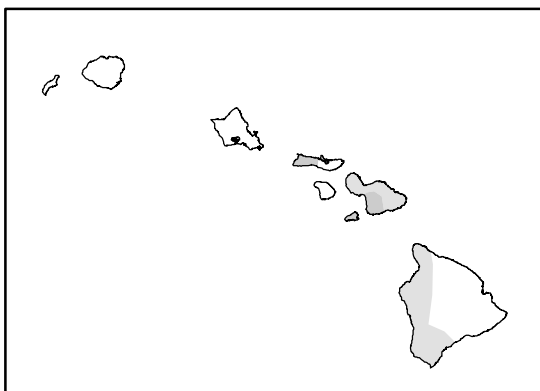
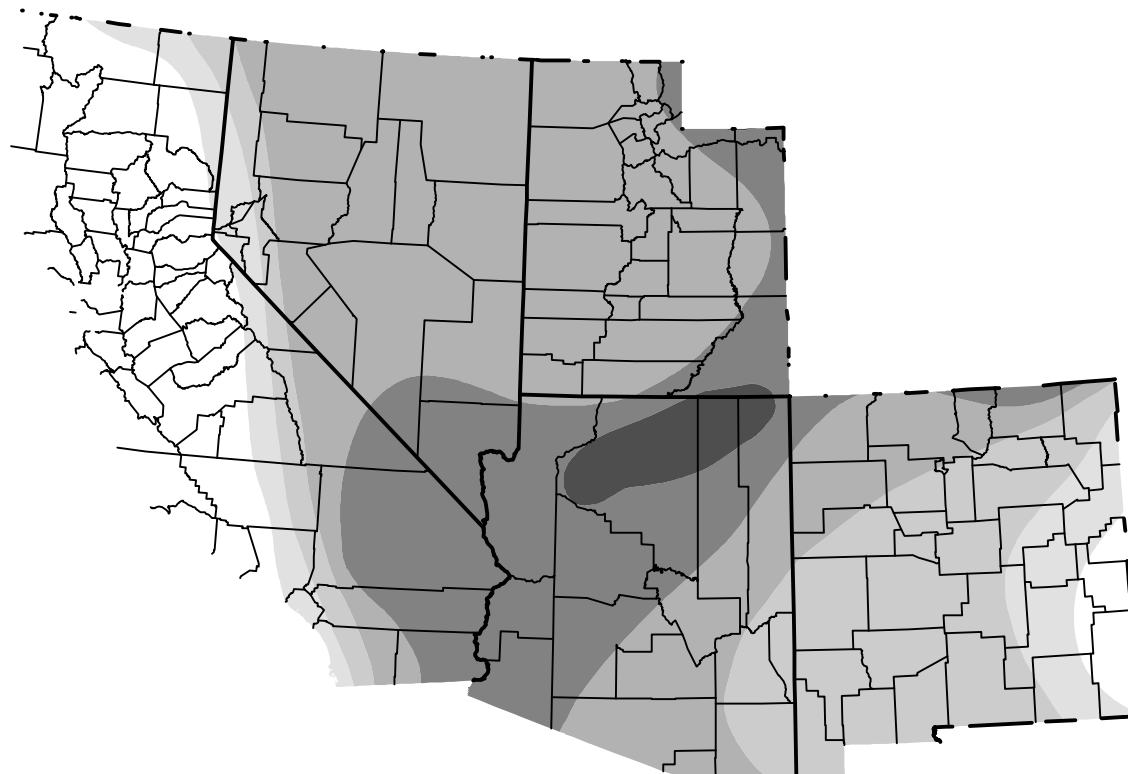


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 24, 2002
(Released Thursday, Dec. 26, 2002)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	17.09	7.18	15.99	37.74	19.62	2.37
Last Week <i>12-19-2002</i>	13.23	9.80	16.46	38.61	19.51	2.38
3 Months Ago <i>09-26-2002</i>	2.44	10.26	23.40	29.26	29.40	5.23
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>12-27-2001</i>	43.38	22.01	19.28	10.06	5.27	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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