



Winter Weather Briefing

Decision Support Briefing #4 for the Western Carolinas and Northeast Georgia

January 16, 2026
3:41 PM

NEW

Important Updates

- Snow totals have decreased slightly for the mountains and foothills Friday night and Saturday morning. The area of light ice accumulation has increased across the mountains and along the Escarpment.
- Snow amounts for Sunday morning continue to trend downward for locations east of the mountains.

Key Messages

- Accumulating snow is likely to return to the mountains later tonight, with moderate accumulations at the high elevations southwest of the Pigeon River Valley.
- There is still a chance for light snow Sunday morning east of the mountains, but confidence remains fairly low. Any accumulations should be less than an inch.



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Mountain Snow Tonight & Saturday Morning

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Storm total snowfall from 11 PM tonight to noon Saturday

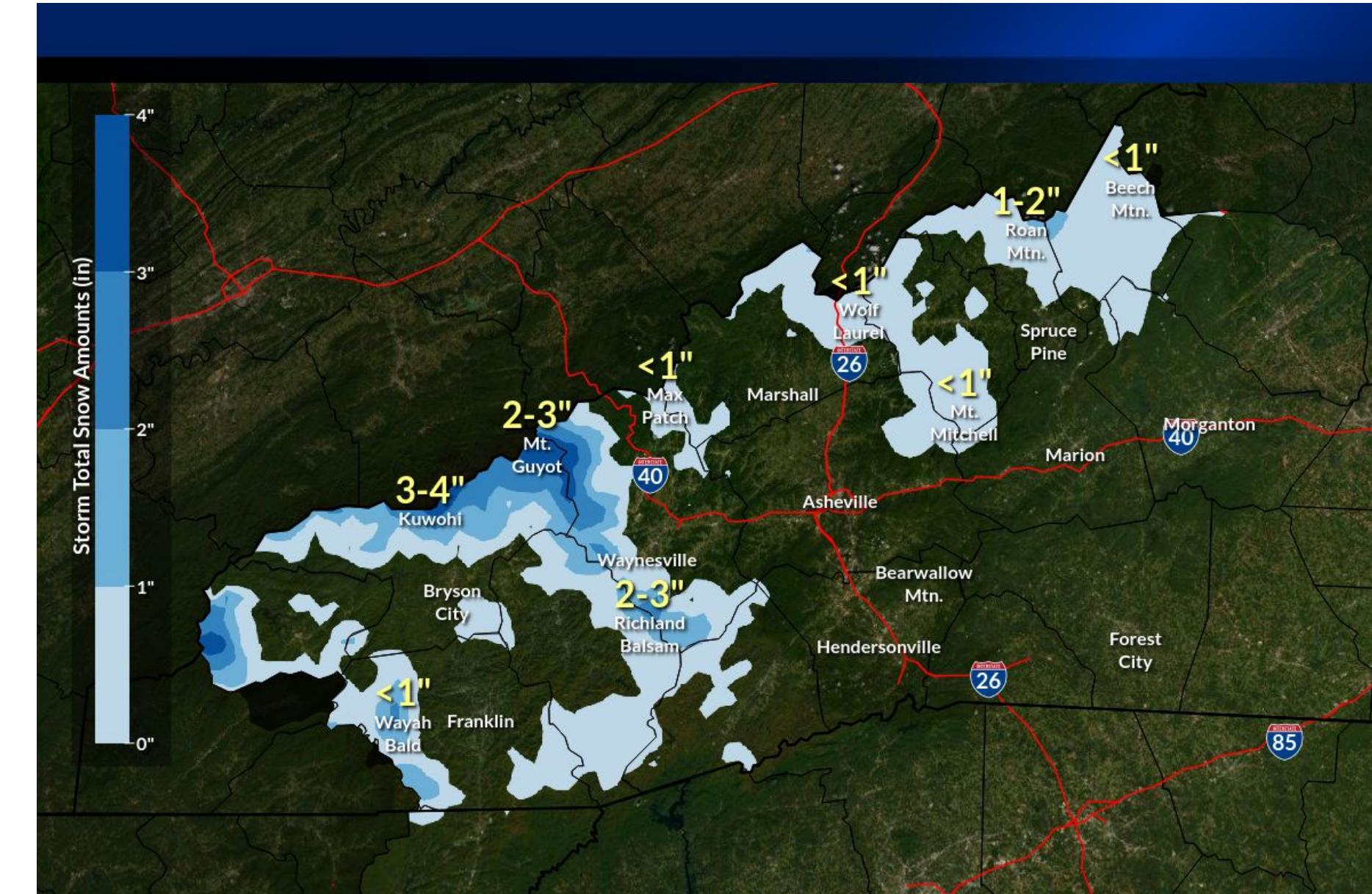
Hazard Details

- A fast-moving system brings another wintry mix event to the NC mountains later tonight.
- Mountain precipitation *onset* timing:

West of I-26: 11 PM tonight to 2 AM Saturday

East of I-26: 2 AM to 4 AM Saturday

- Precipitation should end between 9 AM and noon on Saturday.
- A wintry mix now appears more likely in the valleys. This includes a brief period of freezing rain, however ice accumulations should be no more than a few hundredths of an inch. For snow, overall accumulations continue to trend down and remain highly elevation dependent. **Higher snowfall totals are likely above 3500 feet** and largely in areas with little to no population.



