



Winter Storm & Bitter Cold This Weekend

January 22, 2026

5:54 AM

Snow totals trending higher with excruciatingly cold temperatures through the weekend

Key Messages

- A **Winter Storm Watch** is in effect starting 6 PM Friday in anticipation of a large winter storm that will track through the region and bring impactful, accumulating snow Friday through Sunday.
- Dangerous cold will accompany this system, bringing single digit lows & below-zero wind chills through at least next Tuesday.

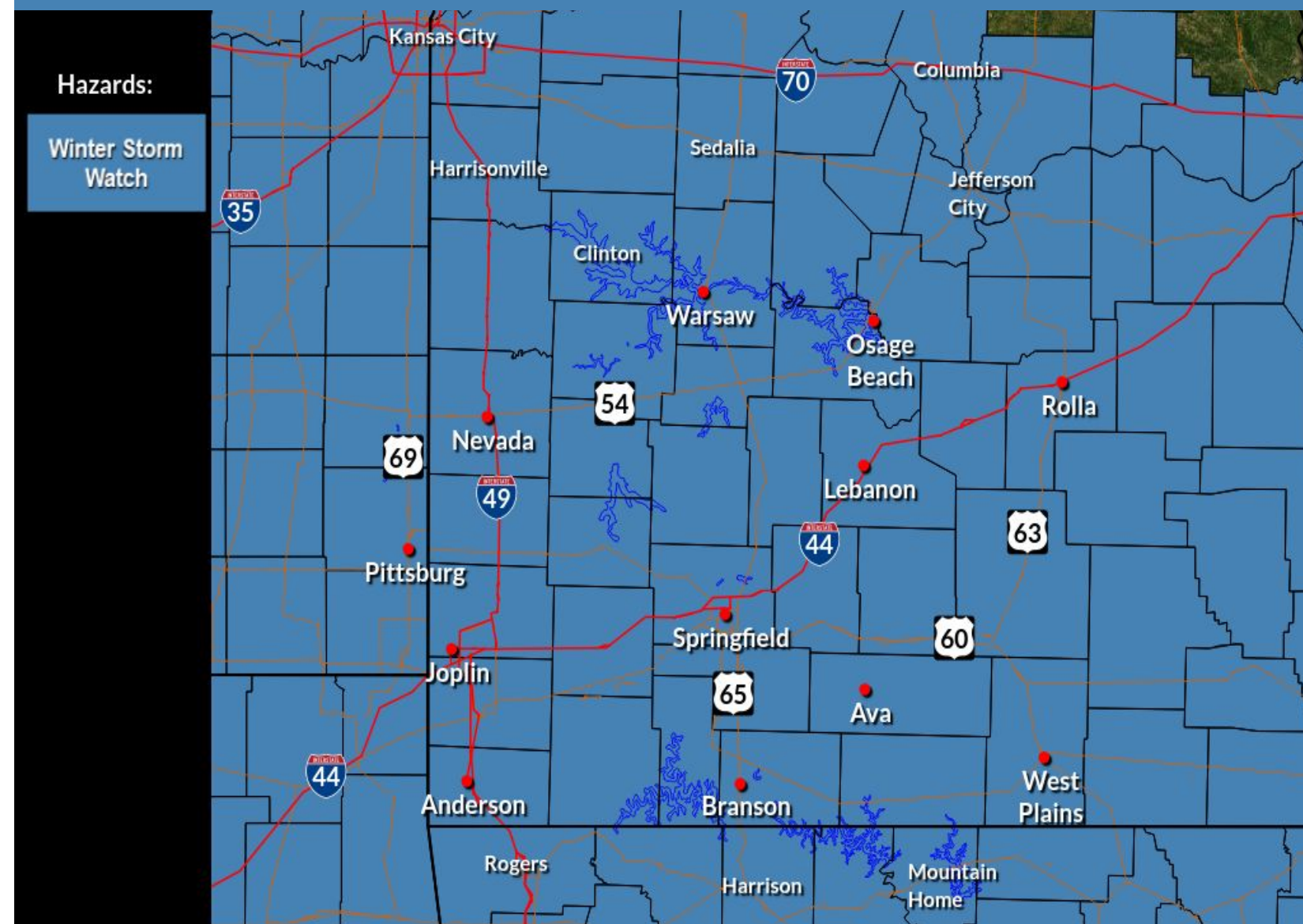
NEW Important Updates

- Cold Weather Advisory issued across the entire forecast area from 12 AM - 12 PM Saturday.
- Start time of the Winter Storm Watch pushed later, now beginning at 6 PM Friday.
- Northward trend in the forecast track of this system continues, which points towards greater snow totals.

Next Scheduled Briefing

- By 5 PM Thursday

Winter Storm Watch 6 PM Friday - 12 PM Sunday



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

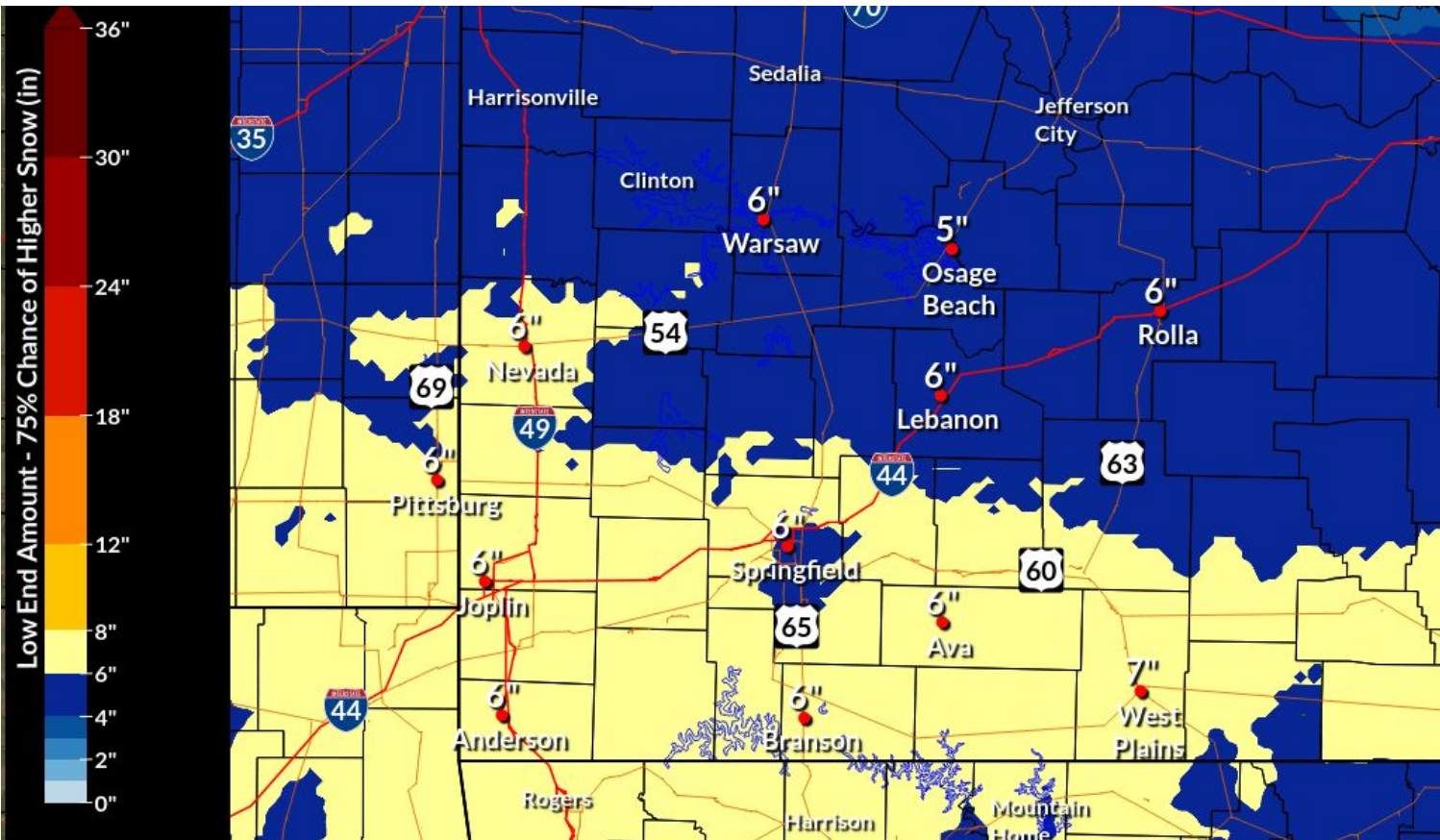
National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



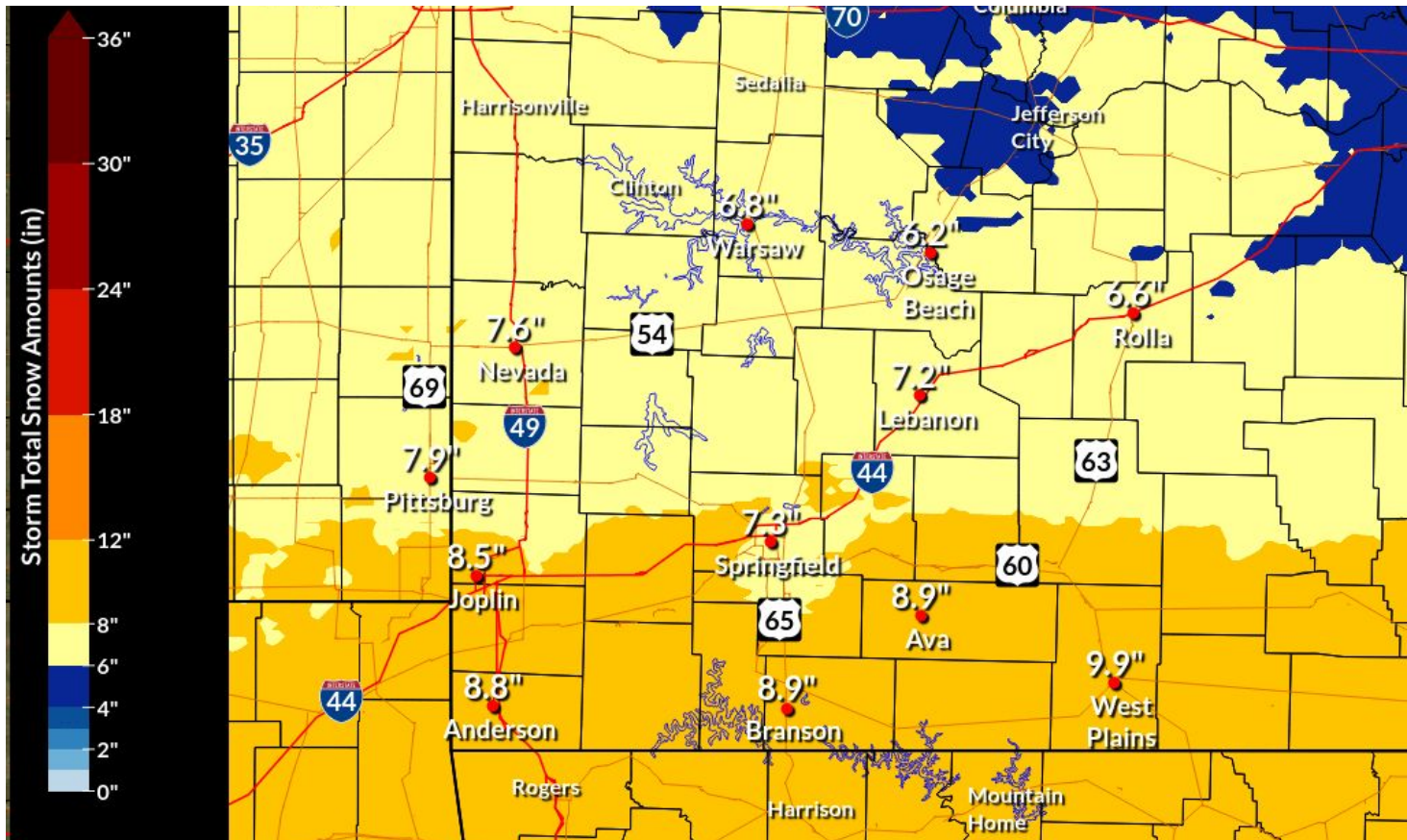
High End and Low End Snowfall Amounts

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Friday Afternoon through Sunday

