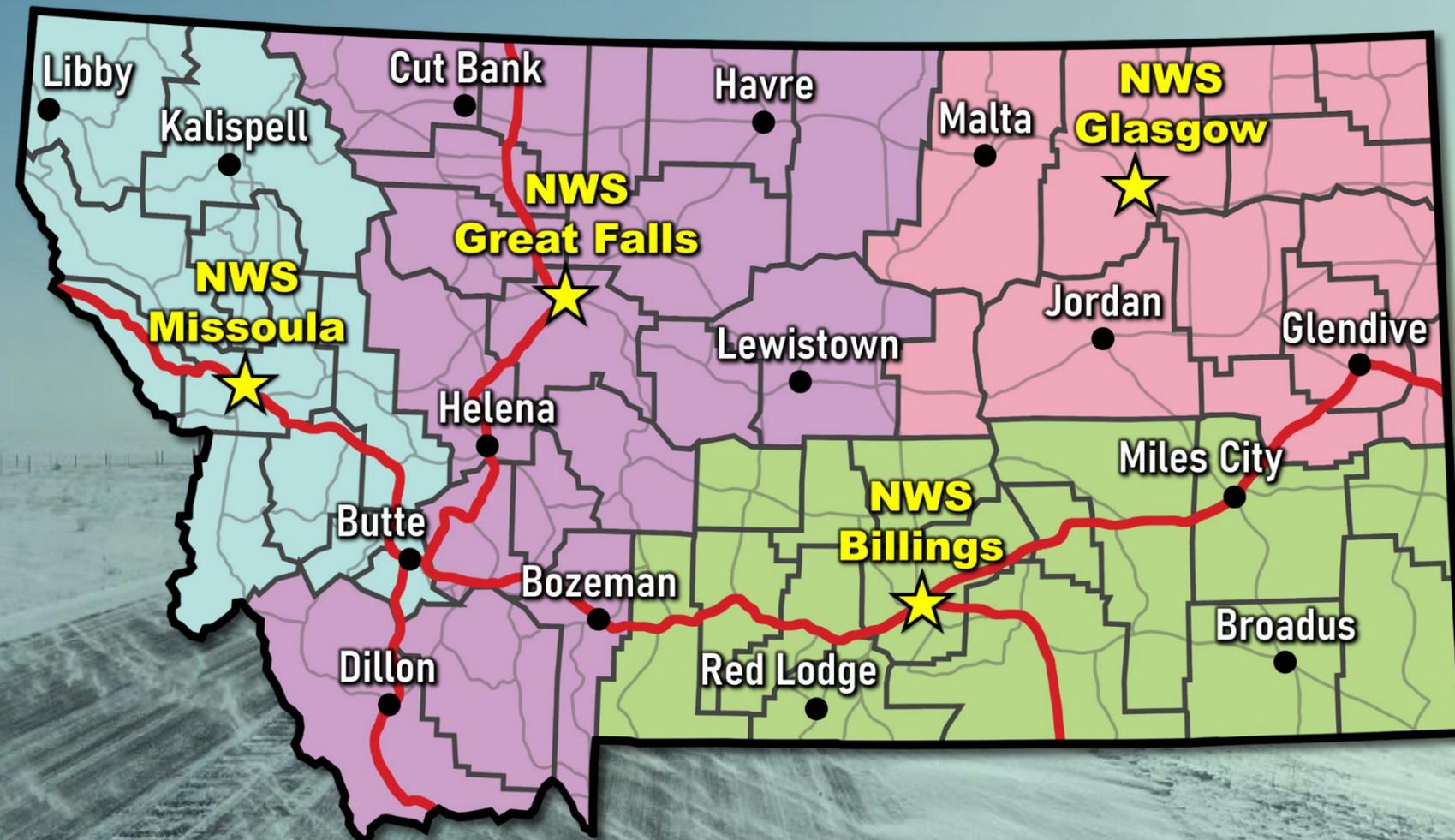


High Wind and Heavy Snow Briefing

March 11 thru March 14, 2026



Statewide Overview

Current Wind Statements

Valid as of 2:30 PM Today

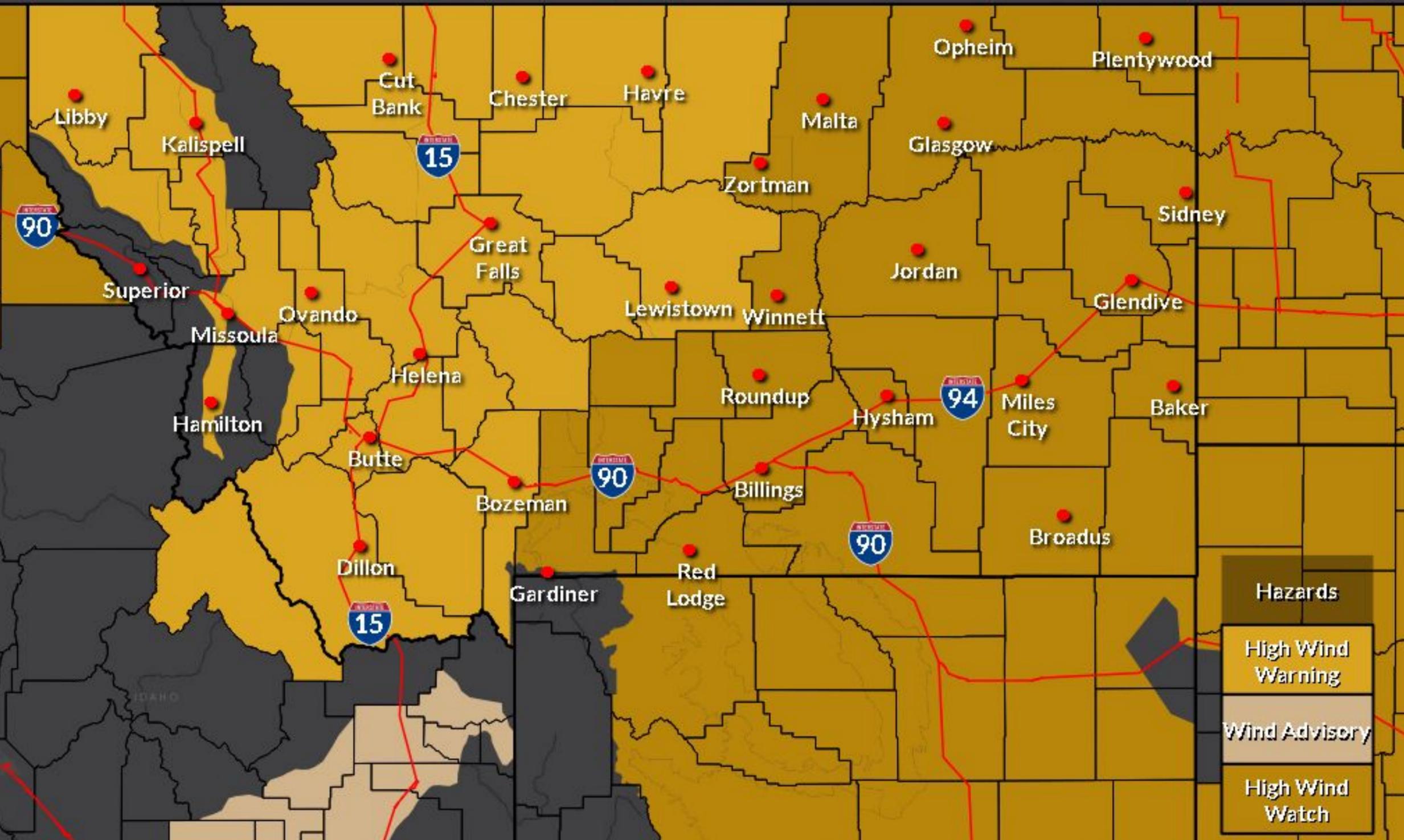
Weather Forecast Office
Great Falls, MT

Issued Mar 10, 2026 2:23 PM MDT



Main Points

This image shows the current high wind statements in effect as of 2:30 PM Tuesday.



