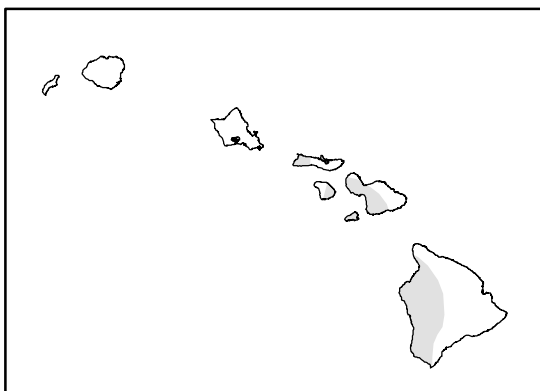
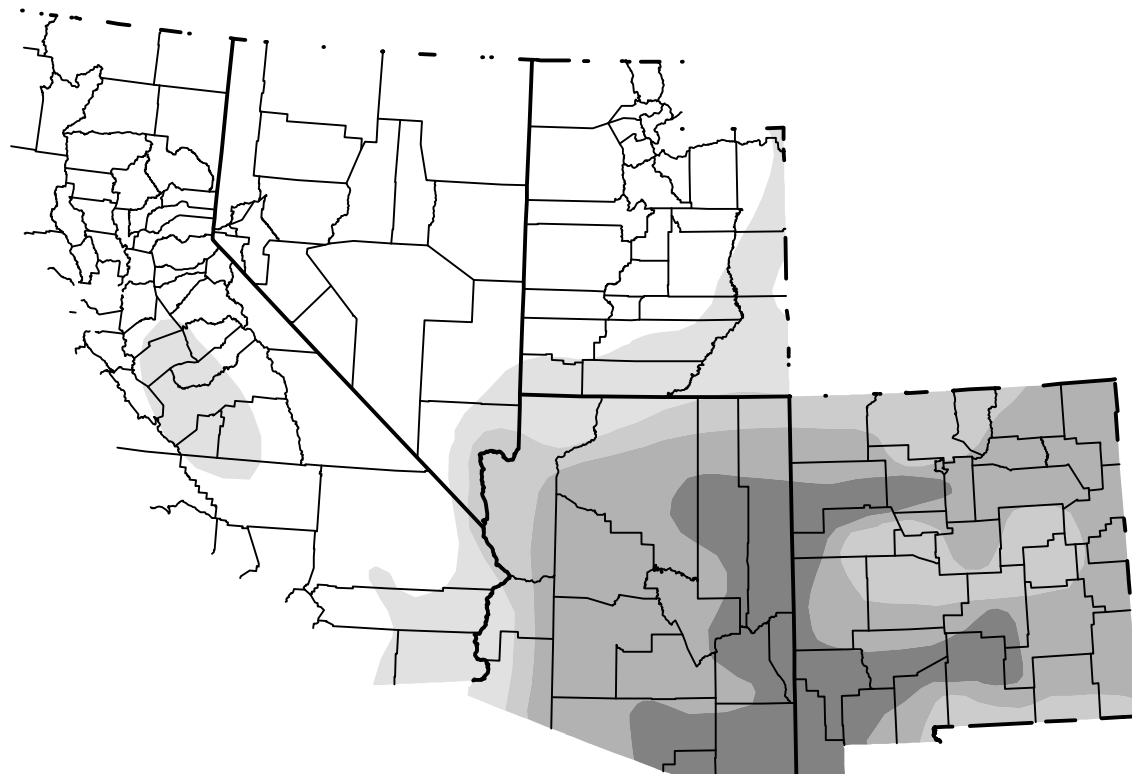


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

March 14, 2006
(Released Thursday, Mar. 16, 2006)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	50.57	49.43	38.48	29.38	9.96	0.00
Last Week <i>03-09-2006</i>	48.63	51.37	38.56	29.35	13.32	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>12-15-2005</i>	58.91	41.09	8.51	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>03-17-2005</i>	41.70	58.30	33.06	9.26	0.79	0.04

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.

Author:

Richard Tinker
 CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



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