



Winter Storm & Bitter Cold This Weekend

January 21, 2026

6:05 AM

Confidence continues to increase in moderate to major impacts in the Ozarks this weekend

Key Messages

- A large storm system will bring a variety of winter weather impacts to portions of the Southern Plains and Ohio River Valley Friday through this weekend, though considerable uncertainty does still remain regarding details.
- A Winter Storm Watch has been issued for far southern portions of Kansas and Missouri, where there is a >50% chance of 5" of snow or more and a 50-60% chance of major impacts.
- Bitter cold will accompany this system, bringing single digit lows & below-zero wind chills through at least Tuesday.

NEW

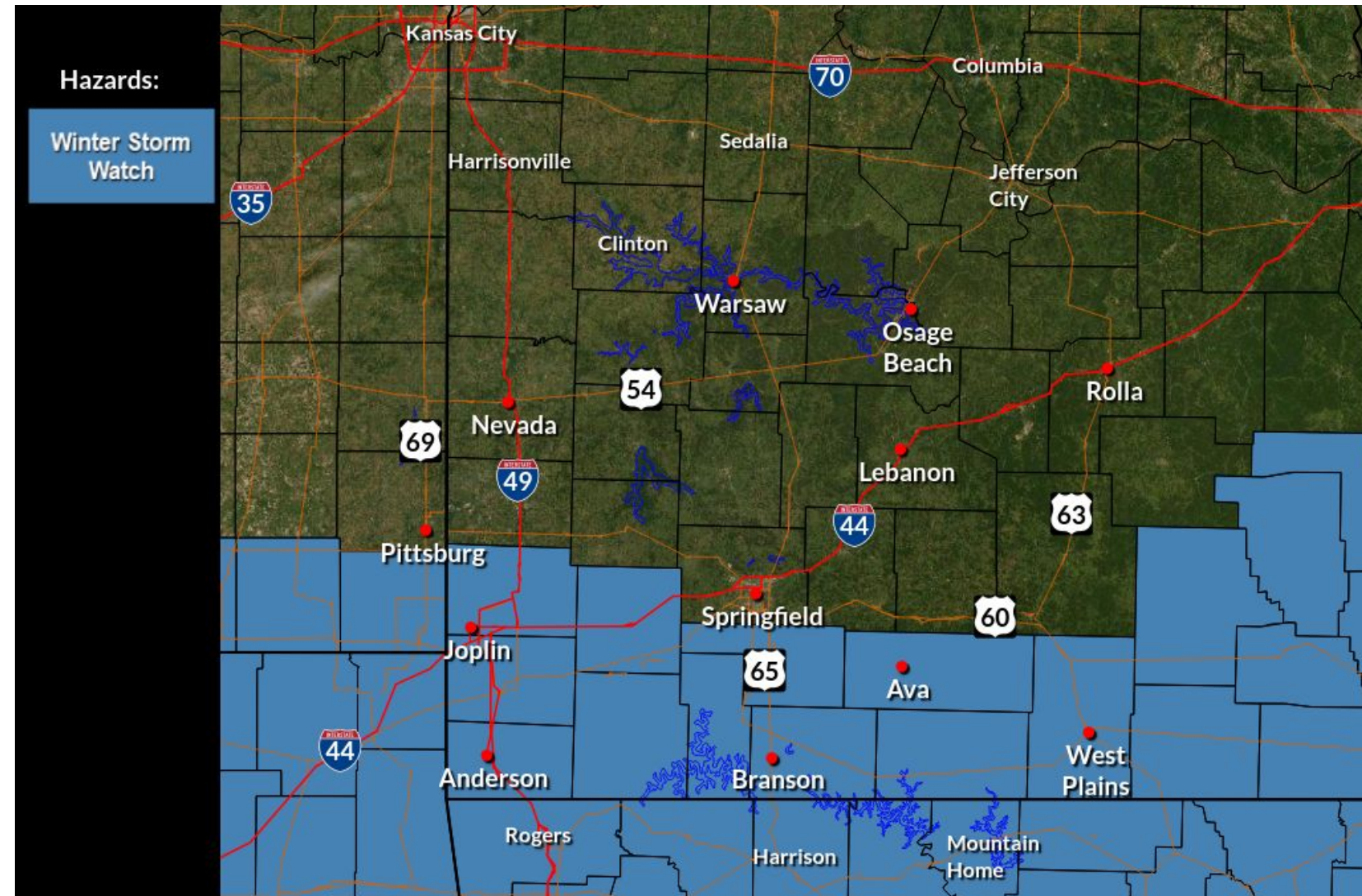
Important Updates

- Winter Storm Watch issued for portions of southern Kansas and Missouri from 12 PM Friday - 6 AM Sunday
- Confidence increasing in snowfall amounts and potential for moderate to major impacts

Next Scheduled Briefing

- By 4 PM Wednesday

Winter Storm Watch 12 PM Friday - 6 AM Sunday



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

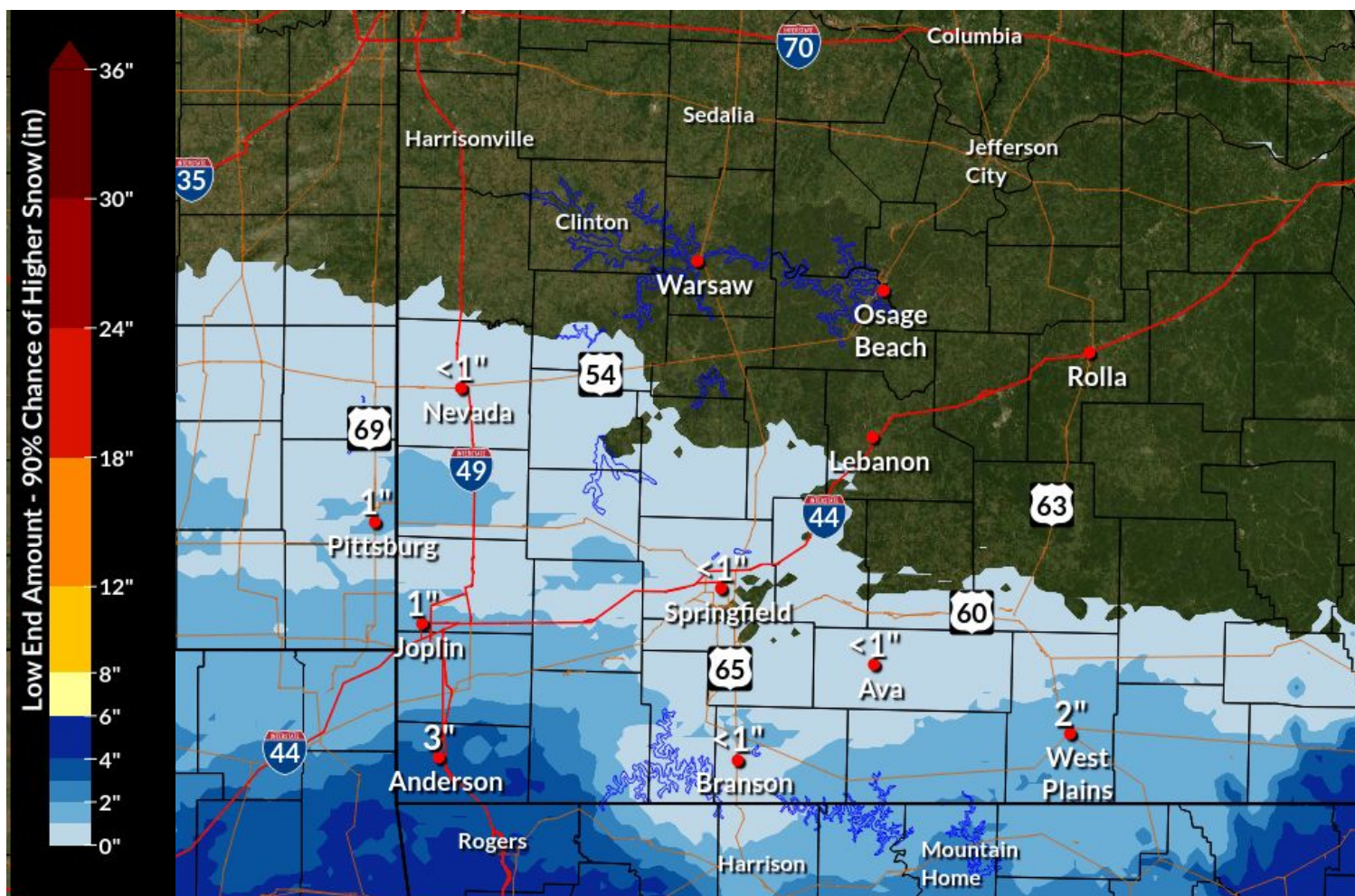
National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



