



Winter Weather Briefing

January 22, 2026
3:32 PM

Decision Support Briefing #5 for the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia

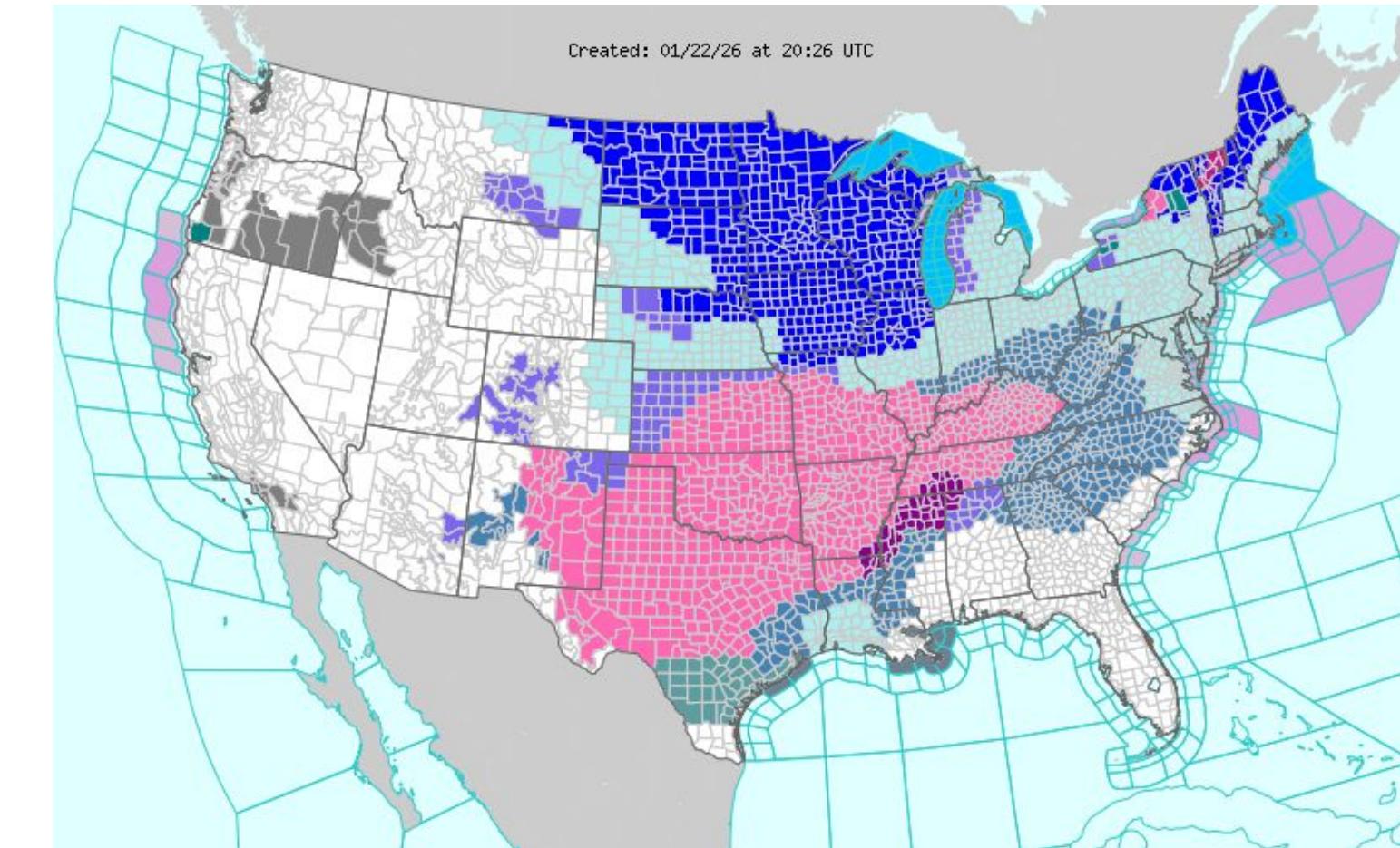
NEW

Important Updates

- No changes to Winter Storm Watch in our area.
- Forecast continues to trend toward greater impacts from ice/sleet and less impact from snow.
- First issuance of "most likely" (single-value) forecast snow/sleet and ice amounts.
- Next webinar scheduled for **4 PM Friday, January 23, 2026**. (Link to register on last page.)

Key Messages

- A major winter storm system is set to impact the entire area this weekend.
- Frigid temperatures next week could extend the threat for hazardous travel and impacts from power outages.



[Snow Squall Warning](#)
[Ice Storm Warning](#)
[Heavy Freezing Spray Warning](#)
[Winter Storm Warning](#)
[Lake Effect Snow Warning](#)
[Gale Warning](#)
[Extreme Cold Warning](#)

[Winter Weather Advisory](#)
[Cold Weather Advisory](#)
[Flood Advisory](#)
[High Surf Advisory](#)
[Dense Fog Advisory](#)
[Small Craft Advisory](#)
[Brisk Wind Advisory](#)

[Wind Advisory](#)
[Freezing Fog Advisory](#)
[Freezing Spray Advisory](#)
[Winter Storm Watch](#)
[Rip Current Statement](#)
[Gale Watch](#)
[Extreme Cold Watch](#)

[Marine Weather Statement](#)
[Air Quality Alert](#)
[Air Stagnation Advisory](#)
[Hydrologic Outlook](#)



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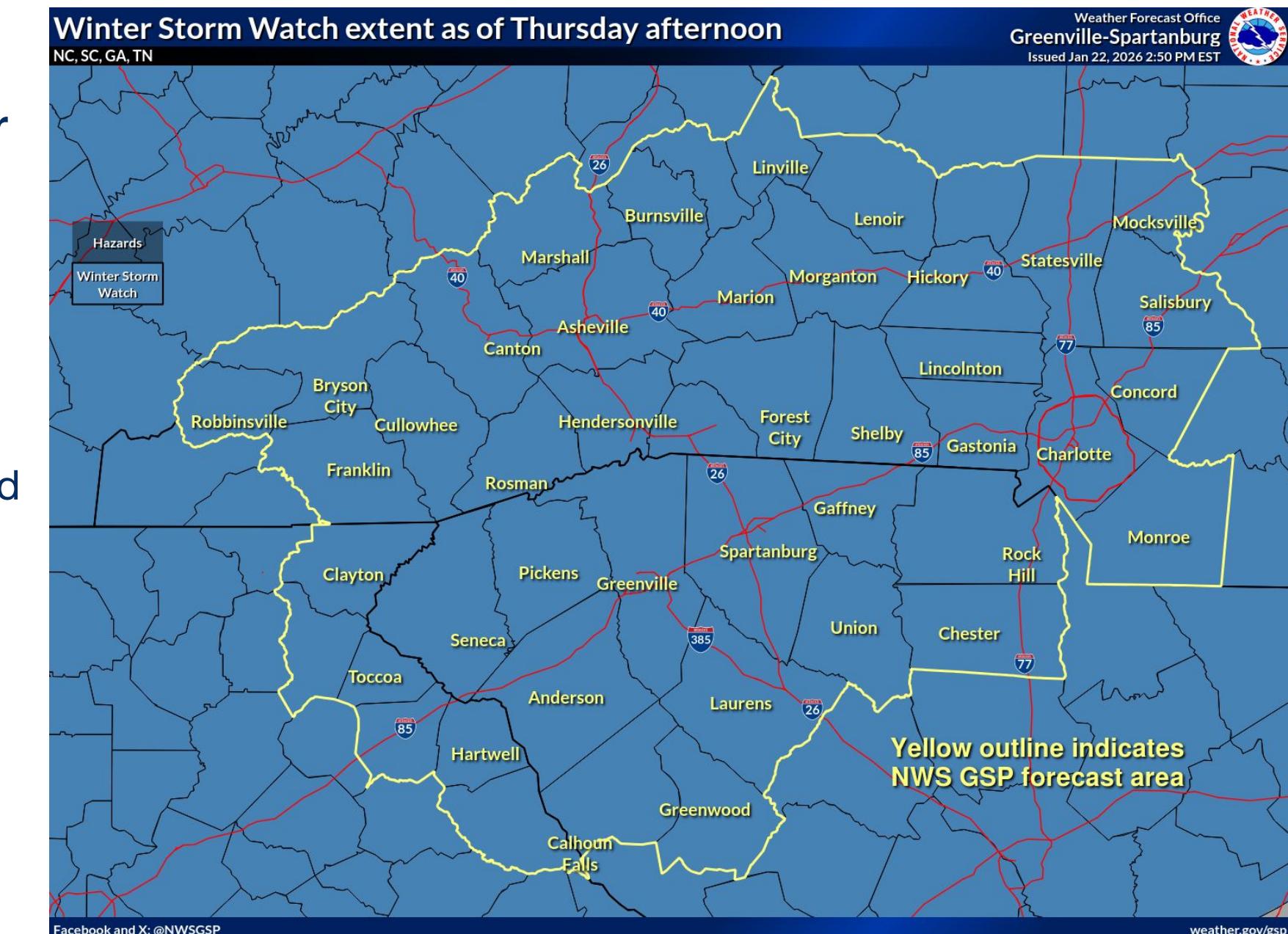
Winter Storm Watch

For the entire NWS GSP forecast area, and surrounding counties

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Key Messages

- A Winter Storm Watch remains in effect for our forecast area from 7 AM Saturday through 1 PM Monday. Watch in effect for all neighboring areas, but start/end time varies.
- Expected impacts include:
 - ◆ Significant ice accumulation on power lines and tree limbs, causing widespread and long-lasting power outages.
 - ◆ Treacherous, likely impassable ice and snow covered roadways lasting into the beginning of next week.
- Consider delaying all travel until after road conditions improve.
- Upgrades to Winter Storm Warning or Winter Wx Advisory could occur tonight.