Heavy Mountain Snow Possible

What to Expect



Key Points

- Heavy mountain snow is expected over the western mountains, including the Rocky Mountain Front from Wed night into Saturday.
- Snowfall of 1 to 3 feet is looking likely, with over 5 feet possible by Sunday at ridge tops.



Impacts

- Travel may become difficult at times due to snow and ice, along with reduced visibility
- Near blizzard conditions are possible Wed night into Thu along Highway 2 from East Glacier Park to West Glacier

Forecast Issued: 3:00 PM Tuesday, March 10, 2026



National Weather Service

Missoula, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, MT

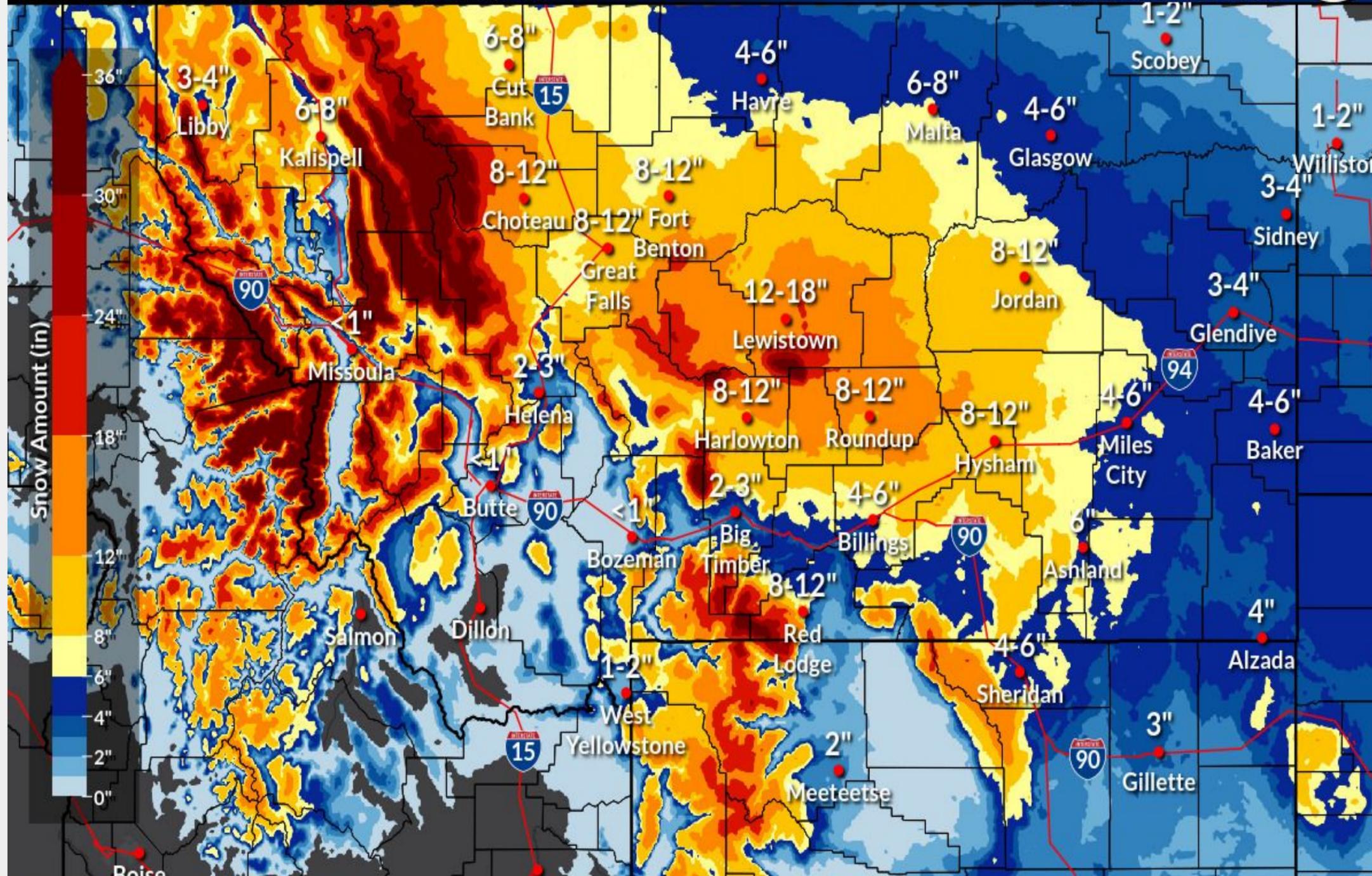
Expected Snowfall - 6 PM Thursday through 6 PM Sunday

