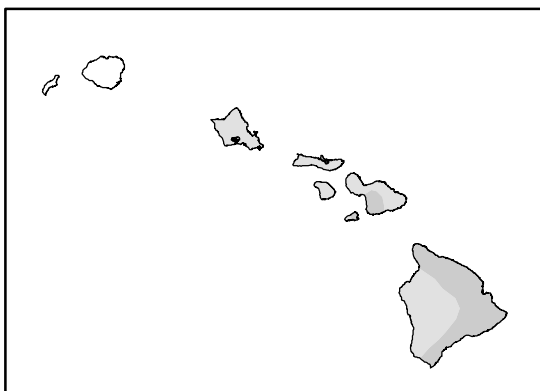
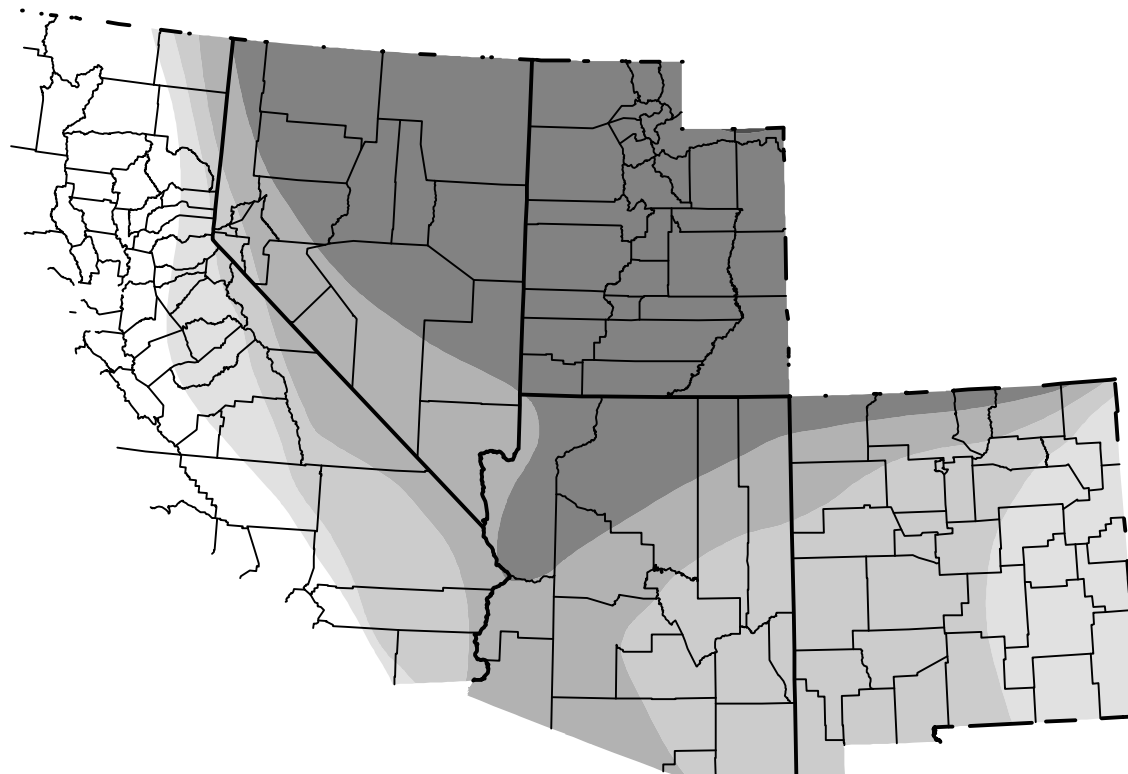


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 18, 2003
(Released Thursday, Mar. 20, 2003)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	13.78	11.01	23.16	19.15	32.87	0.03
Last Week <i>03-13-2003</i>	12.09	12.60	20.42	21.50	33.32	0.07
3 Months Ago <i>12-19-2002</i>	13.23	9.80	16.46	38.61	19.51	2.38
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2003</i>	18.08	7.73	15.93	36.52	19.37	2.37
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>03-21-2002</i>	16.08	22.86	55.09	5.98	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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