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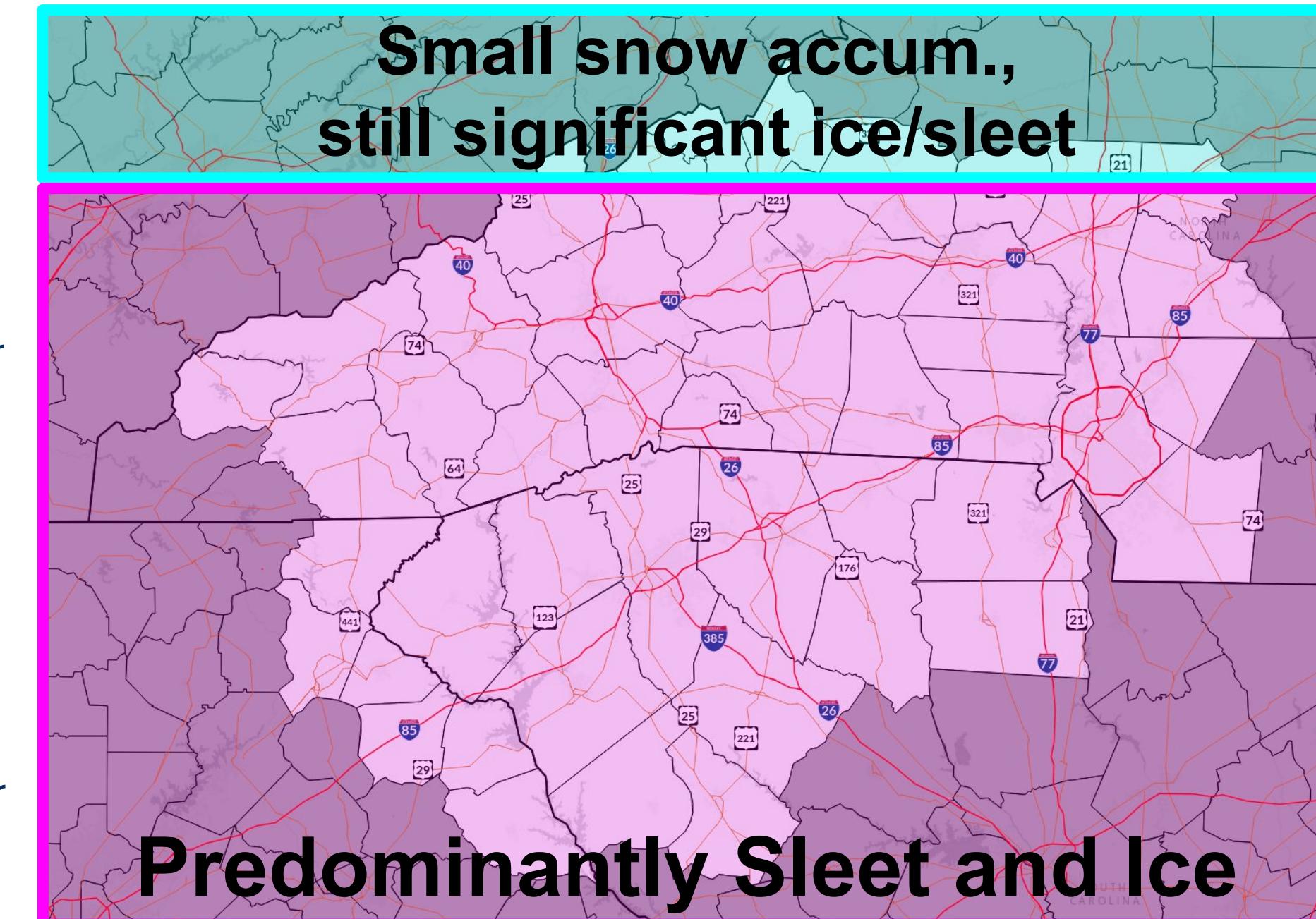
Precipitation Type Challenges

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Forecast continues to trend toward more sleet and ice, versus pure snow

Forecast Challenge

- Accumulations are highly dependent on where the transition zone sets up between snow and ice/sleet.
- That transition zone shifted farther north on last night's forecast, but did not change much today, and is in a similar location near or north of I-40.
- Confidence has increased that impacts across the area will be primarily due to freezing rain (ice) and sleet.
- We are not yet "buying" the warmer temperatures some models show as moving into the area Sunday.
 - ◆ Rain depicted in some forecasts could instead fall as freezing rain or sleet. Forecast totals eventually could increase for that reason.



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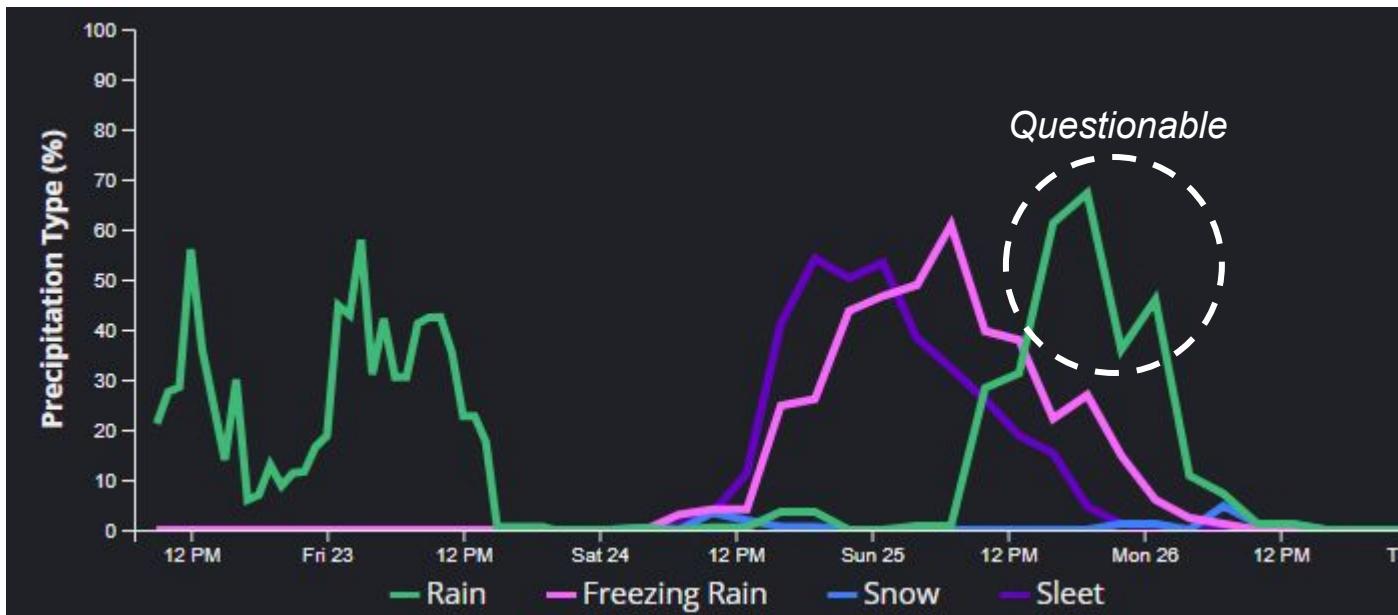