Valid: 6 PM MDT Thursday 3/12 to 6 PM MDT Sunday 3/15

Weather Forecast Office

Billings, MT

Issued Mar 10, 2026 1:28 PM MDT





Potential Wind Gusts

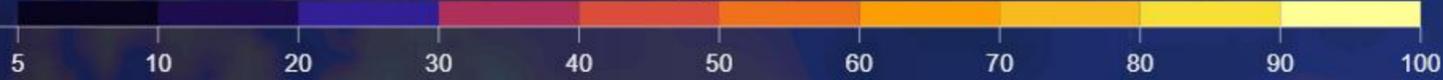
March 10, 2026
3:30 PM



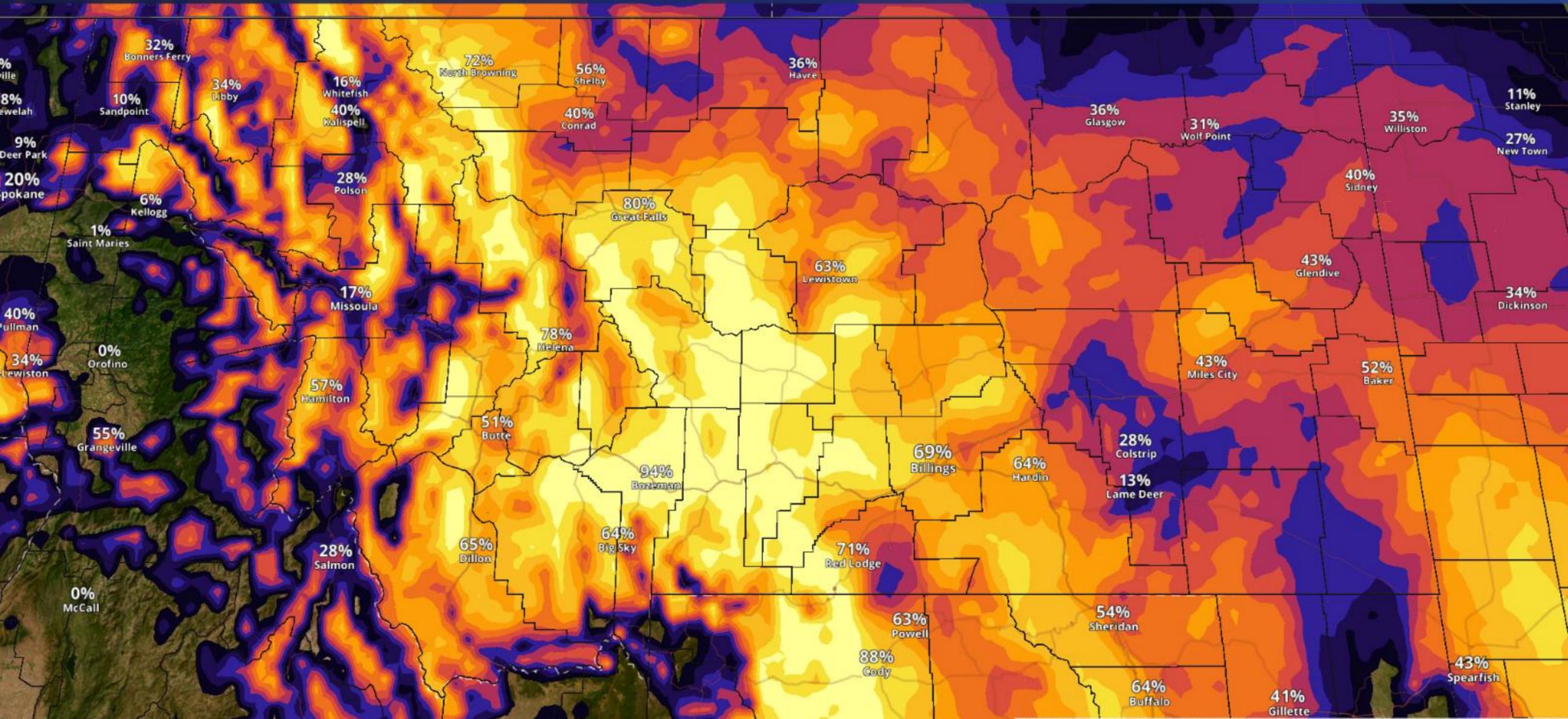
Probability of 60 mph Wind Gust Thursday

Fri, Mar 13, 2026, 12 am MDT

Percent (%)



Issued: Tue, Mar 10, 2026, 1 pm MDT



Main Points

This image shows the probability of 60 mph wind gusts on Thursday.

Very strong wind gusts are expected across the state.

The wind gusts will impact both the morning and evening commute in some areas on Thursday.



Cold Wind Chills By Sunday Morning

What to Expect

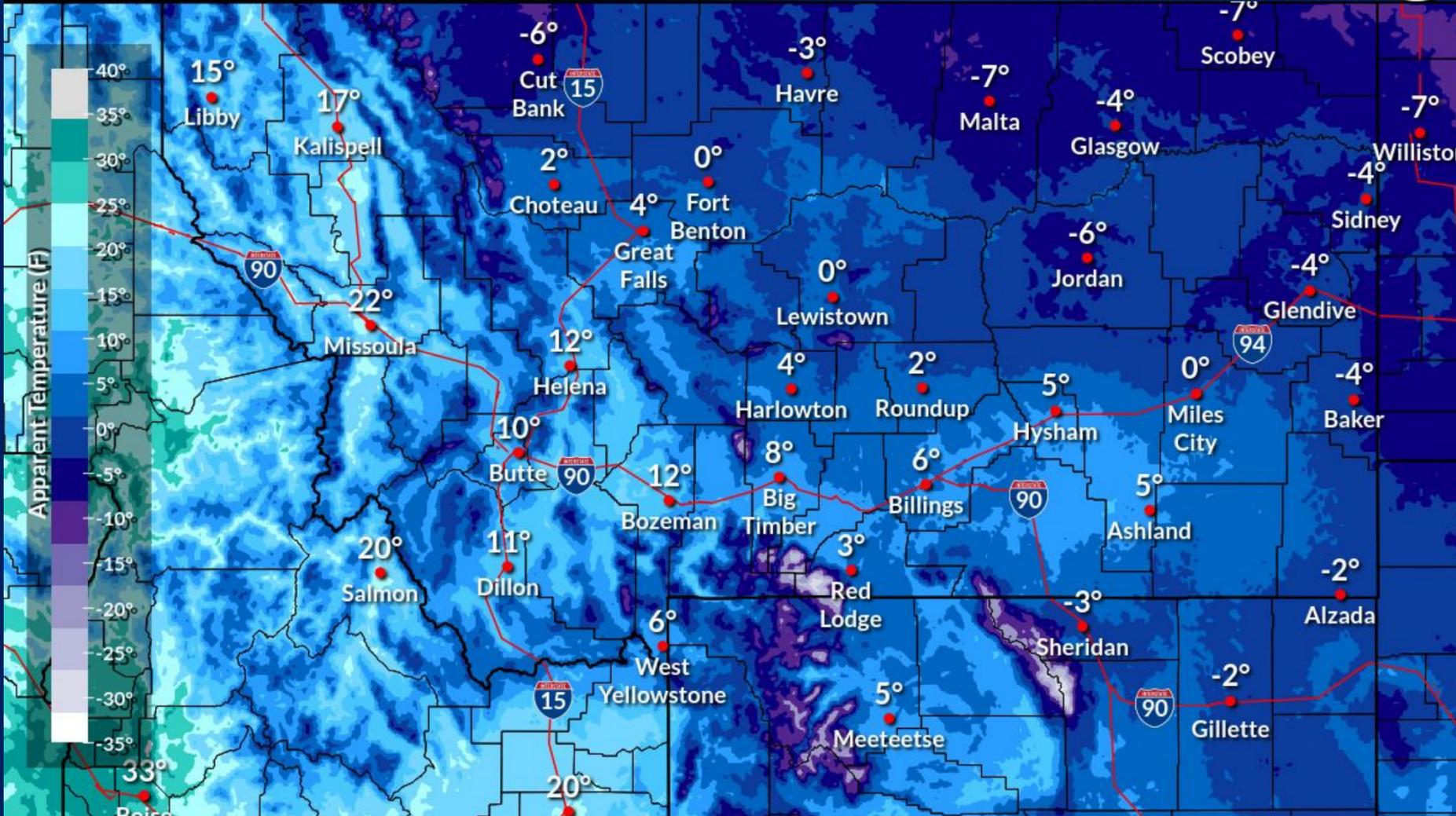
Minimum Wind Chill - Saturday Night

Valid: 9 PM MDT Saturday 3/14 to 9 AM MDT Sunday 3/15

Weather Forecast Office

Billings, MT

Issued Mar 10, 2026 1:23 PM MDT



Facebook, X, Youtube | @NWSBillings

weather.gov/billings



When

Cold air will gradually move southward into Montana from Friday thru Sunday



Impacts

- Wind chill values near 10 below zero by Sunday morning over the northern tier of MT
- Frostbite will be possible in a short period of time for those not prepared



DRESS IN LAYERS



COVER ALL EXPOSED SKIN



LIMIT TIME OUTDOORS



BRING PETS INDOORS

Information:

- Coldest areas will be along the northern tier of Montana by Sunday morning.

