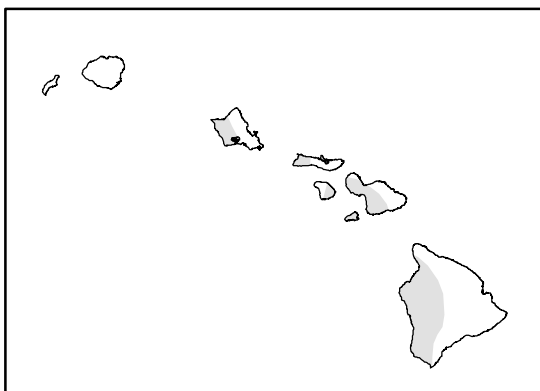
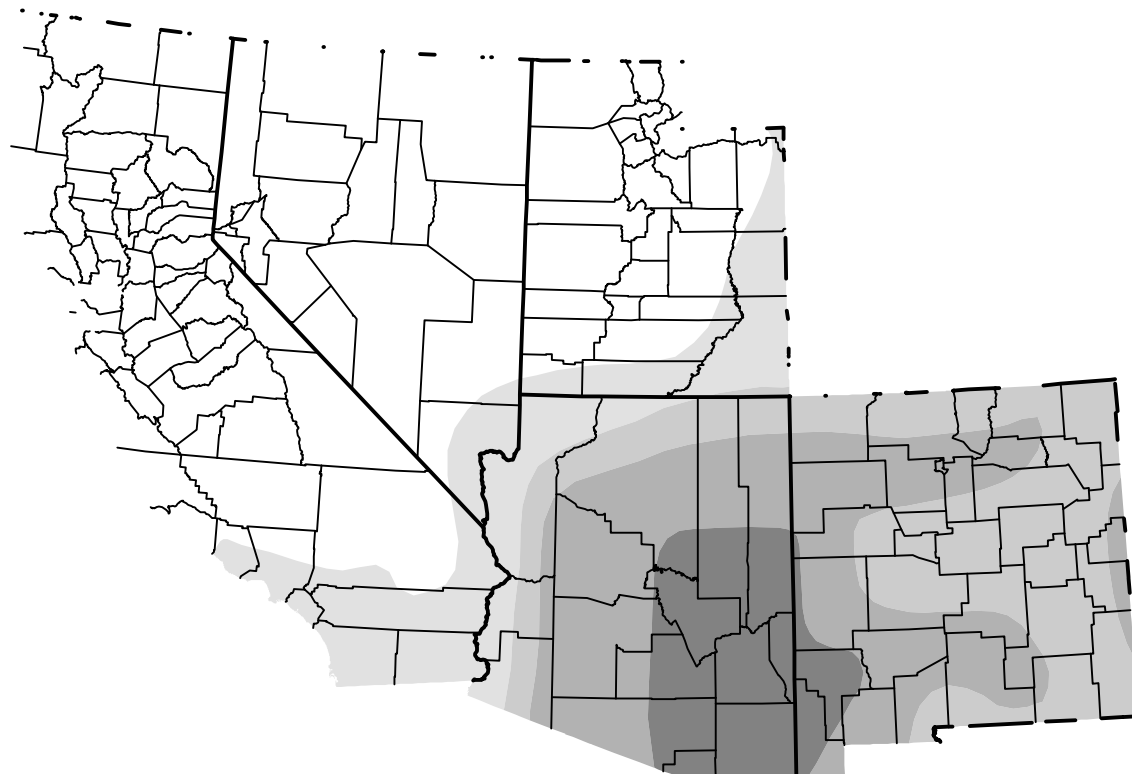


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

February 21, 2006
(Released Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	51.26	48.74	37.12	23.36	7.48	0.00
Last Week <i>02-16-2006</i>	52.57	47.43	36.23	19.06	7.48	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>11-24-2005</i>	69.00	31.00	5.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-05-2006</i>	57.15	42.85	12.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-29-2005</i>	76.22	23.78	6.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <i>02-24-2005</i>	37.01	62.99	36.75	11.31	3.05	0.01

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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