Precipitation Type: Relative Timing

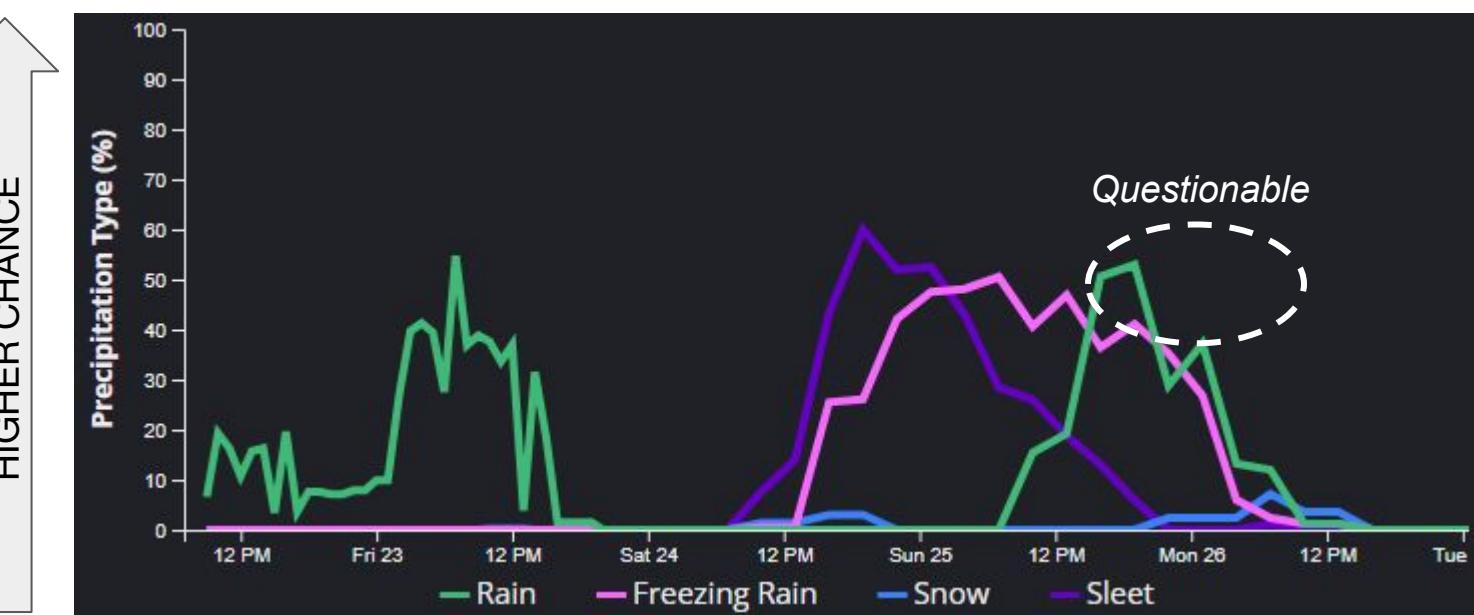
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SUBJECT TO CHANGE

GSP Airport



Charlotte



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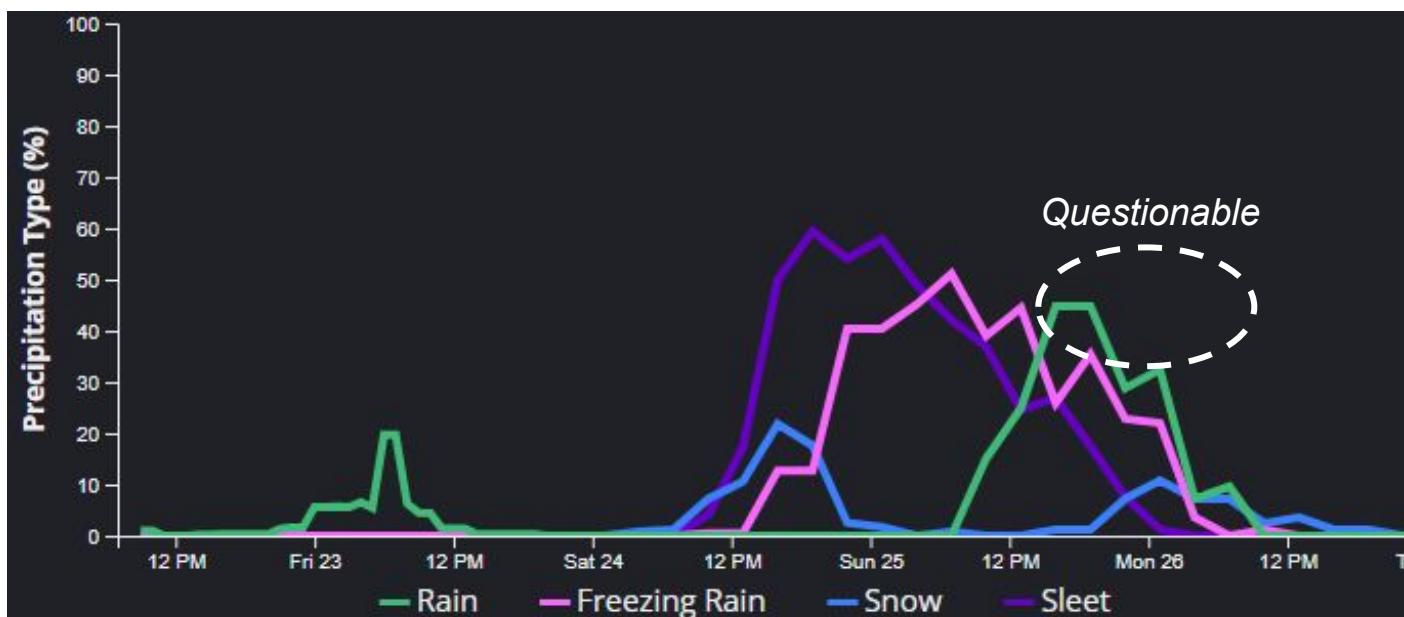


Precipitation Type: Relative Timing

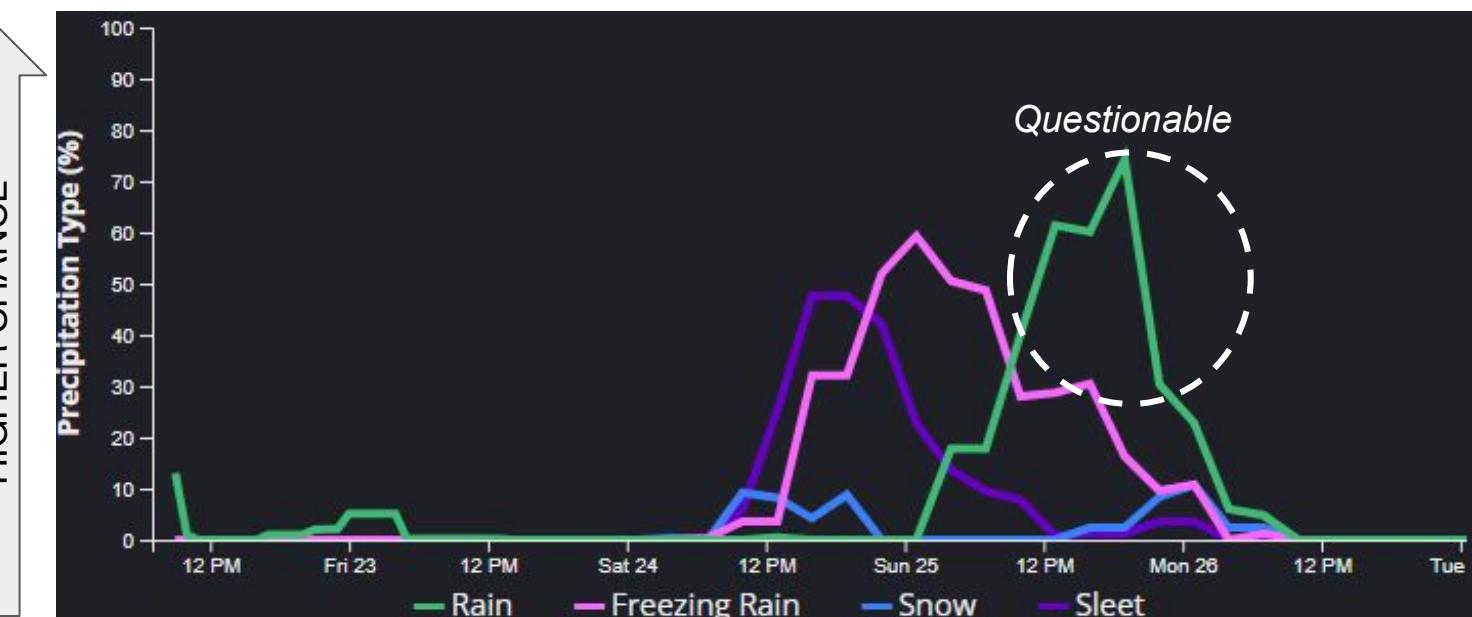
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Hickory