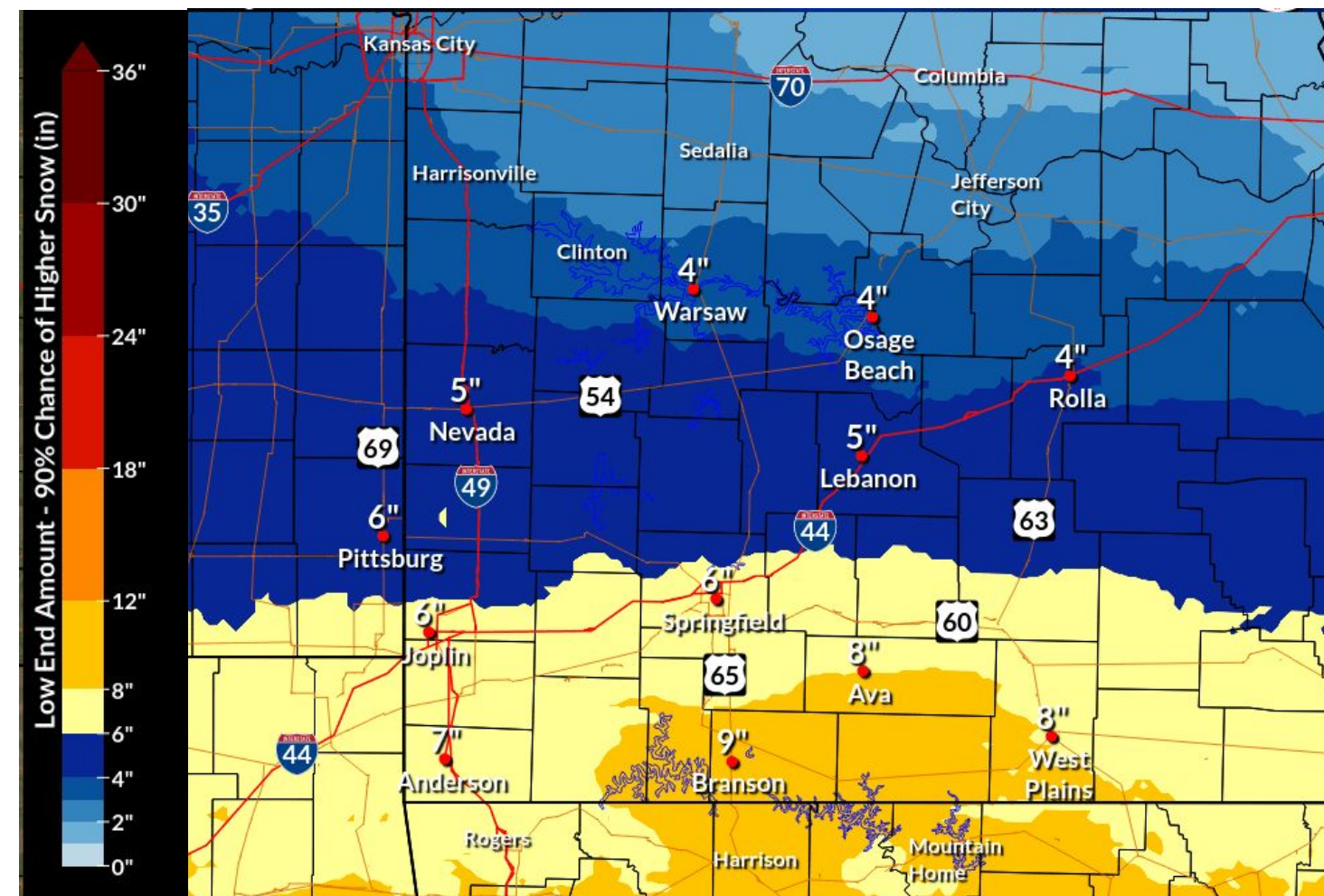
High End and Low End Snowfall Amounts

January 21, 2026
6:05 AM

Friday Afternoon Through Sunday Morning



Low End Snow Amounts
(90% Chance of Greater Than This Amount)



High End Snow Amounts
(10% Chance of Greater Than This Amount)