Forecast Issued: 3:00 PM Tuesday, March 10, 2026



National Weather Service

Missoula, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, MT

NWS

Glasgow



Strong Winds Thursday

March 10, 2026
3:30 PM

Northeast Montana

- Strong west winds begin moving into the region late Wednesday night and continue through Thursday afternoon
 - Strongest winds are expected between 5 AM and 12 PM Thursday
 - Gusty winds will continue through the evening
- Gusts greater than 50 mph will be common with isolated gusts greater than 65 mph likely

Impacts

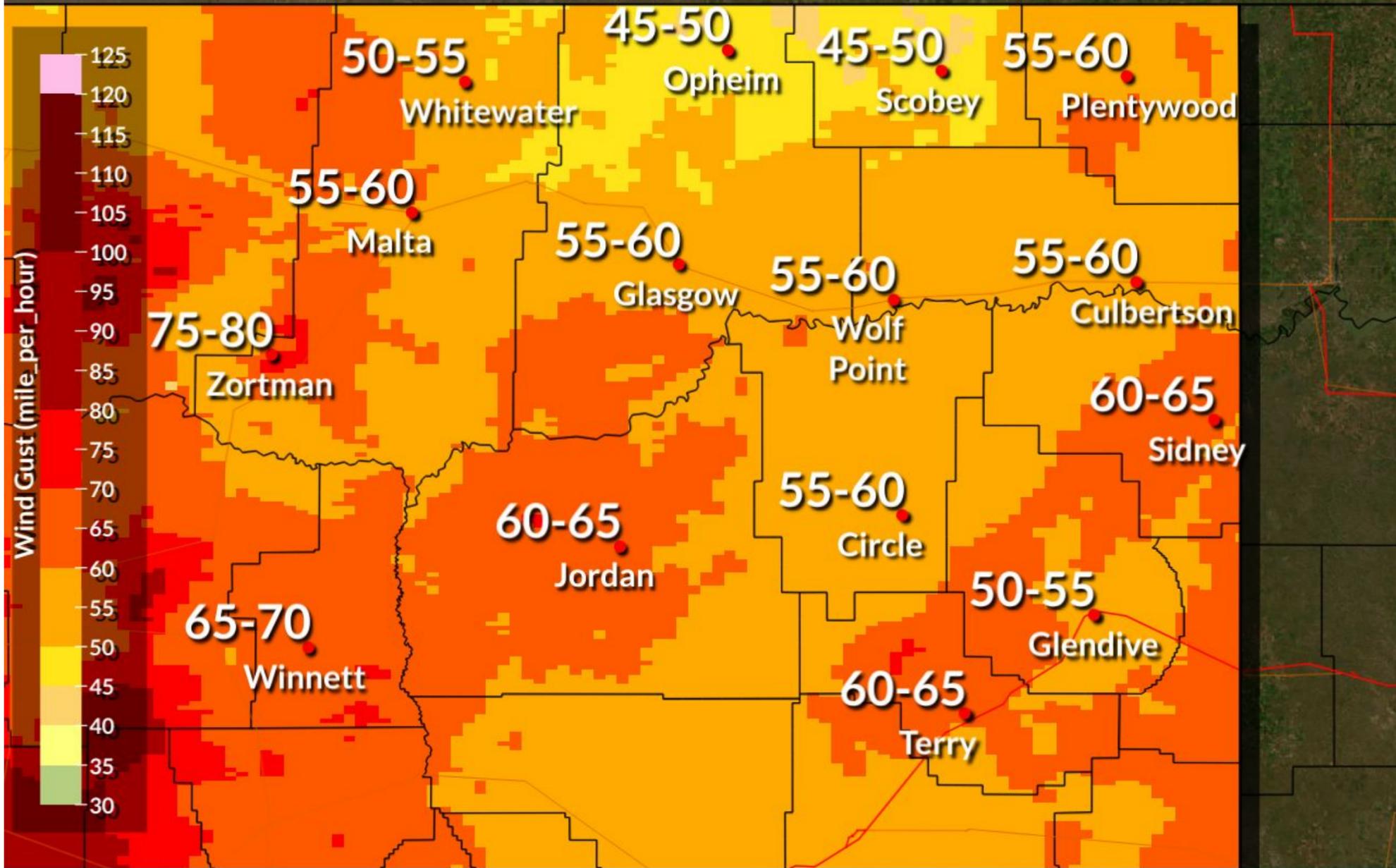
- Strong winds + falling snow Thursday will cause potentially dangerous travel
 - Especially for strong cross winds along north/south highways with snowy or icy road surfaces
- Uncertainty remains in timing of rain to snow transition timing and location

NBM 90 Forecast Wind Gust Thursday

Thursday March 12, 2026

Weather Forecast Office
Glasgow, MT

Issued Mar 10, 2026 12:02 PM MDT



f t NWSGlasgow

weather.gov/ggw



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

Latest Weather Headlines: weather.gov/tfx/current_mtdss

National Weather Service
Missoula, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, MT

