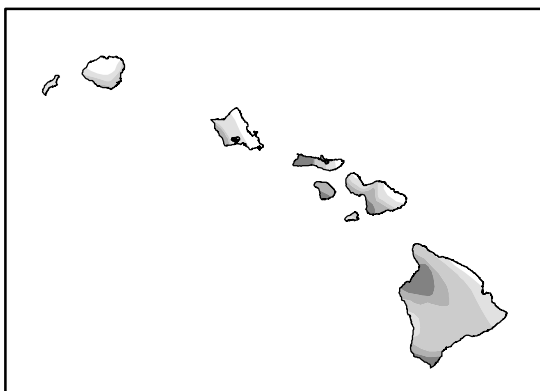
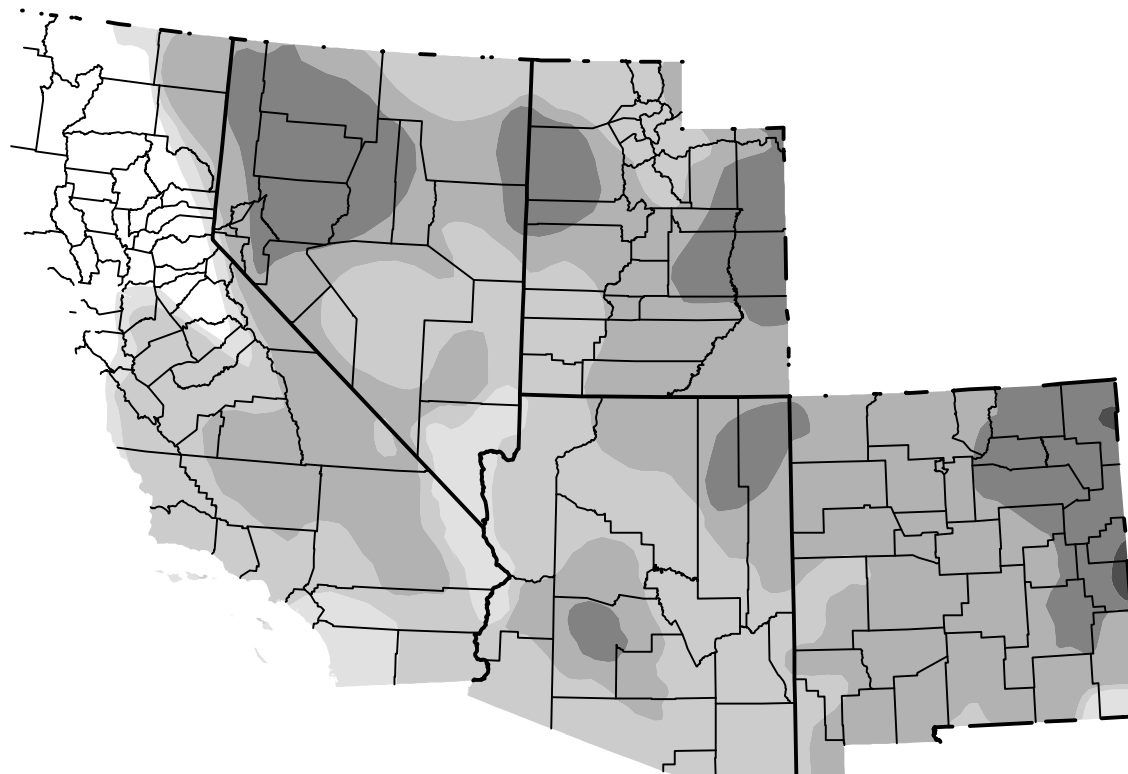


U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Southwest Climate Hub

December 18, 2012
(Released Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.34	91.66	86.29	55.47	16.02	0.20
Last Week 12-13-2012	8.27	91.73	86.95	56.30	16.04	0.20
3 Months Ago 09-20-2012	3.42	96.58	91.29	47.35	12.19	0.13
Start of Calendar Year 01-05-2012	29.38	70.62	48.42	22.03	5.32	1.55
Start of Water Year 09-27-2012	3.42	96.58	91.28	47.35	12.19	0.13
One Year Ago 12-22-2011	47.97	52.03	29.99	22.04	8.31	3.63

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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