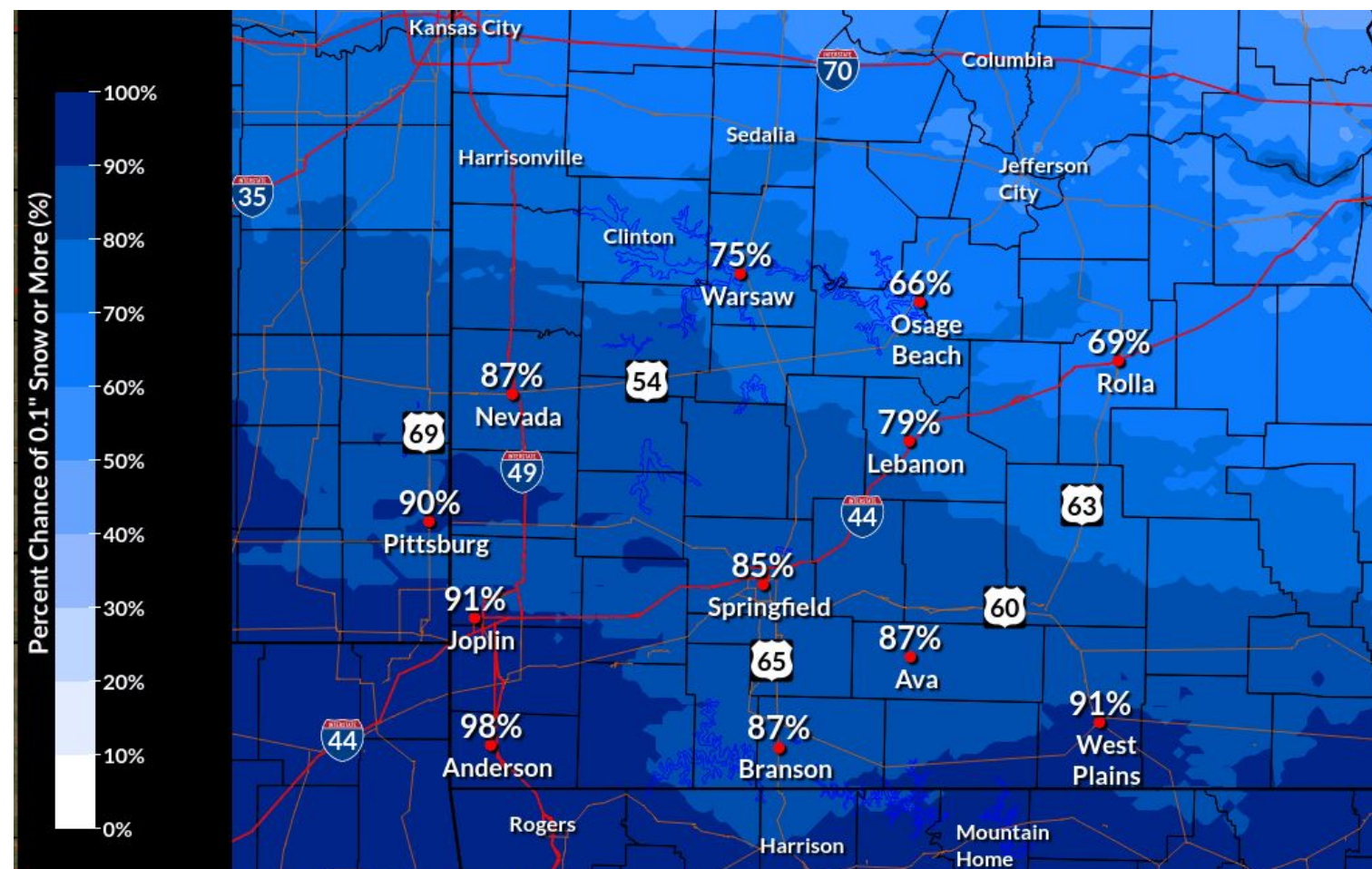


Probabilistic Snowfall

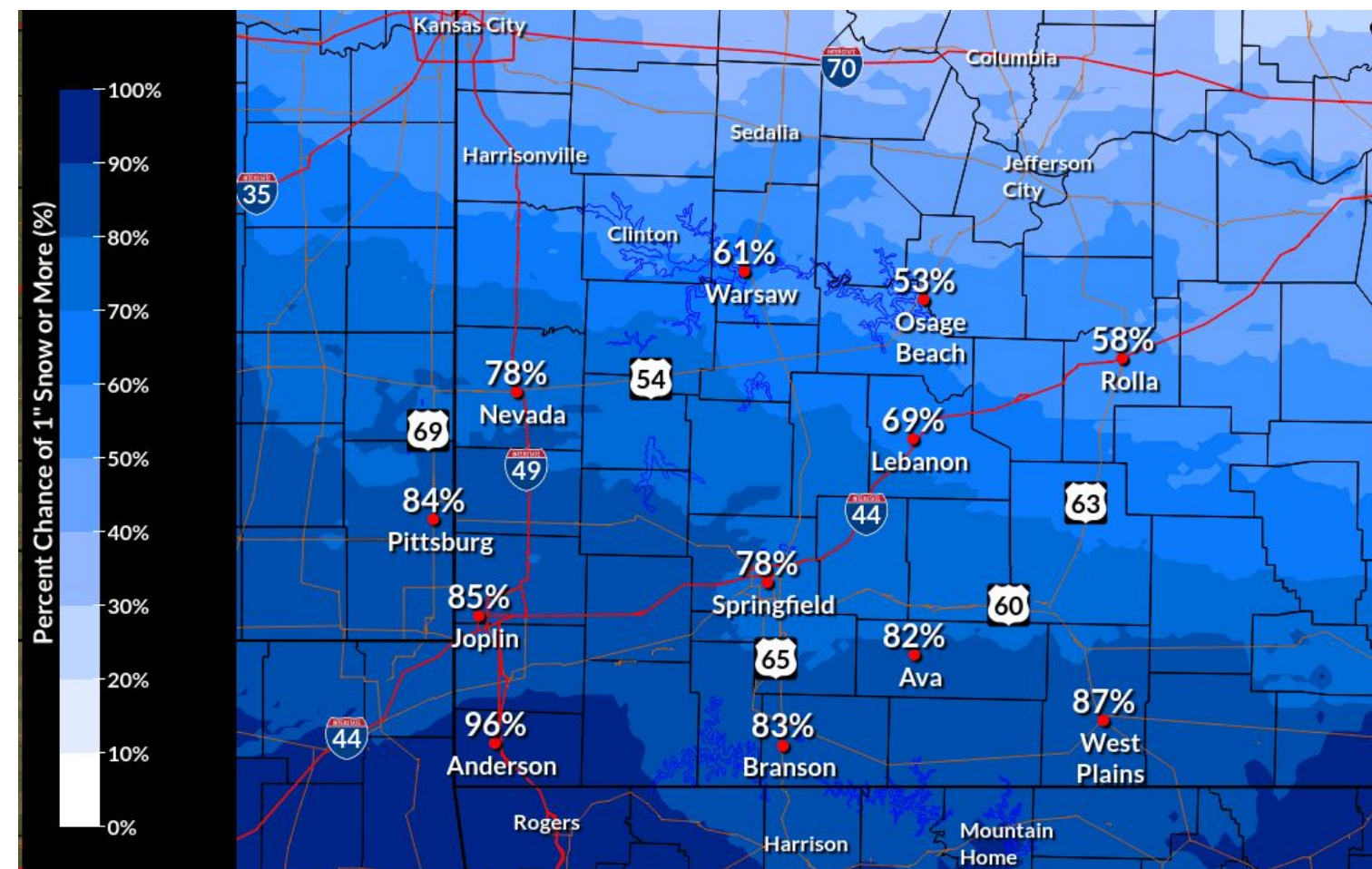
January 21, 2026

6:05 AM

Through Sunday Morning



Probability of > 0.1" of snowfall



Probability of > 1.0" of snowfall



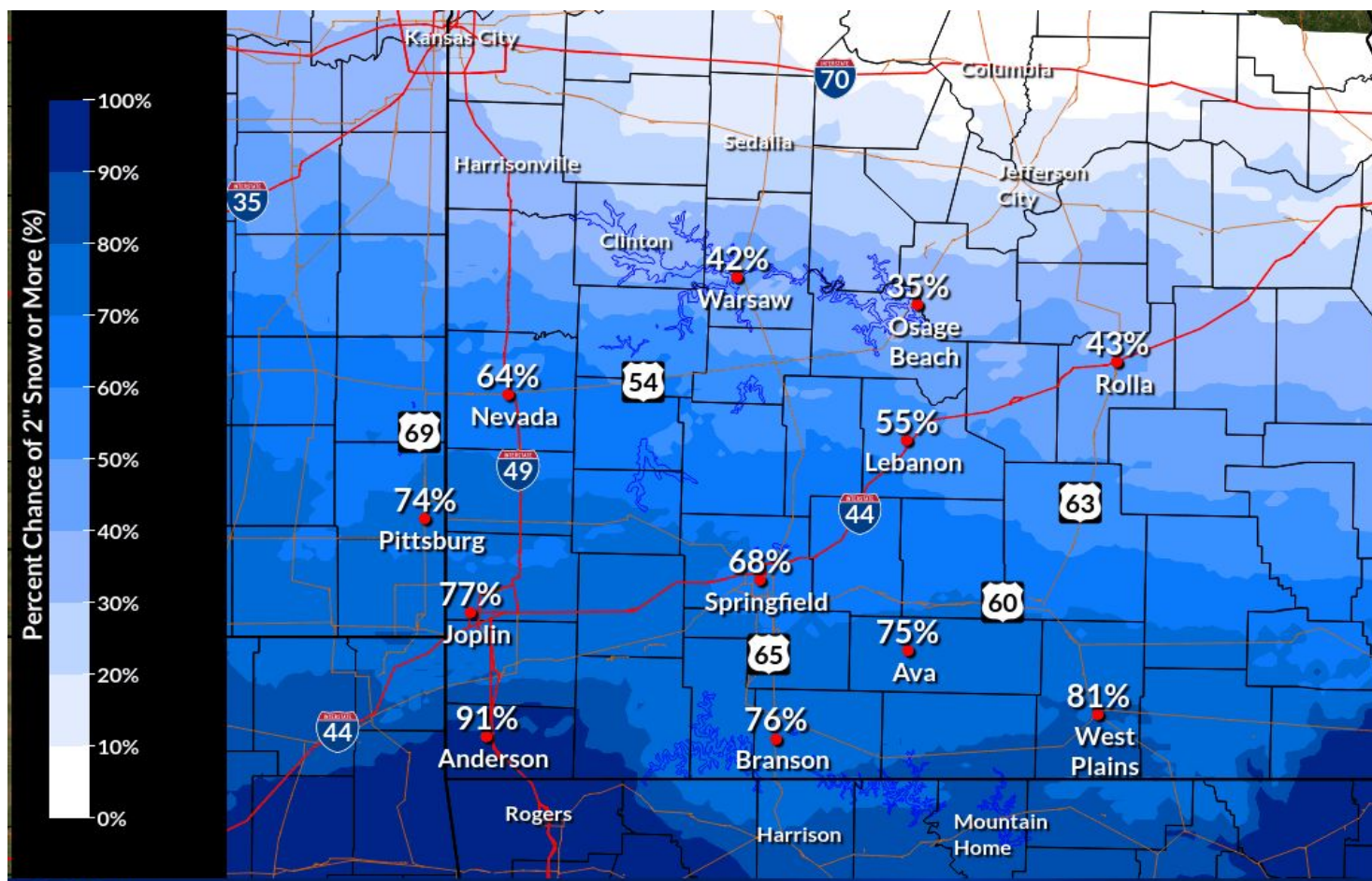


Probabilistic Snowfall

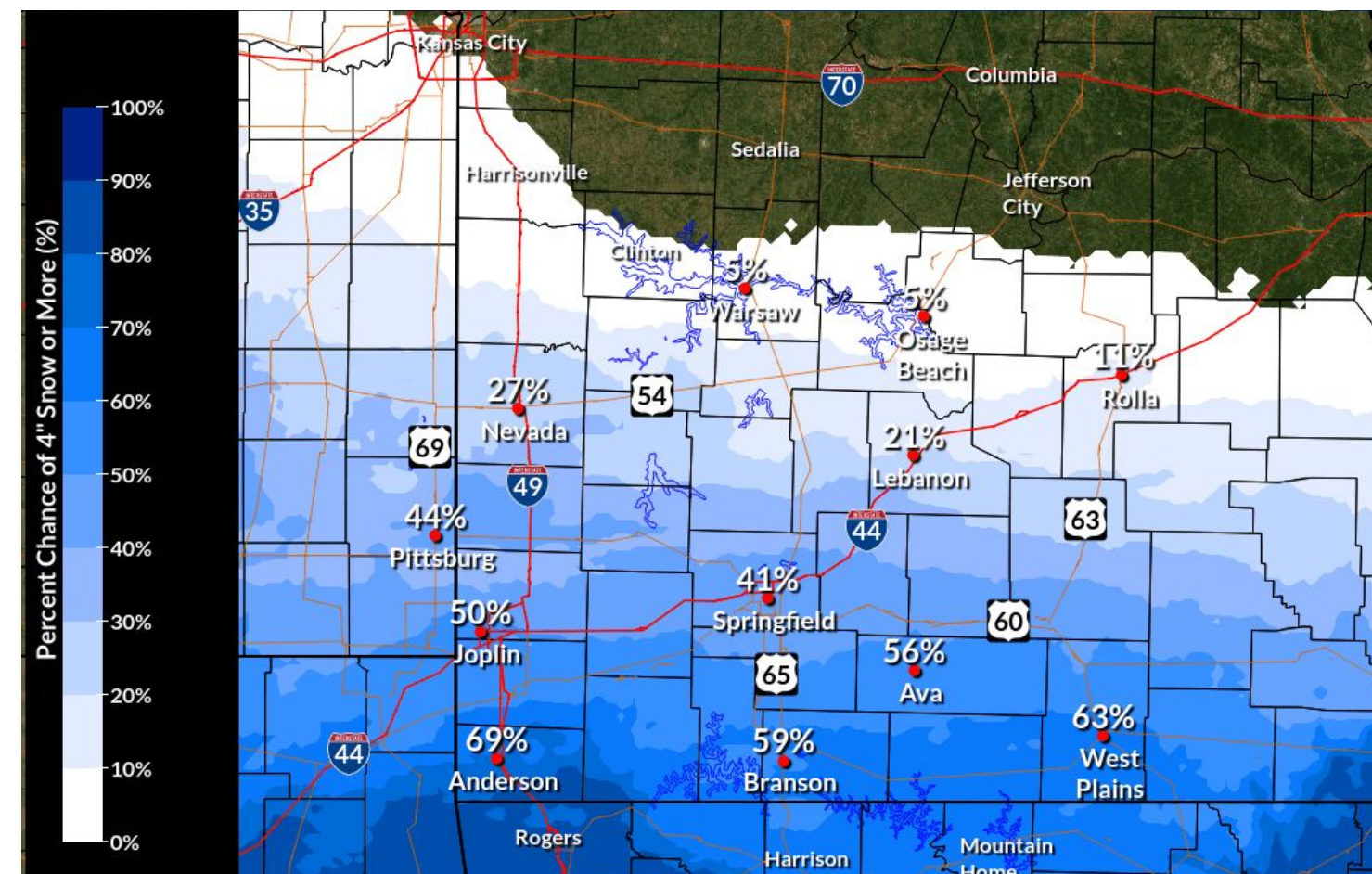
January 21, 2026

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Through Sunday Morning



Probability of > 2.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 4.0" of snowfall