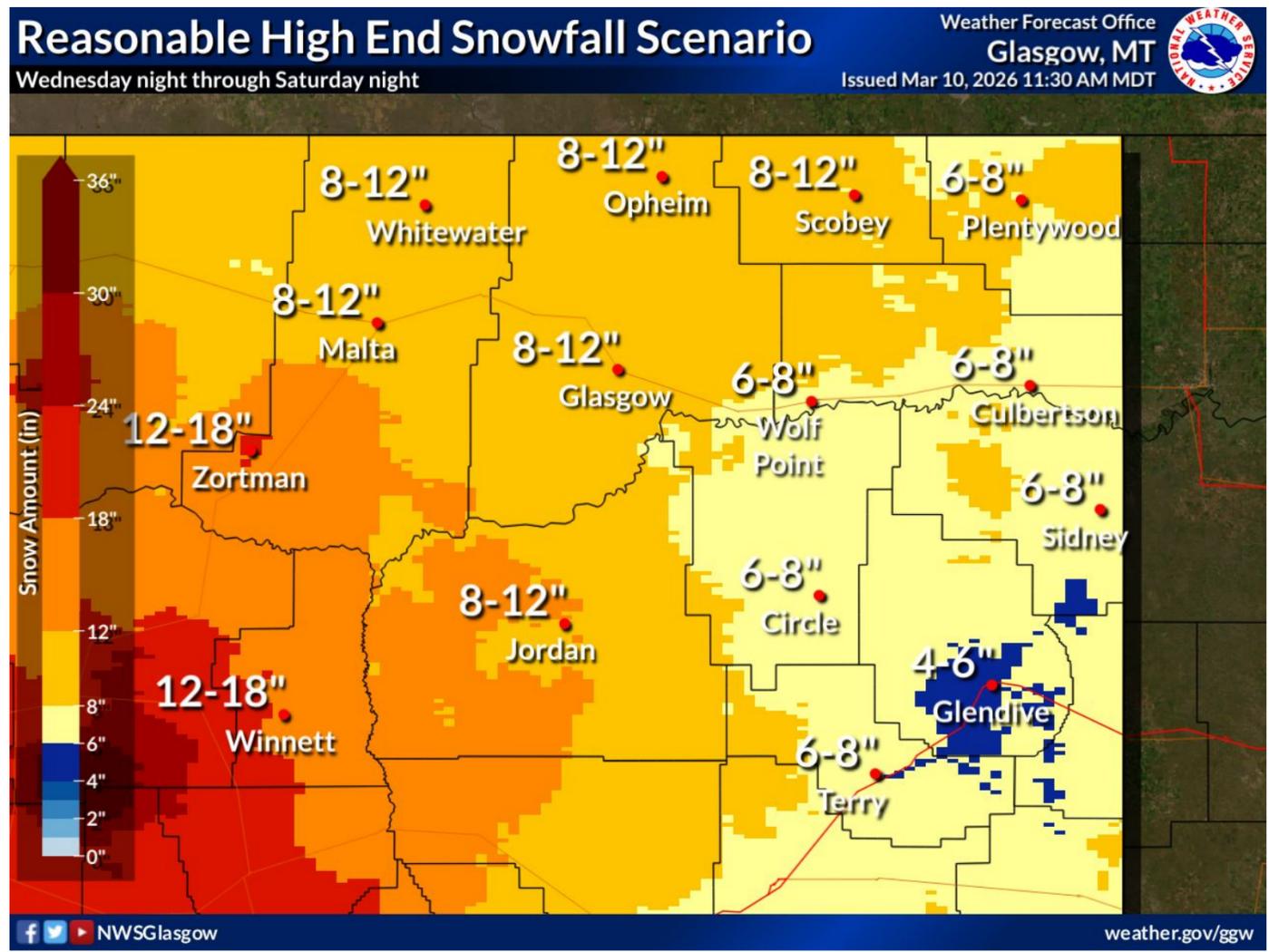
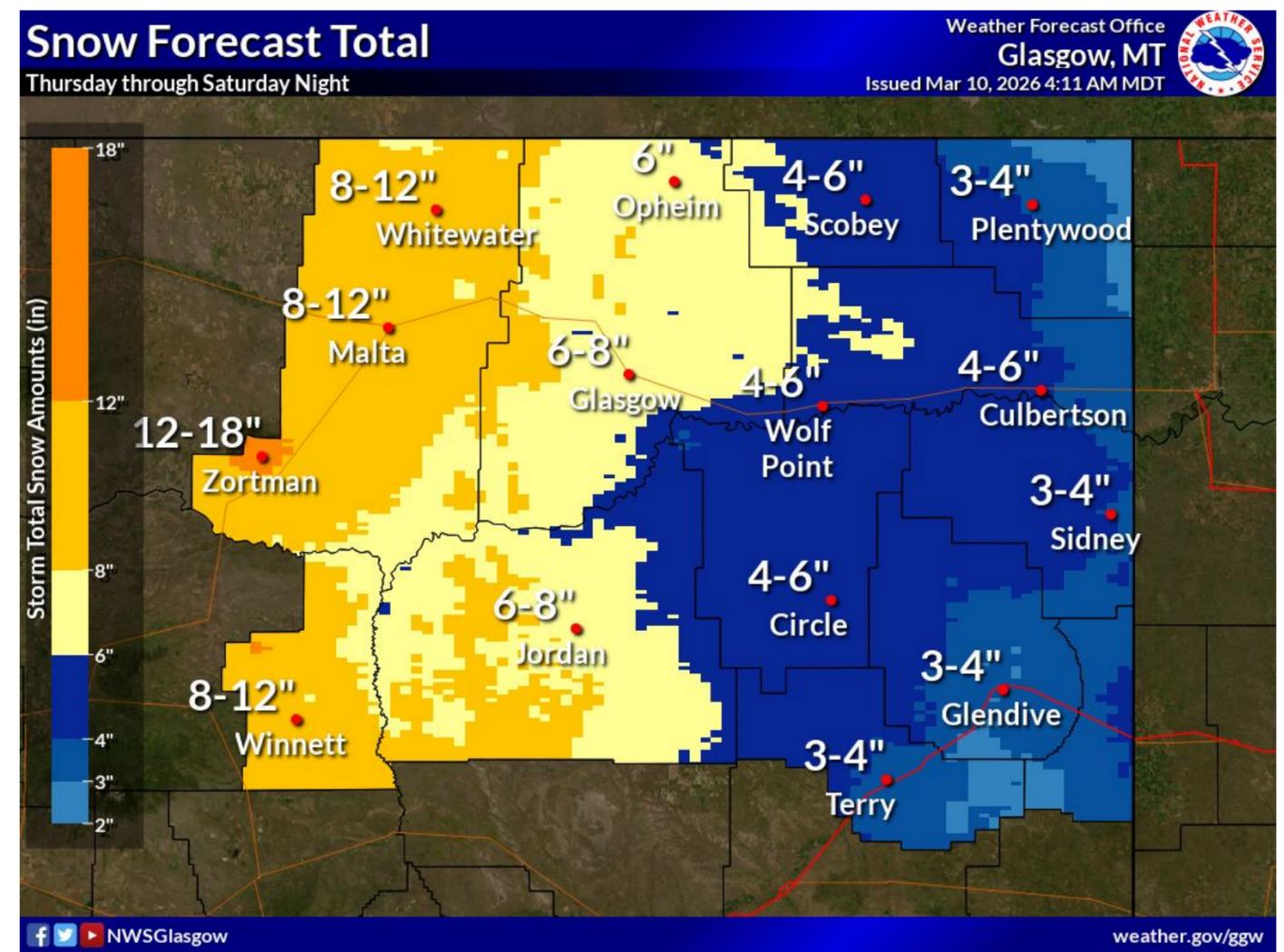


Northeast Montana Snow Total Forecast

March 10, 2026
3:30 PM

Thursday through Saturday Night

- Rain/snow mix Wednesday night → all snow Thursday. Total snow accumulation in first round expected: 1-3"
- Additional snow Friday upwards of 6" is possible along a line south and west of Malta to Jordan. Friday night into Saturday morning follows a similar pattern with 2-6" across the wider region
- Snow will finally diminish Saturday night
- The period of heaviest snow will be Friday night - Saturday



- Impacts**
- Icy roads with early mixed precip
 - Snow covered roads through weekend
 - Bowing and drifting snow Thursday
 - Significant stress on newborn livestock

