

# NWS Briefing for Winter Weather

Thursday, January 22

Prepared by: Zak Aronson, Meteorologist



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

EL PASO



TEXAS

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# Situation Overview:

We are forecasting a major winter storm affecting a large swath of the United States this weekend. There has been a trend towards warmer and less wintry weather for our area. Heavy snow is still expected over the Sacramento Mountains, with mostly rain in the lowlands. A wintry mix is possible east of the Rio Grande Valley towards the end of the event Sunday morning.

- **Snow:**
  - **6-10" Sacramento Mountains, 2-4" Black Range, T-2" Hudspeth and Otero Counties**
  - Highest risk of lowland wintry mix between **12 AM - Noon Sunday morning**
  - **UPDATE: Start of Winter Storm Watch was pushed forward to Saturday morning**
- **Ice:**
  - Slight chance of freezing rain across Hudspeth County Saturday night/Sunday morning. Slick conditions for much of west Texas and southeast New Mexico, including I-10 and US-62/180
- **Temperature:**
  - **Colder early next week. Morning lows 15-25° lowlands, 5-15° mountains**
- **Impacts: Slick/icy roads, especially Saturday night and Sunday. Possible closures of mountain roads.**

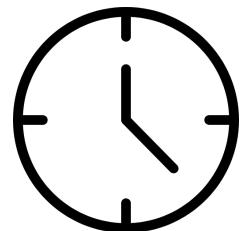


# Winter Storm Watch

Latest info at [weather.gov/epz](http://weather.gov/epz)



Heavy Snow Possible This Weekend



**Saturday Morning Through  
Sunday Morning**



**Sacramento Mountains**



**Heavy Snow: 6-10 inches above  
8000 feet, 3-6 inches below**

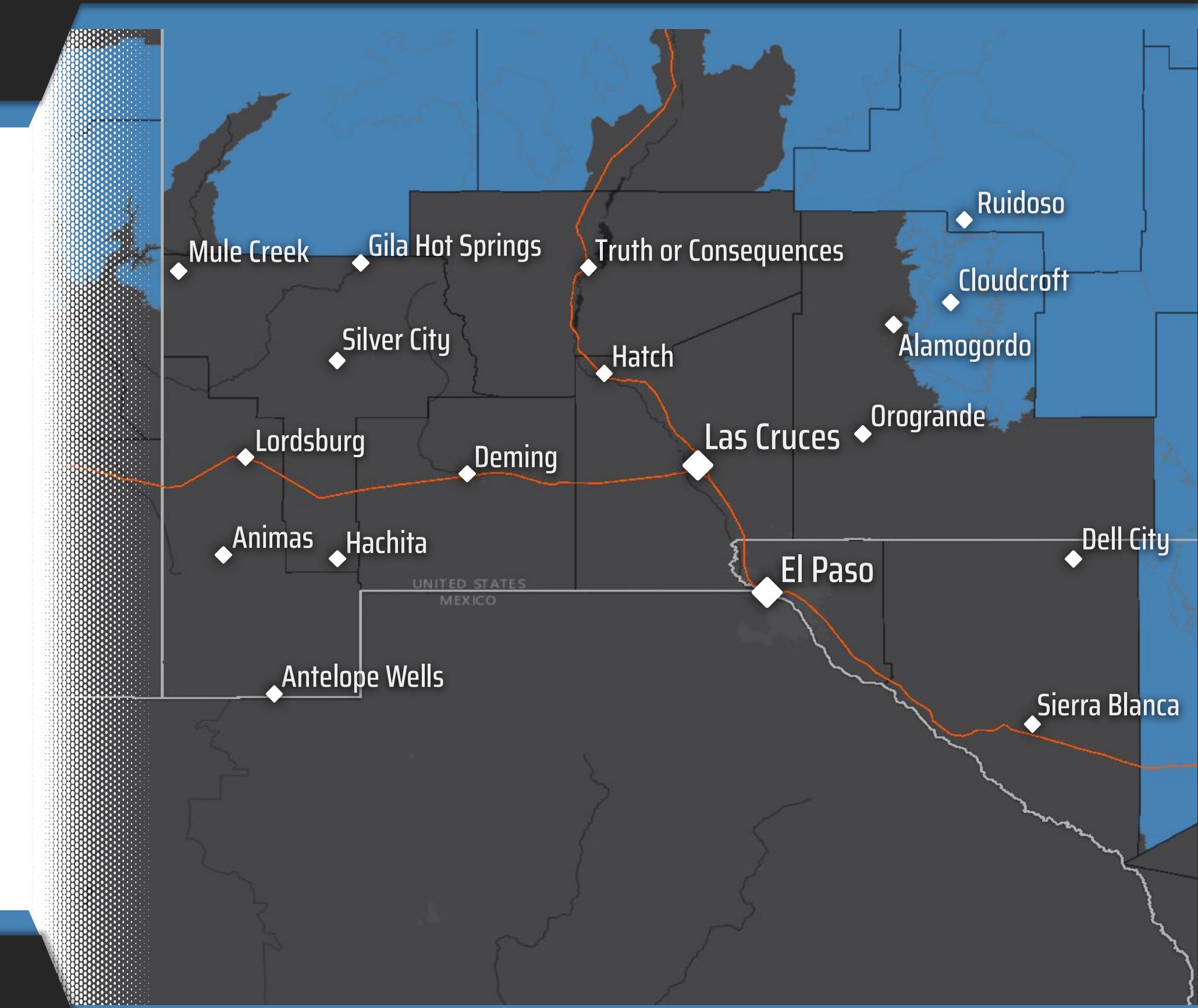


- Dangerous driving conditions,  
snowy and icy roads
- Possible highway closures