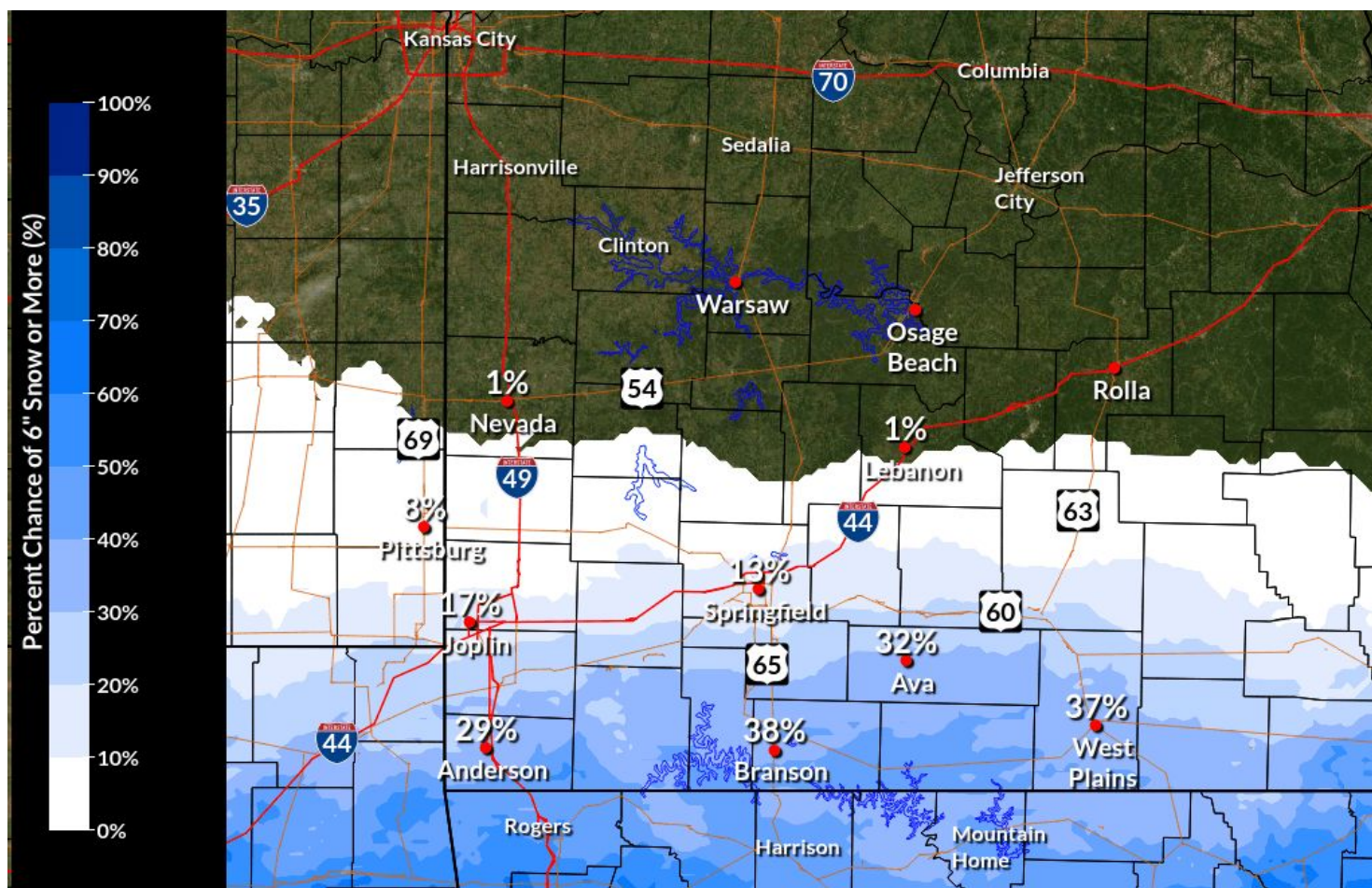


Probabilistic Snowfall

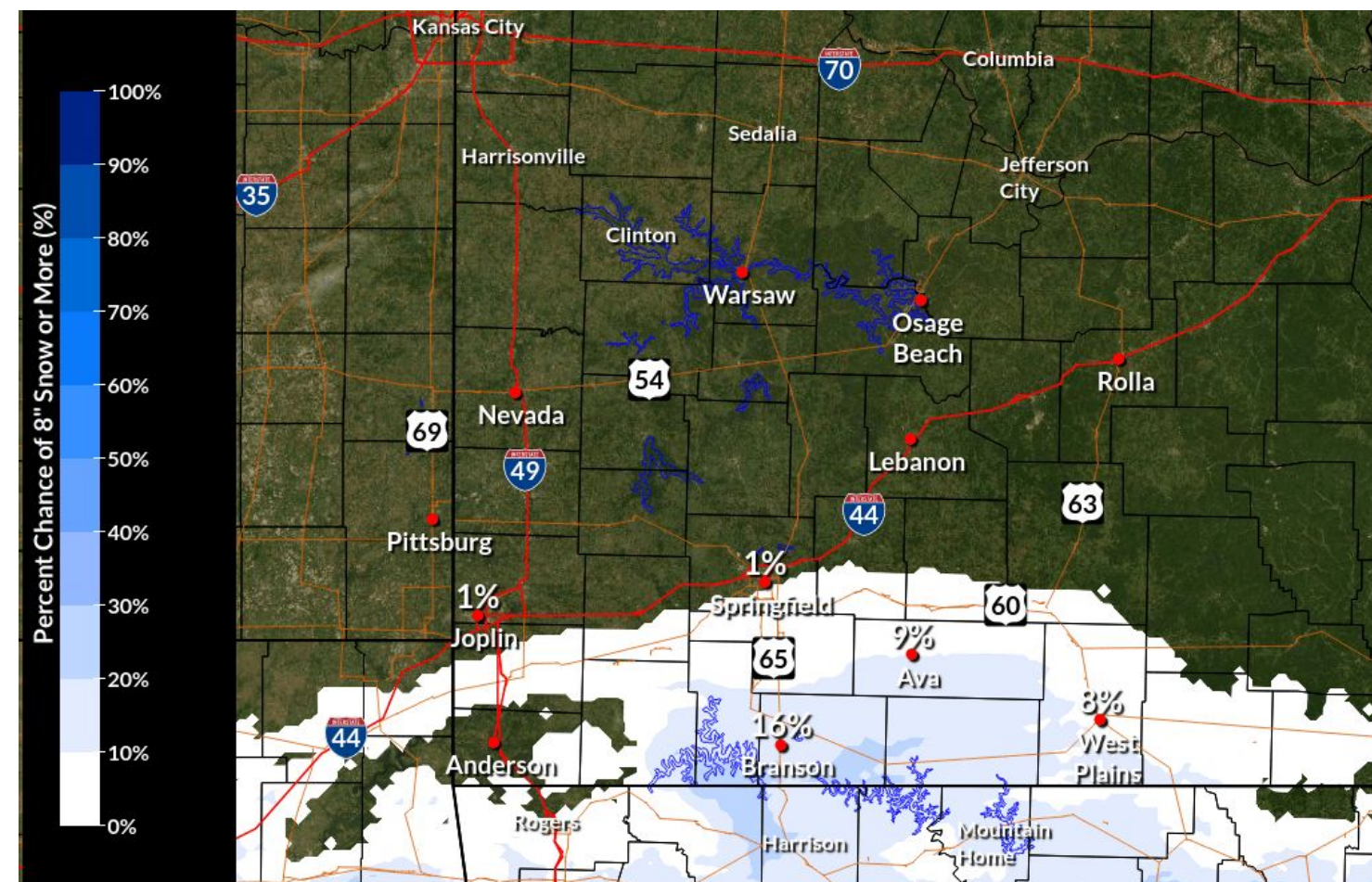
January 21, 2026

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Through Sunday Morning



Probability of > 6.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 8.0" of snowfall