NWS Billings

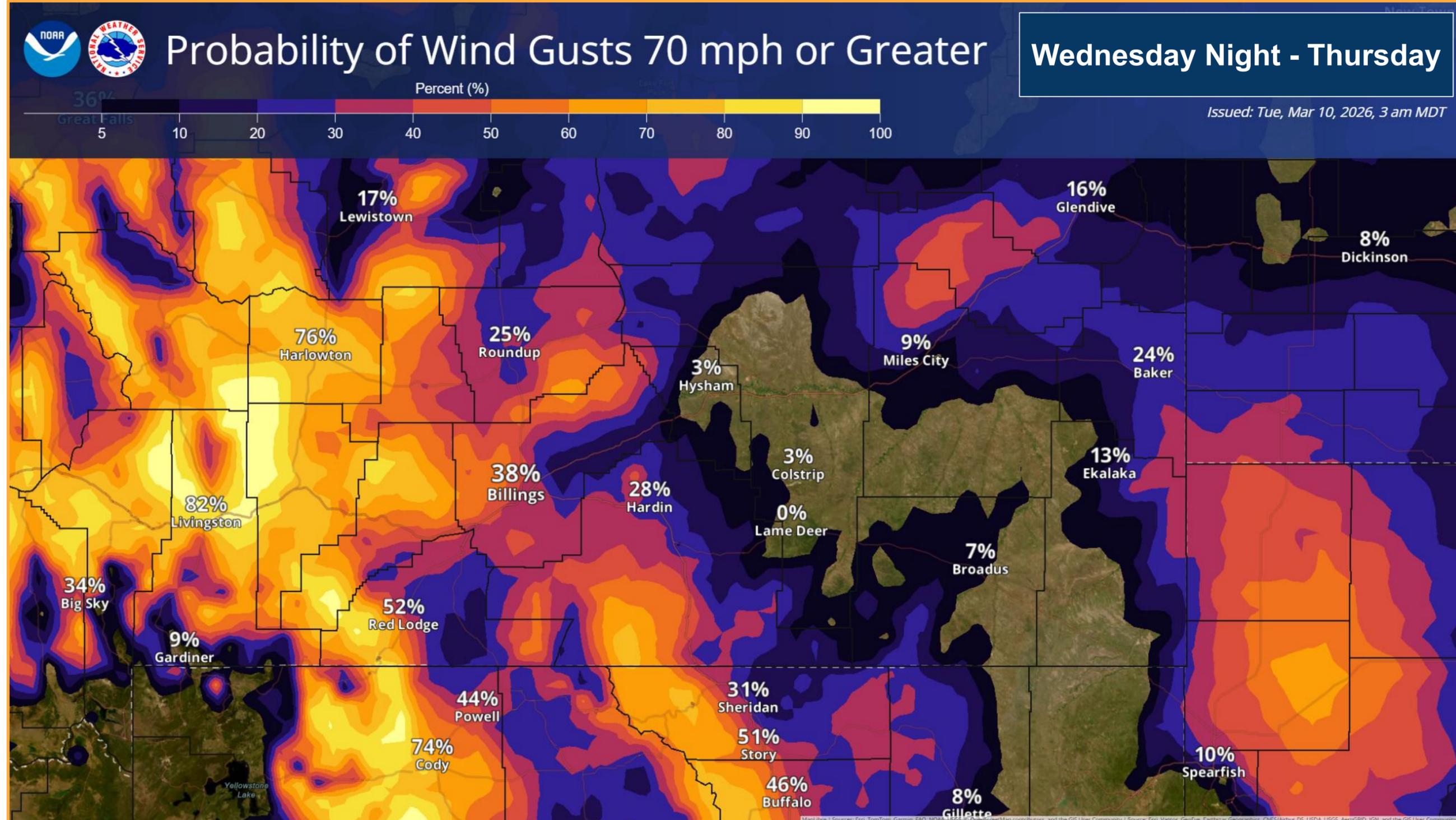


Strong Winds Wednesday Night - Thursday

March 10, 2026
3:30 PM

Confidence increasing for a period of very strong winds

- Strong westerly winds develop along the western foothills Wed night and continue through Thursday
 - I-90 through Livingston
 - Gusts near 80 mph
 - US-191 Big Timber to Judith Gap
- Strong winds spread east across lower elevations Thursday
 - Widespread gusts in excess of 50 mph are VERY LIKELY
- Impacts...
 - Damage to roofs/fences/trees
 - Power Outages
 - Blow overs on highways
- Cold front arrives late Thursday shutting off wind

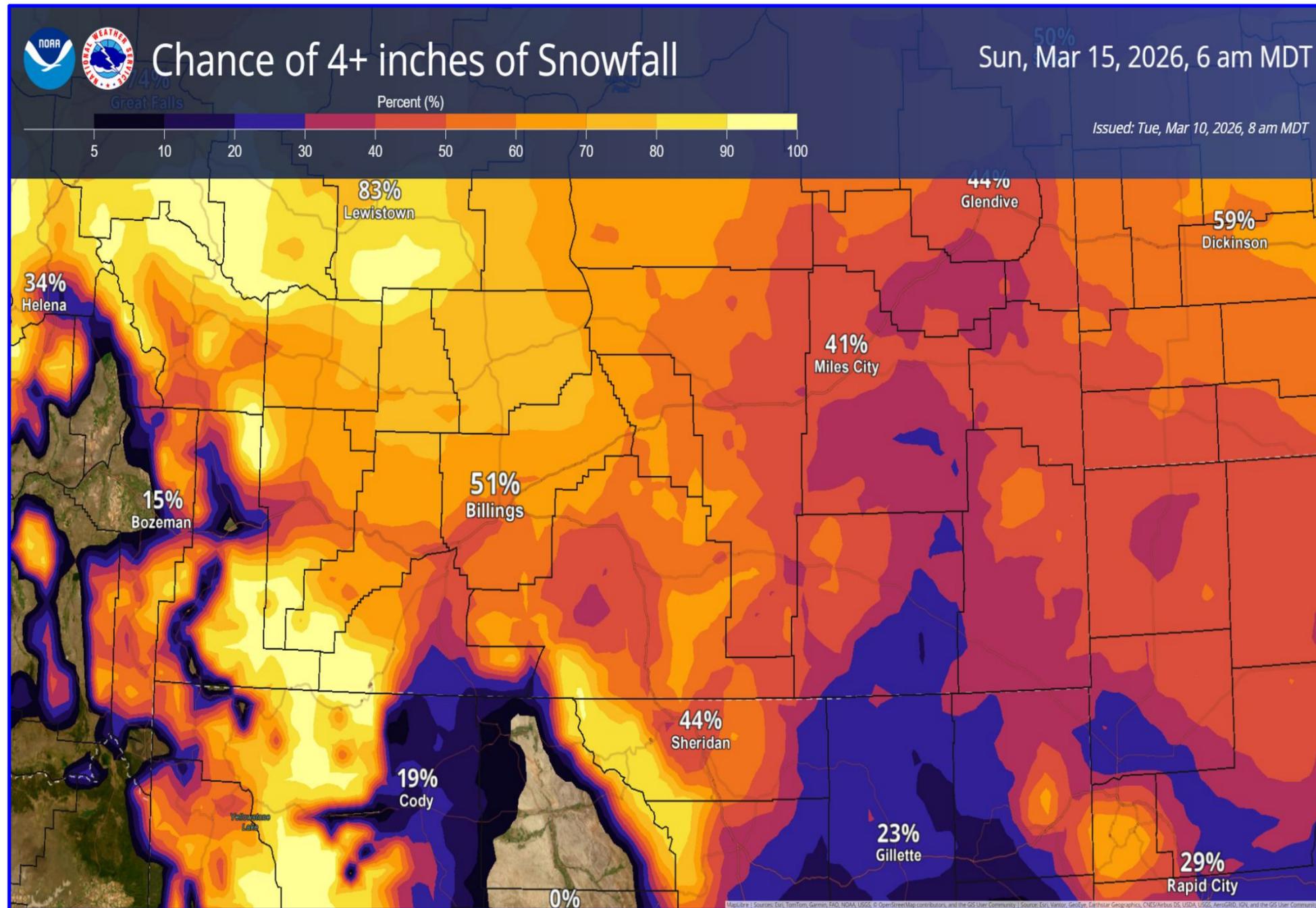




Wintry Conditions Thursday Night - Sunday Morning

March 10, 2026
3:30 PM

Potential for a period of wintry weather, but details highly uncertain



- Details are highly uncertain; precipitation type may at times include a mix of rain, snow
- Lower elevation snow potential begins Thursday night
- Two scenarios Friday:
 - Surface front lifts off the foothills and allows for warm/dry downslope winds
 - Surface front remains along the foothills and allows precip to continue
- Highest potential for snow is Friday night through Saturday night
 - Probability of 4+ inches of snow is 30-60%, greatest north and east of I-90
 - Travel impacts likely
- **MONITOR THE FORECAST FOR CHANGES**