Asheville



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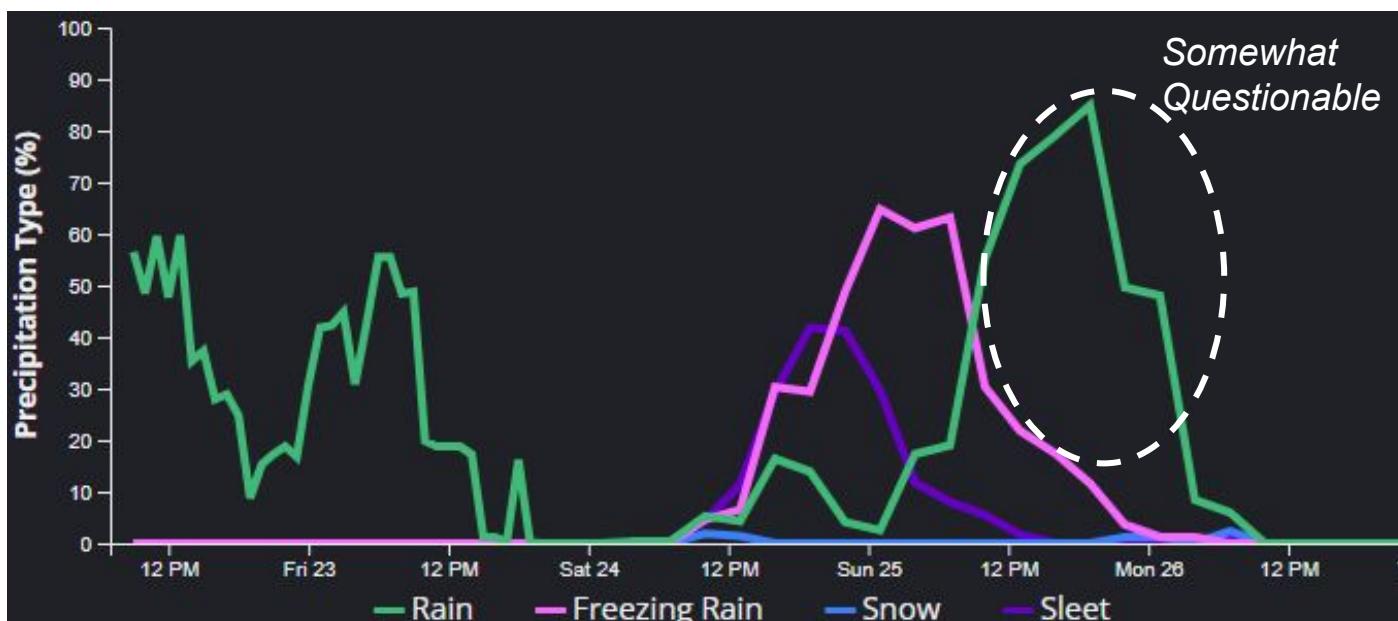


Precipitation Type: Relative Timing

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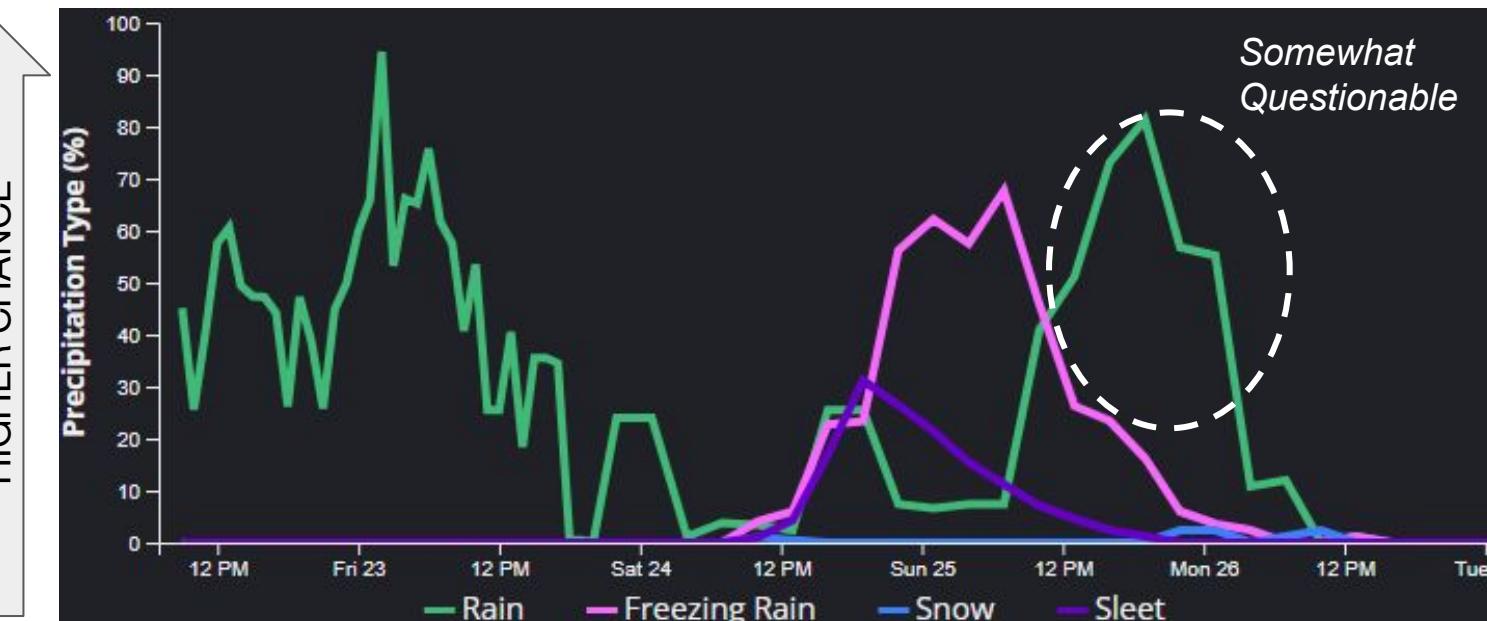
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Toccoa



FORWARD IN TIME

Elberton



FORWARD IN TIME



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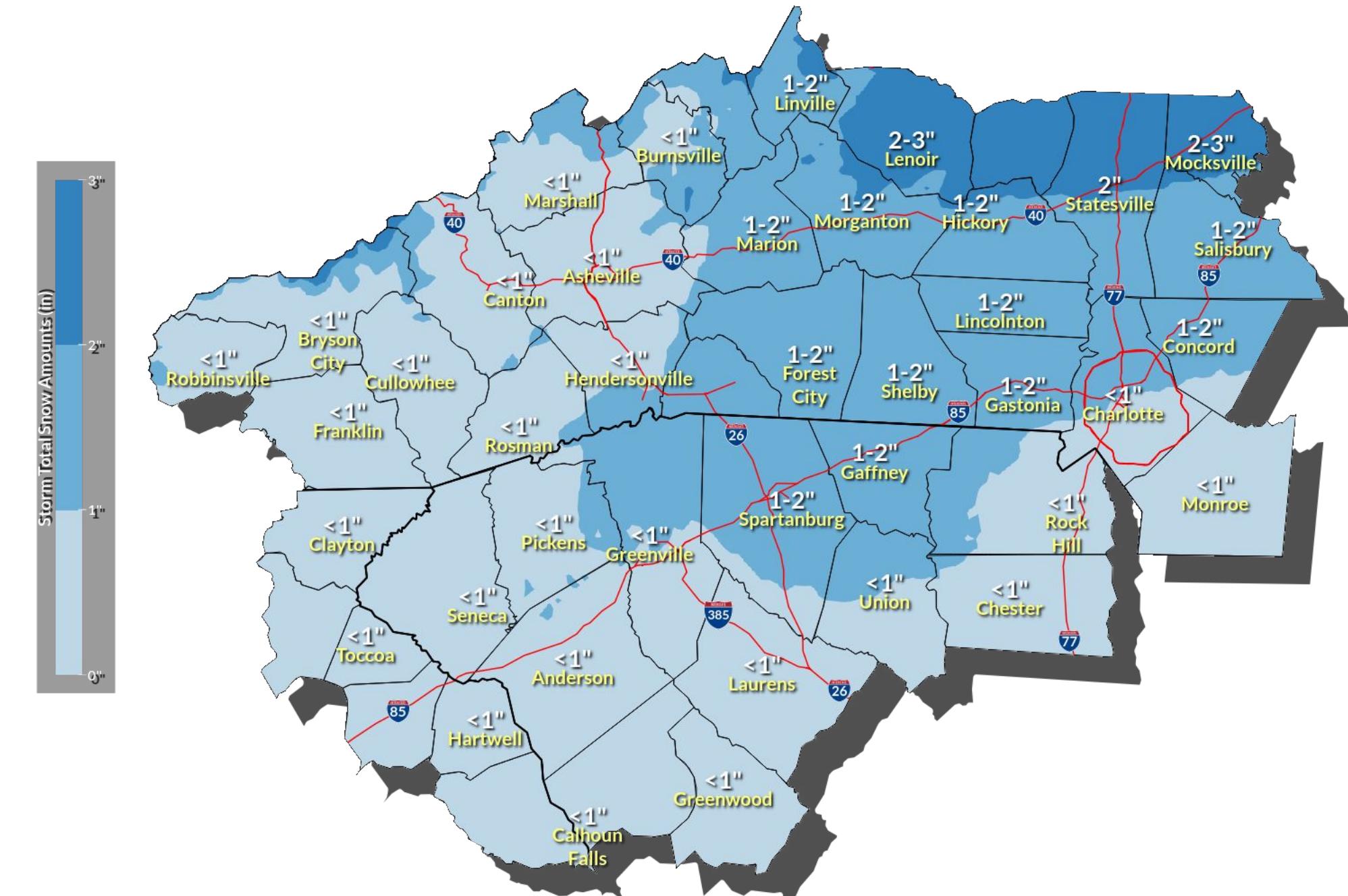
Storm Total Snow & Sleet

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For the period 7 AM EST Saturday to 7 AM EST Monday

Key Messages

- Sleet accumulation contributes to NWS forecast snow accumulation and climate data, so **the totals at right should be interpreted as total snow and sleet.**
- Over most of the area, these totals are almost entirely due to sleet, though some snow may mix in early in the event in areas north of I-40 and in high elevations along the TN border.
- Additional light snowfall may occur along the TN border Sunday night but that is insignificant considering the rest of the event.



