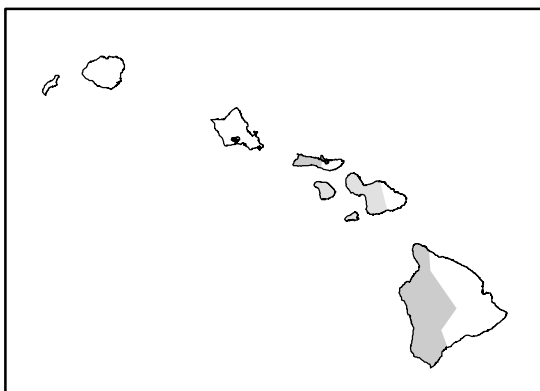
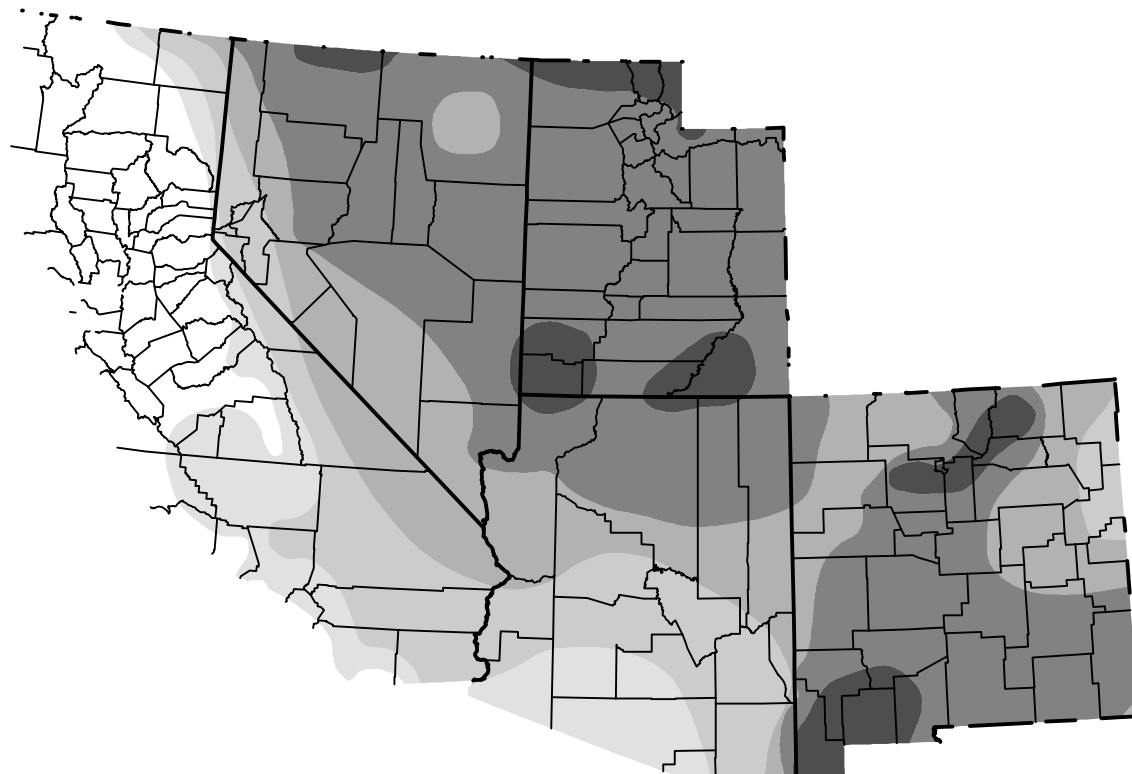


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

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



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	13.57	8.75	13.72	18.55	39.16	6.25
Last Week <i>12-11-2003</i>	13.16	9.50	14.48	17.92	38.79	6.15
3 Months Ago <i>09-18-2003</i>	18.27	2.47	11.51	22.78	41.53	3.44
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>10-02-2003</i>	18.46	4.16	11.20	21.71	40.95	3.52
One Year Ago <i>12-19-2002</i>	13.23	9.80	16.46	38.61	19.51	2.38

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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