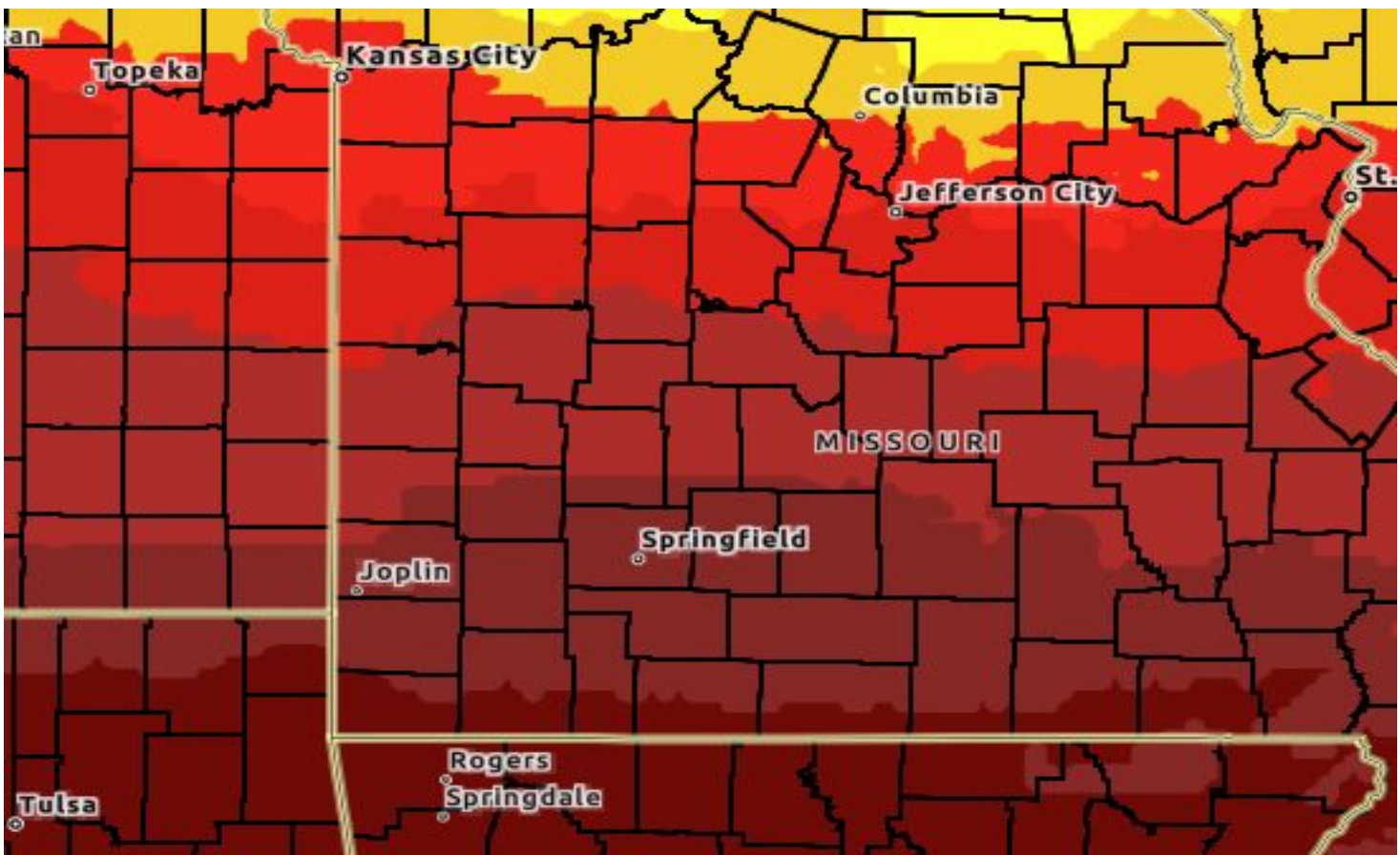


Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

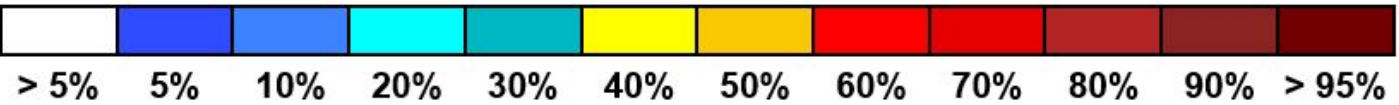
January 21, 2026
6:05 AM

Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

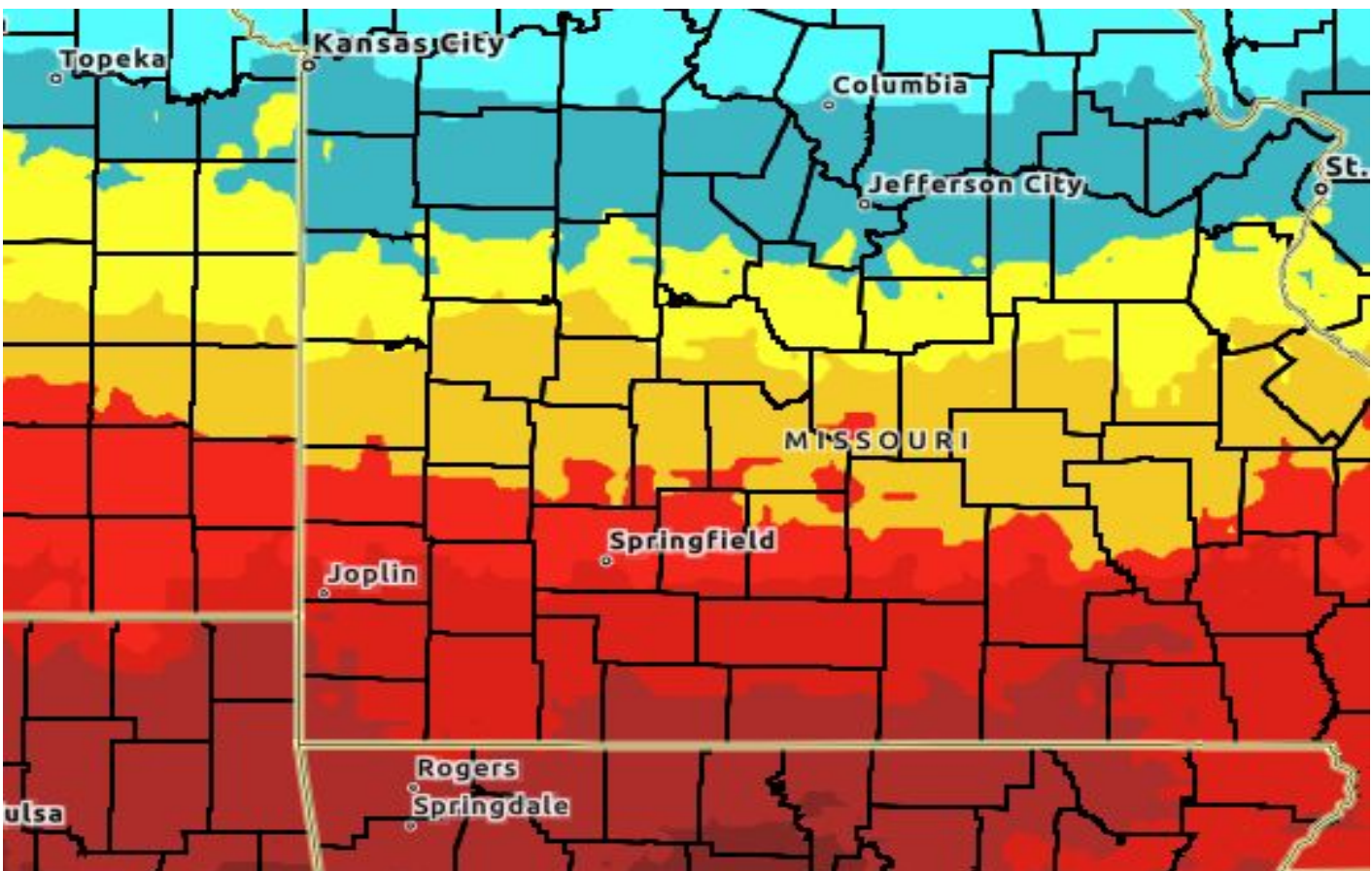
Probability of Minor Impacts



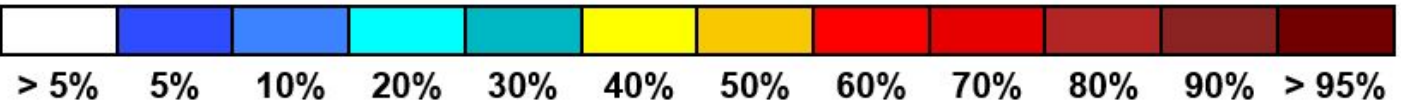
Likelihood of Impact



Probability of Moderate Impacts



Likelihood of Impact



[Probabilistic WSSI](#)



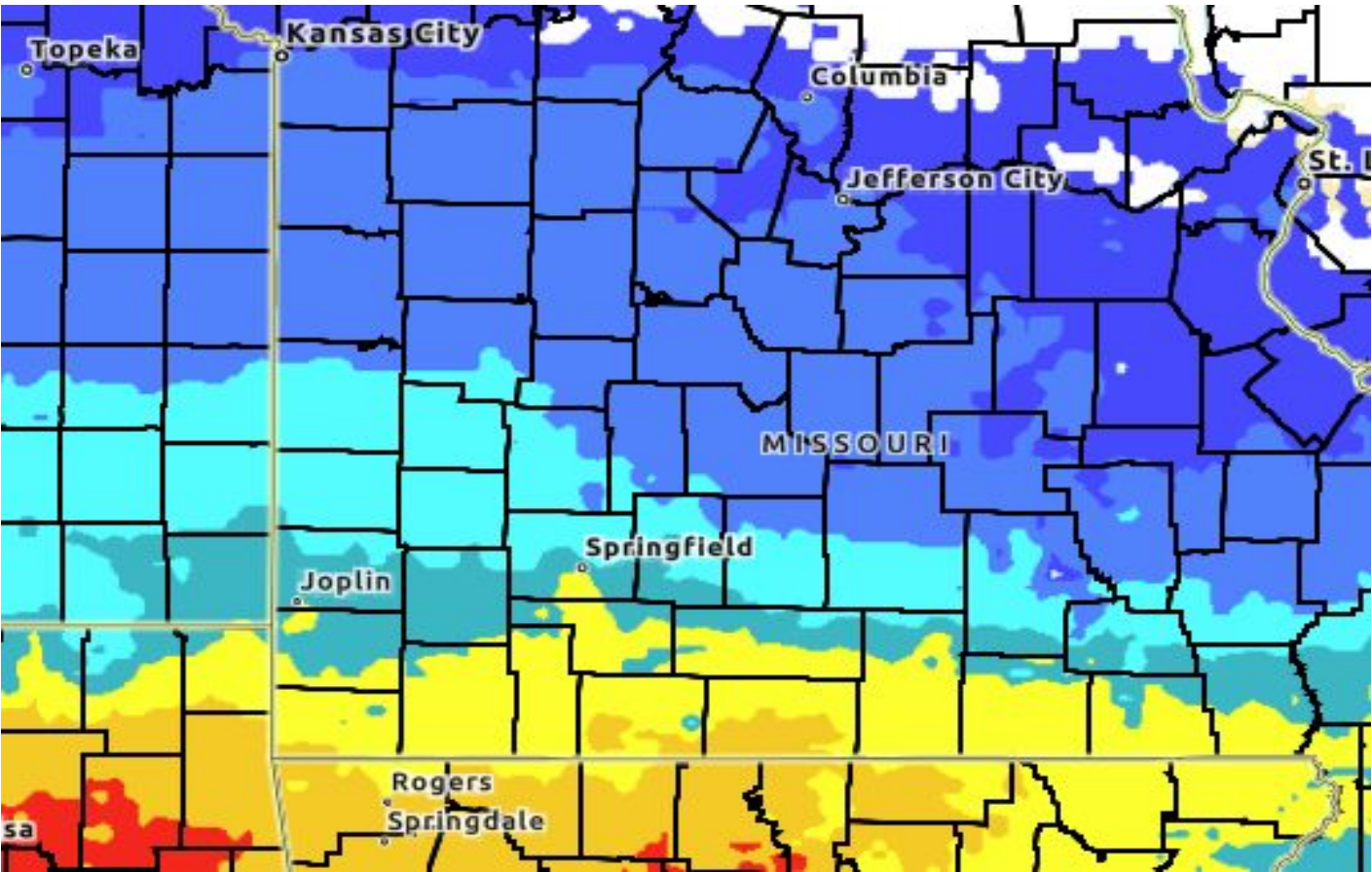


Probabilistic Winter Storm Severity Index

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Valid 6 AM Saturday - 6 AM Sunday

Probability of Major Impacts



Likelihood of Impact



[Probabilistic WSSI](#)

Potential Winter Storm Impacts

Winter Weather Area

- Expect Winter Weather.
- Winter driving conditions. **Drive carefully.**

Minor Impacts

- Expect a few inconveniences to daily life.
- Winter driving conditions. **Use caution while driving.**

Moderate Impacts

- Expect disruptions to daily life.
- Hazardous driving conditions. **Use extra caution while driving.**
 - Closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.

Major Impacts

- Expect considerable disruptions to daily life.
- Dangerous or impossible driving conditions. **Avoid travel if possible.**
 - Widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.

Extreme Impacts

- Expect substantial disruptions to daily life.
- Extremely dangerous or impossible driving conditions. **Travel is not advised.**
 - Extensive and widespread closures and disruptions to infrastructure may occur.
 - Life-saving actions may be needed.





Snow Character

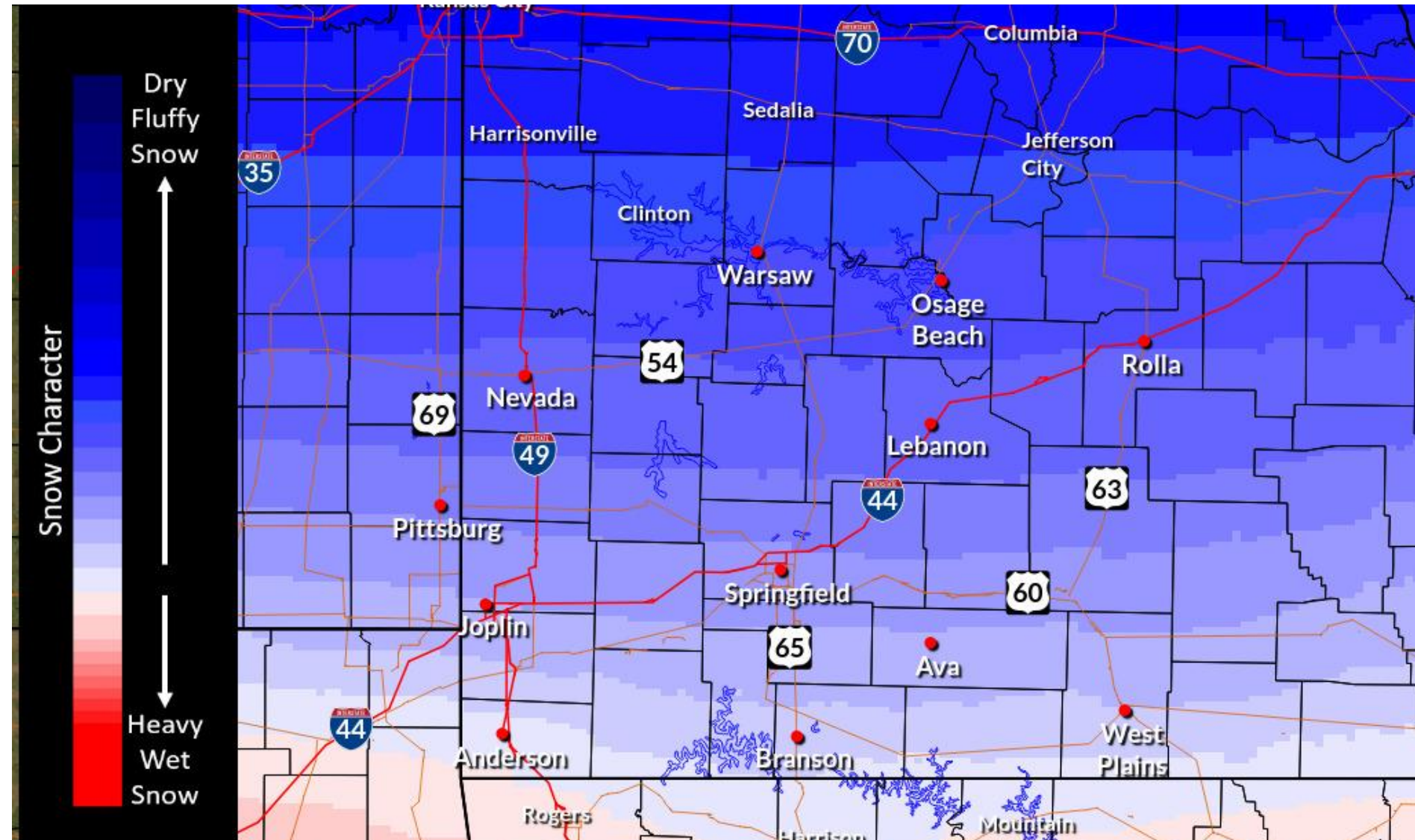
January 21, 2026

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How the snow will feel and act due to its moisture content

Key Points

- Snow character will be slightly on the drier side of what we normally see around the Ozarks this time of year.
- With no wet rain/snow mixes expected, snow will be fluffy and will accumulate efficiently.
- The longevity of the cold after the snow will cause the snow to become more compact with time, making it harder to remove the longer it sits after initially falling.