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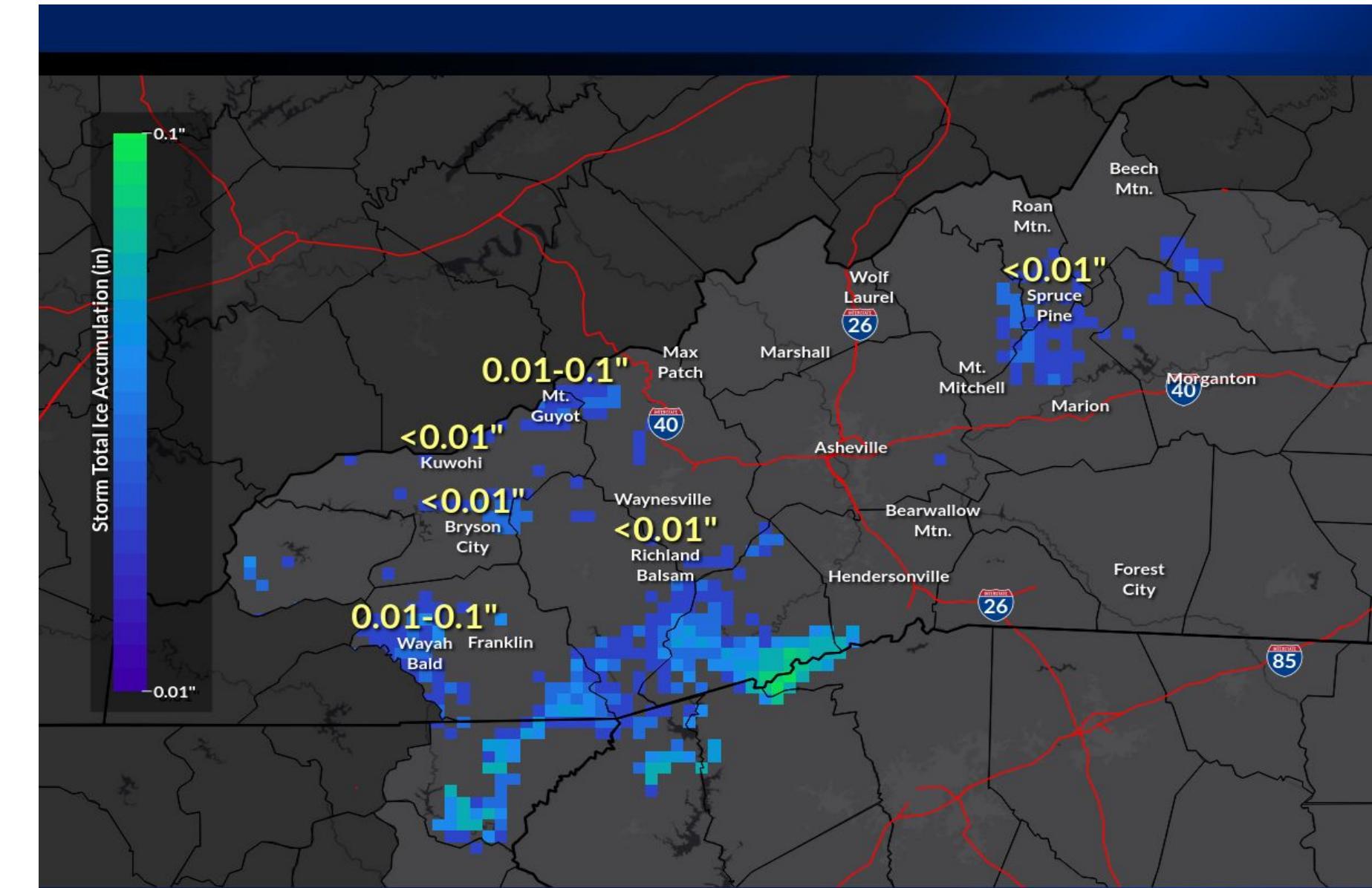
Ice Accumulation Tonight & Saturday Morning

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3:41 PM

Storm total ice from 11 PM tonight to noon Saturday

Hazard Details

- Freezing rain is expected to be spotty for most of the mountains.
- Ice accretions will mainly be on elevated surfaces, but there could be some slick spots on bridges and overpasses.
- Temperatures should warm above freezing late Saturday morning, allowing road conditions to improve.