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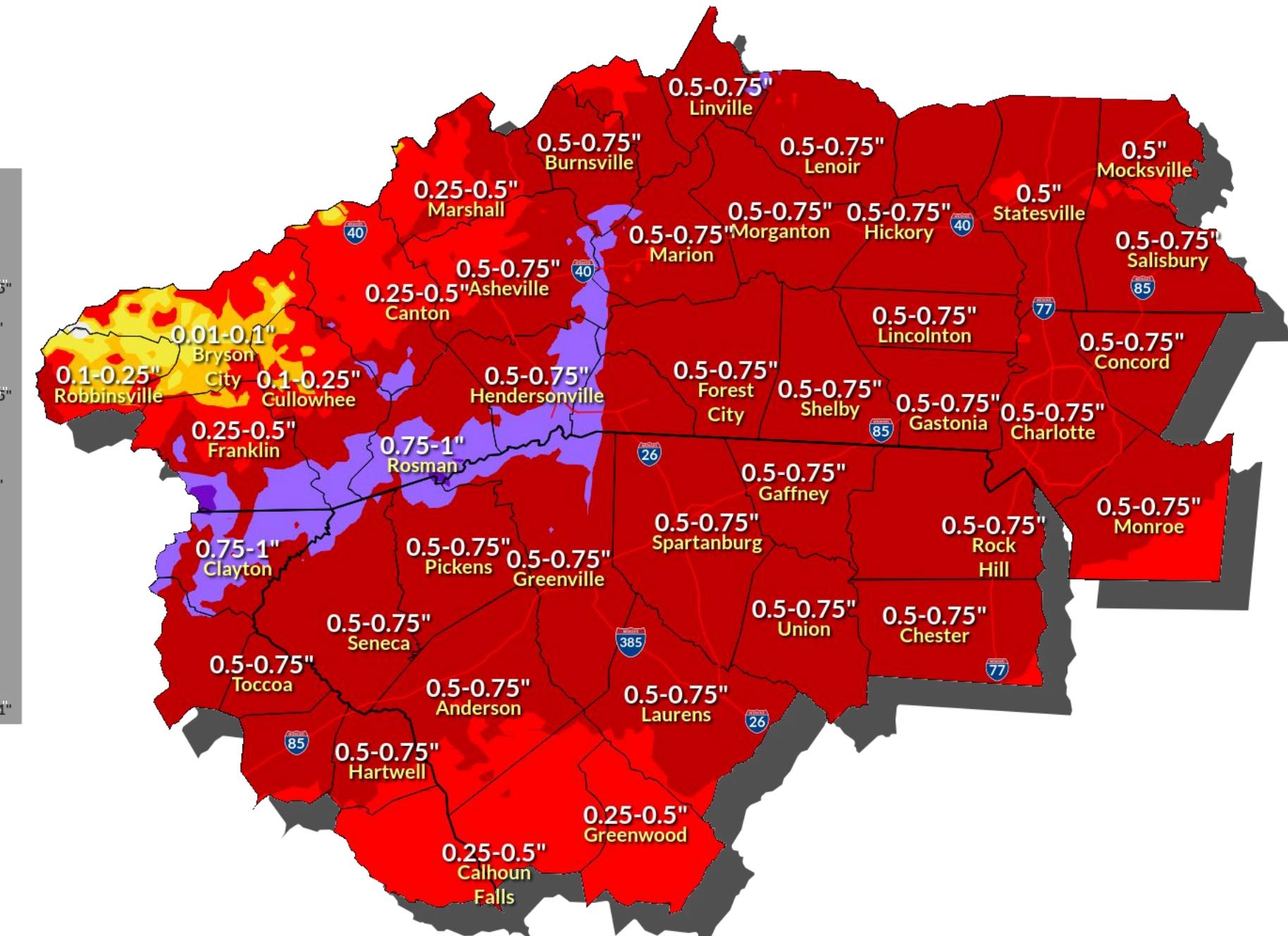
Storm Total Ice

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For the period 7 AM EST Saturday to 7 AM EST Monday

Key Messages

- Ice accumulation will result from freezing rain.
- Even 0.25" of ice is associated with widespread power outages, so there is high confidence power outages will be a public impact.
- Accumulated sleet/snow combined with freezing rain may lead to very thick icing on roadways which is slow to melt, even once temperatures rise above freezing.

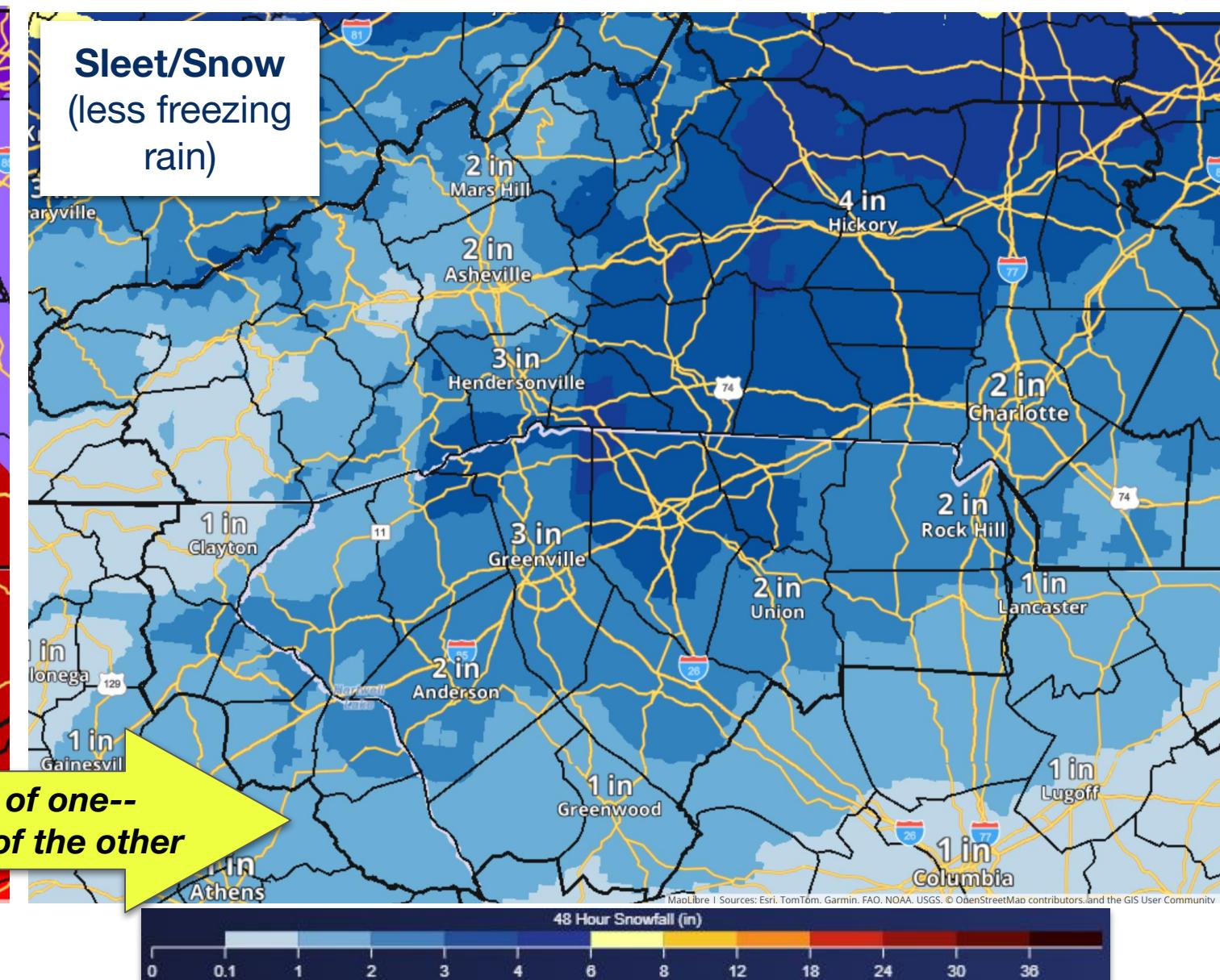
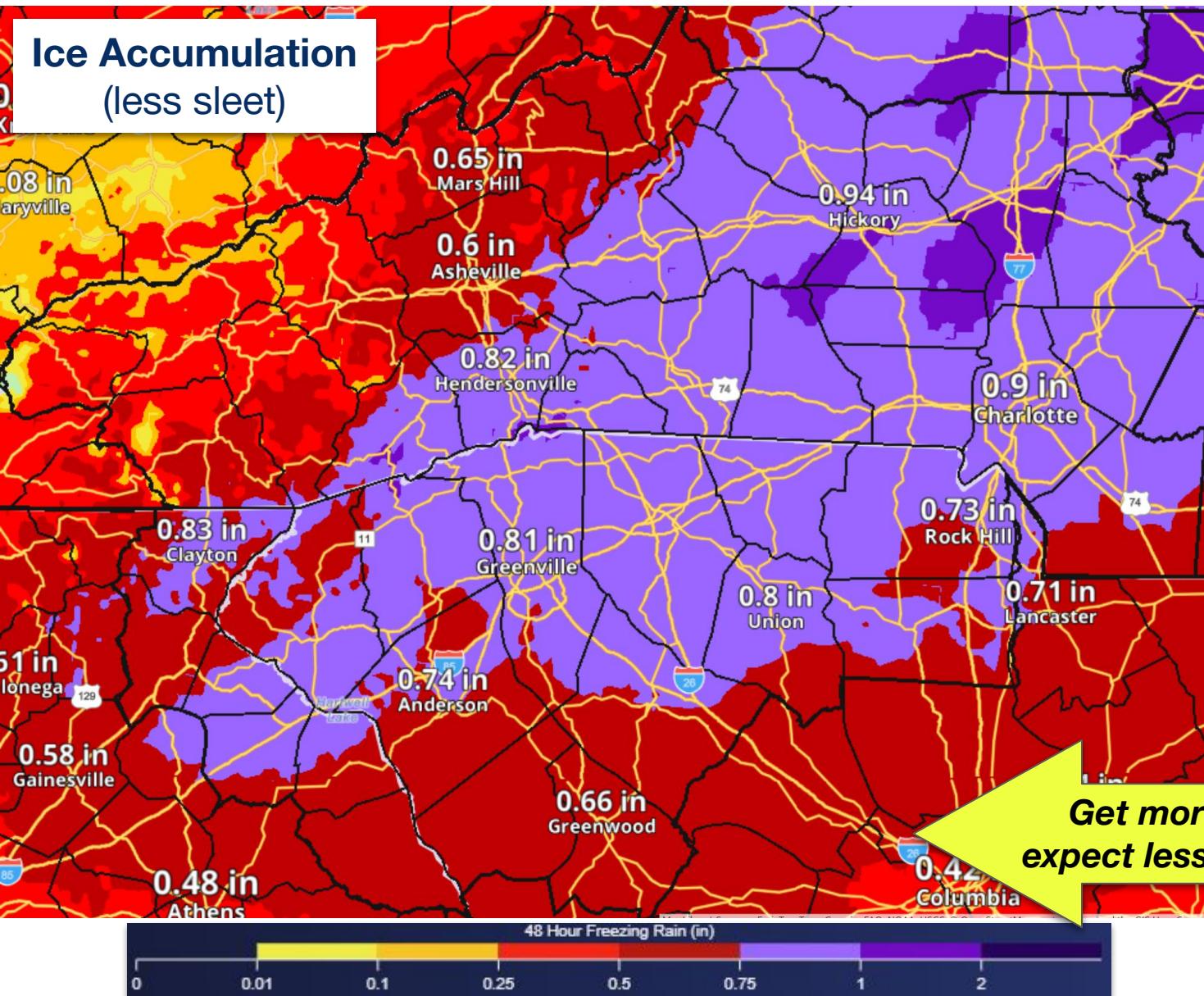