Snow Character

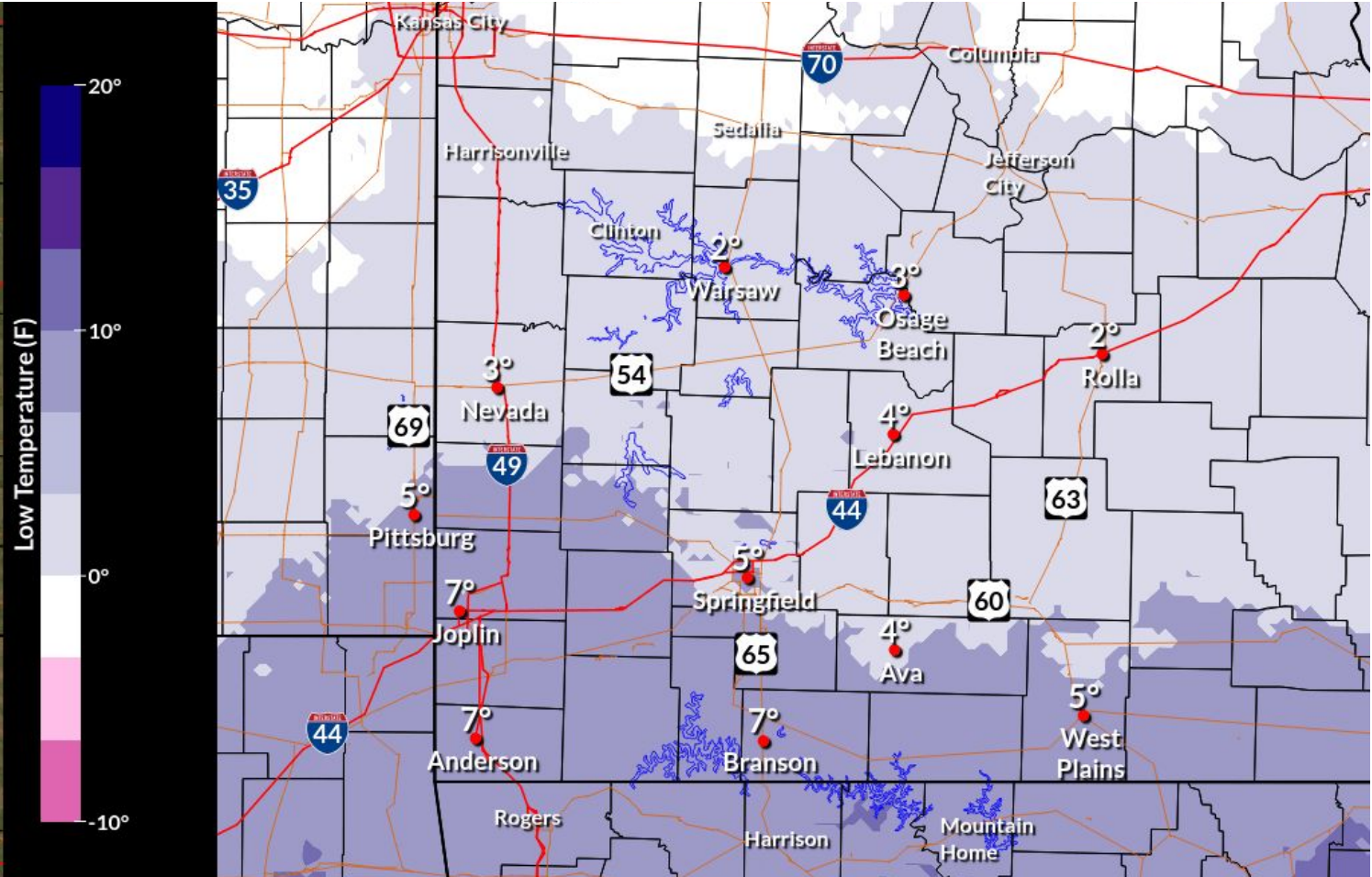




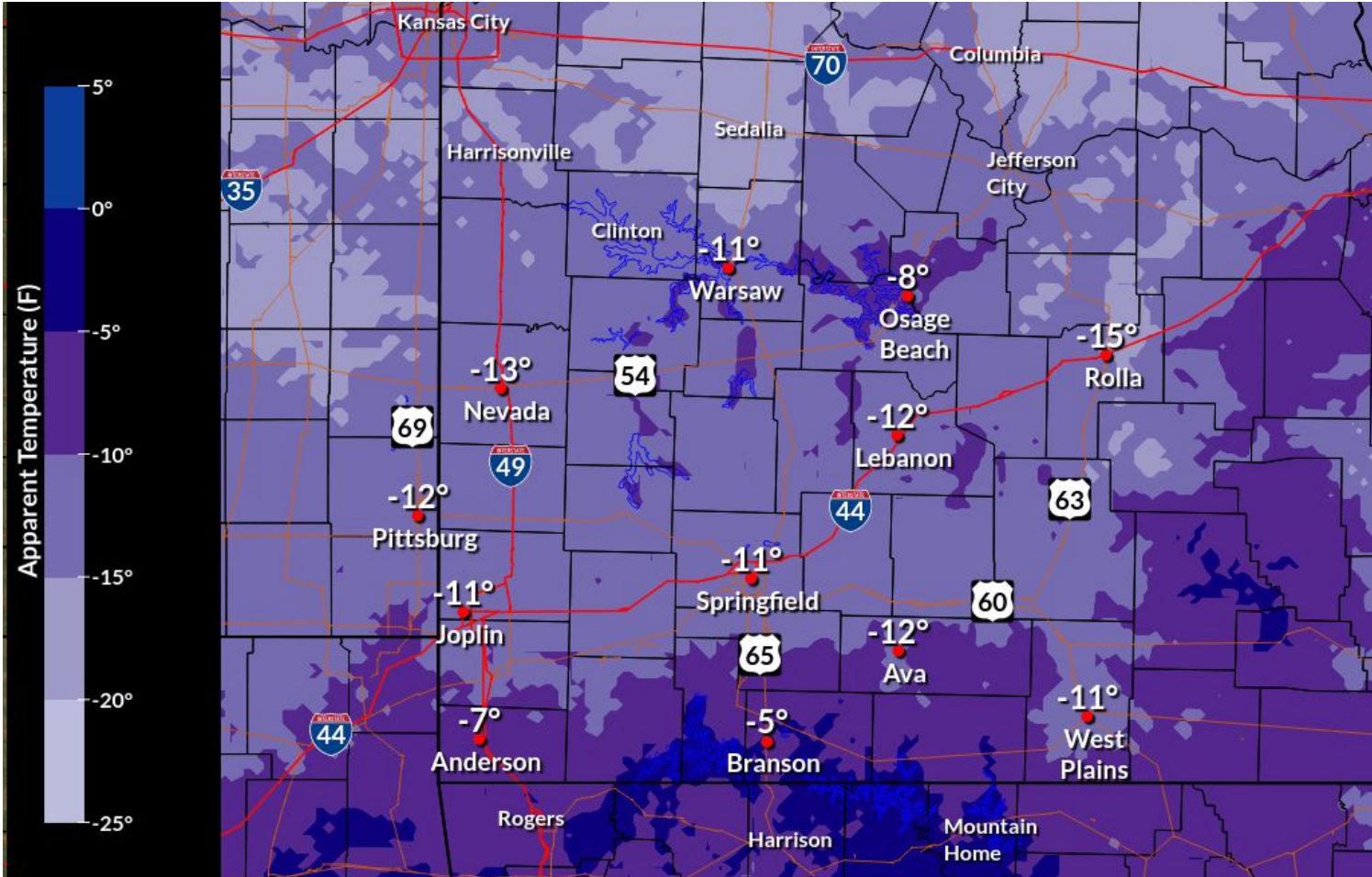
Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

January 21, 2026
6:05 AM

Friday Night



Low Temperatures Friday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Friday Night