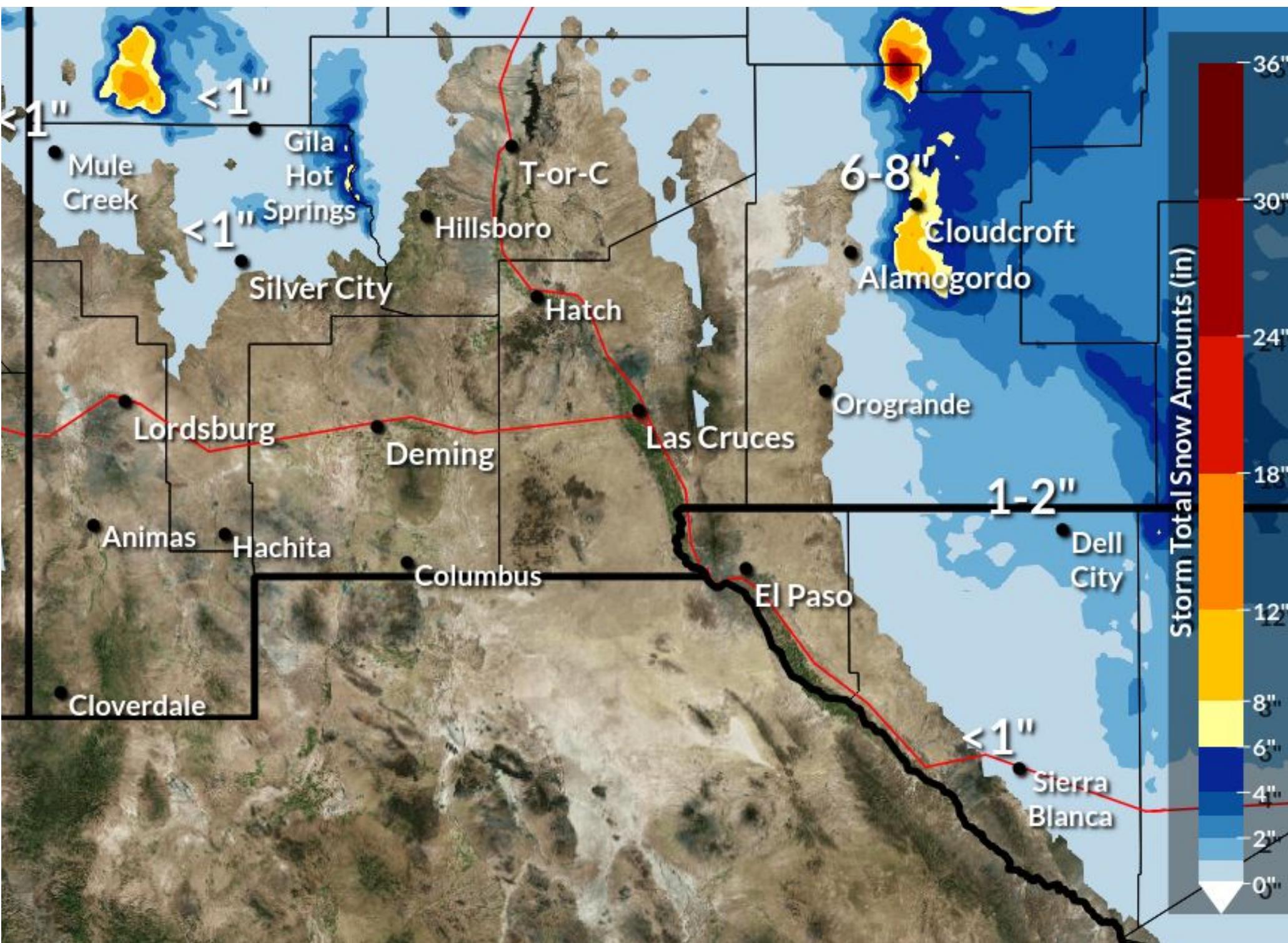
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Updated: January 22, 2026

# Snowfall Forecast - Friday Through Sunday



## → Wintry Conditions This Weekend

Widespread precipitation begins Friday evening in area mountains with a rain/snow mix. Cold air arriving from the east on Saturday will lead to a changeover to snow in the mountains and a wintry mix for eastern lowlands into Sunday.

## Forecast Snow Totals:

- ◆ Clodcroft, Sunspot: **6-10"**
- ◆ Mescalero, Timberon, Mayhill: **2-5"**
- ◆ Crow Flats, Dell City: **T-2"**
- ◆ Alamogordo, Truth-or-Consequences: **0-1"**
- ◆ El Paso, Las Cruces: **0-Trace"**

## → Actions and Preparedness

- Monitor local news and [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) for latest forecasts and warnings.
- Dangerous travel conditions, especially for portions of US-82, US-70, and US 62/180.