Reasonable High-End Amount

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Over the 48 hour period between 7 AM Saturday and 7 AM Monday



Get more of one--
expect less of the other

Not an official forecast: A representation of the potential for higher accum. amounts than what we believe is the most likely amount.
For locations outside the NWS GSP service area, consult the local NWS office's briefings or forecasts.



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Most Likely Timing of Winter Precip. Onset

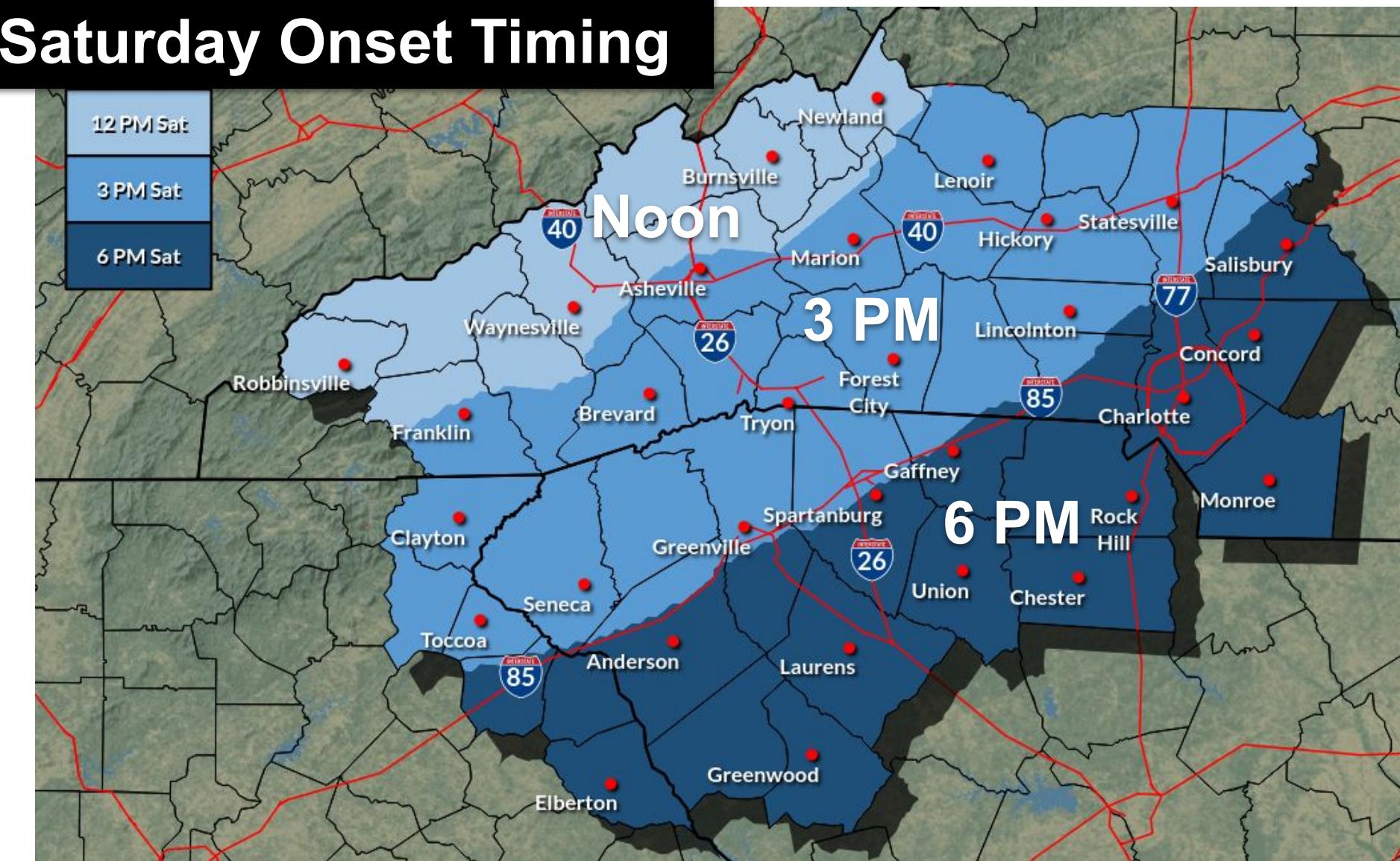
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Hazard Details

- Timing (at right) is based on when chance of *wintry precip* rises above 50% in our official forecast. For most areas, precip will begin as a mix of sleet and freezing rain.
- ***This timing still could change.***
- The best overall chances of wintry precip, and the fastest rates of accumulation, are Saturday night and Sunday (at this time).
- Regardless of how precipitation types change over the course of the event, precipitation is likely to end Sunday night.

