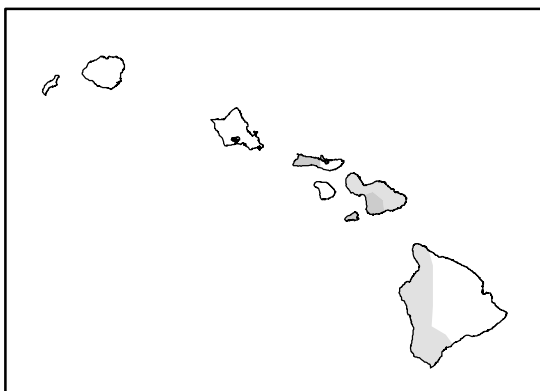
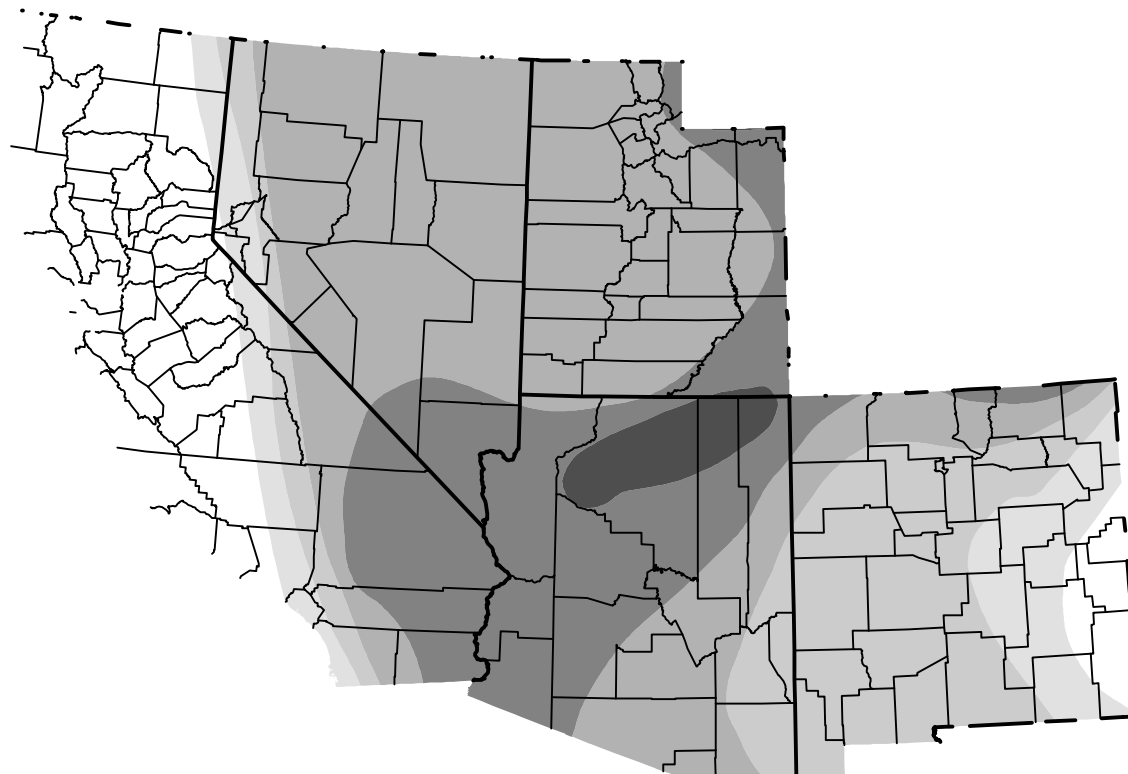


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 31, 2002
 (Released Thursday, Jan. 2, 2003)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	18.08	81.92	74.19	58.26	21.74	2.37
Last Week 12-26-2002	17.09	82.91	75.72	59.74	22.00	2.37
3 Months Ago 10-03-2002	2.56	97.44	85.89	60.73	32.47	4.53
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2002	45.56	54.44	31.77	13.87	4.71	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-03-2002	2.56	97.44	85.89	60.73	32.47	4.53
One Year Ago 01-03-2002	45.56	54.44	31.77	13.87	4.71	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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