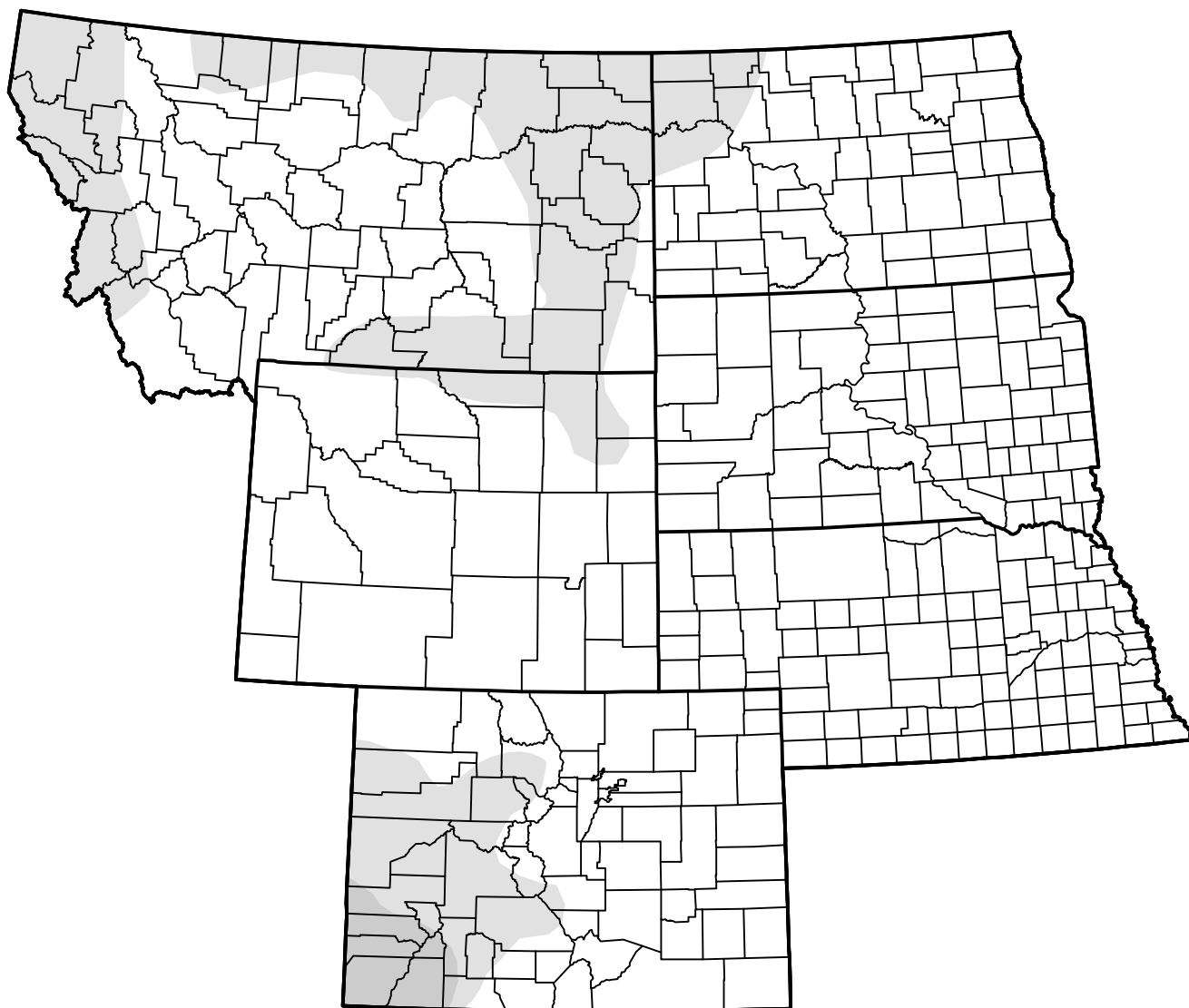


*U.S. Drought Monitor*  
**USDA Northern Plains  
Climate Hub**

**December 22, 2009**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



*Intensity:*



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

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