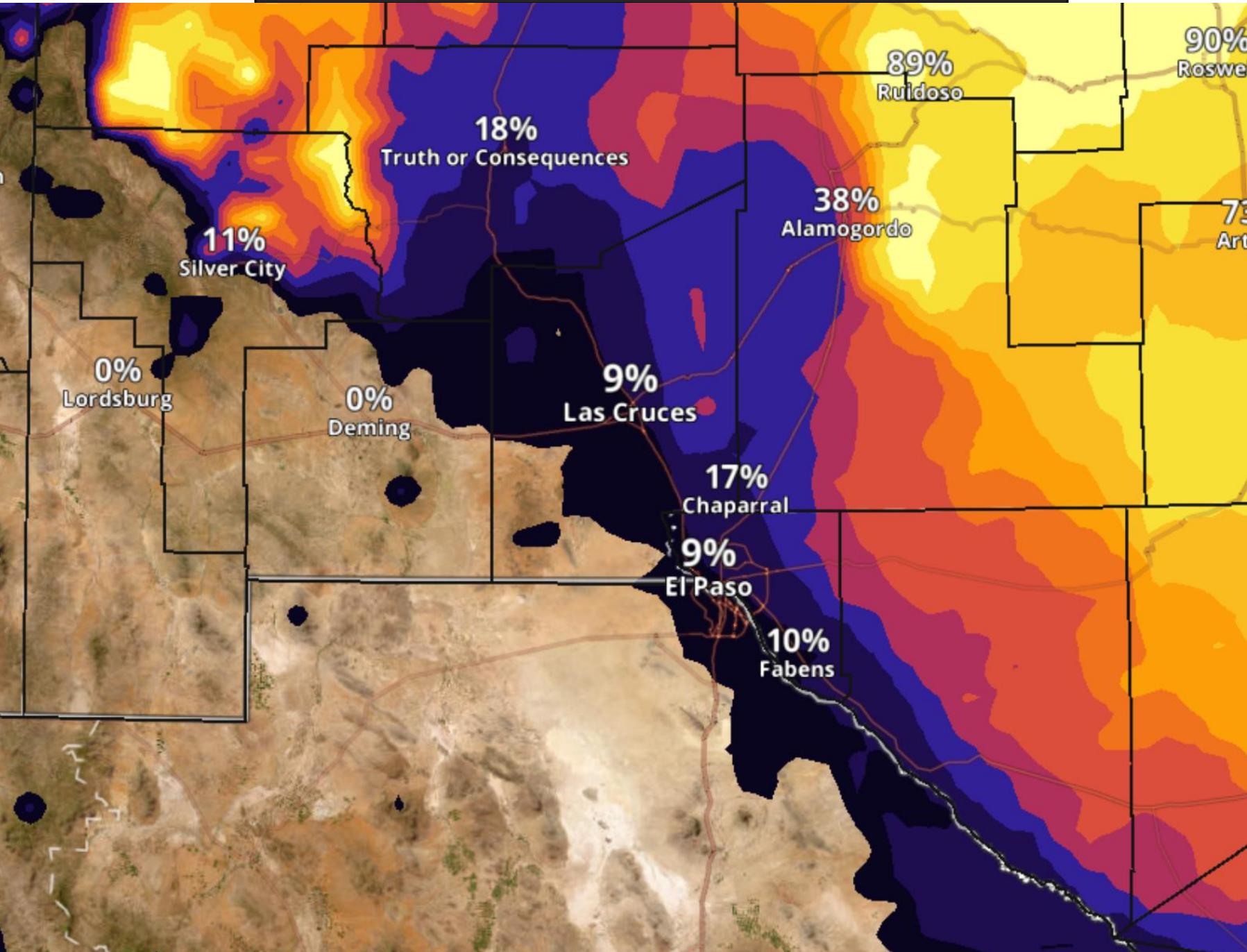
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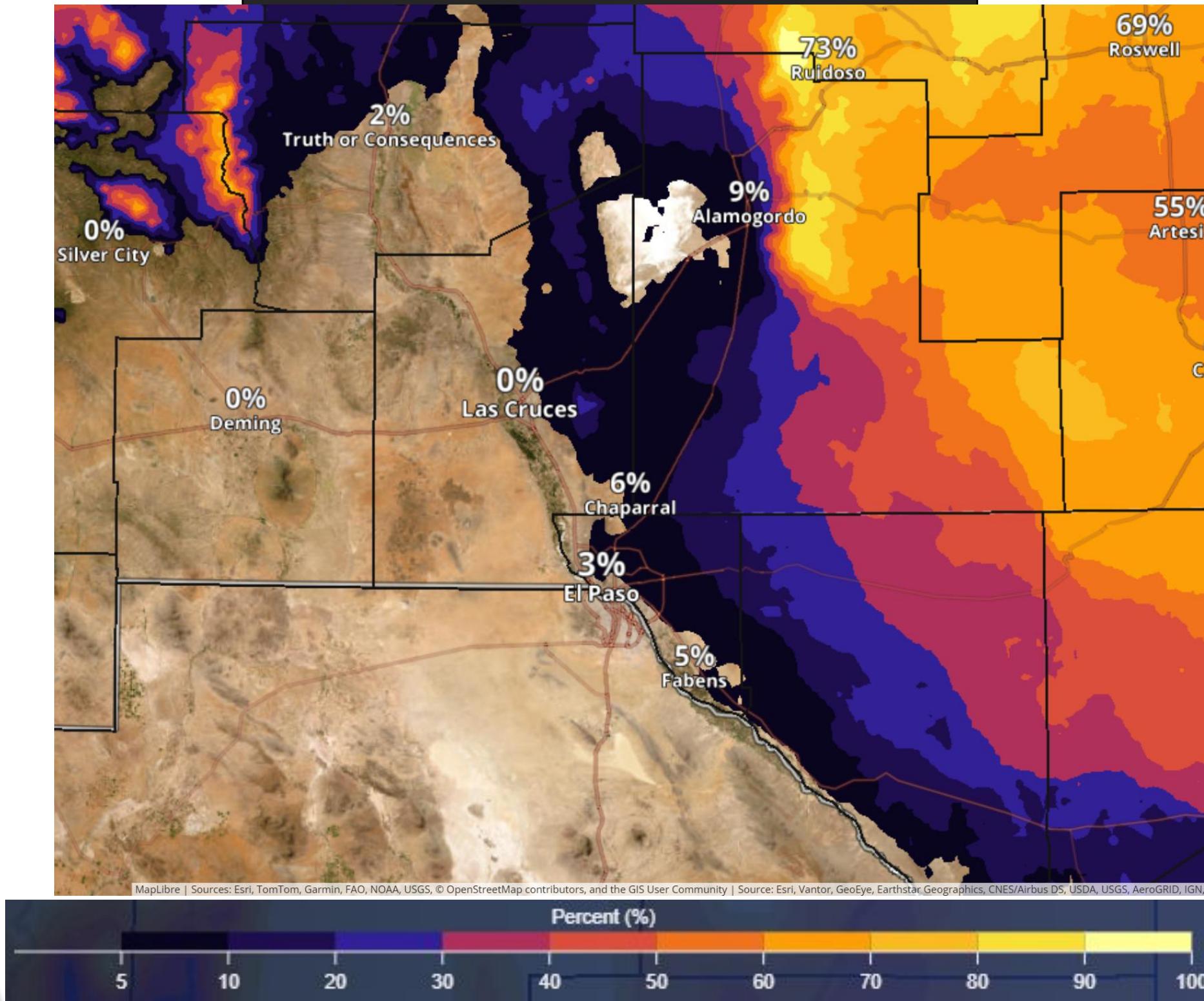
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# Upcoming Snow Chances - Friday Through Sunday

