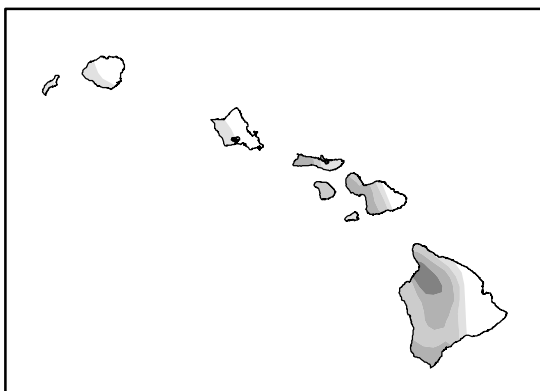
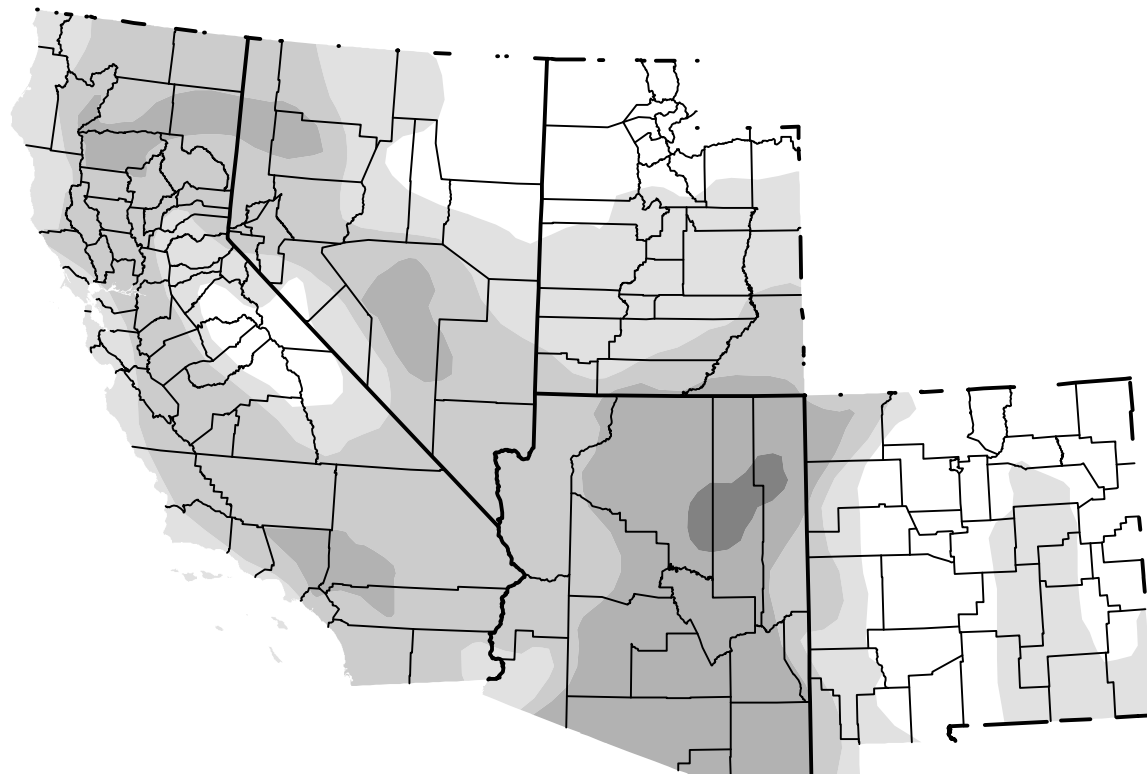


# U.S. Drought Monitor

## USDA Southwest Climate Hub

**December 15, 2009**  
*(Released Thursday, Dec. 17, 2009)*  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



### Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|                                                    | None  | D0    | D1    | D2    | D3   | D4   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| <b>Current</b>                                     | 22.38 | 24.79 | 33.69 | 18.12 | 1.03 | 0.00 |
| <b>Last Week</b><br><i>12-10-2009</i>              | 22.69 | 23.98 | 30.82 | 21.37 | 1.15 | 0.00 |
| <b>3 Months Ago</b><br><i>09-17-2009</i>           | 26.17 | 33.48 | 26.24 | 14.08 | 0.03 | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Calendar Year</b><br><i>01-01-2009</i> | 34.00 | 23.69 | 24.60 | 16.85 | 0.86 | 0.00 |
| <b>Start of Water Year</b><br><i>10-01-2009</i>    | 30.31 | 31.53 | 24.04 | 14.04 | 0.07 | 0.00 |
| <b>One Year Ago</b><br><i>12-18-2008</i>           | 26.07 | 30.04 | 24.14 | 18.09 | 1.67 | 0.00 |

### 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:

Michael Brewer  
 NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)