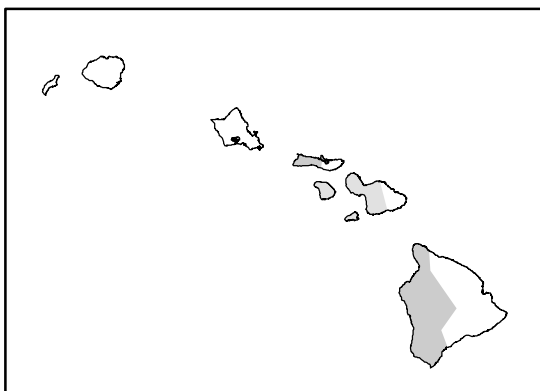
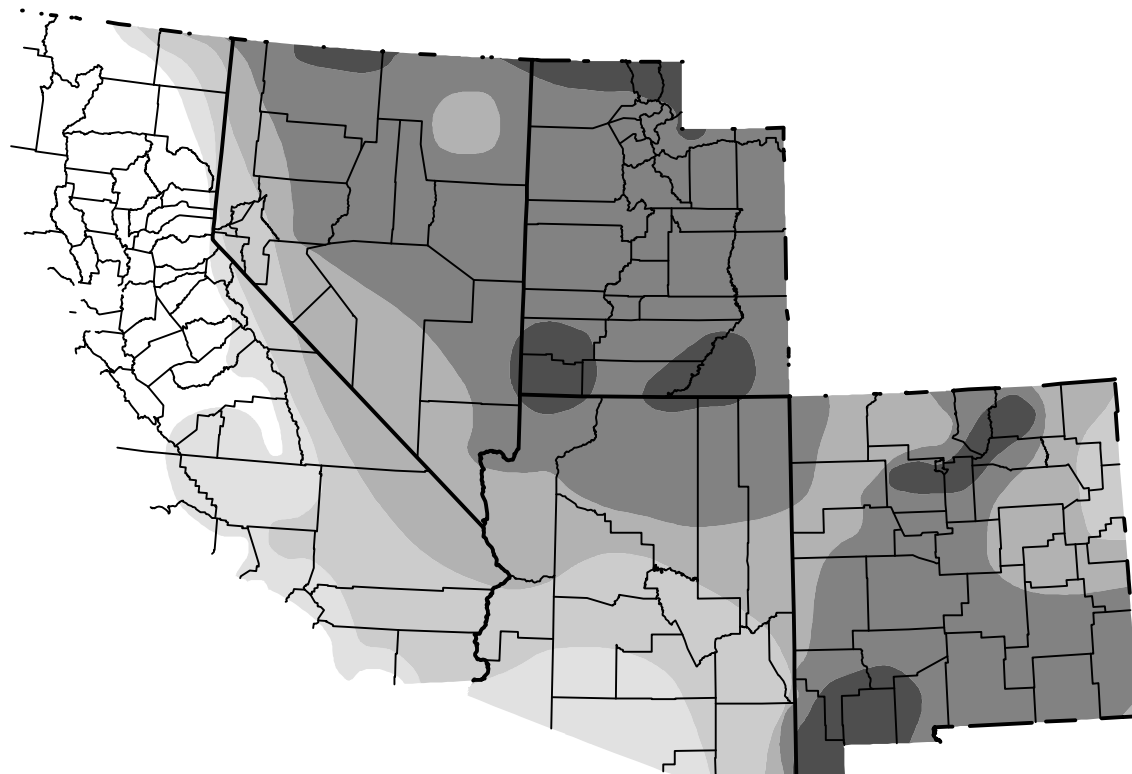


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

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



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.57	86.43	77.68	63.96	45.41	6.25
Last Week <i>12-11-2003</i>	13.16	86.84	77.34	62.86	44.95	6.15
3 Months Ago <i>09-18-2003</i>	18.27	81.73	79.26	67.75	44.98	3.44
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2003</i>	18.08	81.92	74.19	58.26	21.74	2.37
Start of Water Year <i>10-02-2003</i>	18.46	81.54	77.38	66.18	44.47	3.52
One Year Ago <i>12-19-2002</i>	13.23	86.77	76.97	60.51	21.89	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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