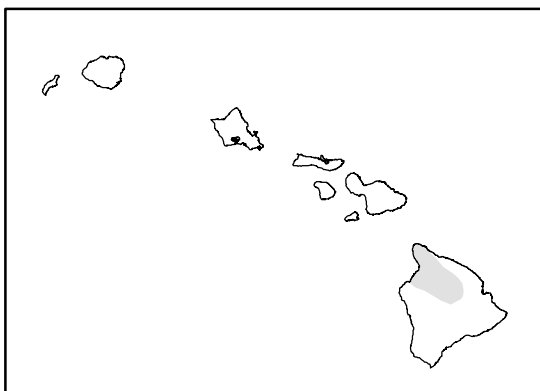
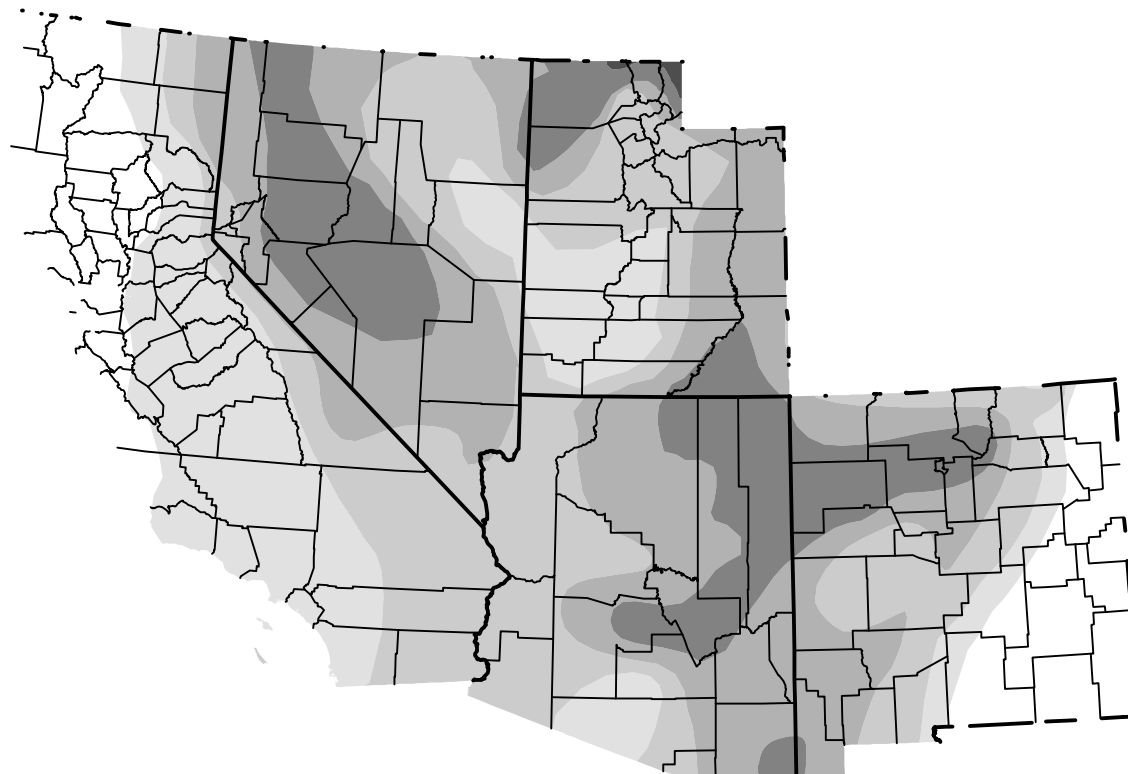


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 7, 2004
(Released Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	14.20	18.64	26.77	25.78	14.51	0.11
Last Week <i>12-02-2004</i>	14.10	18.49	25.88	26.91	14.51	0.11
3 Months Ago <i>09-09-2004</i>	5.45	14.20	18.53	31.88	29.71	0.23
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-31-2003</i>	18.57	7.18	8.28	26.93	31.08	7.96
Start of Water Year <i>09-30-2004</i>	5.68	14.09	18.68	34.46	26.89	0.21
One Year Ago <i>12-11-2003</i>	13.16	9.50	14.48	17.92	38.79	6.15

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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