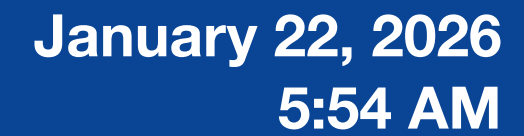


Low End Snow Amounts

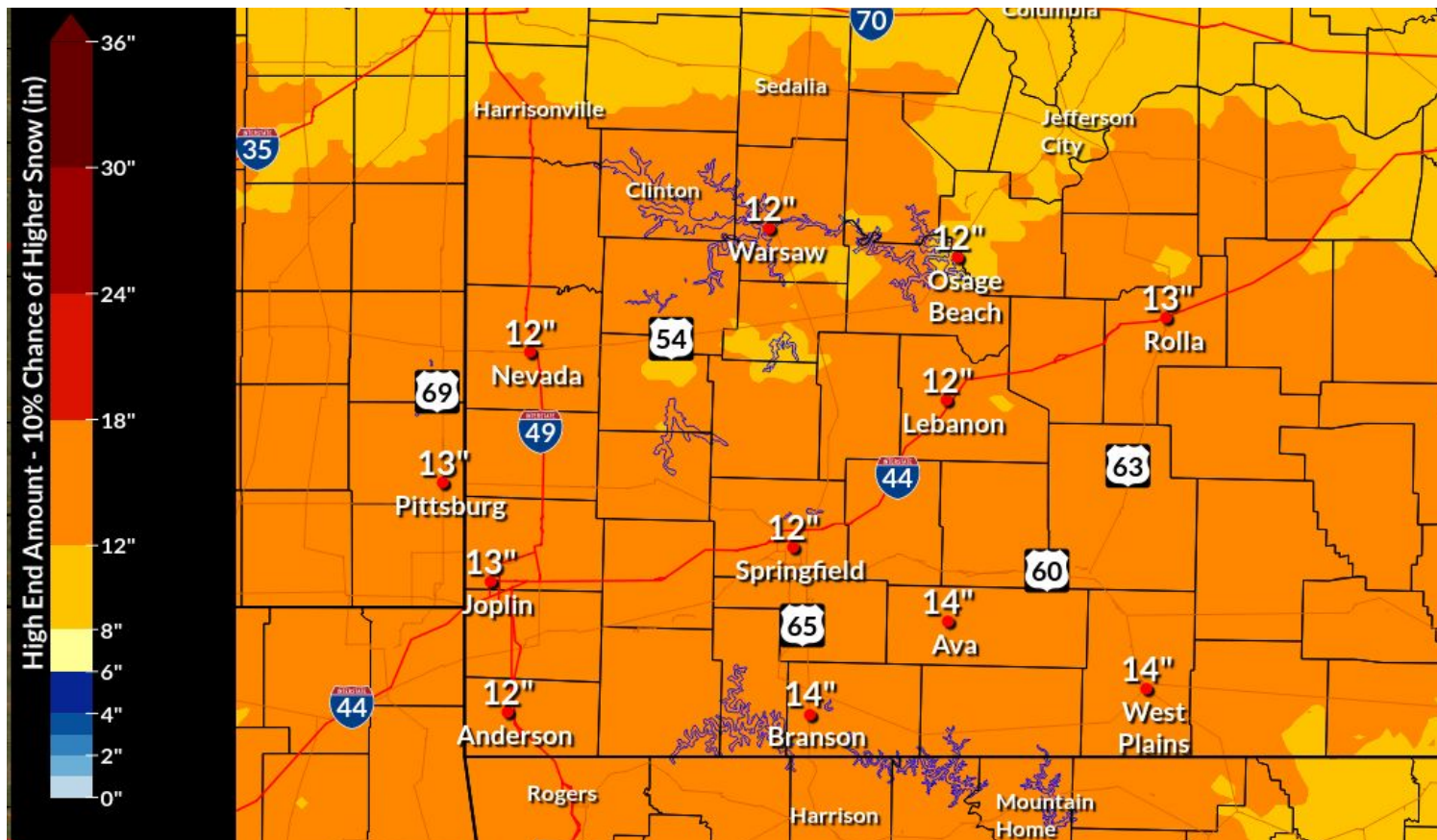


High End Snow Amounts

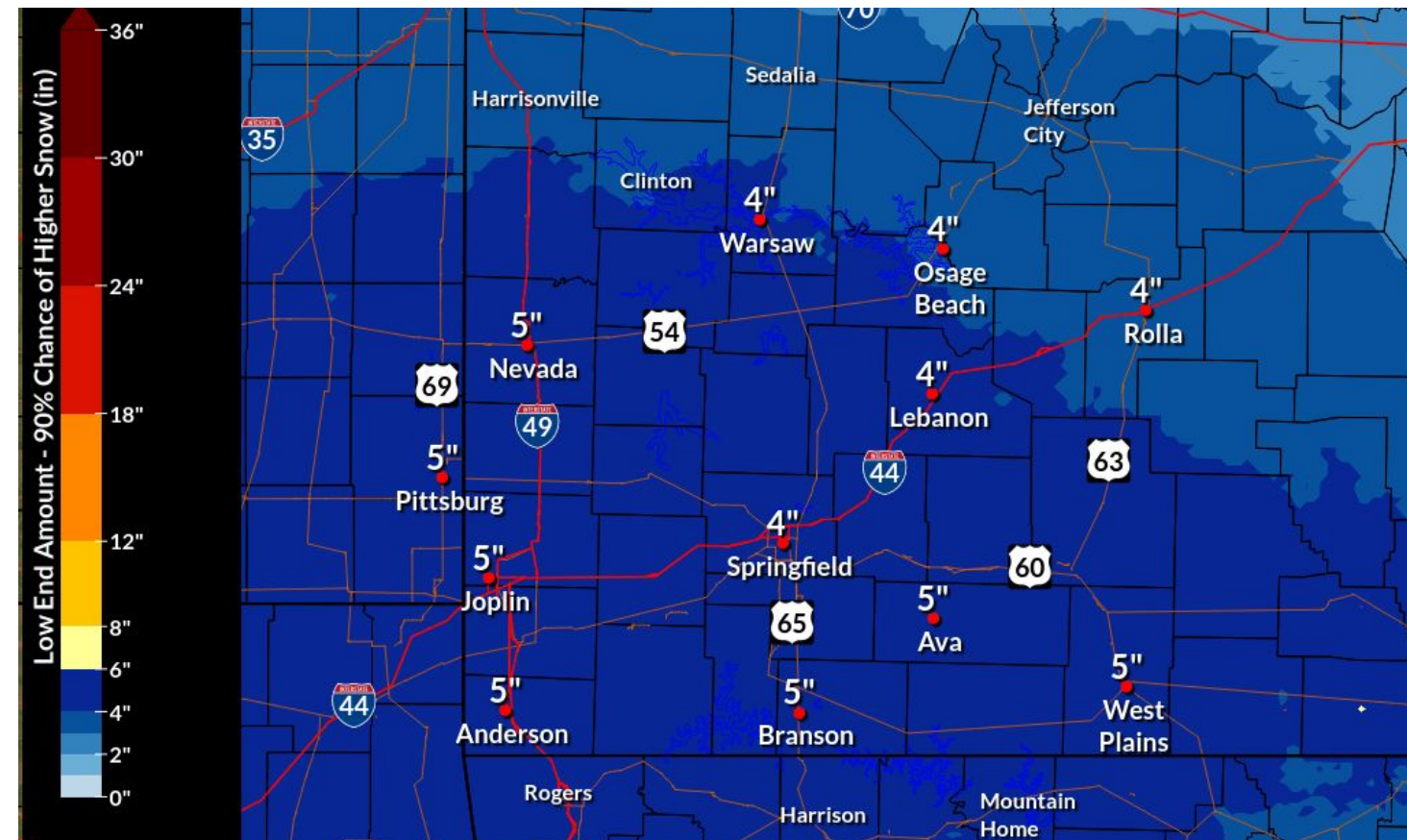




Friday Afternoon through Sunday



Reasonable Worst Case Scenario Snow Total Accumulations



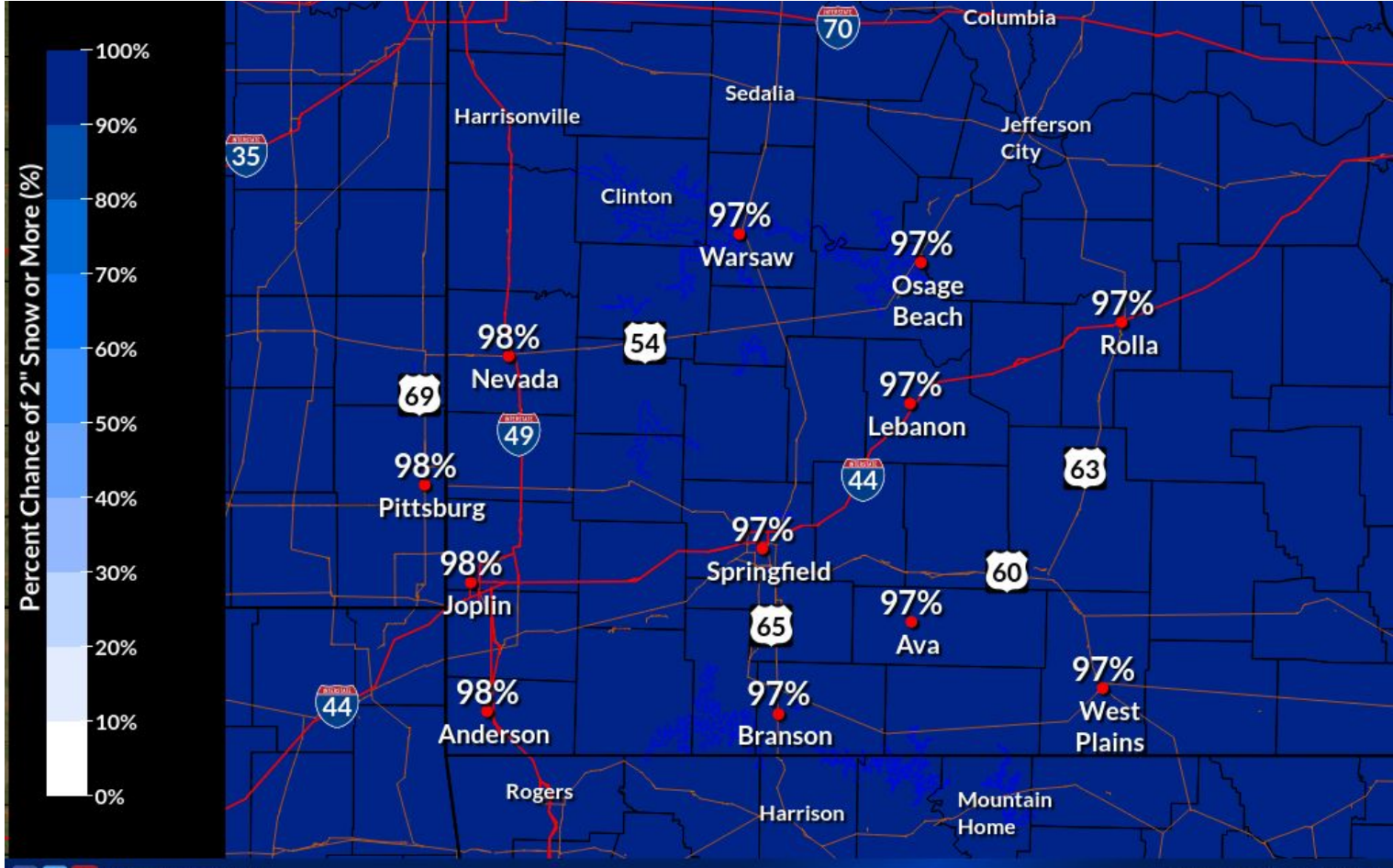
Reasonable “Best” Case Scenario Snow Total Accumulations