Saturday Onset Timing



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Cold Outlook for Next Week

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Temperatures likely to remain below normal Monday-Thursday

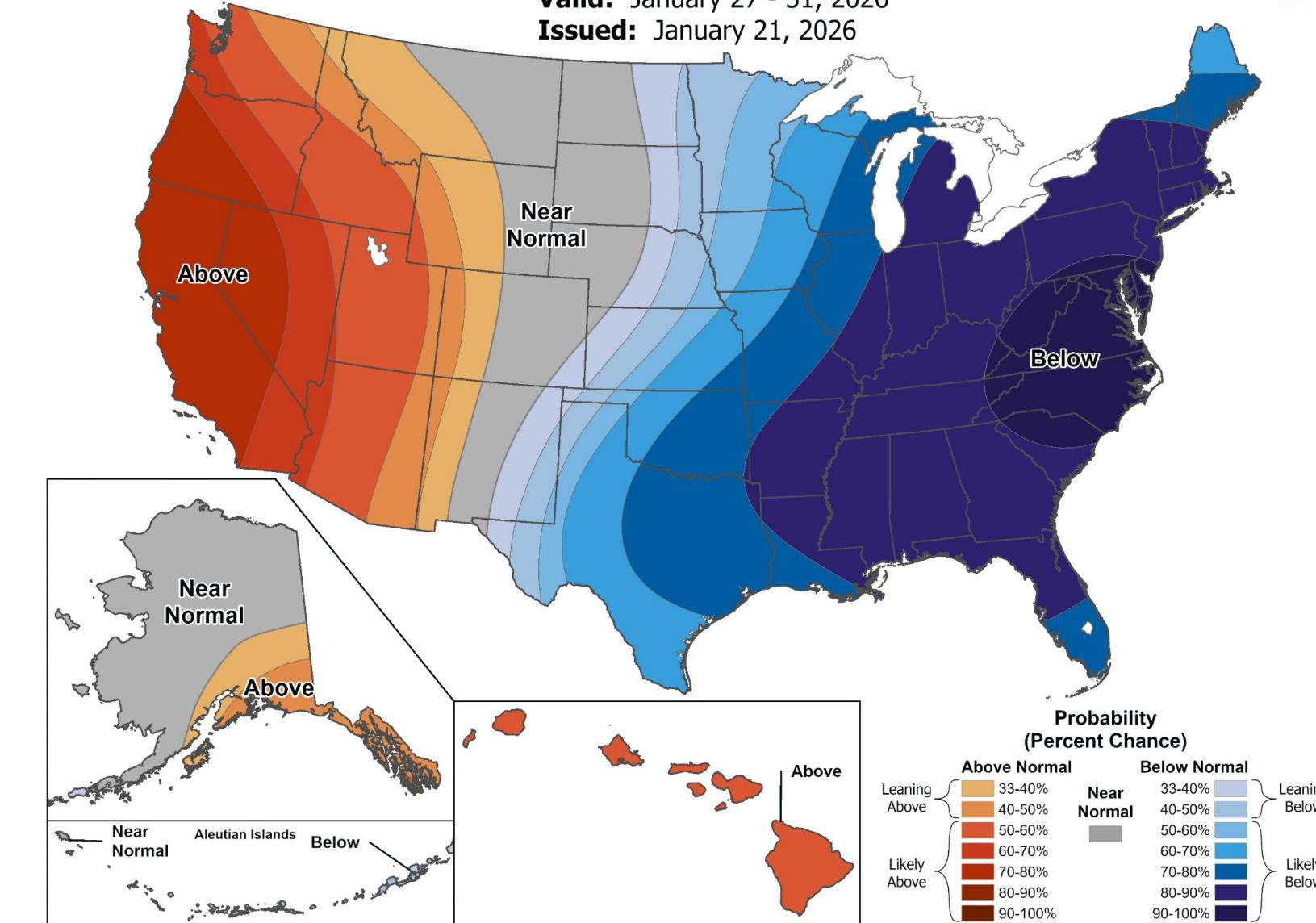
Post-Event Outlook

- Confidence is increasing that dangerously cold wind chills may develop Monday night into Tuesday morning, which could result in hypothermia or frostbite for those exposed to the elements.
- Snow and ice are likely to linger through early next week due to cold temperatures.
- Recovery, in terms of repairing any power outages or clearing roads, could be slower than usual.



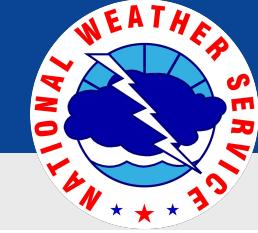
6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: January 27 - 31, 2026
Issued: January 21, 2026



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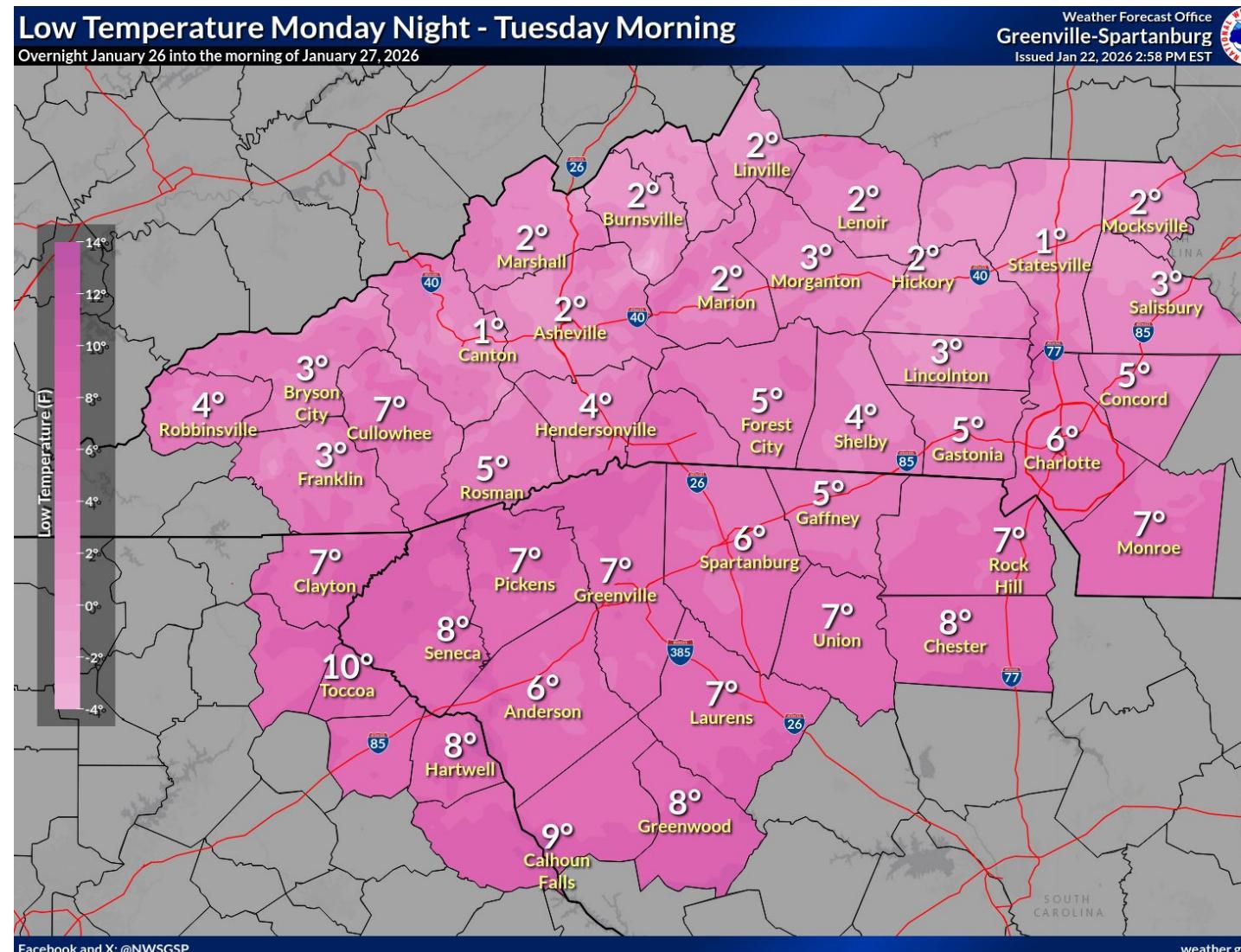