NWS

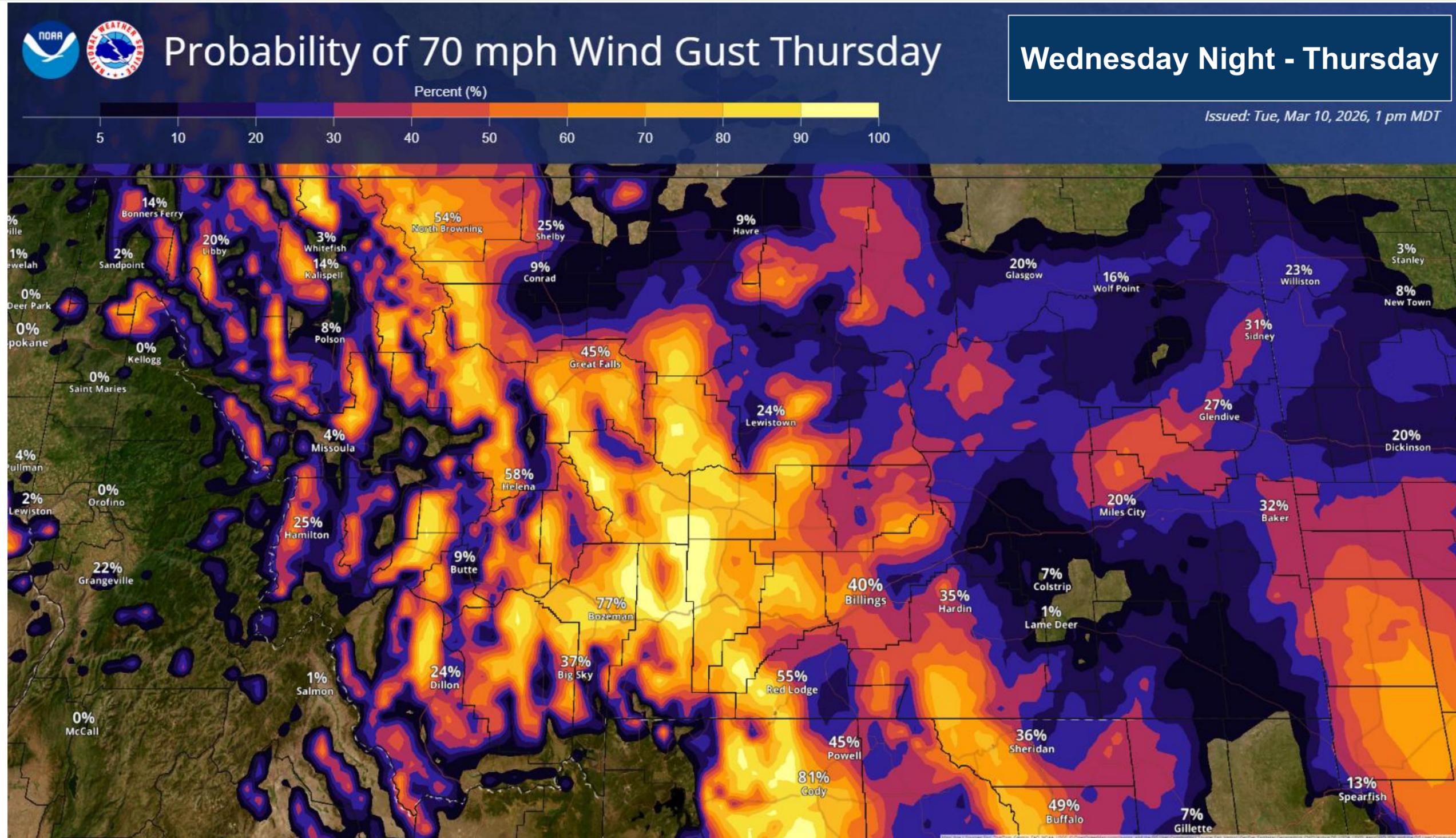
Great Falls



Strong Wind Potential Thursday N Central / SW MT

March 10, 2026
3:30 PM

- Strong winds develop on Wed evening over the Rocky Mountain Front, and then spread eastward over the Plains overnight.
 - Periods of strong winds are expected during the day on Thursday. This could have impacts for those trying to go to/from school.
 - Tree, power line, fence and roof damage will be possible with this event.
 - When wind gusts are over 75 mph, it starts to become dangerous to be outside.
- ...For snow free areas...
- Elevated grass fire risk
 - Areas of blowing dust





