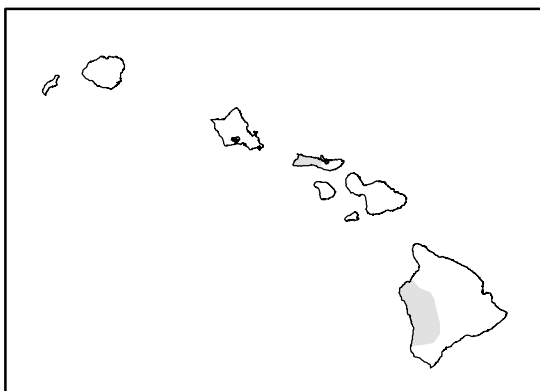
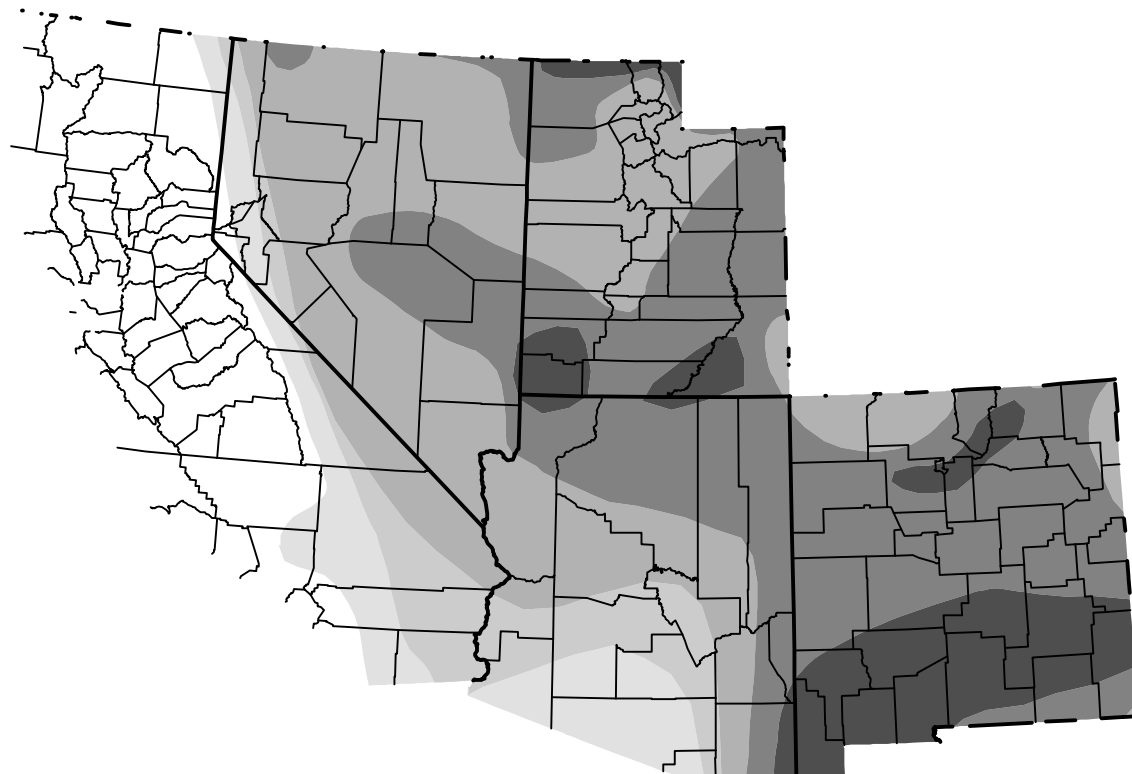


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

February 24, 2004
(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	19.87	80.13	72.91	66.40	38.99	9.82
Last Week <i>02-19-2004</i>	19.03	80.97	72.91	66.40	38.99	9.82
3 Months Ago <i>11-26-2003</i>	12.68	87.32	77.95	64.22	45.16	5.84
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2003</i>	18.57	81.43	74.25	65.97	39.04	7.96
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>02-27-2003</i>	16.91	83.09	75.56	58.35	40.83	1.46

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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