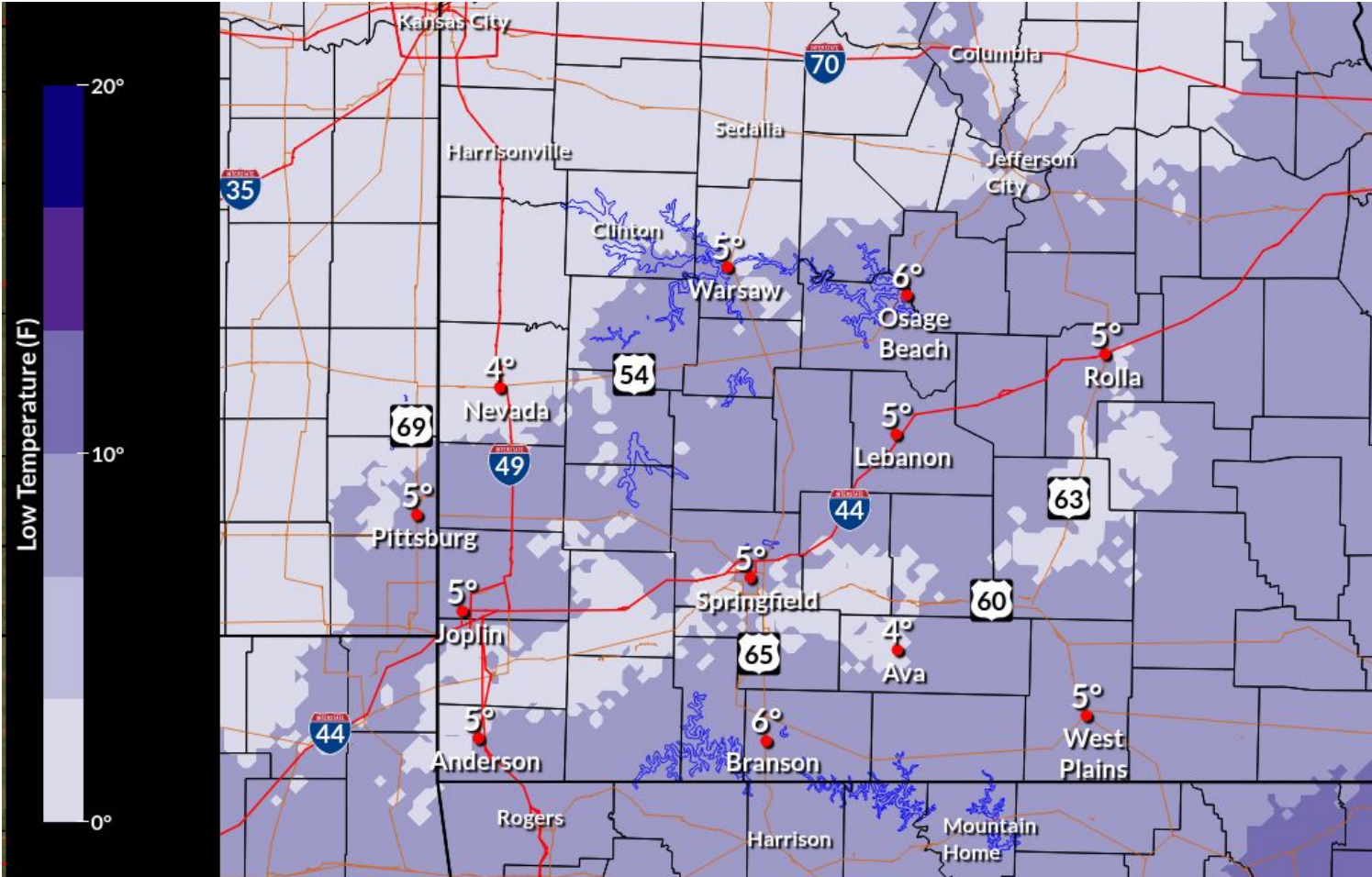




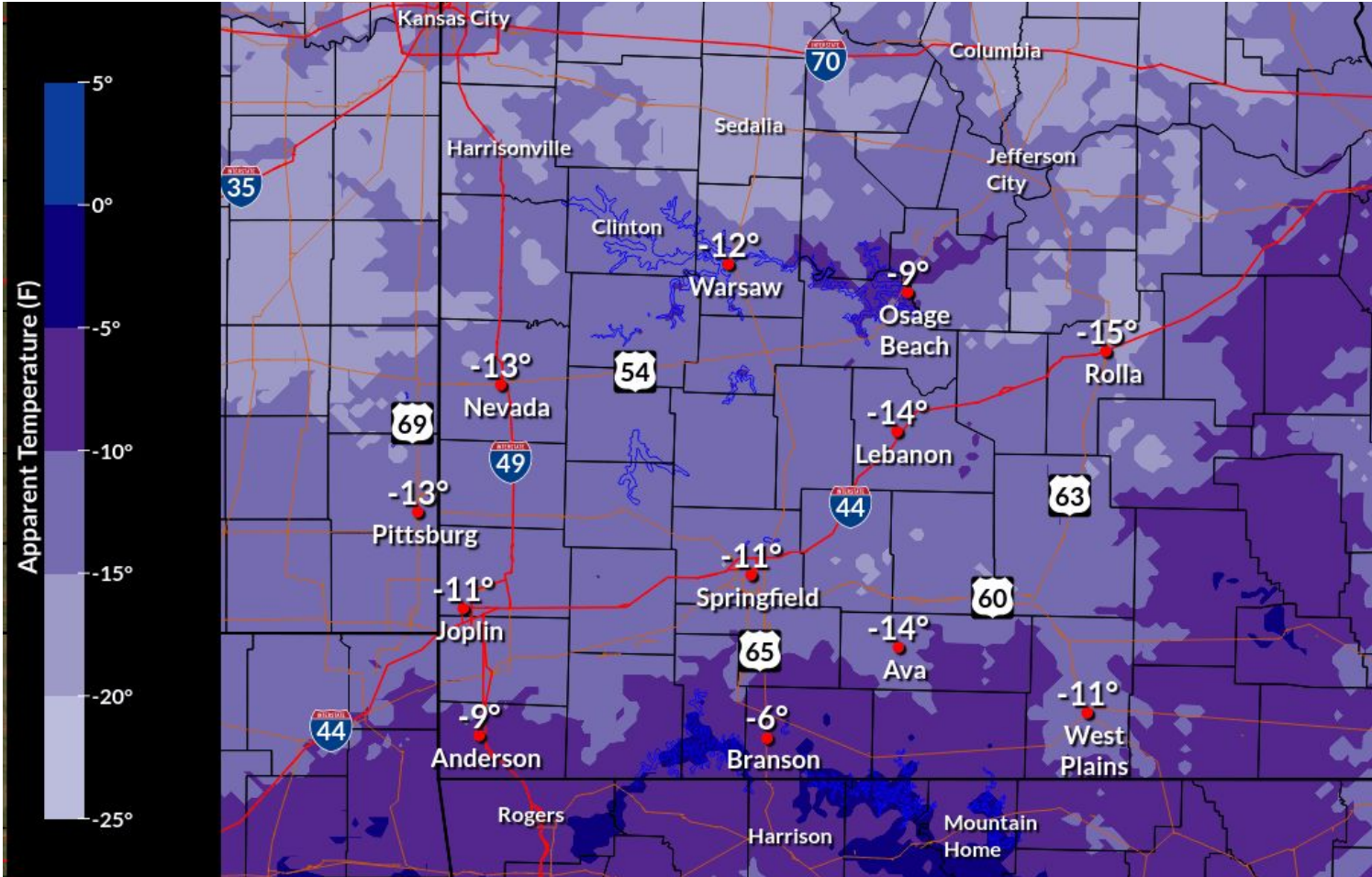
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Saturday Night



Low Temperatures Saturday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Saturday Night

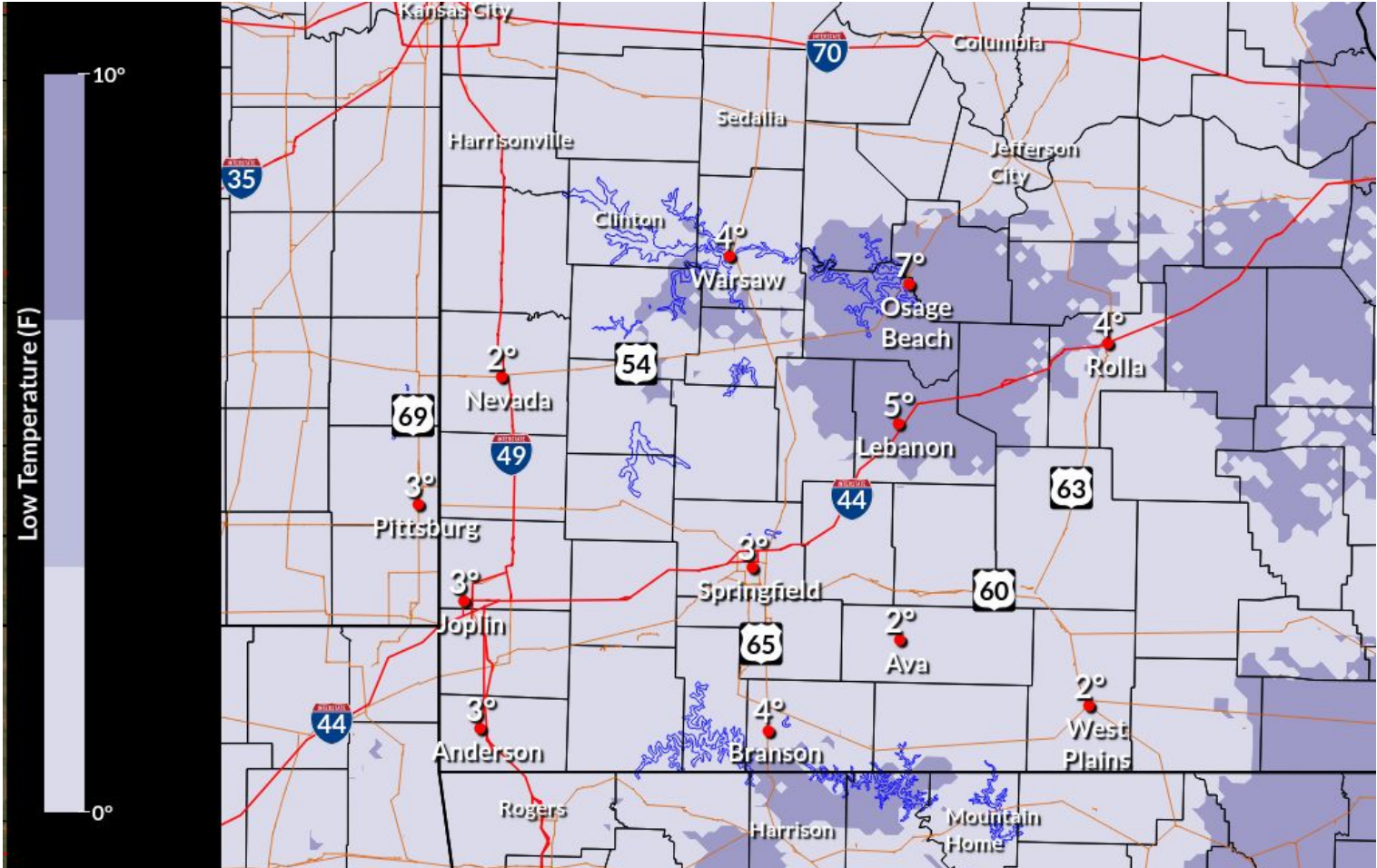




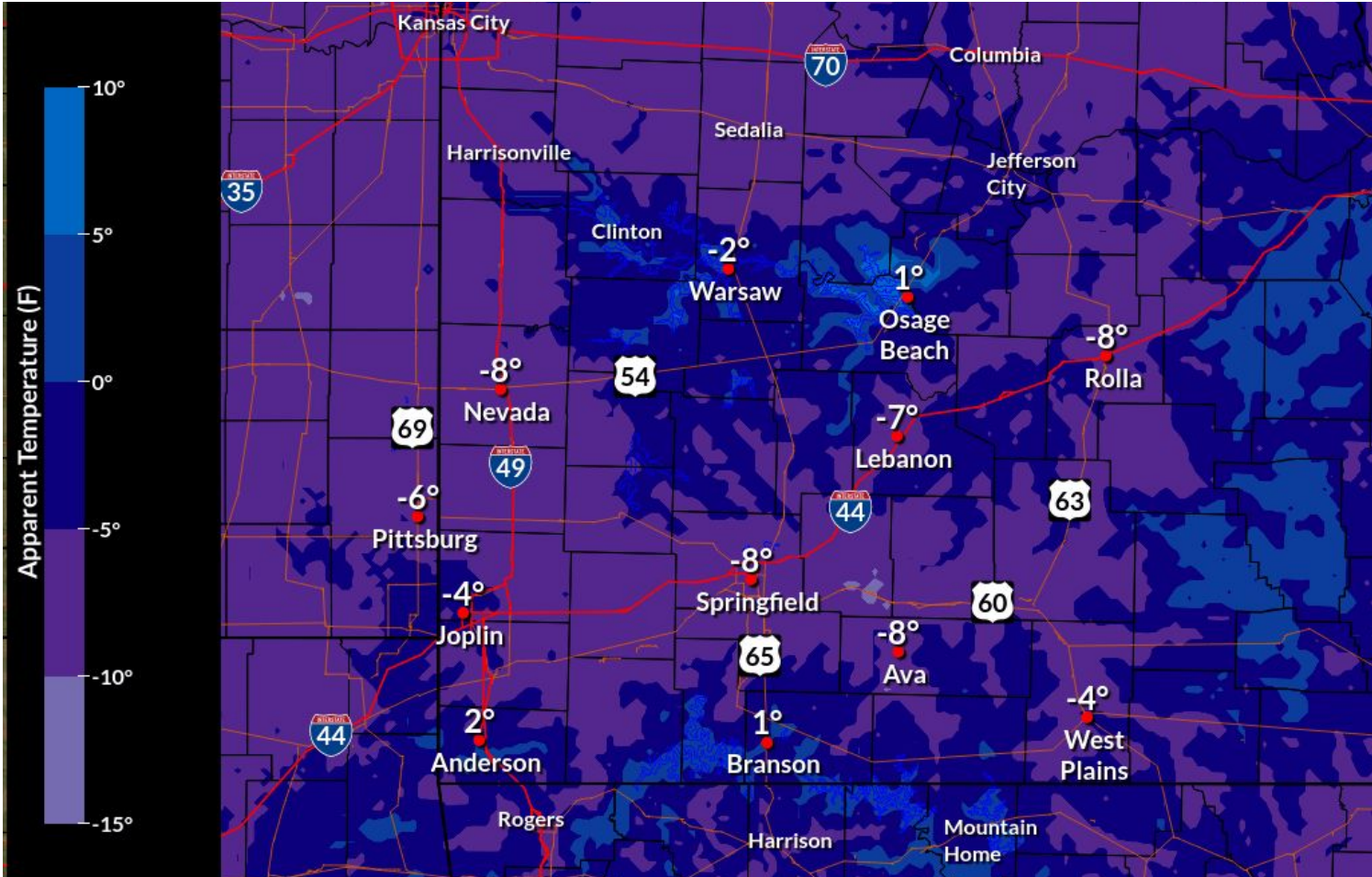
Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Sunday Night