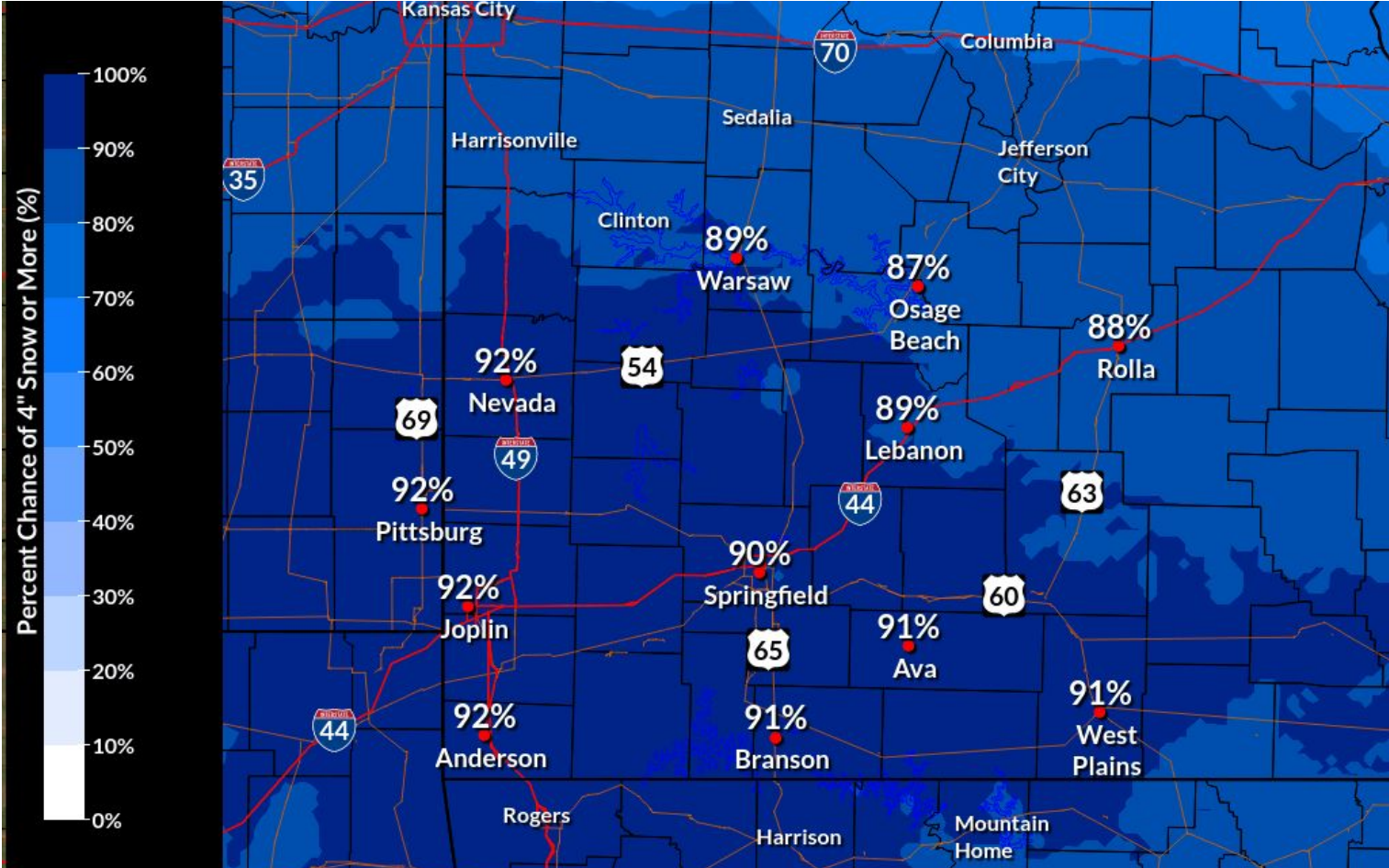
Probabilistic Snowfall

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Friday Afternoon Through Sunday



Probability of > 2.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 4.0" of snowfall

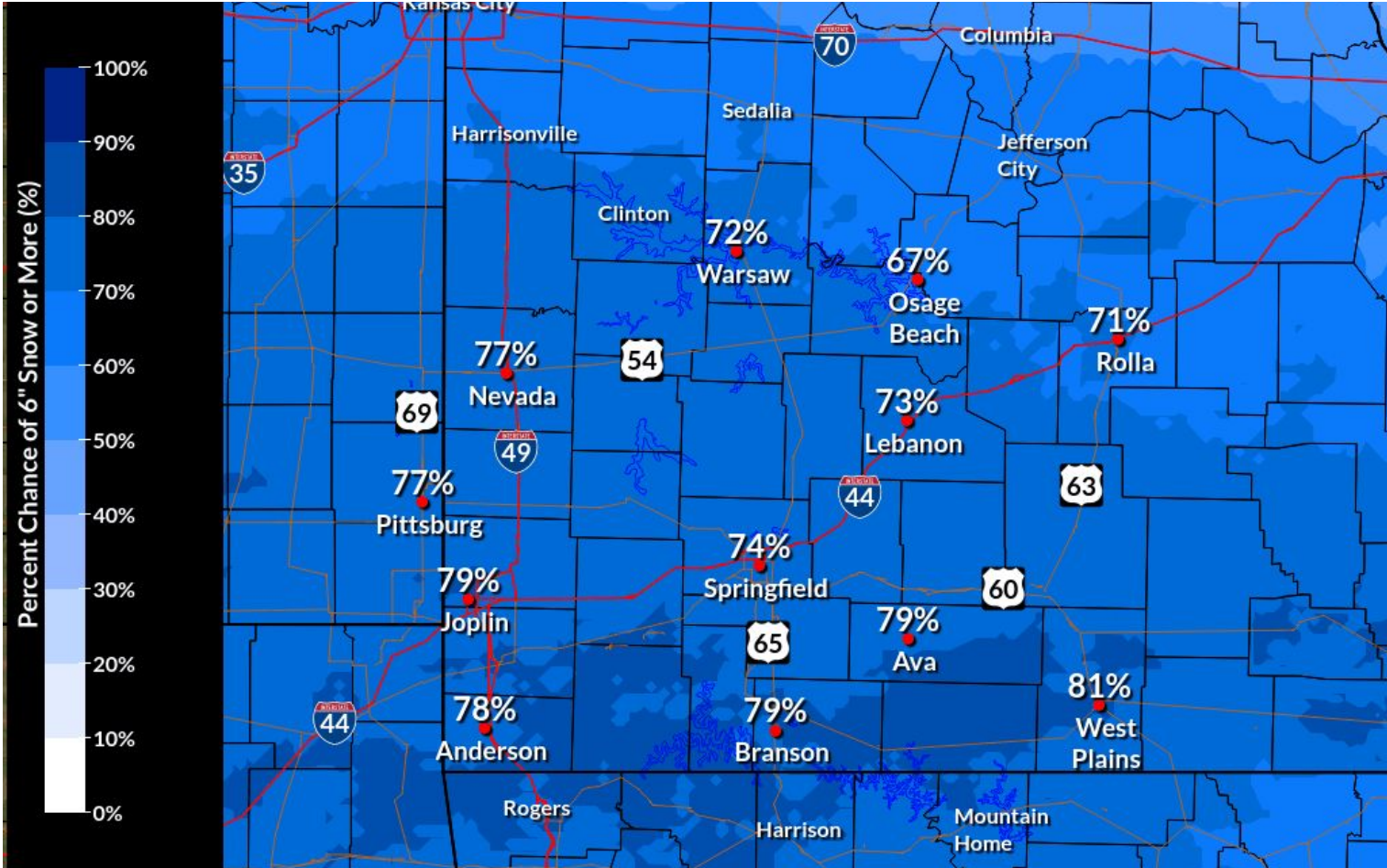




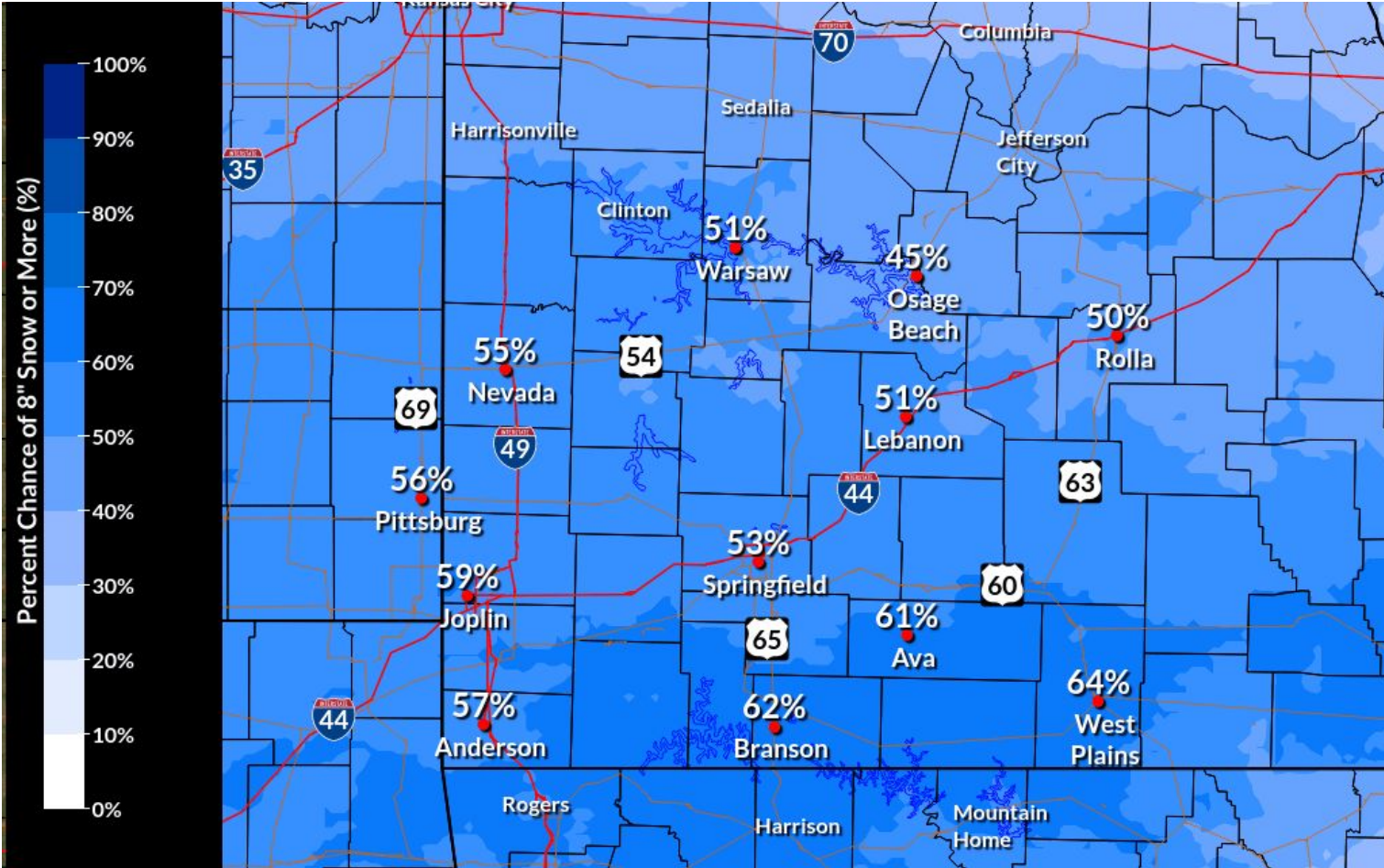
Probabilistic Snowfall

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Friday Afternoon Through Sunday



Probability of > 6.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 8.0" of snowfall