Exceptionally Cold Monday Night

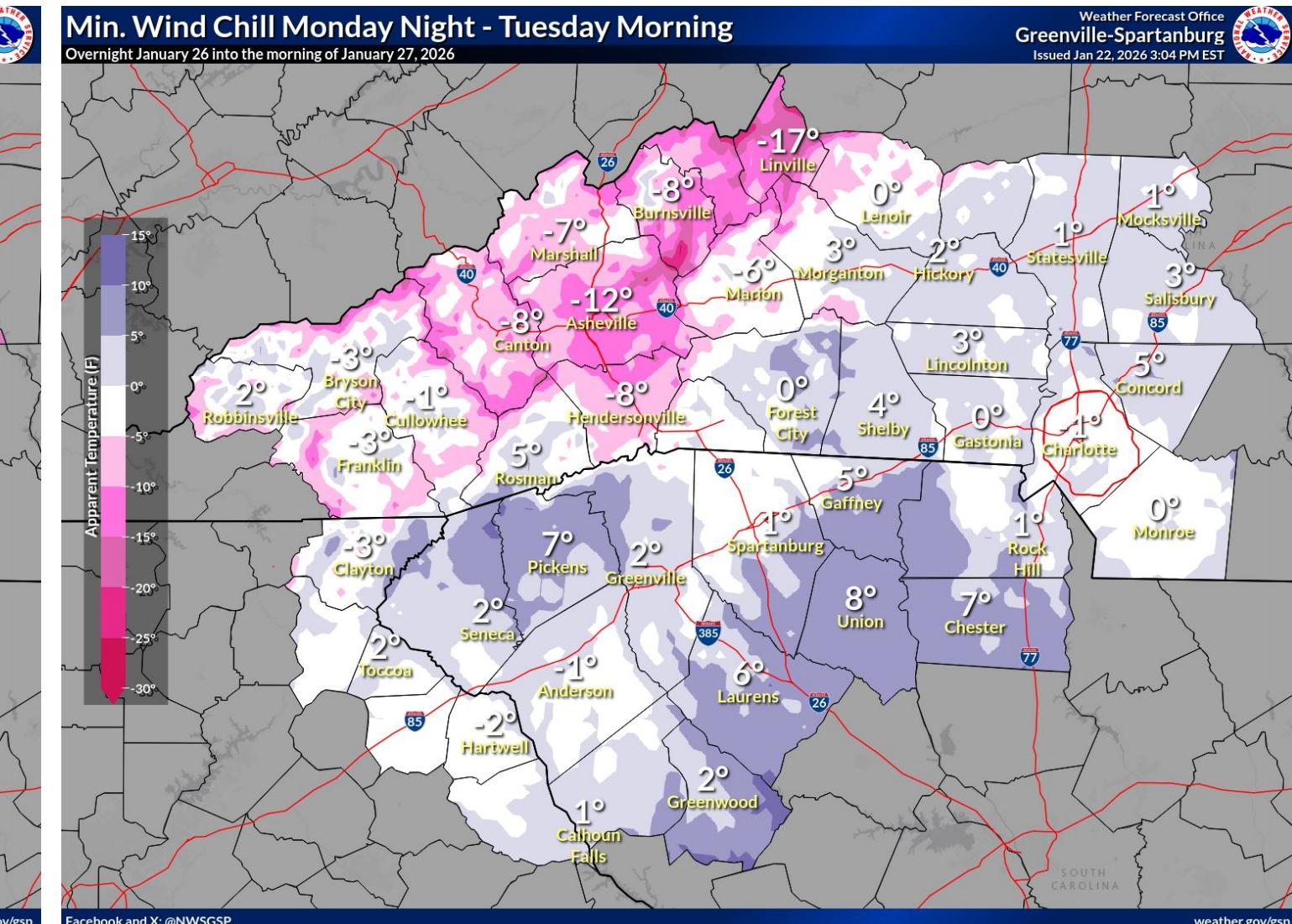
into Tuesday morning

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Low temperatures (air temp)



Minimum wind chill (7 PM Mon - 9 AM Tue)



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IDSS Forecast Point Page

For Point-Specific Forecasts

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IDSS Forecast Points

- To get point-specific hourly forecast information, check out our IDSS Forecast Points page
- www.weather.gov/forecastpoints
- Can customize your hourly plot order/look for your specific thresholds



Prototype **IDSS Forecast Points**

Help | Change Domain | Bookmark | Legend

Search Map...

Wind Advisory from 1000 am EST Tue. 1/9/2024 to 1000 pm EST Tue. 1/9/2024
Flood Watch from 1200 am EST Tue. 1/9/2024 to 700 pm EST Tue. 1/9/2024

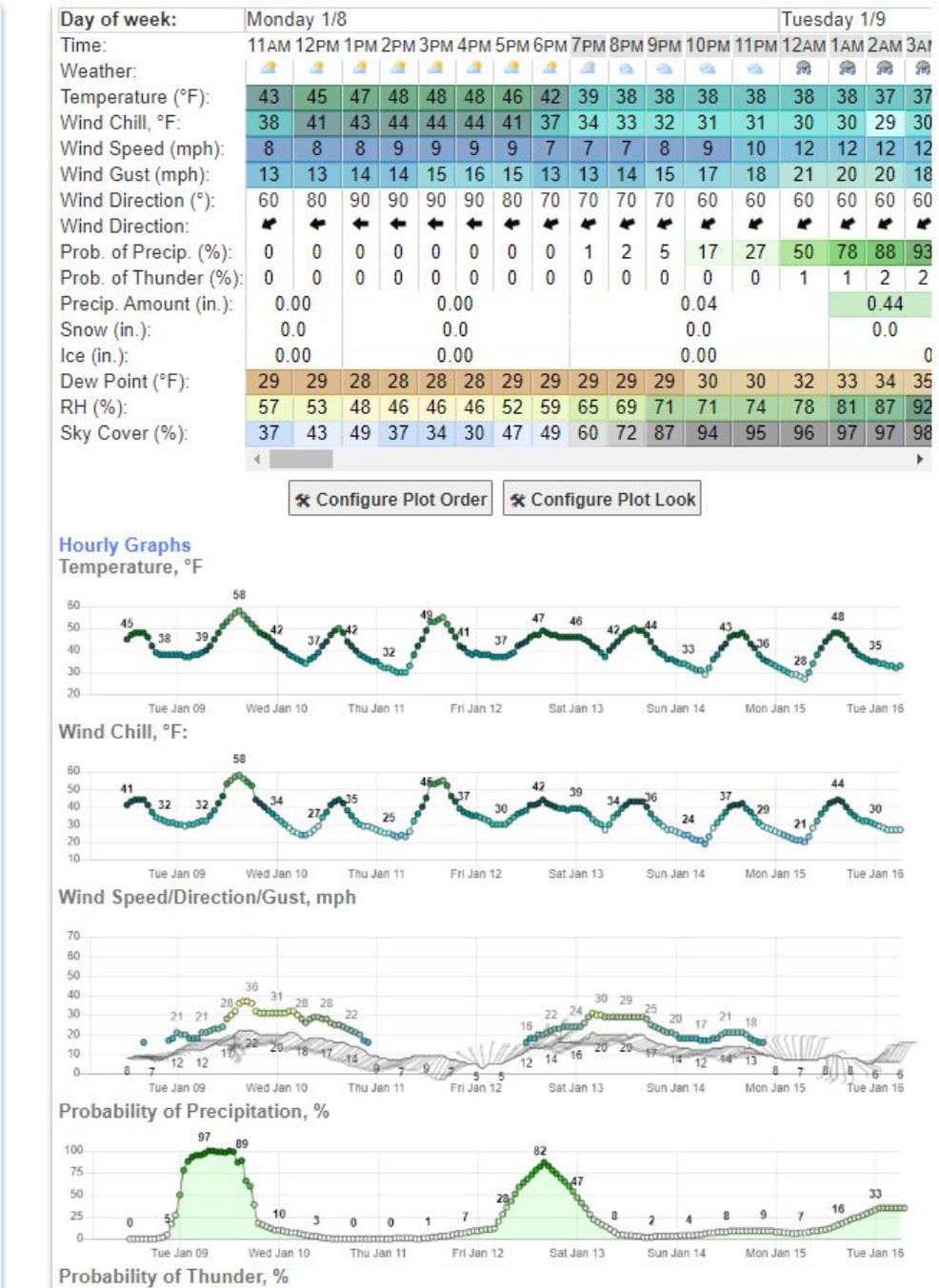
Table updated: 957 am EST Mon. 1/8/2024 (Last Update: 103 minutes ago)

Click for Text Forecast
GSP Forecast Discussion
4 miles S of Greer, SC

Weekly Summary							
Mon Jan 8	Tue Jan 9	Wed Jan 10	Thu Jan 11	Fri Jan 12	Sat Jan 13	Sun Jan 14	
Max Temp, °F	49	59	50	55	50	50	48
Min Temp, °F	38	37	34	30	37	36	29
Min Wind Chill, °F	31	29	24	23	30	27	19
Max Wind, mph	10	22	21	9	16	21	14
Min Wind, mph	7	12	9	5	3	14	9
Max Wind Gust, mph	18	37	32	14	24	31	21
Max Prob. of Precip., %	27	100	9	9	87	41	9
Max Prob. of Thunder, %	0	13	0	0	18	7	1
Max Dew Point, °F	30	54	35	35	43	42	24
Min Dew Point, °F	28	33	28	28	32	25	22
Max RH, %	74	100	82	94	91	90	73
Min RH, %	46	81	48	46	73	43	38
Max Cloud Cover, %	95	99	50	35	87	49	38
Min Cloud Cover, %	30	55	12	7	48	22	19

Outlooks

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Severe Thunderstorm	Not Expected	Marginal	Not Expected
Excessive Rainfall	Marginal	Slight	Not Expected





Contact and Next Briefing Information

For the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia



Briefing Webpage

- weather.gov/gsp/brief



Next Briefing

- By 5 AM Friday, January 23, 2026
- Method: Email PDF
- **Next Live Webinar: 4 PM Friday, January 23, 2026**
- Link to register:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4814247299479698784>



Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive.
- **Do Not Use After: 2 AM Friday, January 23, 2026**



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