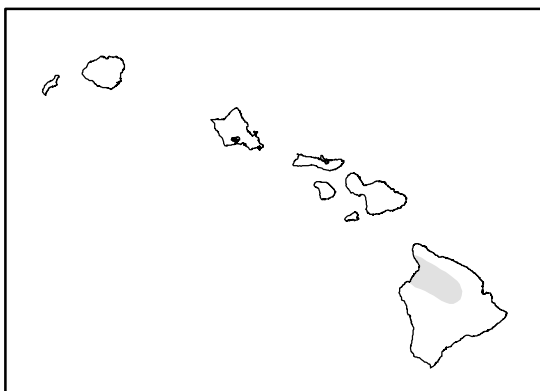
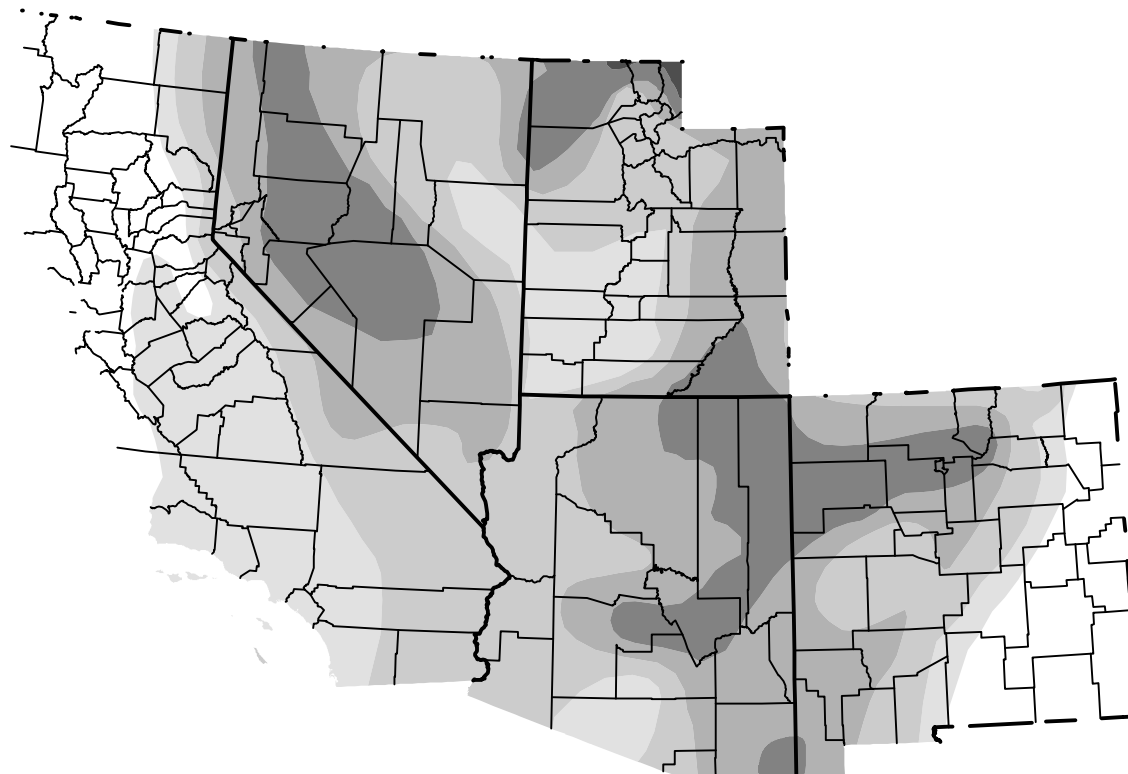


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 14, 2004
(Released Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.73	84.27	66.95	39.66	14.57	0.11
Last Week <i>12-09-2004</i>	14.20	85.80	67.16	40.39	14.61	0.11
3 Months Ago <i>09-16-2004</i>	5.25	94.75	80.44	61.56	29.95	0.21
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>09-30-2004</i>	5.68	94.32	80.23	61.56	27.10	0.21
One Year Ago <i>12-18-2003</i>	13.57	86.43	77.68	63.96	45.41	6.25

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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