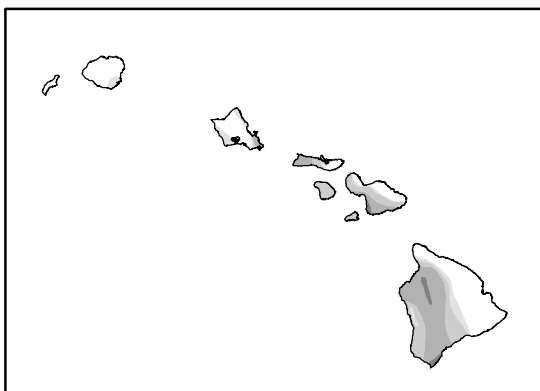
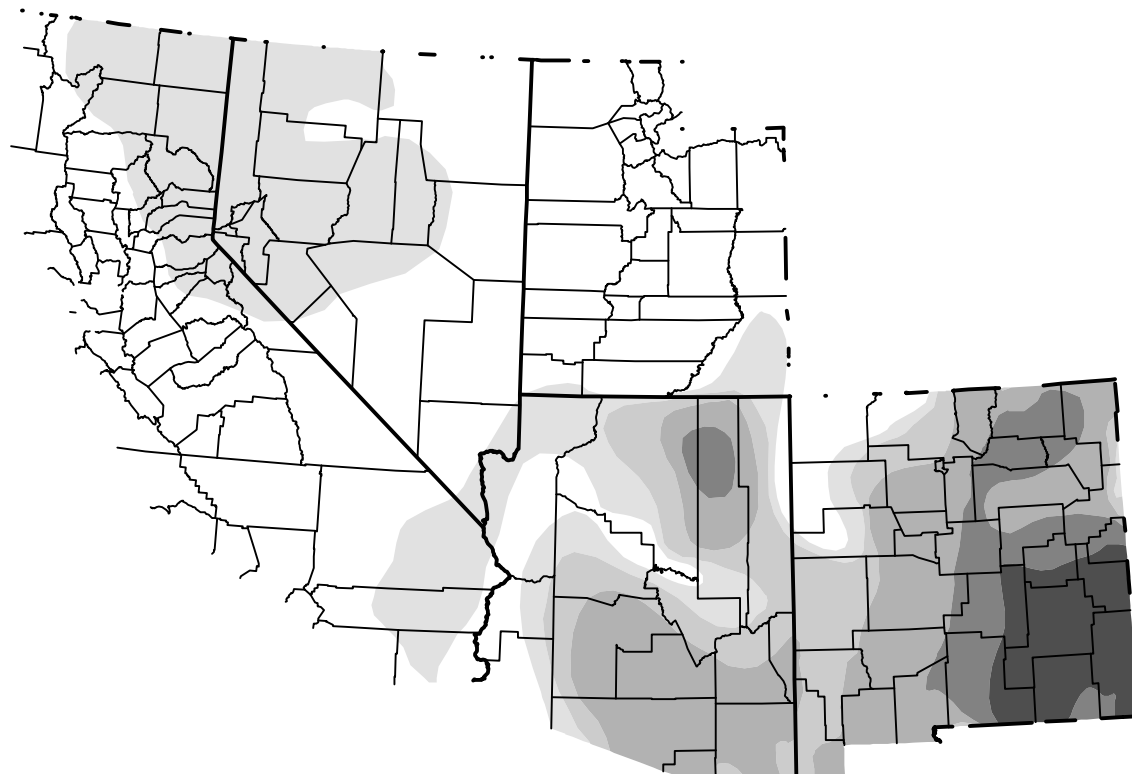


U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 20, 2011
(Released Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011)
 Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	47.97	52.03	29.99	22.04	8.31	3.63
Last Week <i>12-15-2011</i>	46.22	53.78	32.16	26.32	13.65	3.66
3 Months Ago <i>09-22-2011</i>	53.67	46.33	33.55	26.53	17.15	7.49
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-06-2011</i>	65.37	34.63	14.85	0.18	0.03	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-29-2011</i>	53.67	46.33	33.57	26.53	17.16	7.49
One Year Ago <i>12-23-2010</i>	53.41	46.59	17.12	0.33	0.05	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.

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