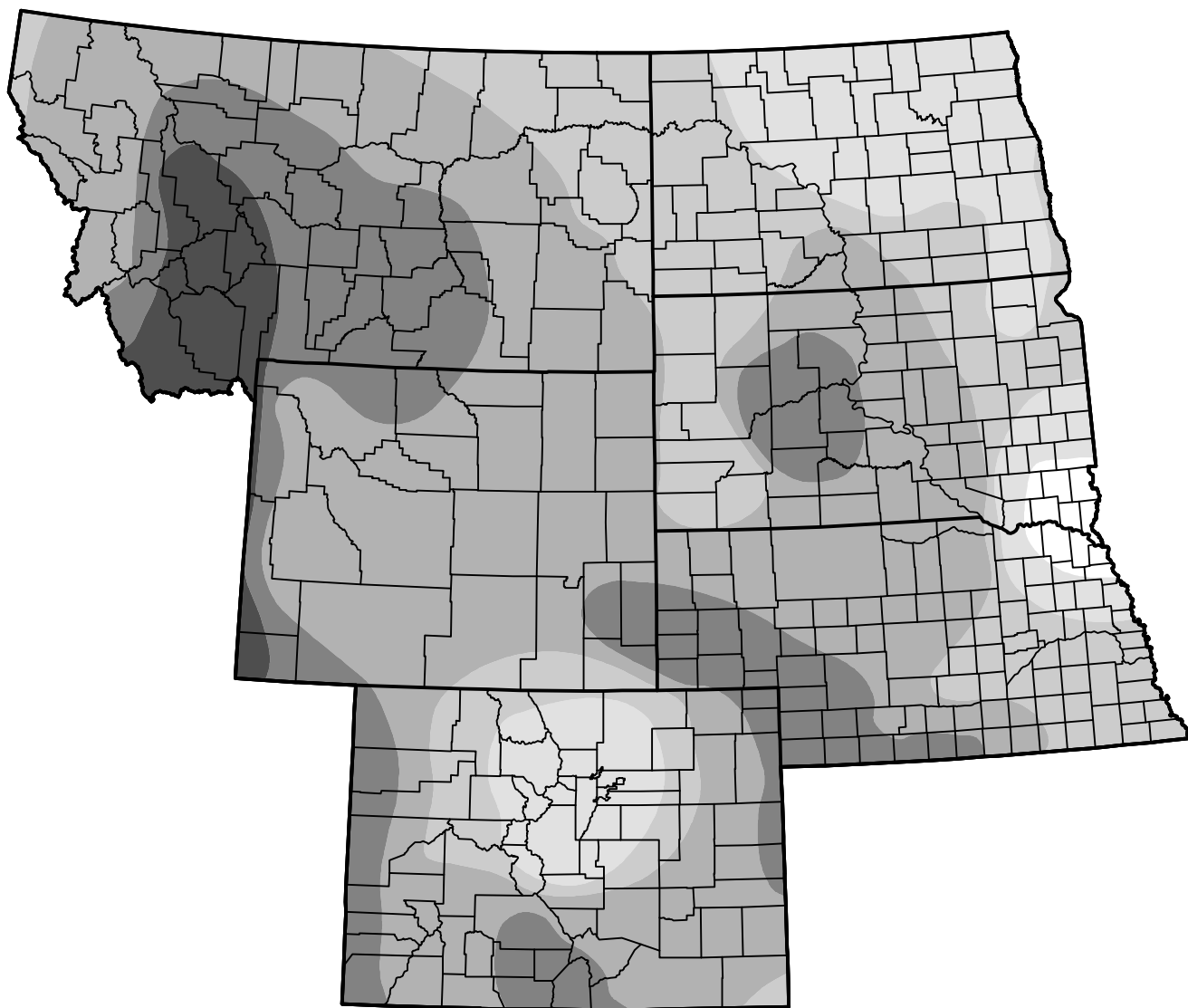


*U.S. Drought Monitor*  
**USDA Northern Plains  
Climate Hub**

**December 16, 2003**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 18, 2003)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



*Intensity:*



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

*Author:*

David Miskus  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



**droughtmonitor.unl.edu**