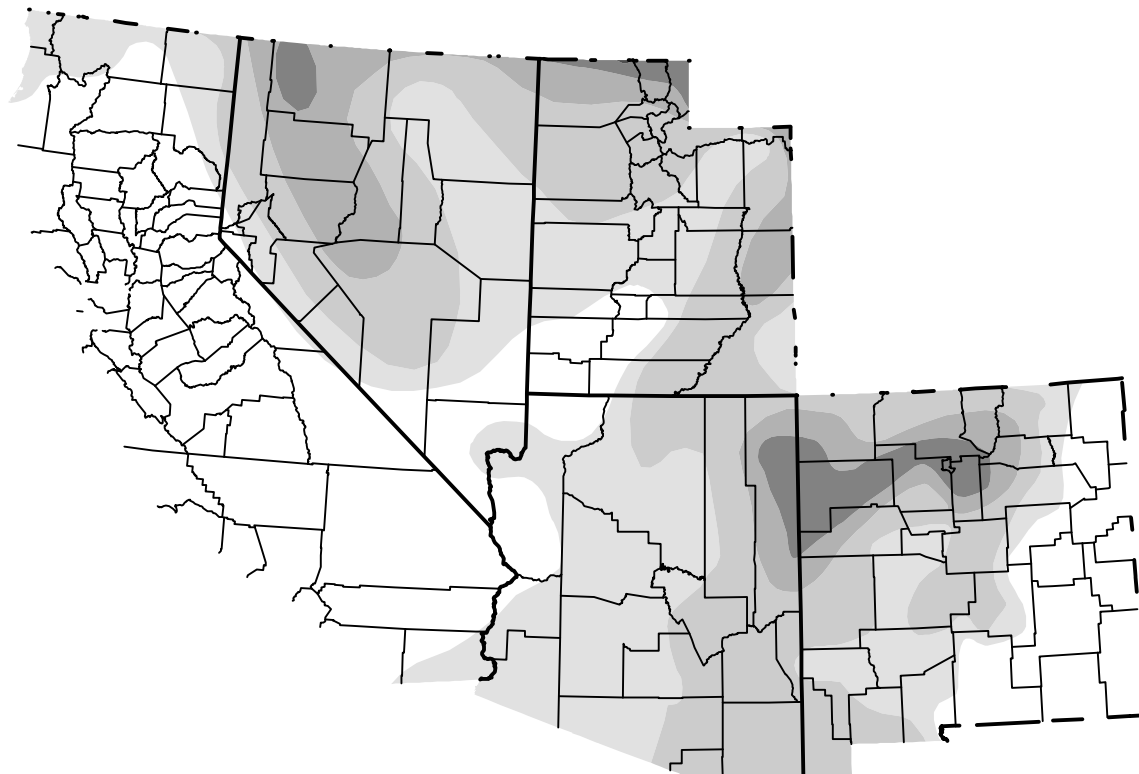


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

February 22, 2005
 (Released Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	37.01	62.99	36.75	11.31	3.05	0.01
Last Week 02-17-2005	37.01	62.99	37.81	12.52	3.05	0.01
3 Months Ago 11-24-2004	13.44	86.56	70.73	45.03	19.88	0.11
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2005	25.51	74.49	59.32	32.80	11.75	0.11
Start of Water Year 09-30-2004	5.68	94.32	80.23	61.56	27.10	0.21
One Year Ago 02-26-2004	19.87	80.13	72.91	66.40	38.99	9.82

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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