## Chance of Snow >1 Inch



## Chance of Snow >3 Inches



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# Snowfall Probabilities

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Location	Low End Amount	Expected Amount	High End Amount	Chance of Seeing More Than							
				0.1"	1"	2"	4"	6"	8"	12"	18"
Las Cruces, NM	0"	0"	1"	30%	11%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Alamogordo, NM	0"	0"	2"	49%	37%	23%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Animas, NM	0"	0"	0"	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cliff, NM	0"	0"	0.5"	38%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Cloudcroft, NM	1"	6"	14"	99%	89%	80%	67%	55%	44%	22%	3%
Cloverdale, NM	0"	0"	T	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dell City, TX	0"	1"	3"	71%	46%	31%	9%	2%	0%	0%	0%
Deming, NM	0"	0"	T	12%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
El Paso, TX	0"	0"	0.5"	31%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Gila Hot Springs, NM	0"	0.5"	2"	78%	46%	22%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Hillsboro, NM	0"	0"	1"	44%	11%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Lordsburg, NM	0"	0"	T	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sierra Blanca, TX	0"	0"	1"	51%	22%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Silver City, NM	0"	0"	1"	61%	20%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
T-or-C, NM	0"	0"	1"	44%	17%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%



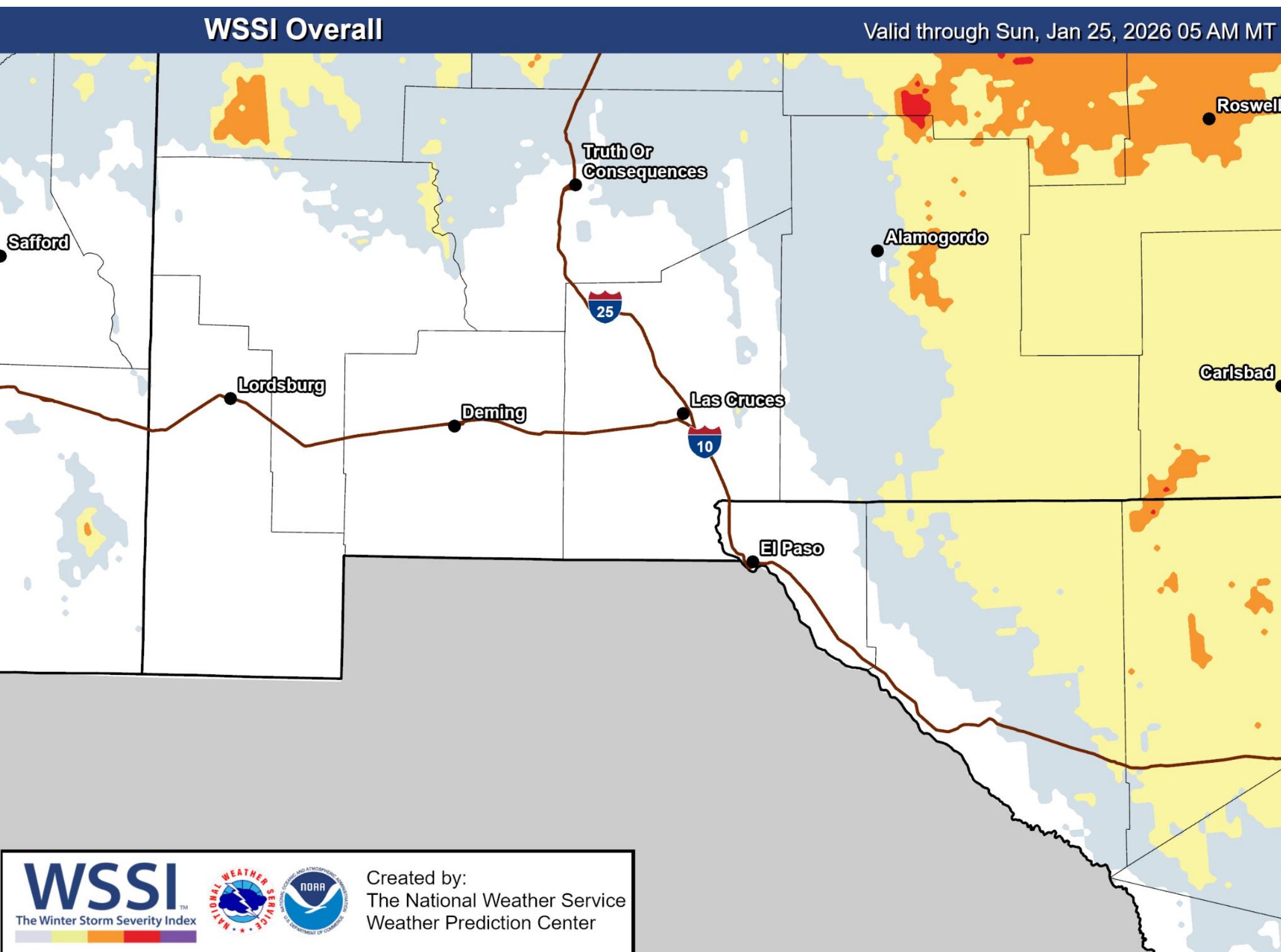
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# Winter Storm Severity Index

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## 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.



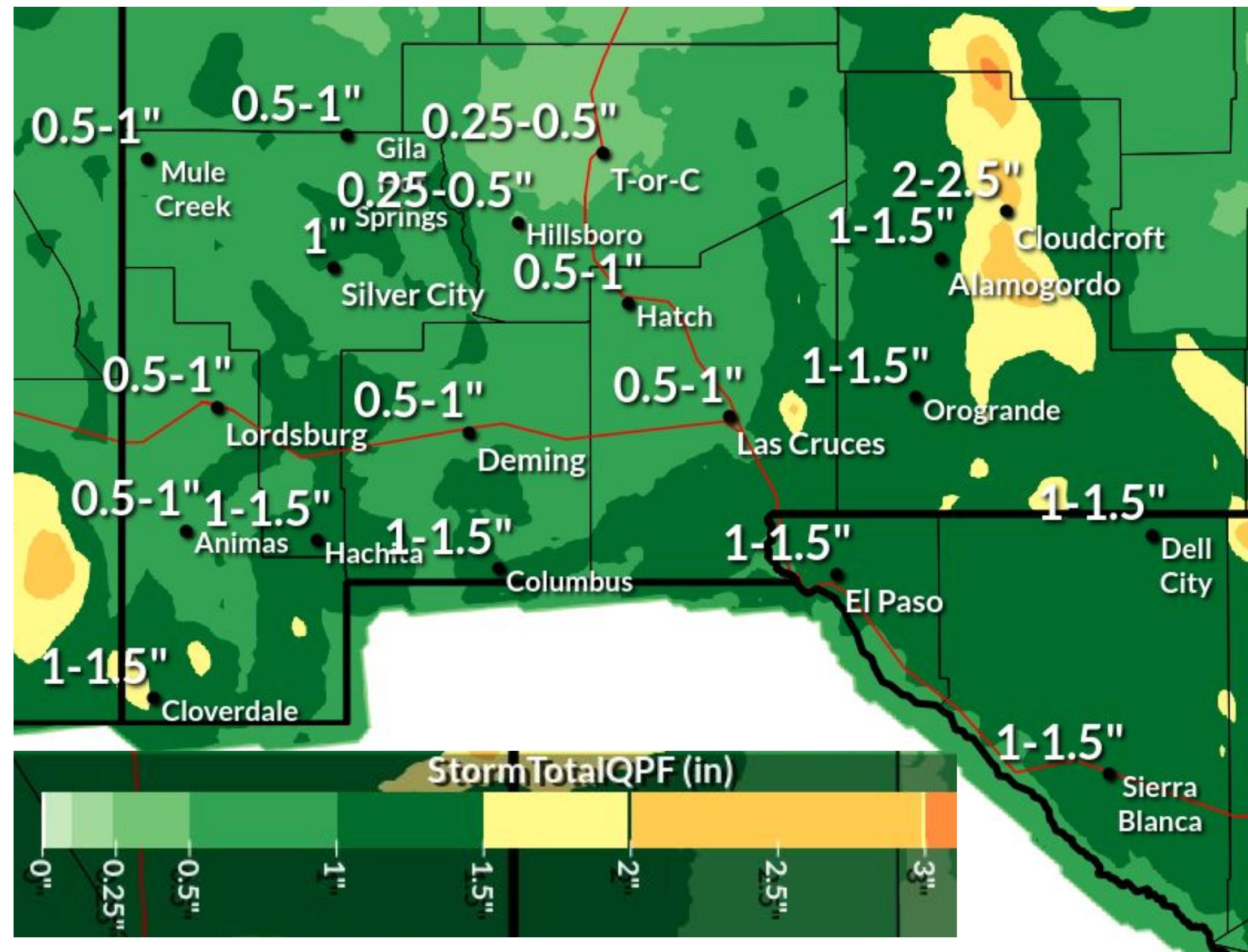
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# Rainfall/Liquid Equivalent Forecast

