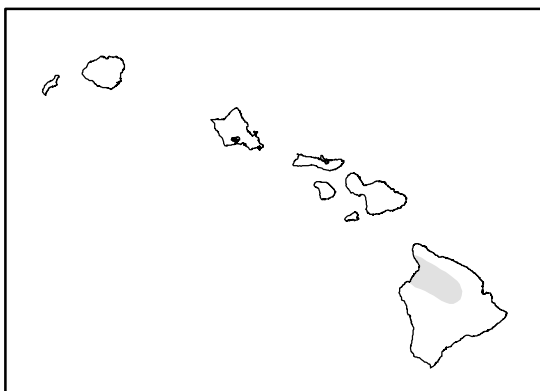
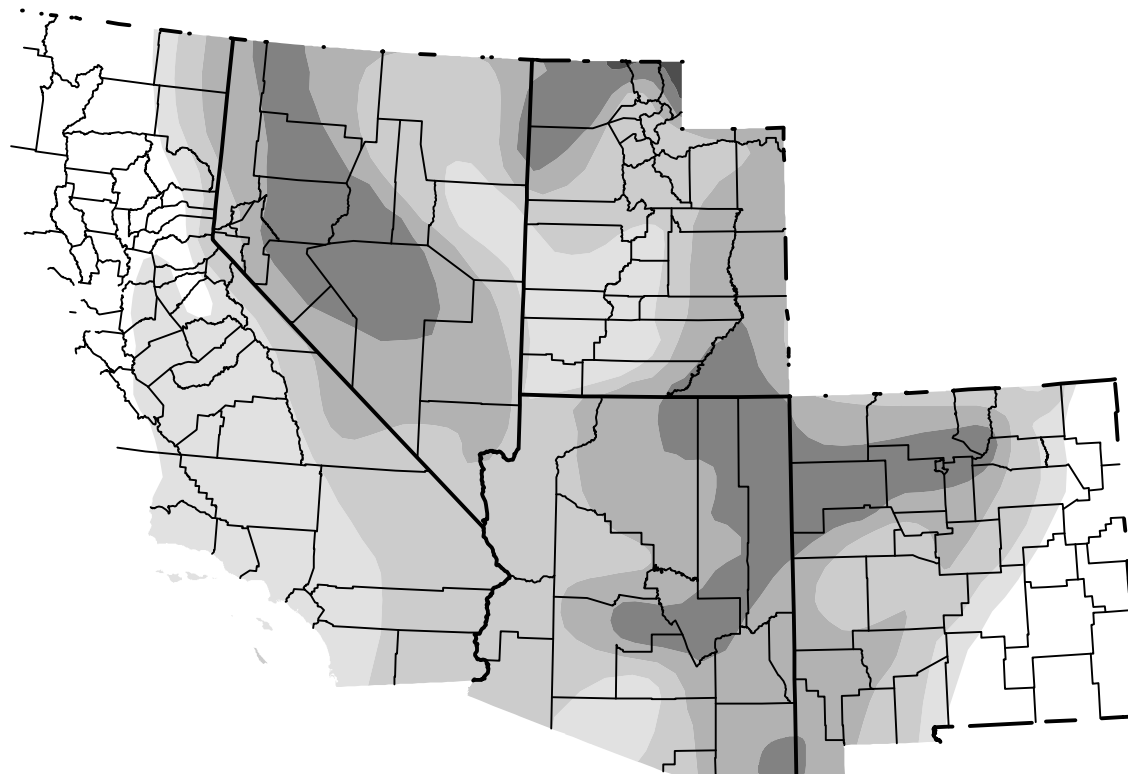


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 21, 2004
(Released Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	15.73	17.44	27.30	24.97	14.45	0.11
Last Week <i>12-16-2004</i>	15.73	17.32	27.29	25.09	14.47	0.11
3 Months Ago <i>09-23-2004</i>	5.21	14.35	18.88	34.46	26.89	0.21
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>12-24-2003</i>	13.29	8.23	13.12	18.86	38.22	8.28

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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