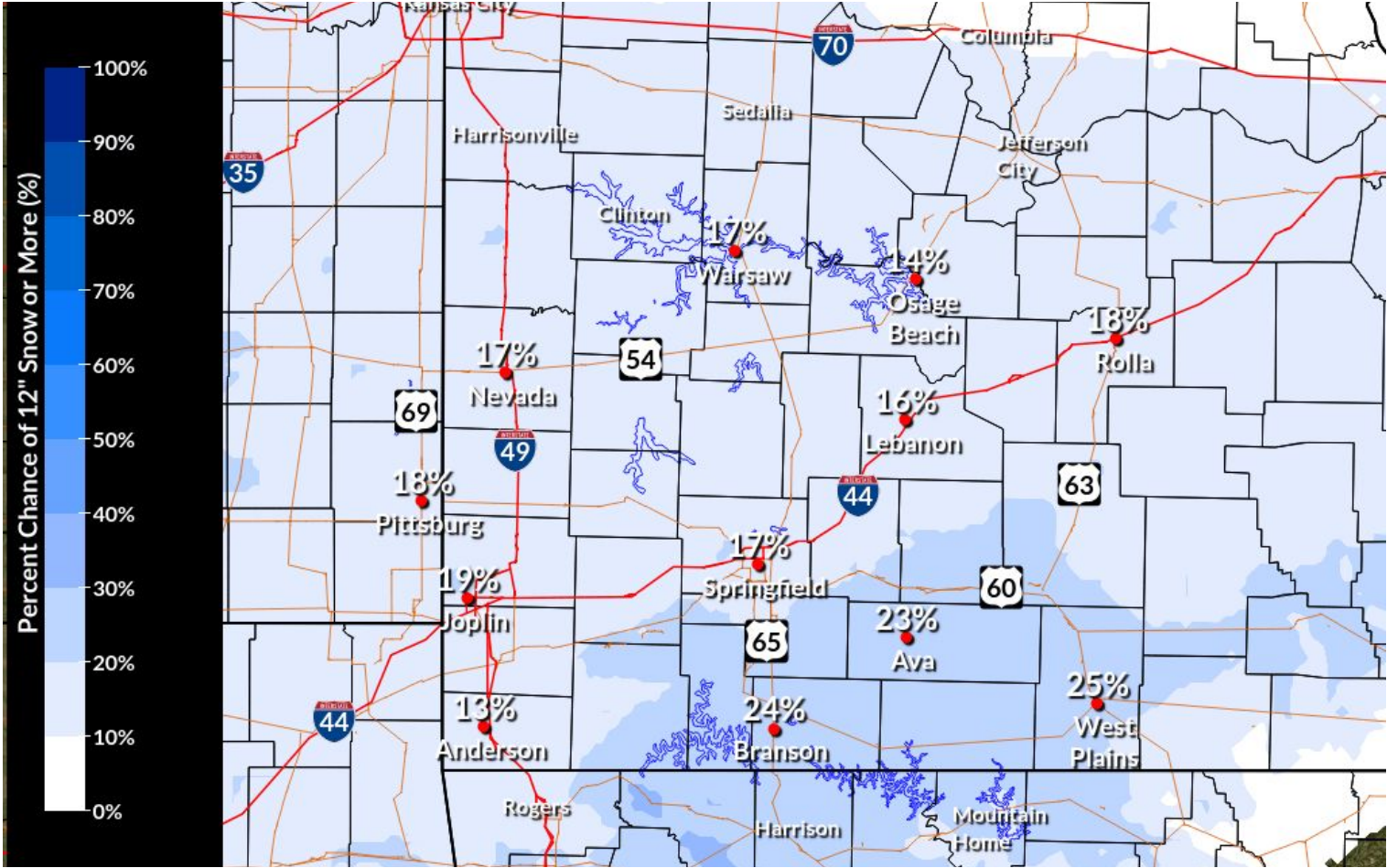




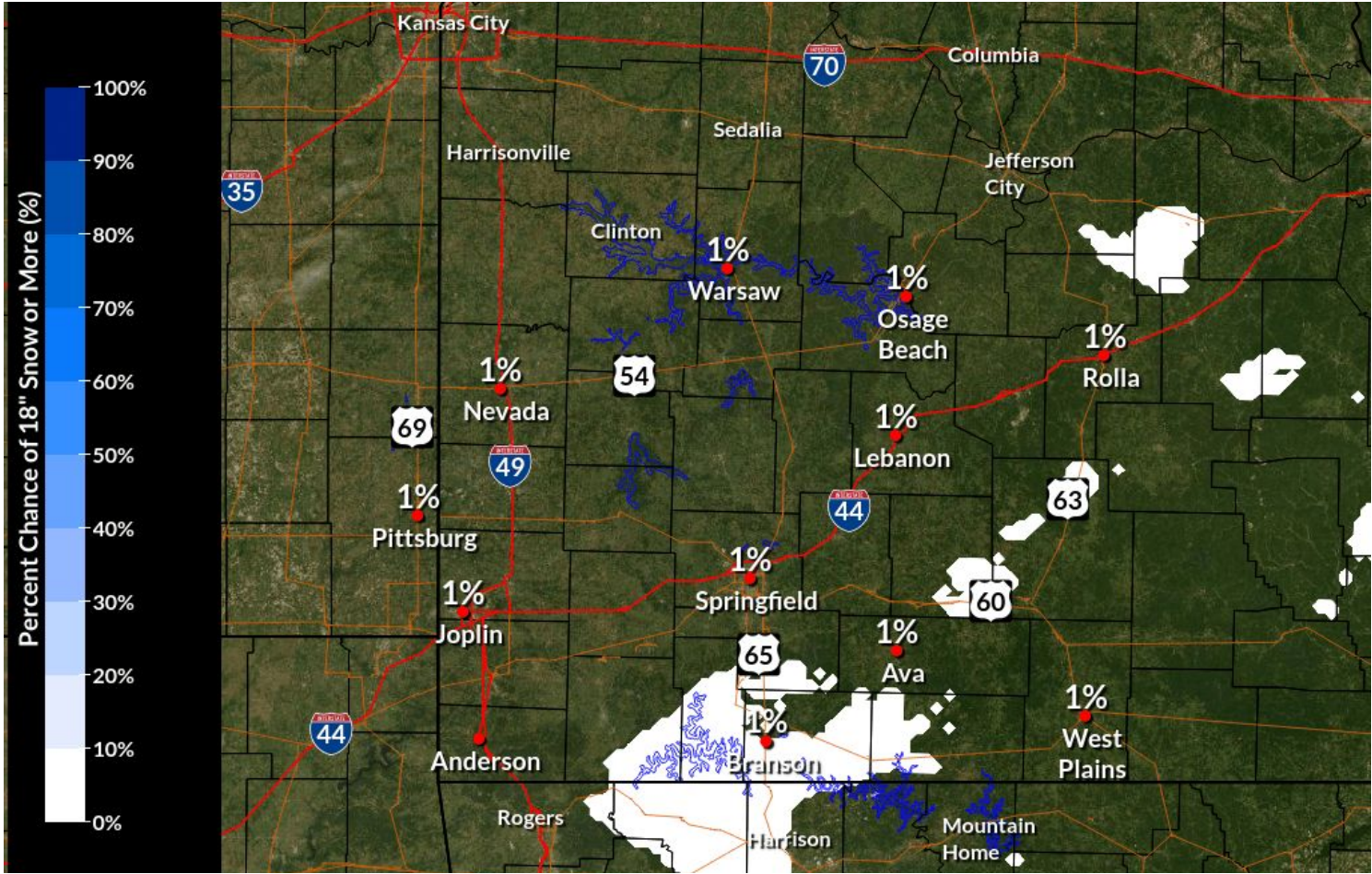
Probabilistic Snowfall

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Friday Afternoon Through Sunday



Probability of > 12.0" of snowfall



Probability of > 18.0" of snowfall





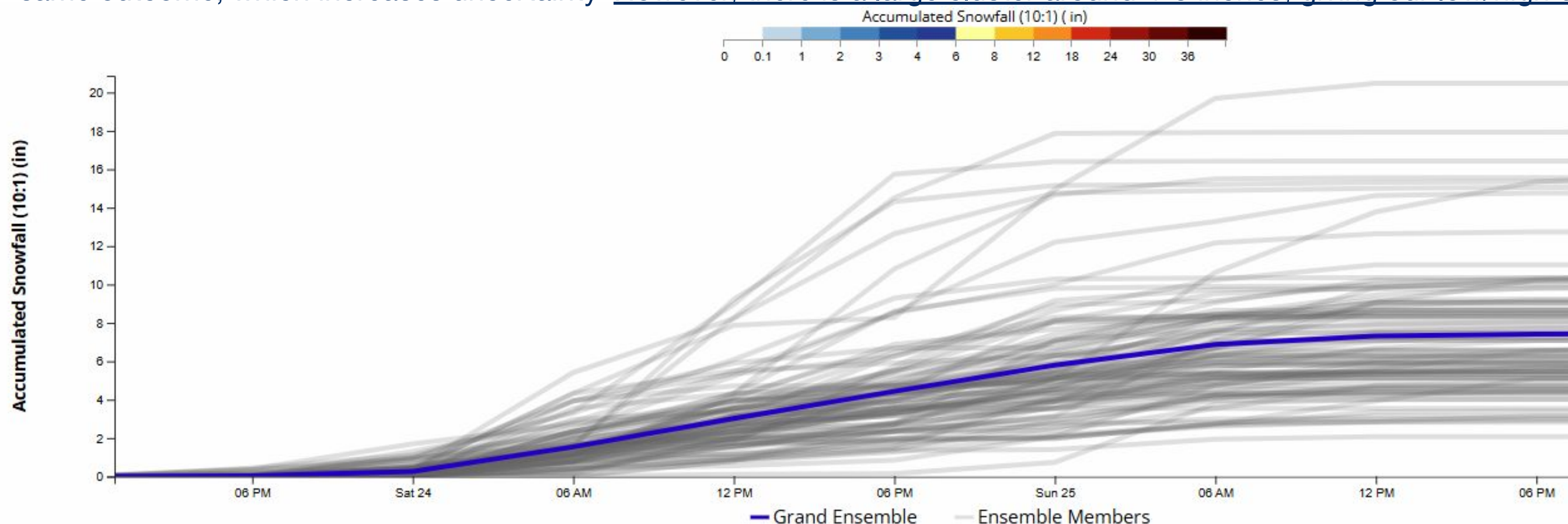
Lots of Uncertainty Still Remains

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Large differences still remain between individual model solutions for snowfall accumulations

- The plot below shows the “plumes” of each individual model in the larger ensemble solution for how much snow will fall in Springfield, MO.
- This is similar to a spaghetti plot for a hurricane’s track, but shows the forecast snowfall accumulations for Springfield instead of the track of the storm, to help visualize what each different potential outcome might look like.
- Each gray line represents one model solution, while the blue line represents the ensemble mean accumulation over time.
- As you can see, some members are vastly different than others, meaning that the models are not consistently showing the same outcome, which increases uncertainty. However, there is a large cluster around 4-8 inches, giving our low/high end range