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## Probability of Precipitation Forecast

	1/22	1/23	1/24	1/25		
	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
	12pm	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	
Alamogordo	0	70	95	90	60	20
CLOUDCROFT	0	65	95	90	65	25
Deming	20	90	90	90	50	20
El Paso	25	75	90	90	55	20
Las Cruces	20	85	90	90	50	20
Moundsburg	10	80	90	90	50	15
Sierra Blanca	15	55	90	90	55	25
Silver City	5	85	90	90	55	15
SO. C.	0	55	90	85	50	15

\*Table values in %

\*\*Created: 10 am MST Thu 1/22/2026

\*\*\*Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.



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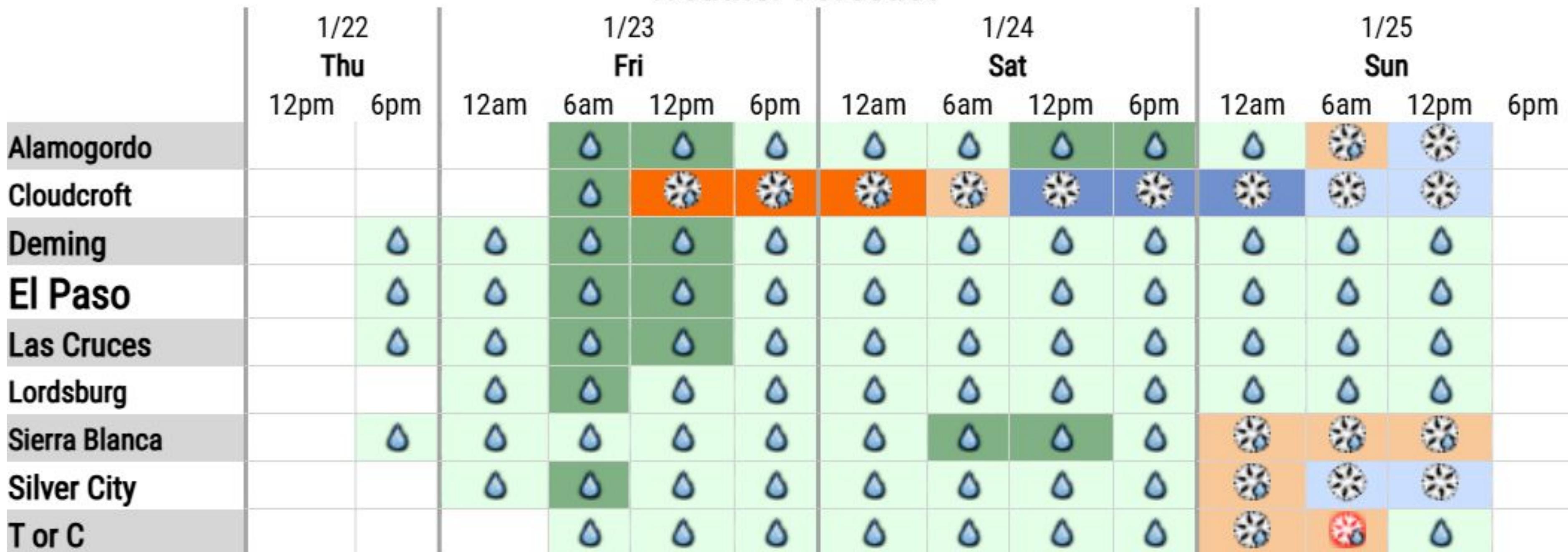


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# Precipitation Type Timing

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## Weather Forecast



\*Created: 10 am MST Thu 1/22/2026. Shows most impactful weather for the period beginning at the time shown. Weather symbols display where Probability of Precipitation  $\geq 0\%$ .

