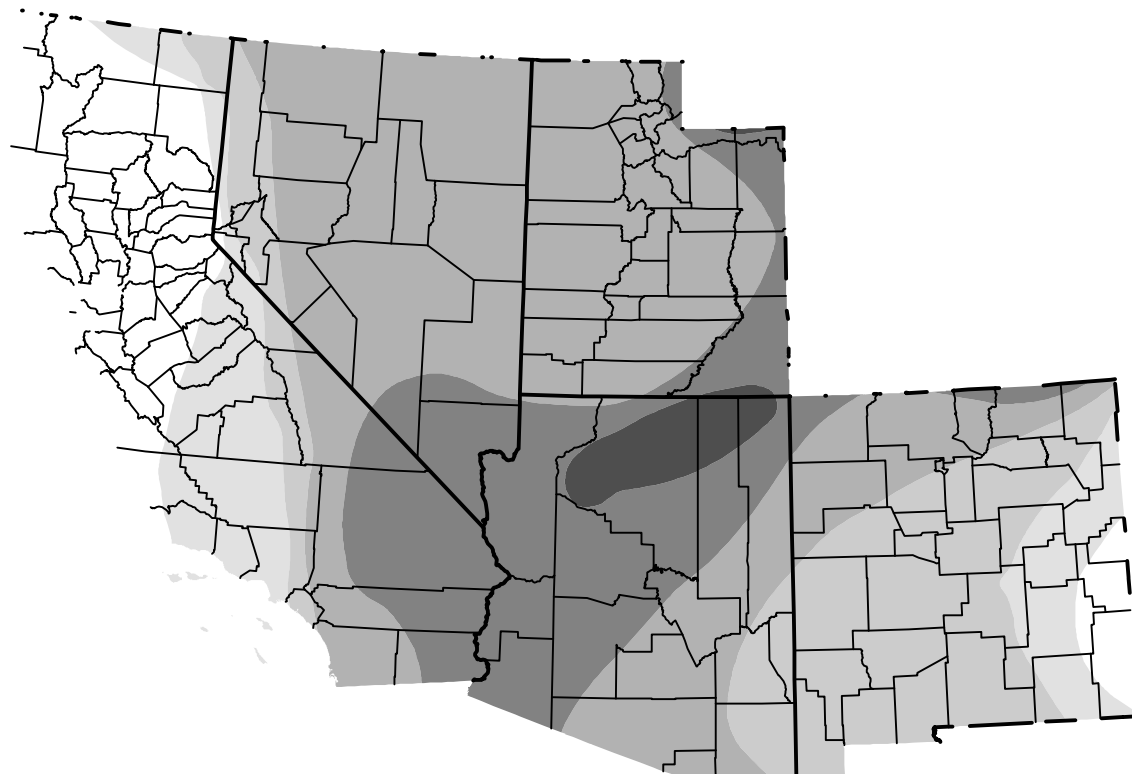


# U.S. Drought Monitor

## USDA Southwest Climate Hub

**December 17, 2002**  
*(Released Thursday, Dec. 19, 2002)*  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



### Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|                                                    | None  | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>Current</b>                                     | 13.23 | 86.77 | 76.97 | 60.51 | 21.89 | 2.38 |
| <b>Last Week</b><br><i>12-12-2002</i>              | 2.17  | 97.83 | 81.46 | 61.63 | 21.64 | 2.37 |
| <b>3 Months Ago</b><br><i>09-19-2002</i>           | 2.51  | 97.49 | 87.15 | 65.33 | 35.82 | 7.41 |
| <b>Start of Calendar Year</b><br><i>01-03-2002</i> | 45.56 | 54.44 | 31.77 | 13.87 | 4.71  | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Water Year</b><br><i>10-03-2002</i>    | 2.56  | 97.44 | 85.89 | 60.73 | 32.47 | 4.53 |
| <b>One Year Ago</b><br><i>12-20-2001</i>           | 39.38 | 60.62 | 37.71 | 17.38 | 6.84  | 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.*

### Author:

Douglas Le Comte  
 CPC/NOAA



**droughtmonitor.unl.edu**