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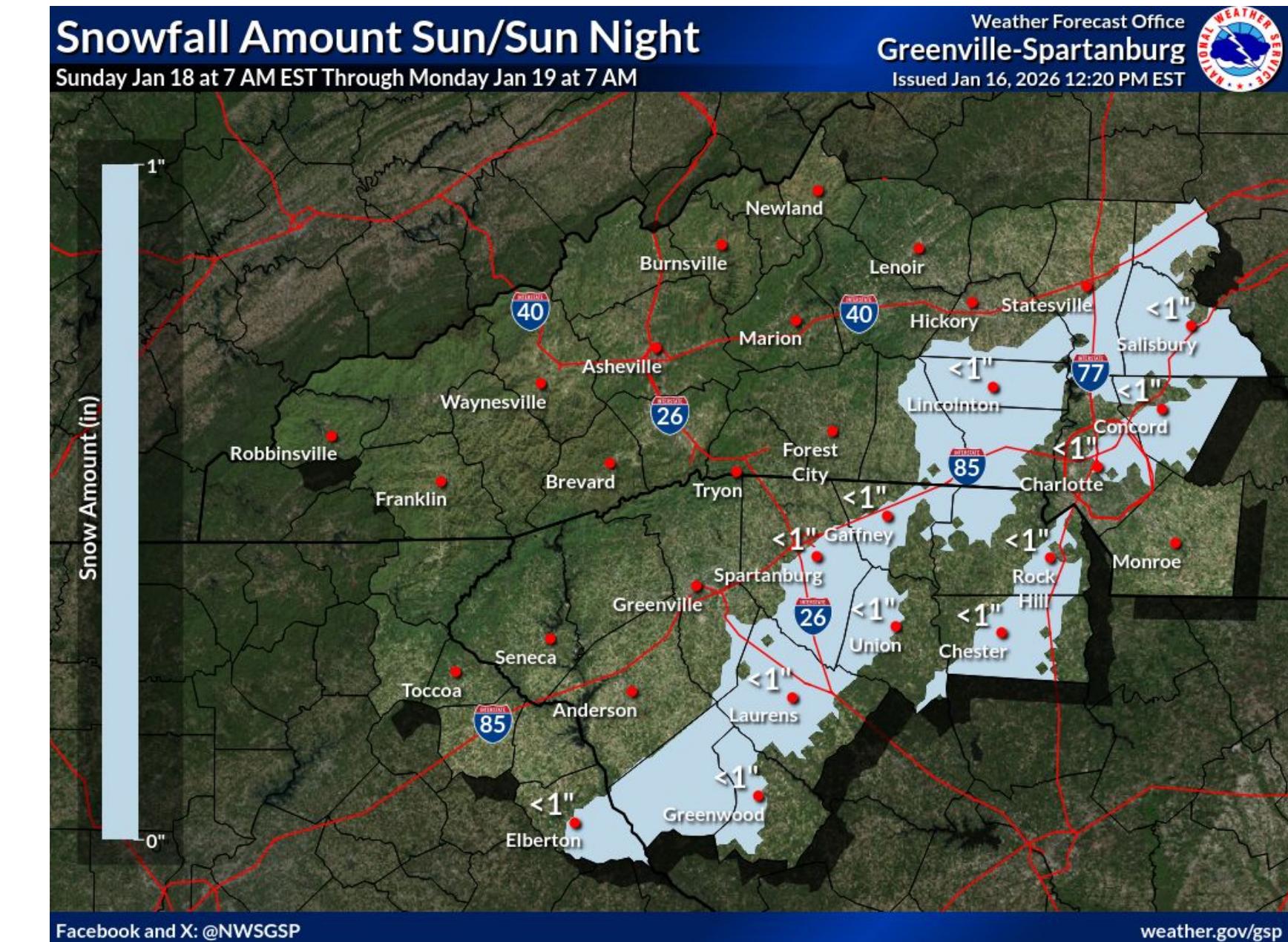
Potential Sunday Snowfall

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Possibly impacting areas east of the mountains

Hazard Details

- Another low pressure system could bring more wintry precipitation to the area on Sunday. The latest forecast continues to shift the main line of precipitation further eastward.
- The area of potential snowfall is roughly **along and east of the I-85 corridor**.
- *Forecast challenge:* for the precipitation to fall as snow, cold air and moisture need to overlap. **Confidence remains fairly low** that these conditions will actually overlap.
- It still appears that the most likely scenarios for areas along and east of I-85 are: ***all rain or very light snowfall of less than 1 inch. The chance of snow accumulations greater than 1 inch is less than 10%.***



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Contact and Next Briefing Information

For the Western Carolinas and Northeast Georgia



Briefing Webpage

- weather.gov/gsp/brief



Next Briefing

- By 6 AM Saturday, January 17
- Method: PDF via email



Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: 6 AM Saturday, January 17, 2026



Contact Information

Web

- weather.gov/gsp

Phone

- 864-848-3859

Email

- nws.er.gsp.met@noaa.gov

Facebook

- <https://facebook.com/NWSGSP/>



- <https://x.com/NWSGSP>



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