- Rain +

- Wintry Mix +

- Snow +



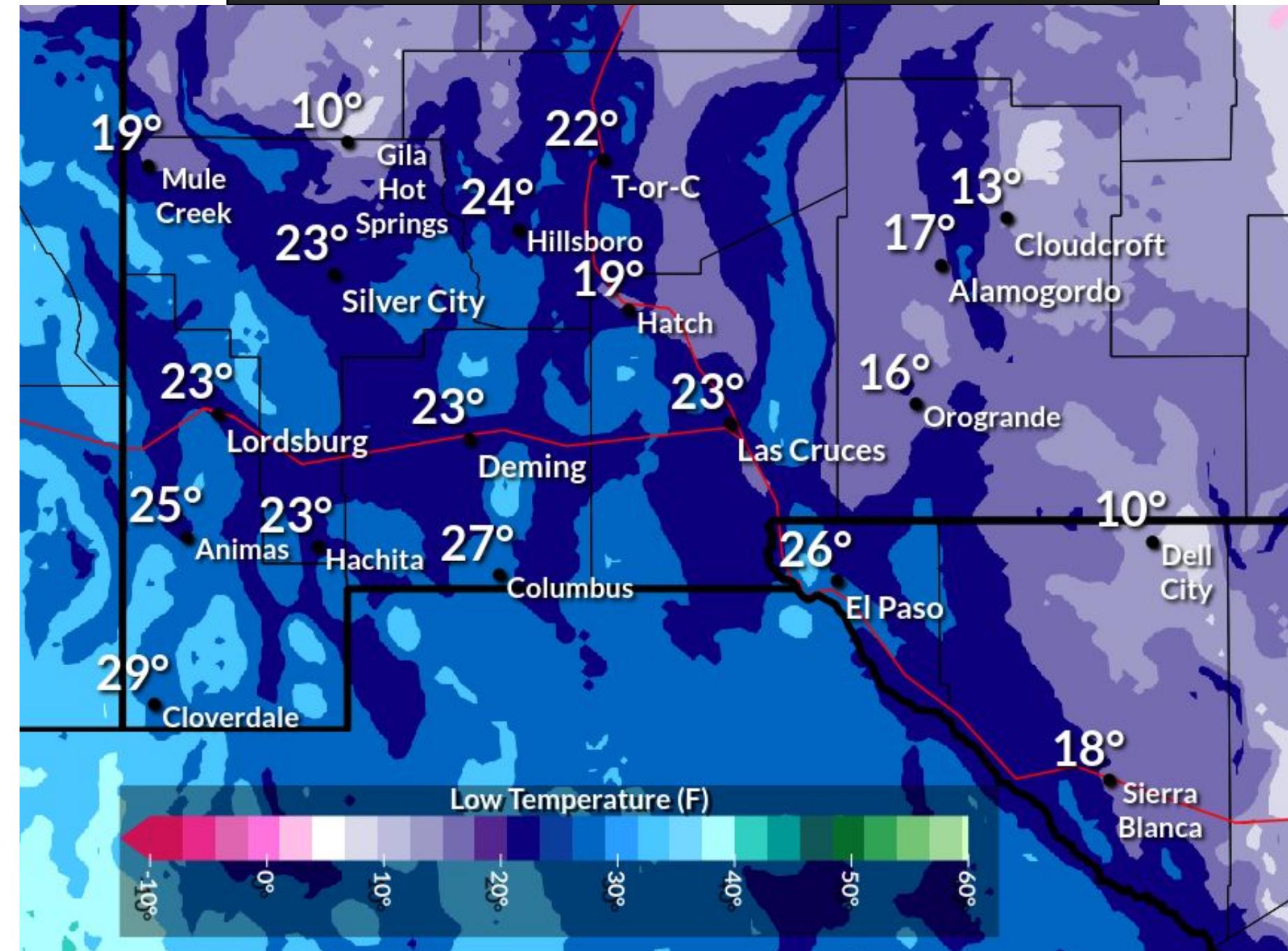
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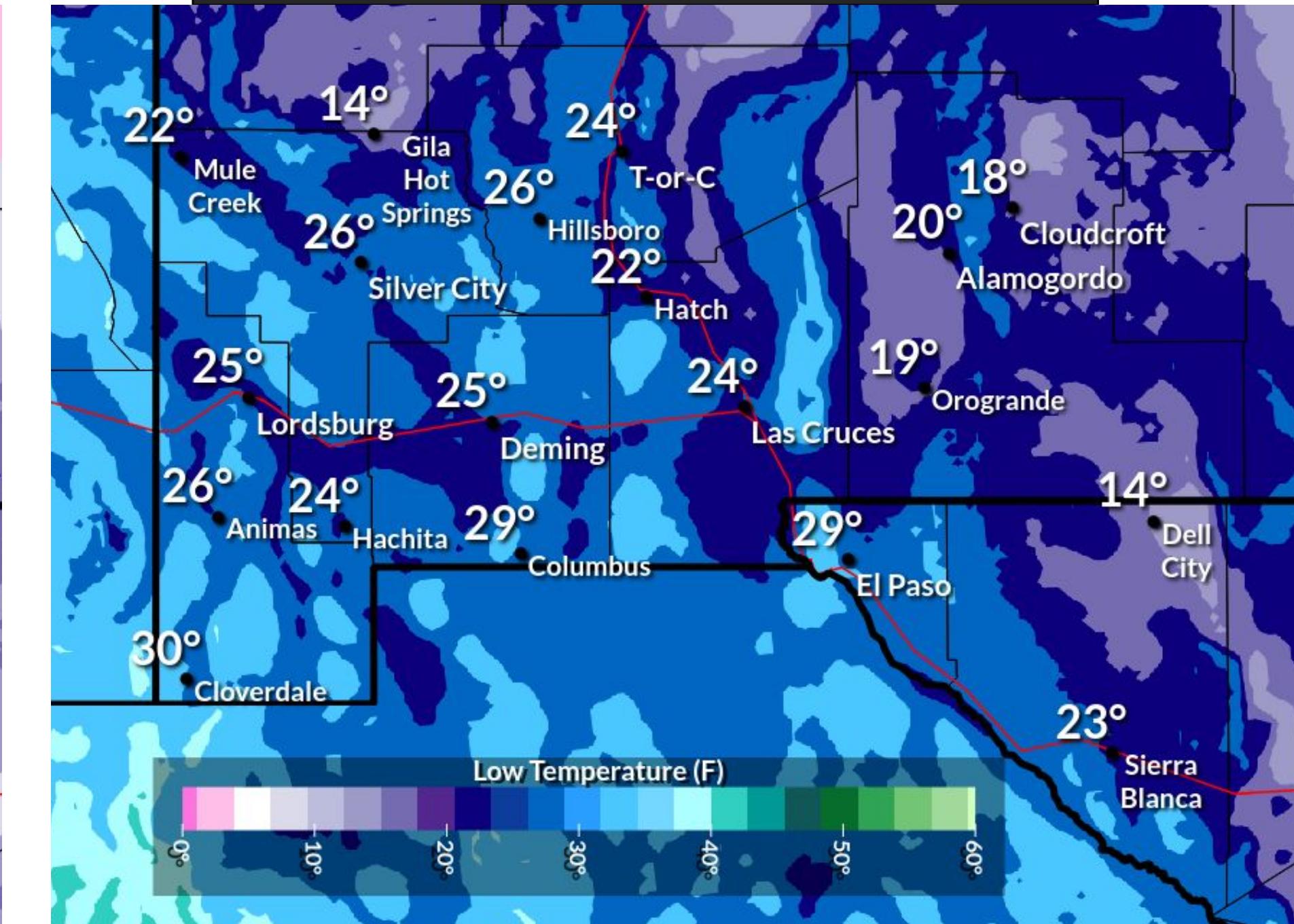
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# Colder Early Next Week