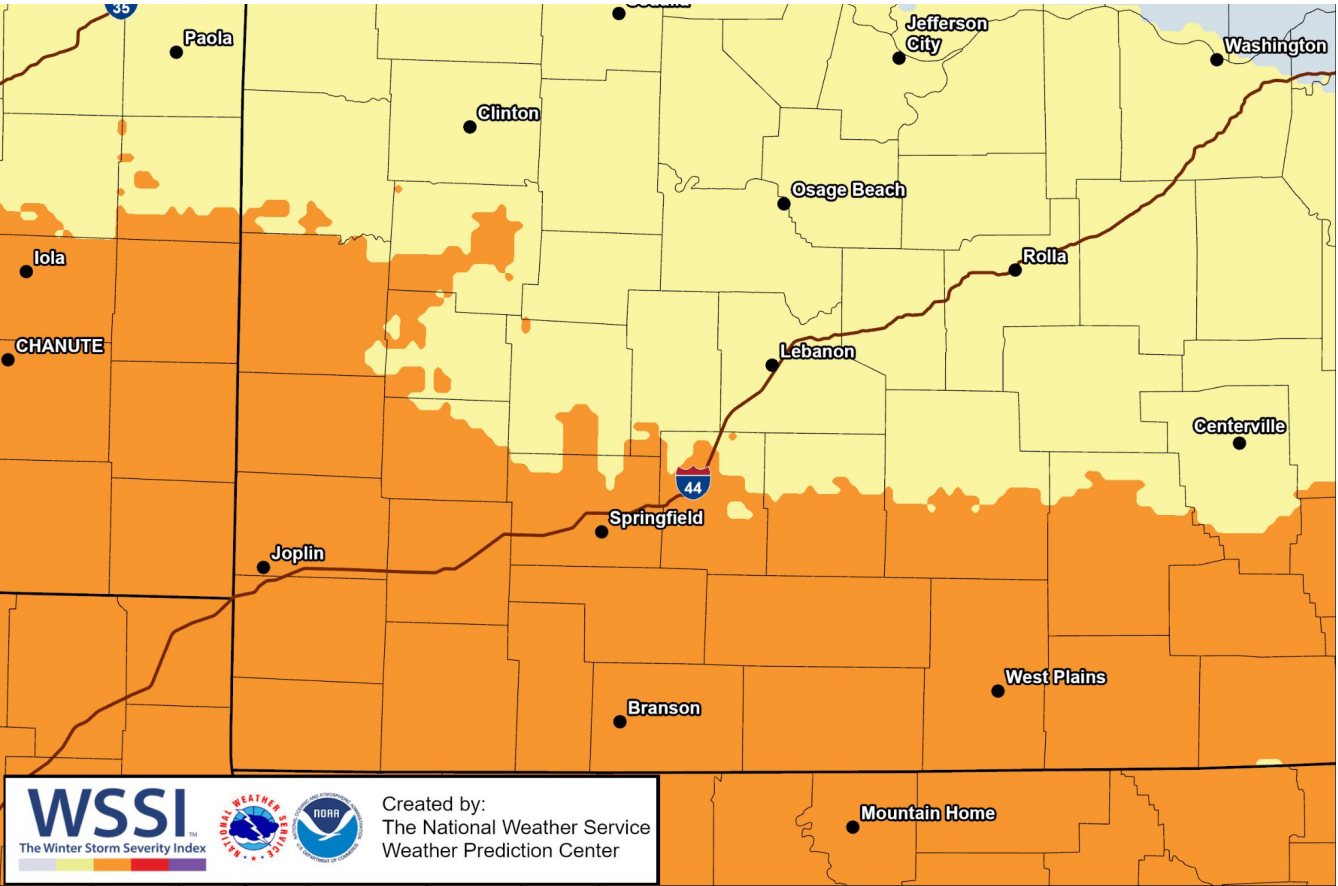


Winter Storm Severity Index

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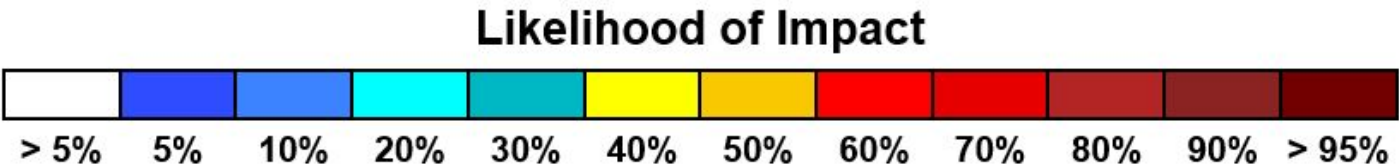
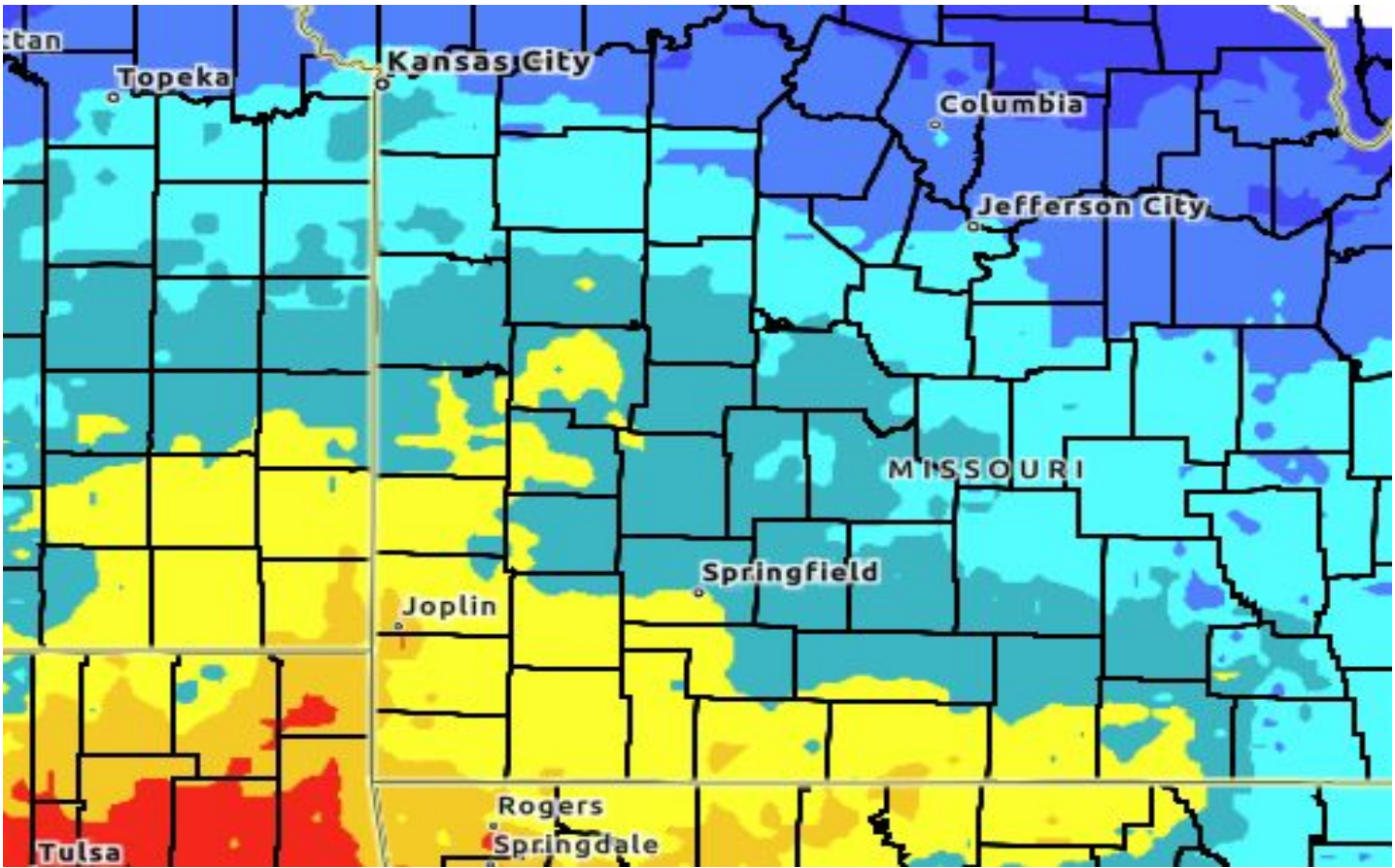
Valid 12 AM Saturday - 12 AM Sunday

Winter Storm Severity Index



Potential Winter Storm Impacts		Winter Storm Severity Index (WSSI)		Issued: Thu, Jan 22, 2026 02 AM CT	
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.	

Probability of Major Impacts



[Probabilistic WSSI](#)

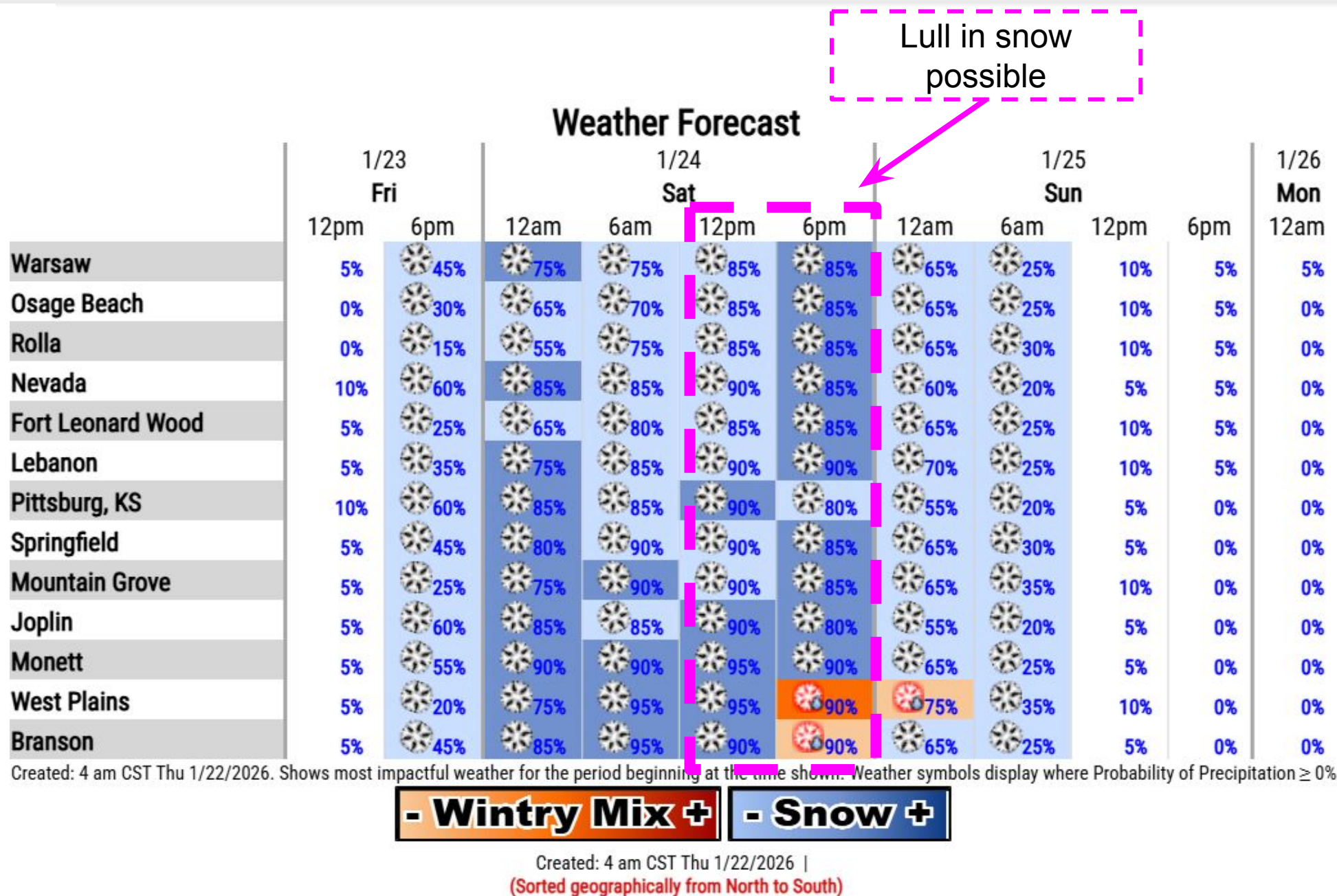




Timing of Snow

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- Snow chances increase after 6 PM Friday evening, last through the day Saturday, and decrease by Sunday morning.
- Snow will be the primary precipitation type for the entire area.
- If the system tracks farther north than currently forecast, then some mixed precipitation could be possible across extreme southern Missouri. Confidence in this occurring low.
- Latest guidance suggests there may be a lull in snowfall sometime Saturday afternoon and/or evening.





Snow Character & Longevity

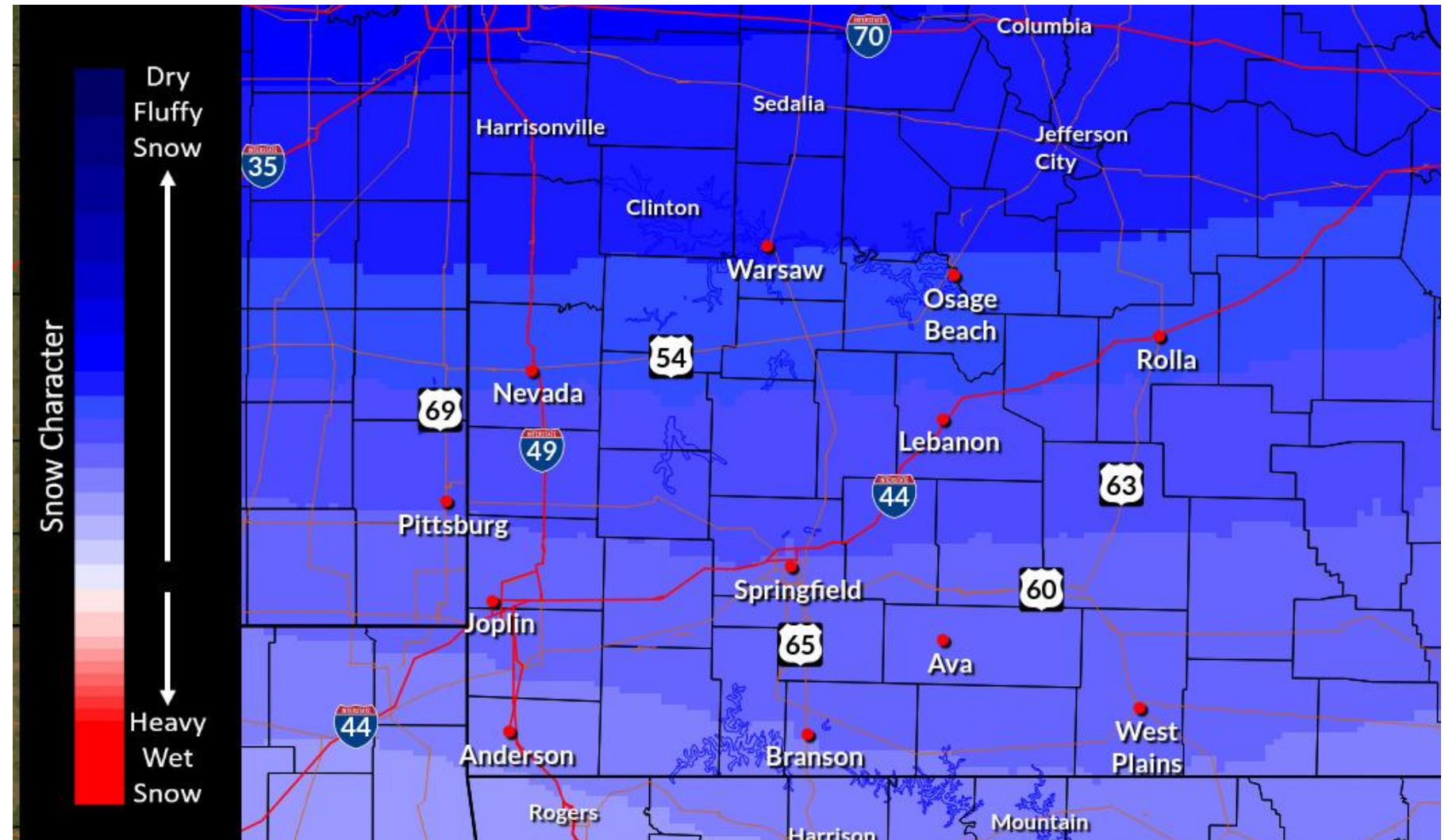
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How the Snow Will Feel and Act Due to its Moisture Content

Key Points

- Snow character will be slightly on the drier side of what we normally see around the Ozarks this time of year.
- Areas that see brief sleet mixed in will initially have a slightly wetter snow, but precip will quickly become a drier, fluffier snow as cold air further infiltrates the area.
- 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.
- The persistence of temperatures below freezing through at least Tuesday will keep snow around for several days, rather than immediately melting.