Heavy Snow Over the Rocky Mountain Front

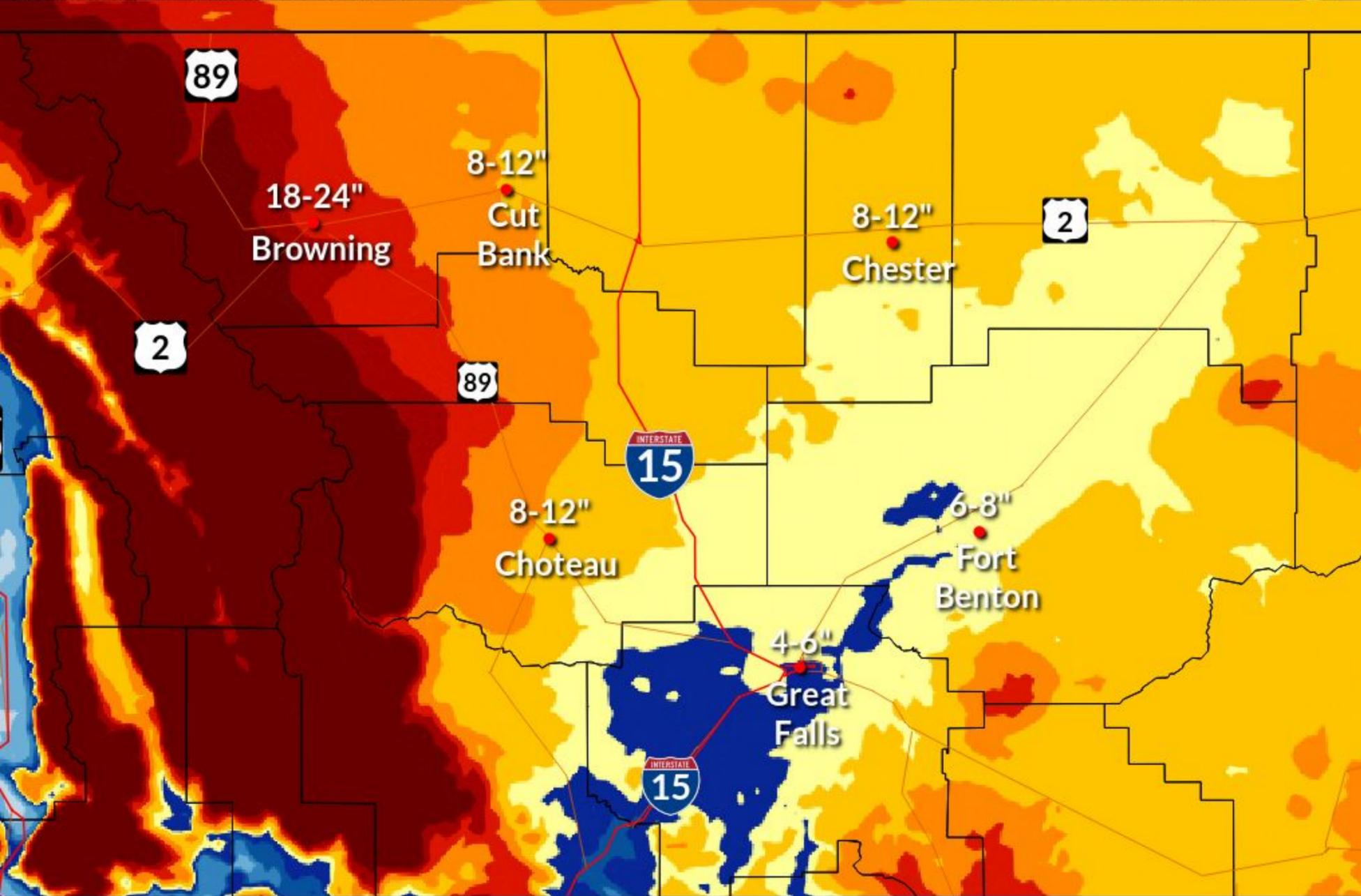
March 10, 2026
3:30 PM

Snowfall Forecast

Valid: Wednesday Evening through Saturday

Weather Forecast Office
Great Falls, MT

Issued Mar 10, 2026 8:14 AM MDT



f NWSGreat Falls

weather.gov/tfx

Main Points

- A prolonged period of heavy snow is expected over the Rocky Mountain Front, from Wednesday night into Saturday.
- Snowfall of 2 to 4 FEET is likely, with some ridge tops getting 5 Feet or more.
- Near blizzard conditions are possible as this event begins over Marias Pass.
- The snowfall will spread out to lower elevations starting on Thursday night.
- The snowfall will accumulate much better during the overnight hours.
- Additional winter statements were issued today.



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

Latest Weather Headlines: weather.gov/tfx/current_mtdss

National Weather Service
Missoula, Great Falls, Billings, Glasgow, MT

NWS

Missoula



Areas of blizzard conditions and high winds

BACKCOUNTRY & PASS EXTREME WEATHER

Wednesday Night-Saturday (March 11-14)

DANGER HIGHEST ABOVE 5,000 FT
Western Montana & North Central Idaho



BLIZZARD CONDITIONS

Near-zero visibility in blowing & drifting snow



STRONG WIND GUSTS

Widespread 50+ mph. Locally 70 to 90 mph (FALLING TREES)



HEAVY SNOW

Amounts measured in feet (3 to 6 feet in hardest hit areas)



DANGEROUS TRAVEL

Treacherous conditions- **Marias, Lolo, Lost Trail Passes**



PREPARE:



EQUIP your vehicle with winter supplies



DELAY backcountry rec and travel over passes



CHECK latest avalanche forecasts



MONITOR the latest updates



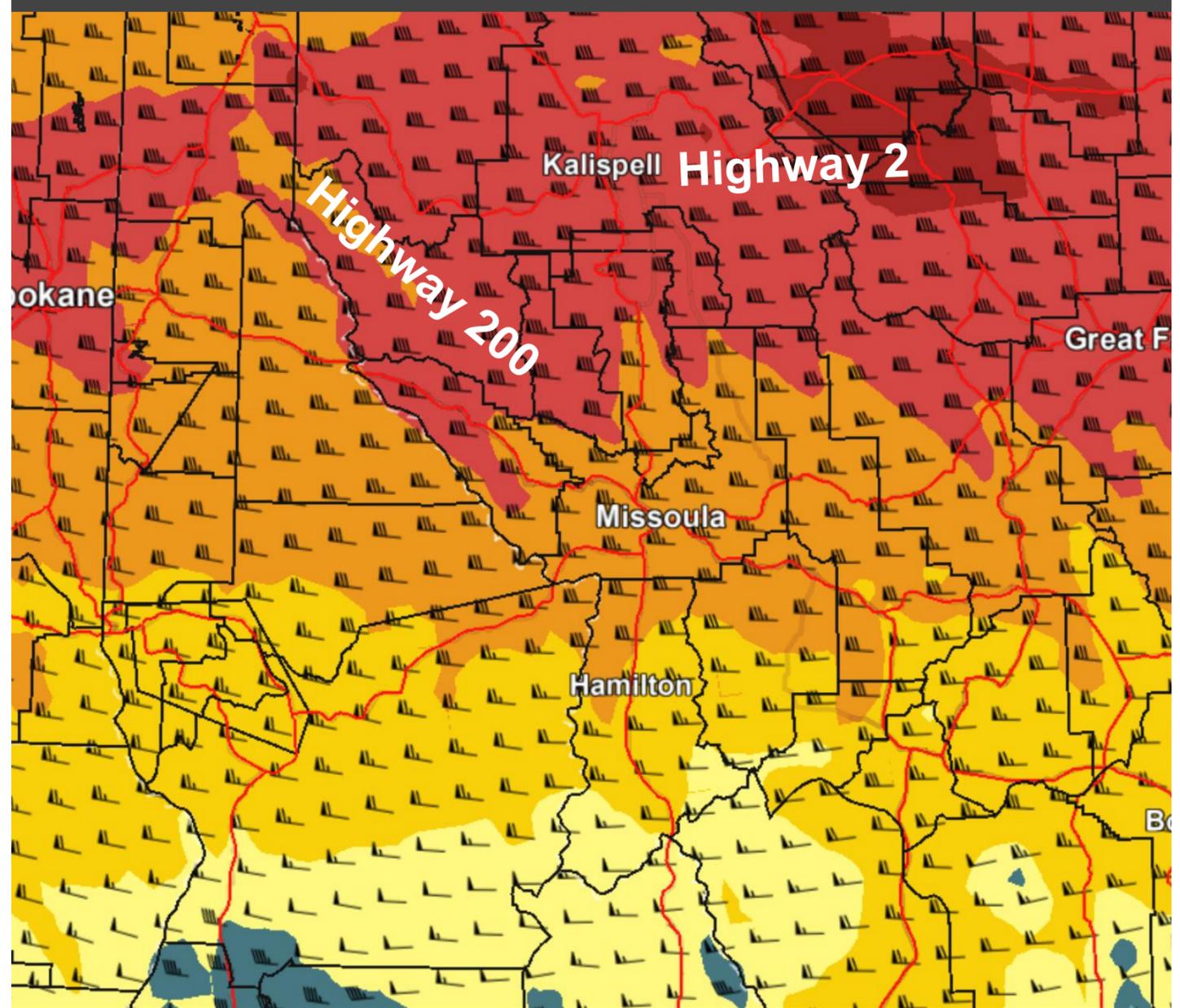


20-30% chance of > 70 mph Wed Night/Thursday

March 10, 2026
3:30 PM

Time of Highest Winds: **12 am Thursday to 3 pm MDT Thursday**

20-30% Chance of 70 mph gusts (Valleys)



Graphic: mid-level Jet Stream Intensity (kt)

- The mid-level jet stream strength **rank within the top 5 strongest on record for March.**
- Tree damage, power outages, Tractor-trailer blow-over and structural damage to outbuildings or roofing.
- **Greatest concern for widespread wind gusts (>60 mph) focused across Lincoln and Flathead Counties.**
- Exact Location Uncertainty:
 - Convective showers will mix stronger winds to surface.
 - Locally strong winds from mountain waves.





Summary

Weather Forecast Office
Great Falls, MT
Sunday, November 16

Any questions?

Web link to the slides from this talk

<https://www.weather.gov/media/tfx/DSSBuilder/statebrief.pdf>



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nws.billings@noaa.gov
nws.glasgow@noaa.gov
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(406) 652-0851
(406) 228-4042
(406) 453-2081
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