## Monday Morning Temperatures



## Tuesday Morning Temperatures



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# 7 Day Outlook - Risk Matrix

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	Thu - Jan 22	Fri - Jan 23	Sat - Jan 24	Sun - Jan 25	Mon - Jan 26	Tue - Jan 27	Wed - Jan 28
El Paso		Light Rain	Light Rain	Rain / Snow Mix	Cold (L)	Cold (L)	
Hudspeth		Light Rain	Rain / Snow Mix	Snow/Ice (L) Cold (L)	Cold (M)	Cold (L)	Cold (L)
Doña Ana		Light Rain	Light Rain	Rain / Snow Mix	Cold (L)	Cold (L)	Cold (L)
Luna		Light Rain	Light Rain	Rain / Snow Mix	Cold (L)	Cold (L)	
Otero Lowlands		Light Rain	Light Rain	Rain / Snow Mix Cold (L)	Cold (M)	Cold (L)	Cold (L)
Otero Mtns		Rain / Snow Mix	Snow/Ice (H)	Snow/Ice (L) Cold (L)	Cold (M)	Cold (L)	
Sierra		Light Rain	Light Rain	Rain / Snow Mix	Cold (M)	Cold (L)	Cold (L)
Gila/Black Range		Light Rain	Snow/Ice (L)	Snow/Ice (L)	Cold (L)		
Hidalgo & S. Grant		Light Rain	Light Rain	Light Rain	Cold (L)	Cold (L)	



## Blizzard Warning

Severe winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring -- including whiteout conditions.

**Do not travel.**

## take action.

## Winter Storm Warning

Dangerous winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring. **Considerable travel problems** are expected.

## take action.

## Winter Weather Advisory

Potentially dangerous winter weather is expected within the next **12 to 36 hours** or is occurring. **Travel difficulties** are expected.

## be aware.



## Cold Impacts: Vulnerable Populations

**NEWBORNS**

**ELDERLY**

**CHRONIC ILLNESS**

**OUTDOOR WORKERS**

**UNHOUSED**

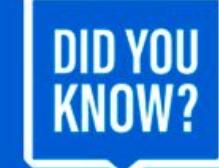
**Everyone is at risk from the dangers of extreme cold, but these groups are more vulnerable than most. Age and certain conditions make the body less able to regulate temperature.**

- Dress in loose layers and cover all exposed skin
- Consume hot foods and warm drinks, but avoid caffeine and alcohol
- Check on family, friends and neighbors
- Limit or avoid time outdoors

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# ICE & SNOW, TAKE IT SLOW

Each year in the U.S., there are over  
**1,000 deaths** and **100,000 injuries** due to  
vehicle crashes during winter weather.



## Clean off your vehicle before driving.

Flying snow from cars causes accidents.



## Keep it slow, and don't use cruise control.

Roads can be slick even if they just look wet.



## Leave extra distance between vehicles.

Stay especially far from snow plows.



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# NWS El Paso Contact Information

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Meteorologist

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