Snow Character



Bitter Cold - Cold Weather Advisory

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Valid 12 AM Saturday - 12 PM Saturday

Minimum
Temperatures

0 to 10°

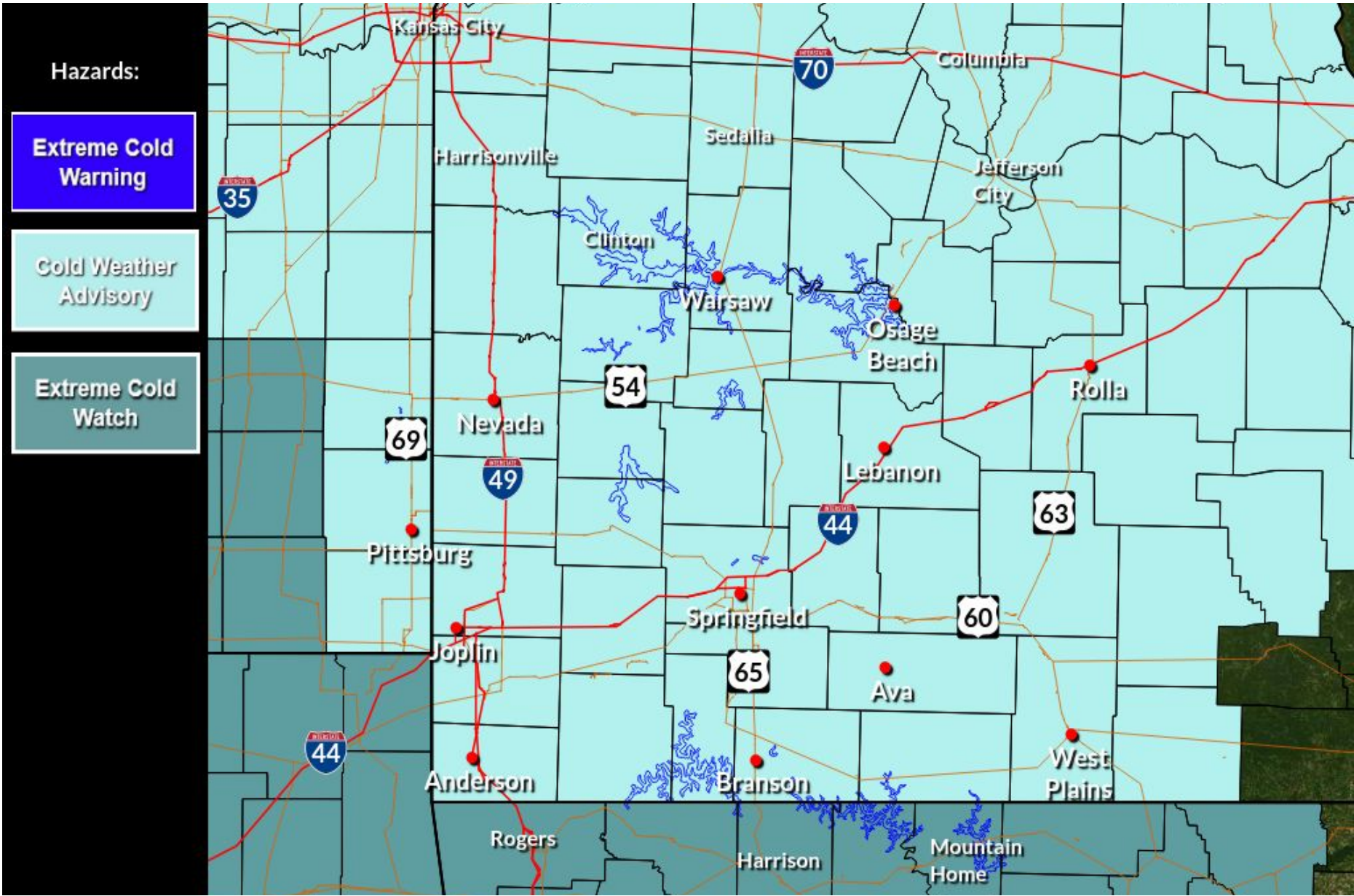
Minimum
Wind Chills

-5 to -15°



Dress in layers, cover exposed skin, and limit outdoor time. Check on elderly neighbors and family.

Cold Weather Advisory 12 AM Saturday - 12 PM Saturday



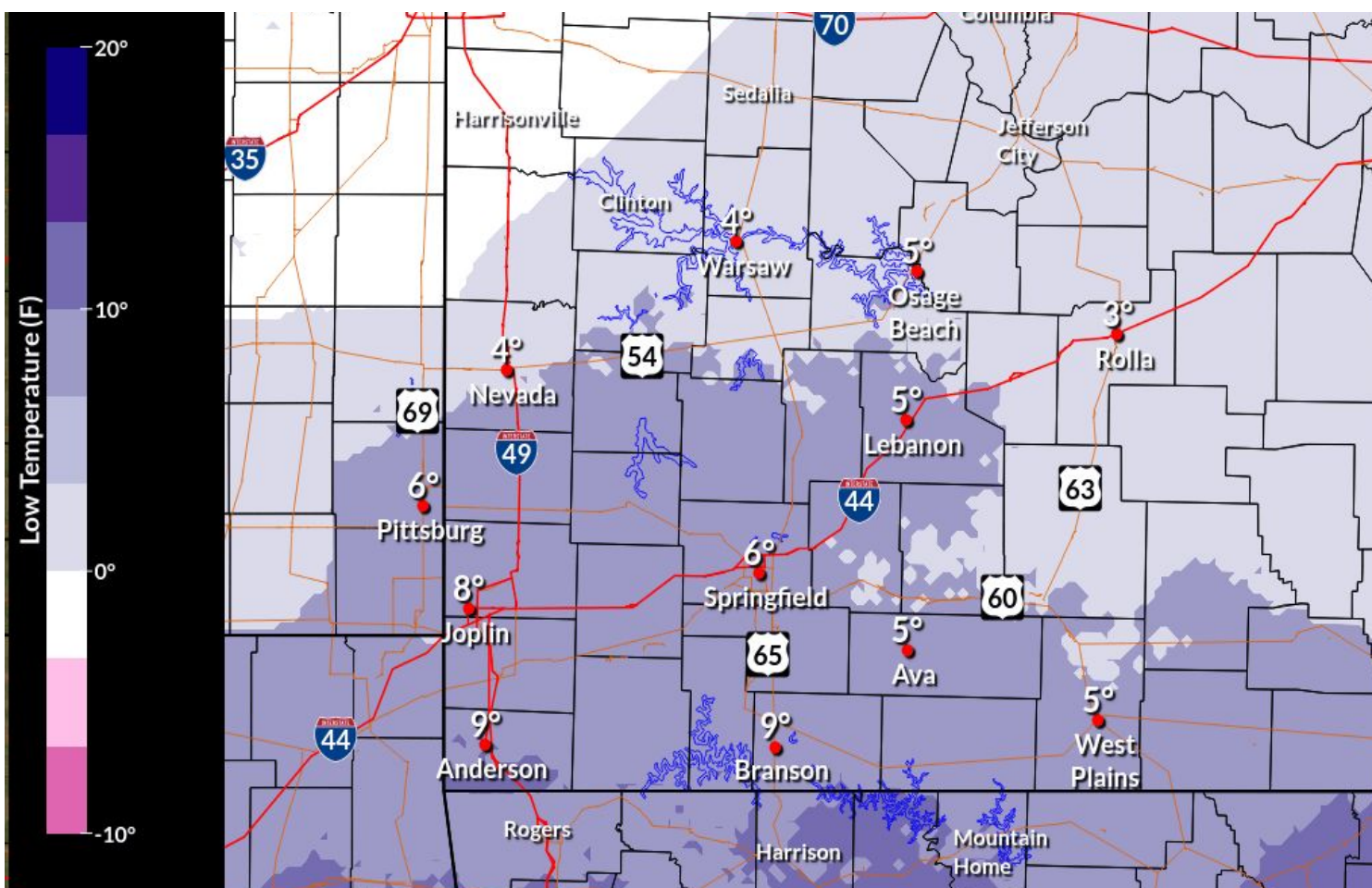


Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

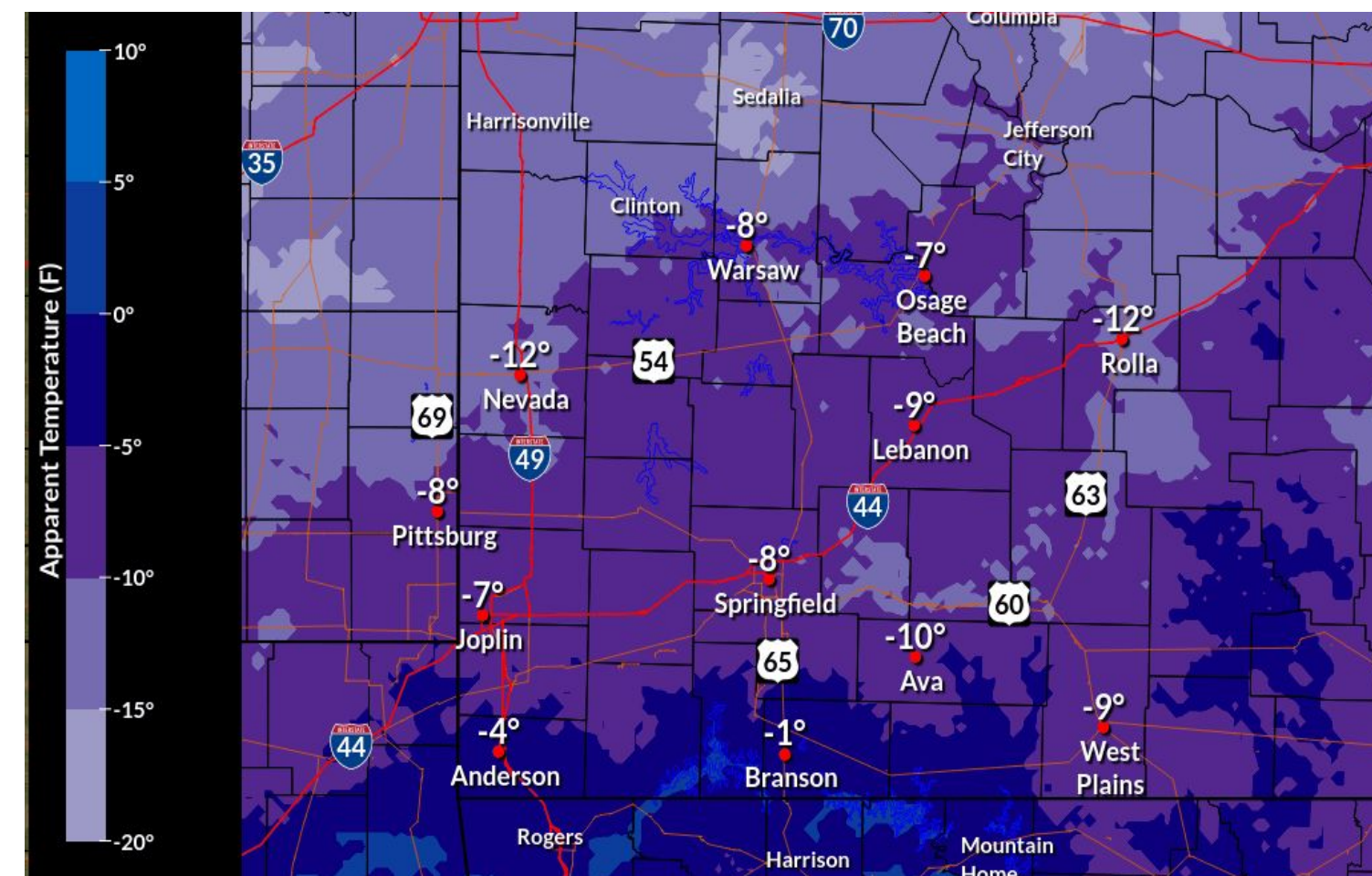
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Friday Night



Low Temperatures Friday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Friday Night

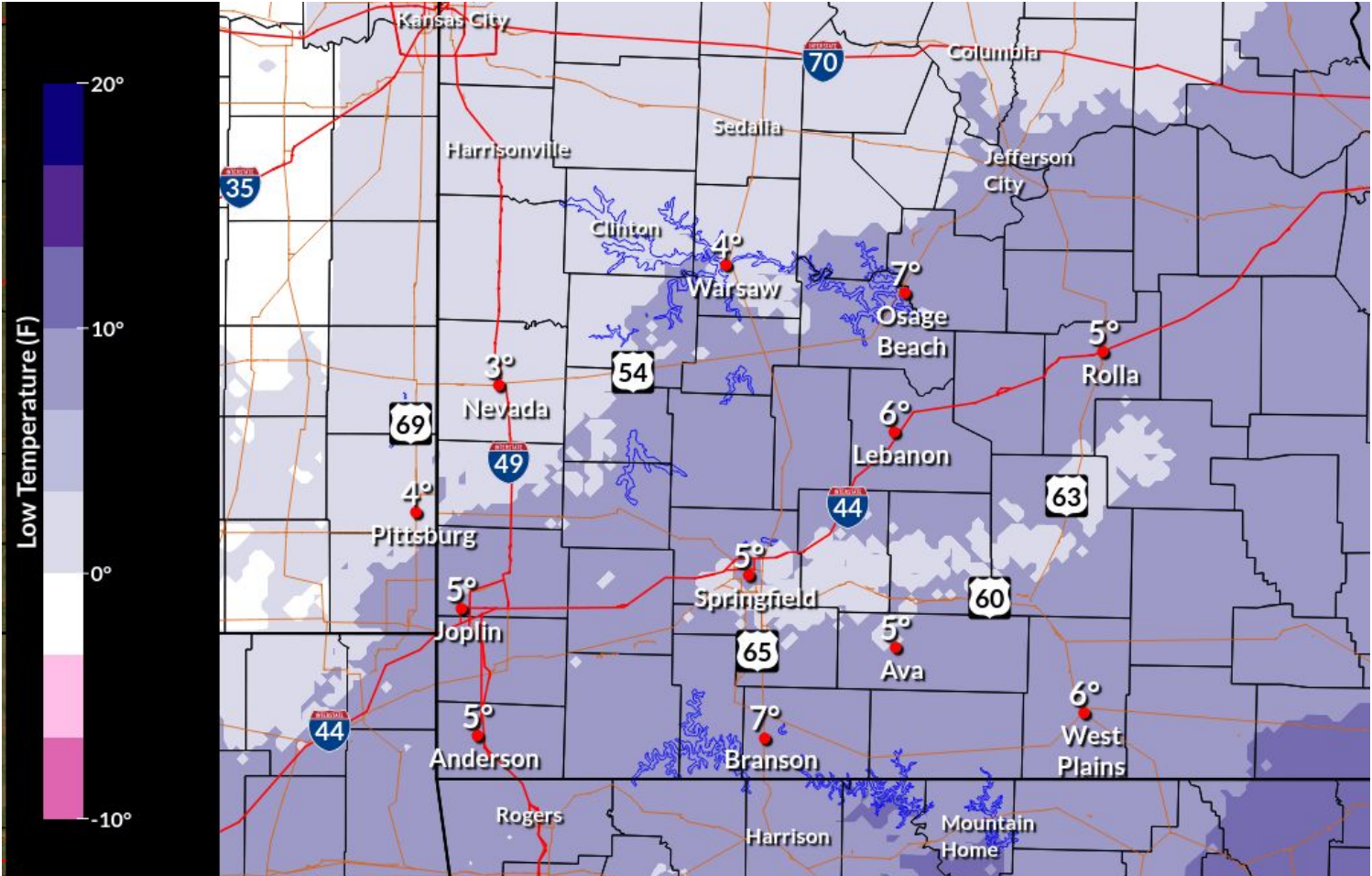




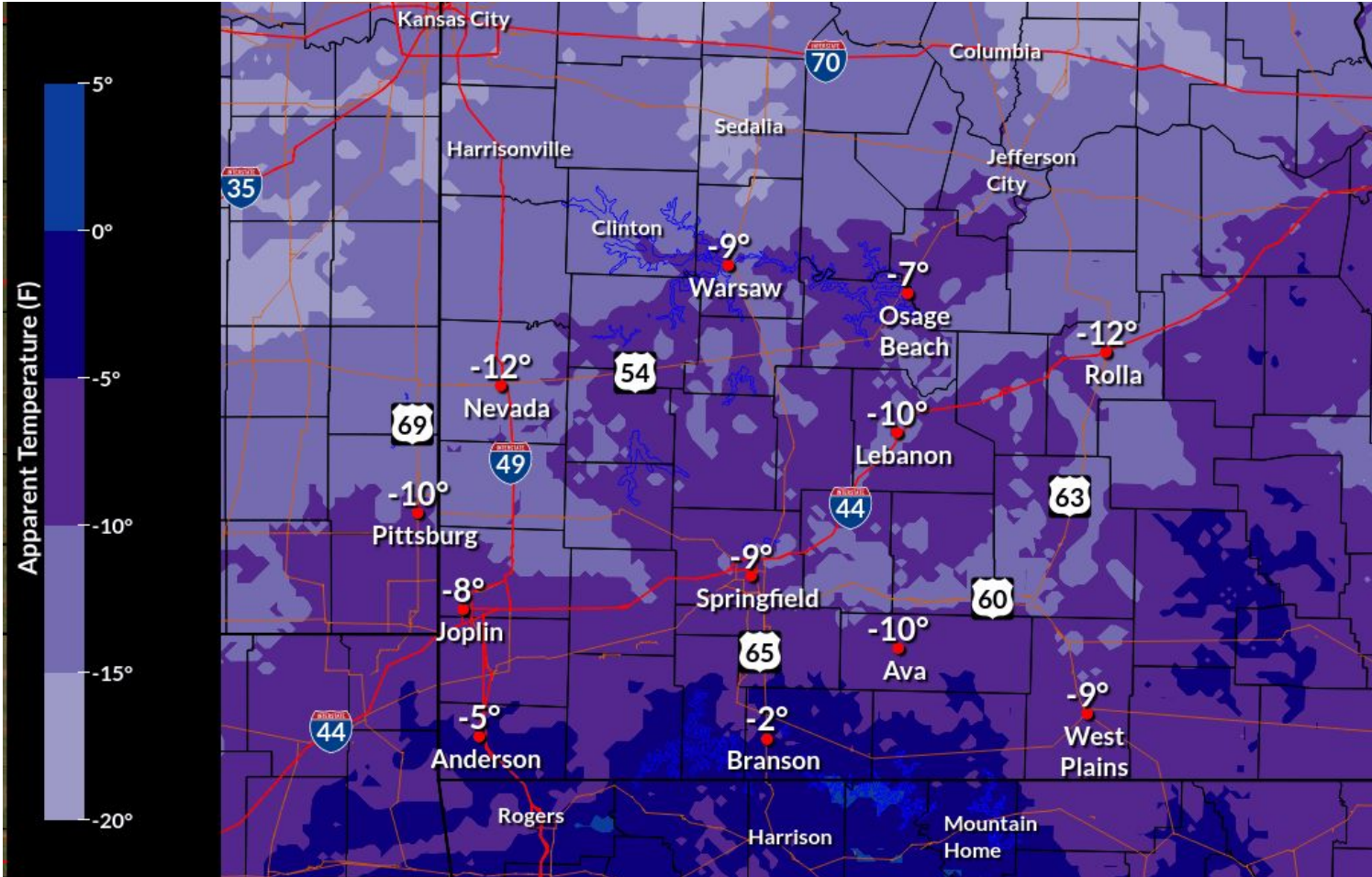
Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Saturday Night



Low Temperatures Saturday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Saturday Night

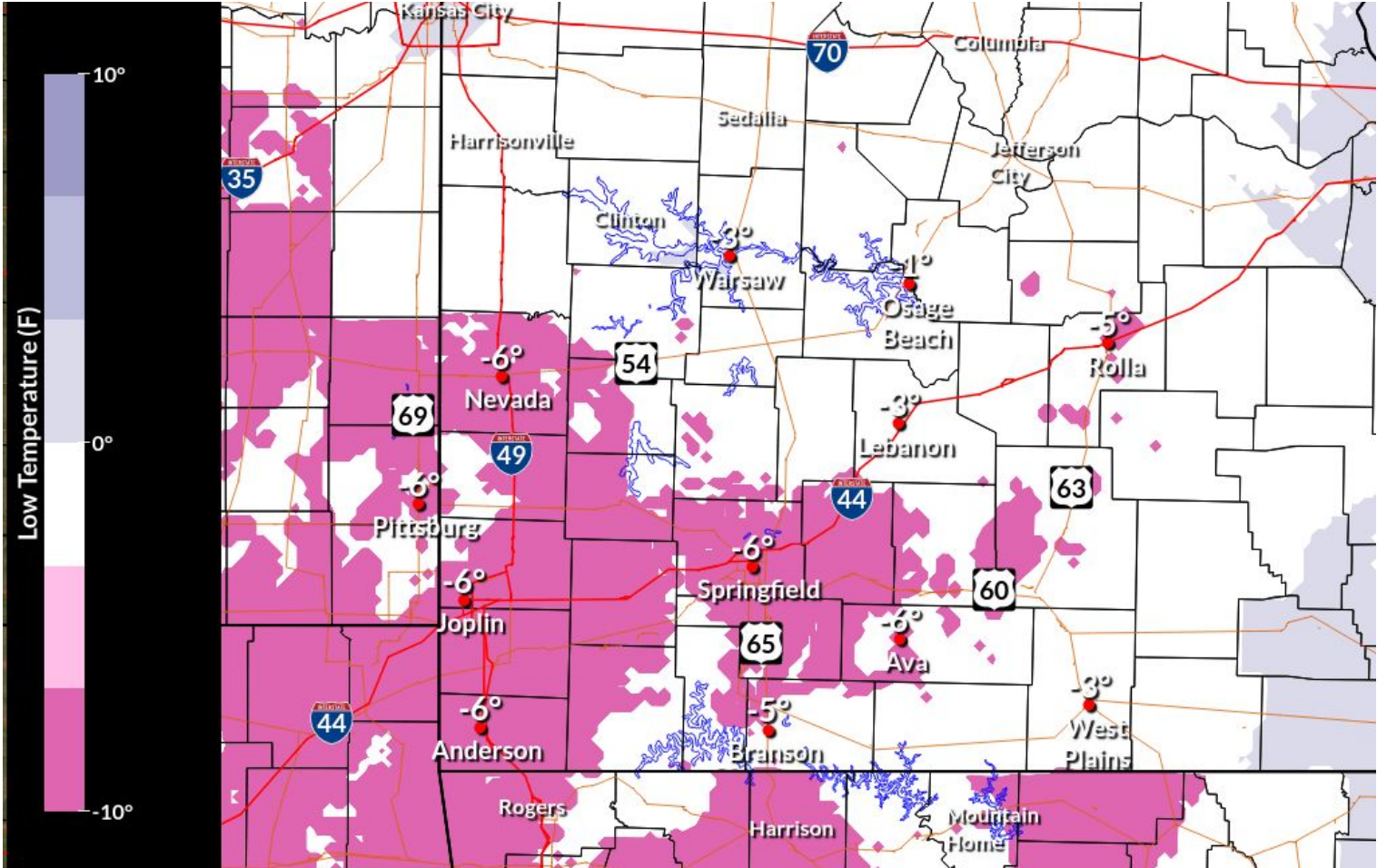




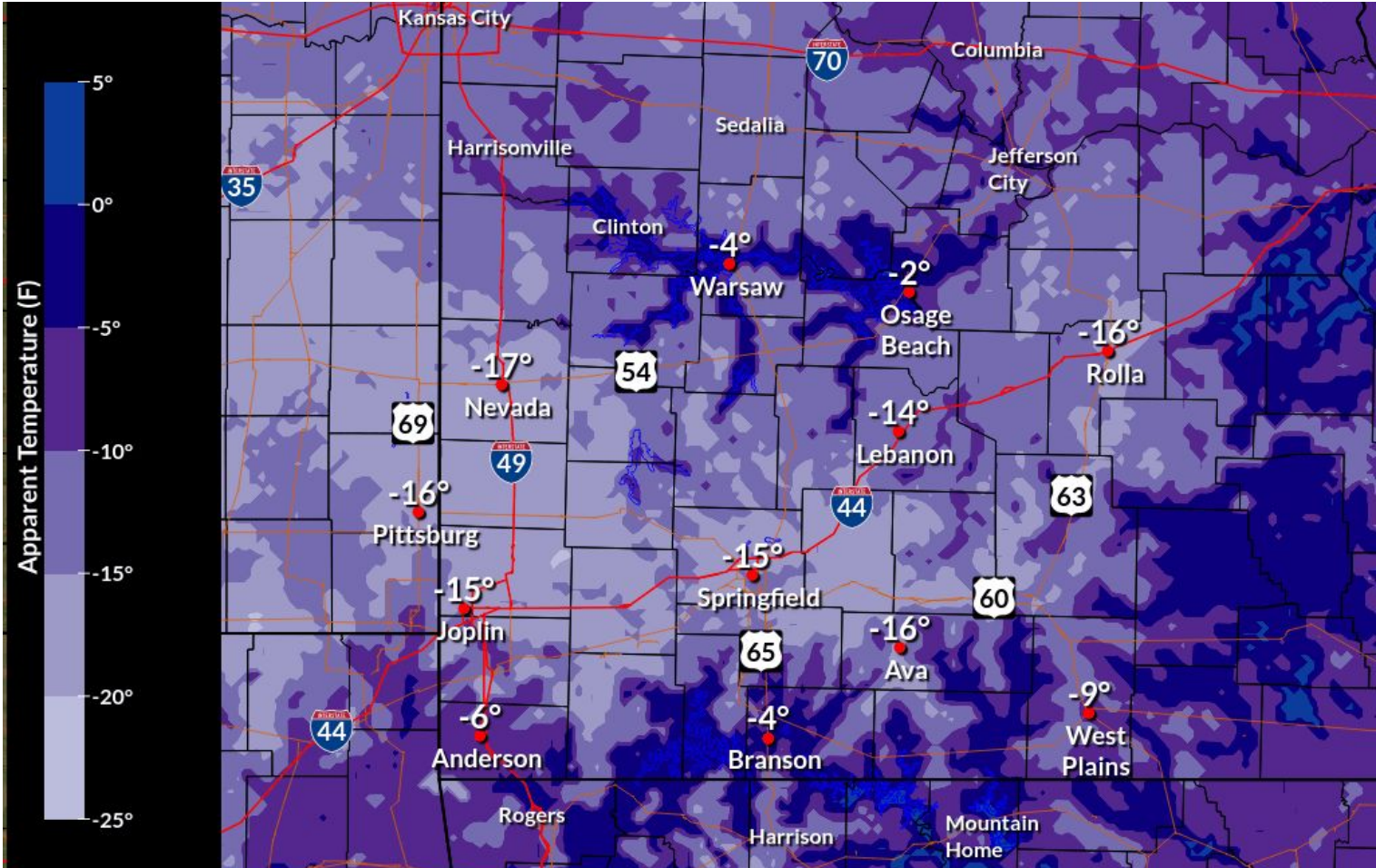
Forecast Low Temps & Wind Chills

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Sunday Night



Low Temperatures Sunday Night



Minimum Wind Chill Sunday Night





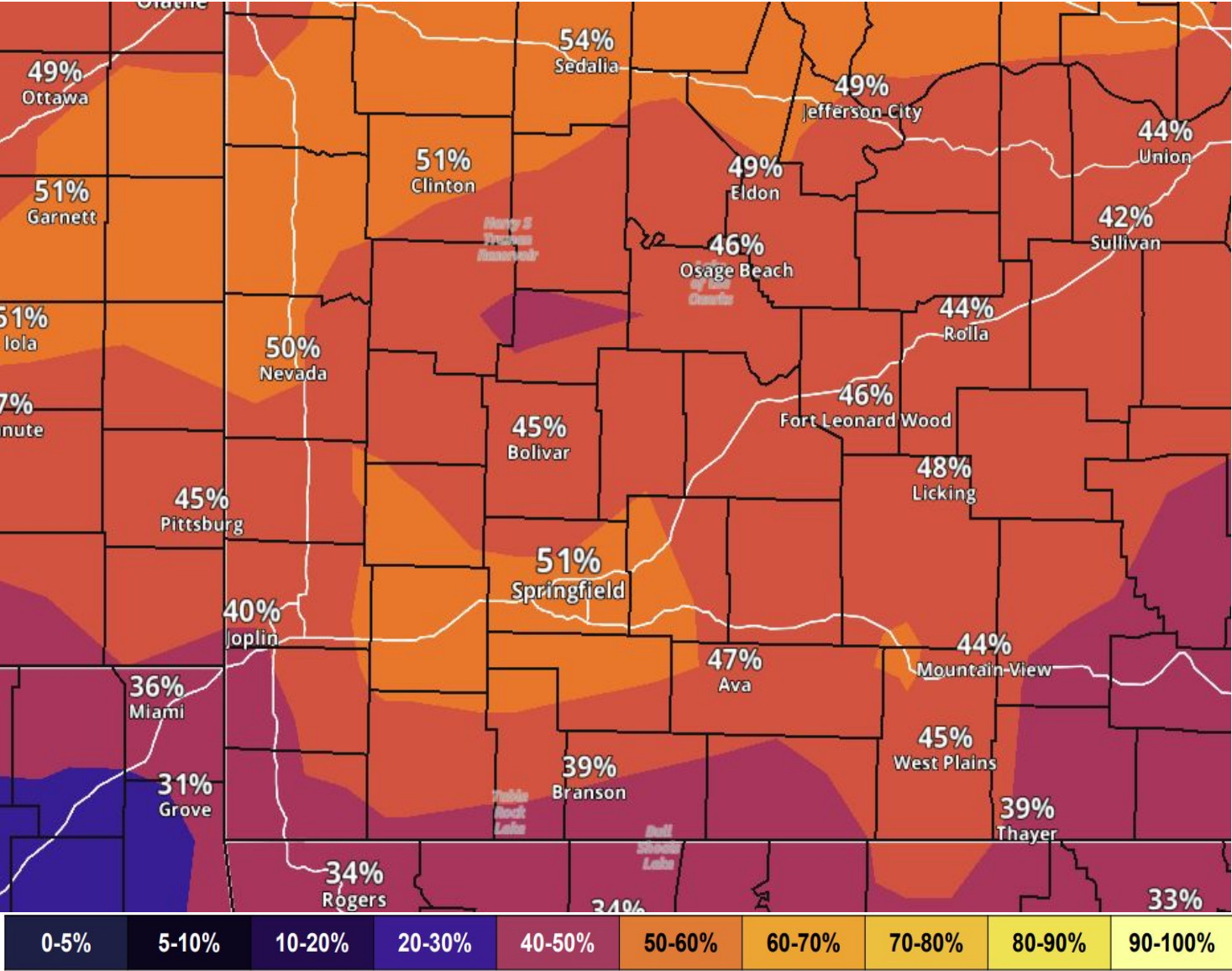
Wind Chill Probabilities

January 22, 2026

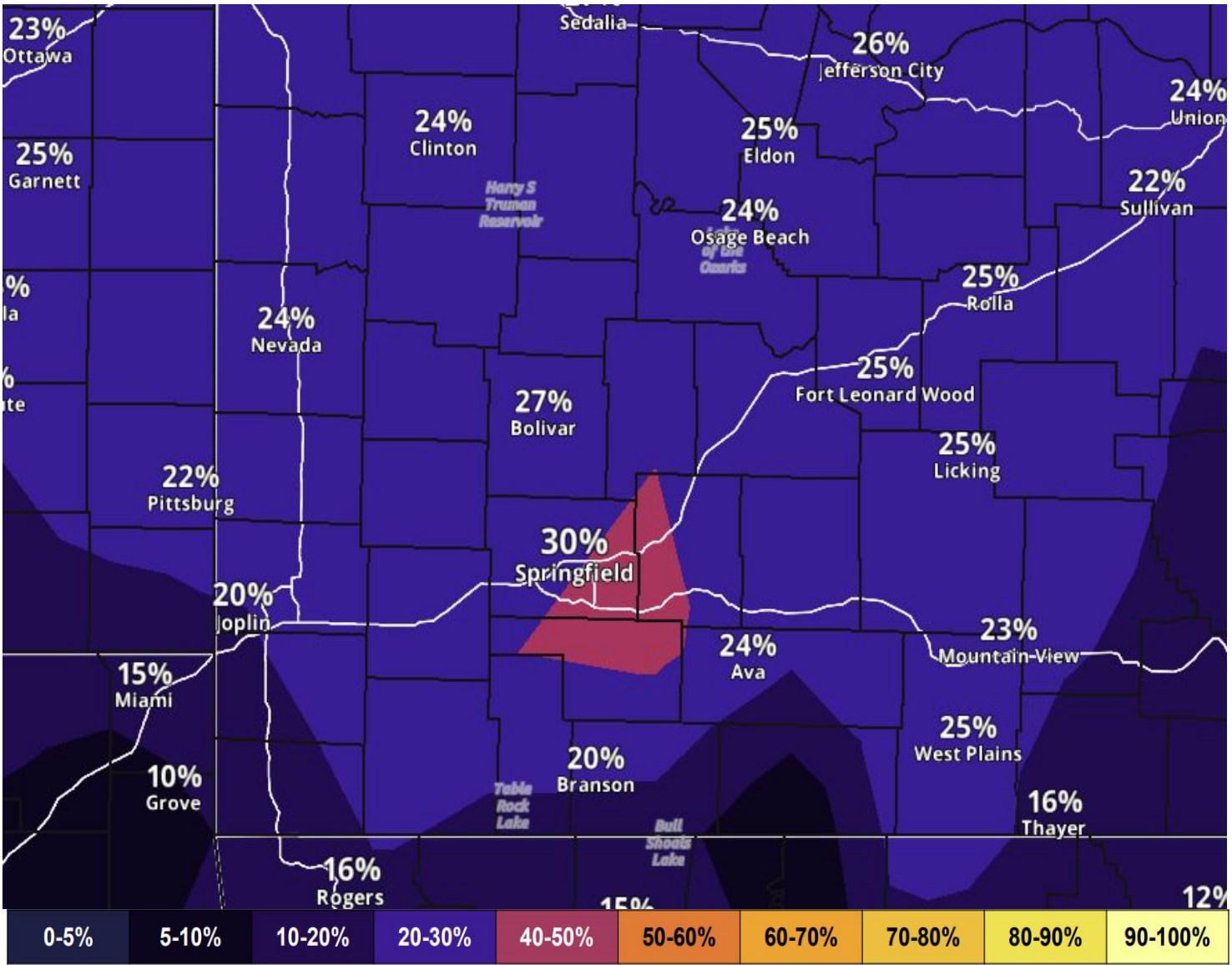
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Sunday Night into Monday Morning

Probability of $\leq -15^{\circ}\text{F}$



Probability of $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{F}$





Location



Timing



Amounts



Travel Impacts



Confidence Details

- There is high confidence (85-95% chance), that much of the area will see at latest 2-4 inches of snow.
- The highest amounts are currently expected to be focused across extreme southeast KS into southern MO.
- High confidence that dangerous cold weather accompanies this system.

Remaining Unknowns

- Extent of upper-end snowfall amounts due to uncertainty in the track of now two consecutive systems.
- Snowfall amounts will likely vary from south to north and depend on the exact track of the system.
- Exact (hourly) onset timing will also vary across the forecast area. Hi-resolution models will have a better handle on this over the next 24 to 48 hours.



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](#)
- [NWS Cold-Related Products and Criteria](#)
- [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 Planning Timeline

A few days out	The day before	During & After
<i>If the forecast calls for winter weather, start preparing now.</i>	<i>Forecast accuracy continues to improve, so keep checking the latest.</i>	<i>Remain vigilant and stay informed. Drive only if necessary.</i>
 Have emergency supplies for your home & car	 Adjust plans	 Check on neighbors and family
 Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors	 Have multiple ways to receive Warnings	 Properly ventilate emergency heat sources
 Replenish fuel for your car and heating sources	 Bring pets indoors and ensure they have water	 Keep generators at least 20 feet from your home
		 Take it easy when shoveling

weather.gov 

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National Weather Service
Springfield, MO