Low Temperatures Sunday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Sunday Night

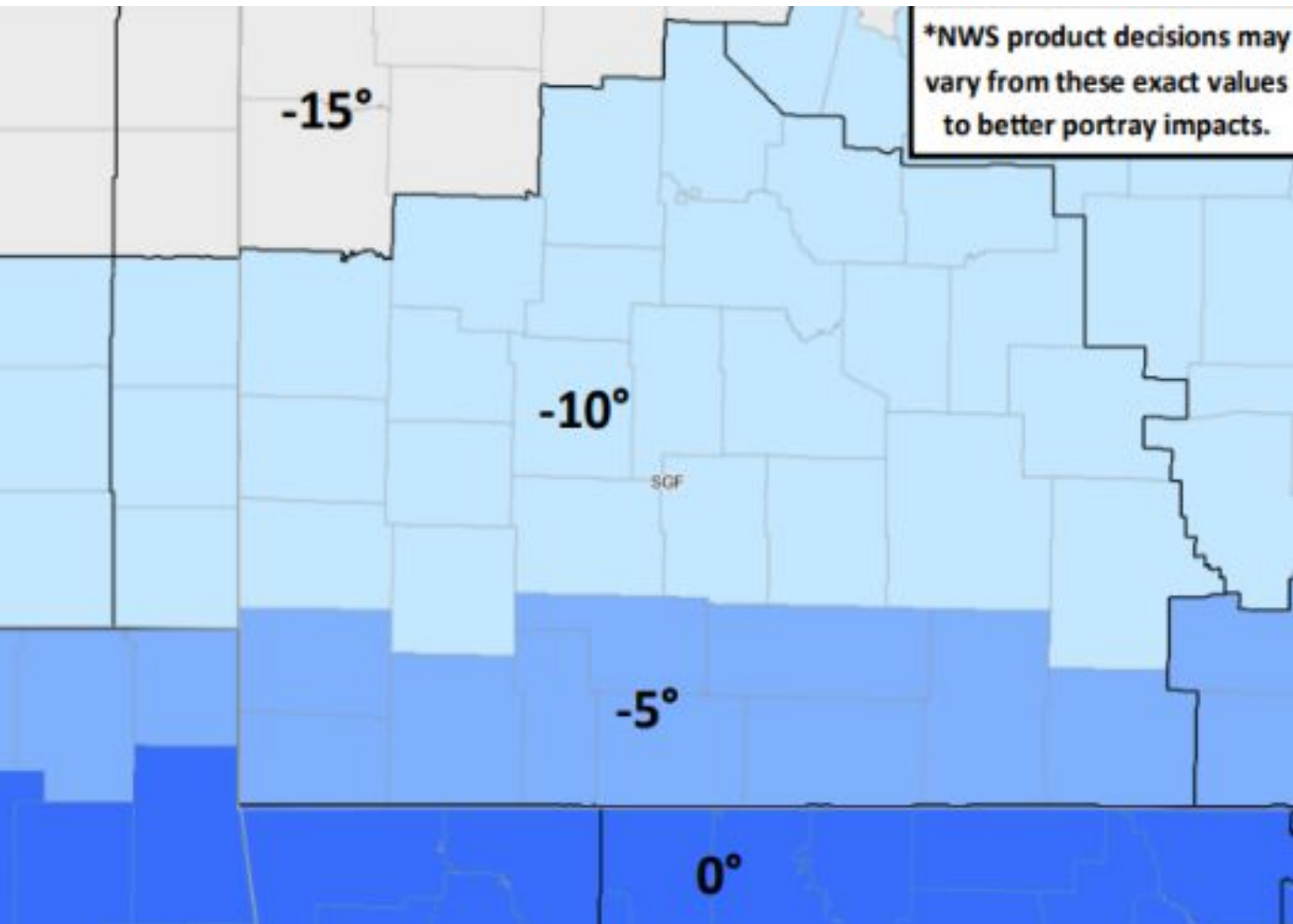
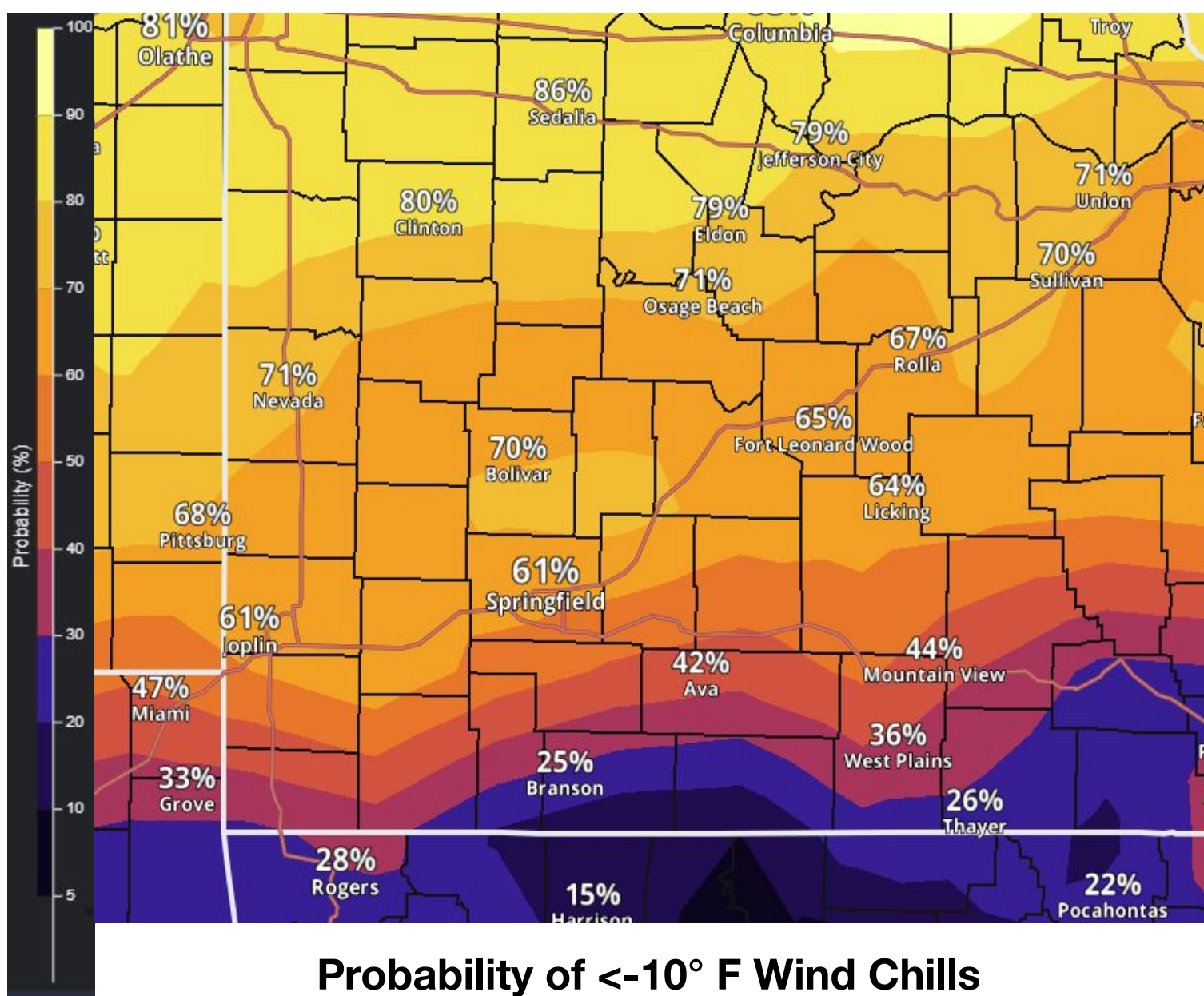




Probability of -10° F or Colder Wind Chills

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6:05 AM CST

Friday Night into the Weekend





Confidence Levels

Confidence overall increasing, but uncertainty still remains

Location



Timing



Amounts



Travel Impacts



Confidence Details

- A sharp gradient in snowfall amounts on the northern edge of the heavy snowfall may cause a several inch difference in totals from the northern to the southern portions of a single county, creating a drastic difference in snow accumulations over a short distance.
- Uncertainty still remains on just how far north the edge of the heavy snowfall (4-5" or more) will get.

Alternate Scenarios

- A drier atmosphere would delay onset of snow to later into Friday evening.
- A stronger high pressure in the Northern Plains would shift the northern extent of heavy snowfall to be further south, while a weaker high pressure would allow heavy snowfall to push further north.





Prepare for Cold and Potential Snow

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Keep Up with the Forecast

For Additional Information

- [NWS Springfield Webpage](#)
- [NWS Springfield Probabilistic Snowfall](#)
- [IDSS Point Forecasts](#)
- [Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [MODOT Travel Map](#)
- [KDOT Travel Map](#)
- [Missouri Warming Shelters](#)
- [Winter Weather Safety](#)
- [Winter Weather Reference Sheet](#)

WINTER STORM WATCH

A Winter Storm Watch is issued when **heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is possible.**

Be prepared to adjust travel plans in case a Warning is issued.

Be Prepared.



weather.gov

WINTER STORM WARNING

A Winter Storm Warning is issued when **heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is expected.**

Travel will become dangerous. Delay or adjust travel plans until conditions improve.

Take Action!

Follow @NWSSpringfield



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO