

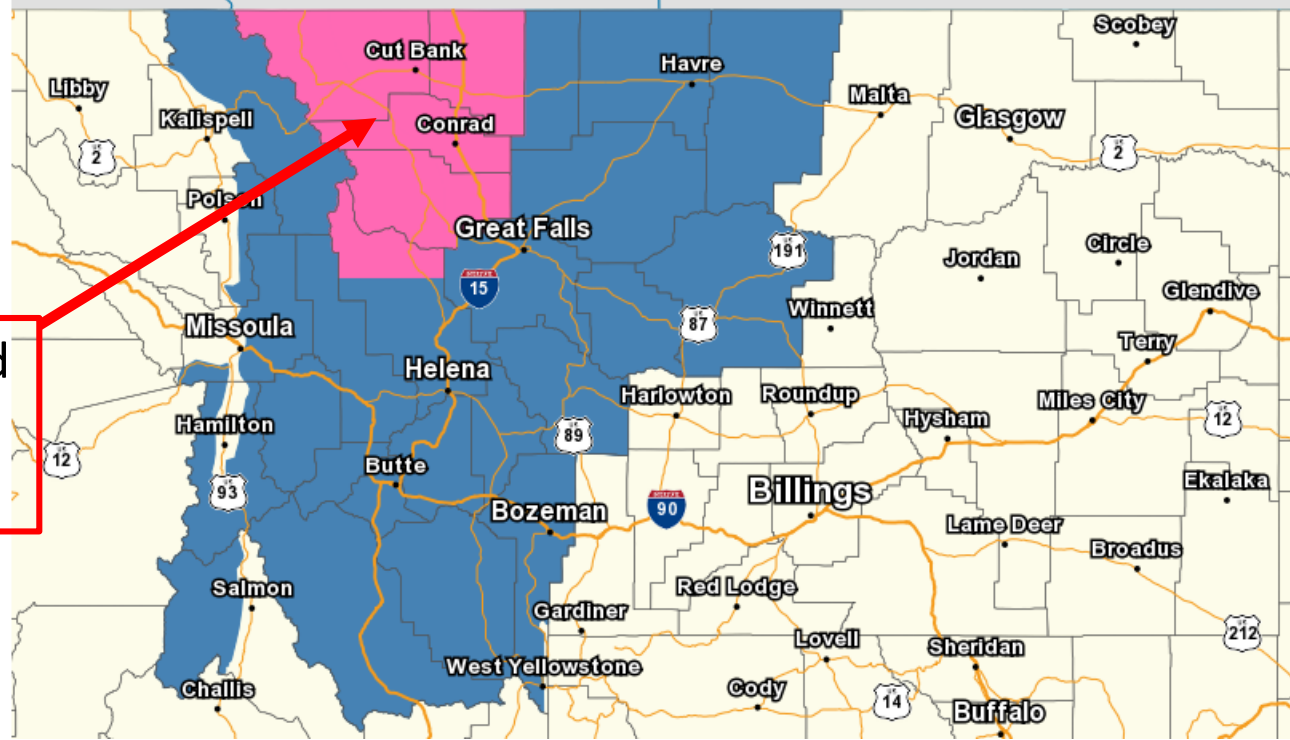


Winter Weather to Return To Montana



Winter Watches Warnings and Advisories

Near Blizzard
Conditions
Possible



Message of the Day:



A major fall storm is expected to affect the region from Thursday through Monday. Strong winds on Thursday will transition to periods of heavy rain and snow beginning on Friday and continuing into Monday. Widespread significant impacts from snowfall are possible because of tree damage, power outages and to livestock.



Important Forecast Changes

High Wind Warning now in effect for much of North Central MT. Winter Storm Warning now in effect across the Rocky Mountain Front and adjacent high plains where near blizzard conditions are possible. Winter Storm Watches now in effect for portions of North Central and Southwest MT as well. [Snowfall amounts](#) continue to be fine tuned. Stay Tuned!



Strong Winds Thursday

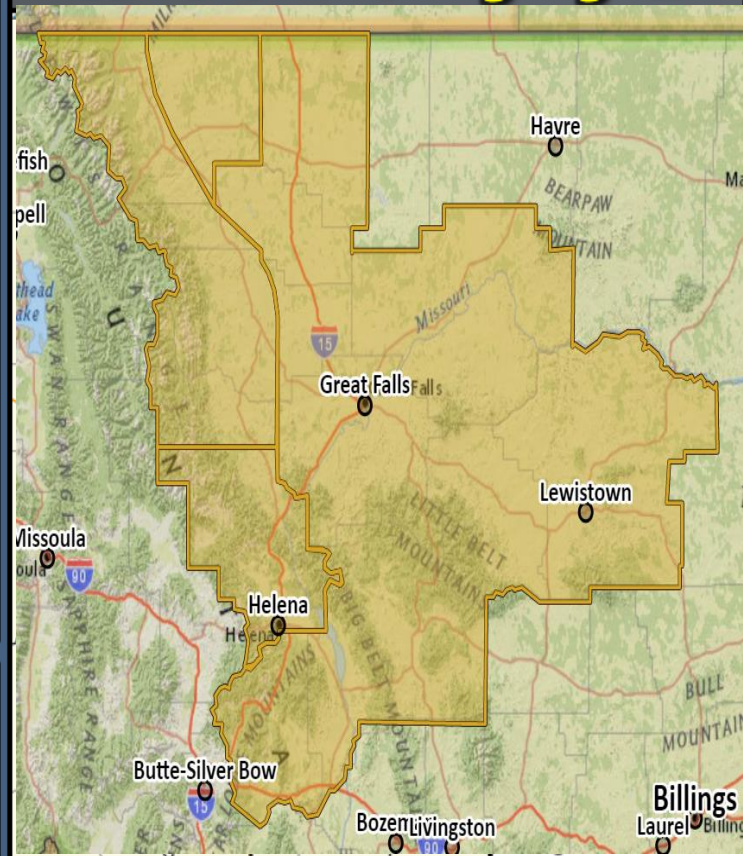


Strong Winds Expected Thursday

Overview

- Rocky Mountain Front and Eastern Glacier County
 - West winds 40 to 50 mph, with gusts up to 80 mph possible
- Plains and Valleys of North Central and Central Montana
 - West winds 30 to 40 mph, with gusts of 60 to 65 mph possible
- Damage to trees and power lines is possible
- Difficult travel for high profile and light weight trailers

Current Wind Highlights



Impacts

 Recreation near Ridgetops	 Tree/Property Damage	 Difficult Driving
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Above is the high wind warnings are for Thursday. Overall gusts of 60+ MPH are possible for most areas, with gusts 80+ MPH possible along the Rocky Mountain Front.

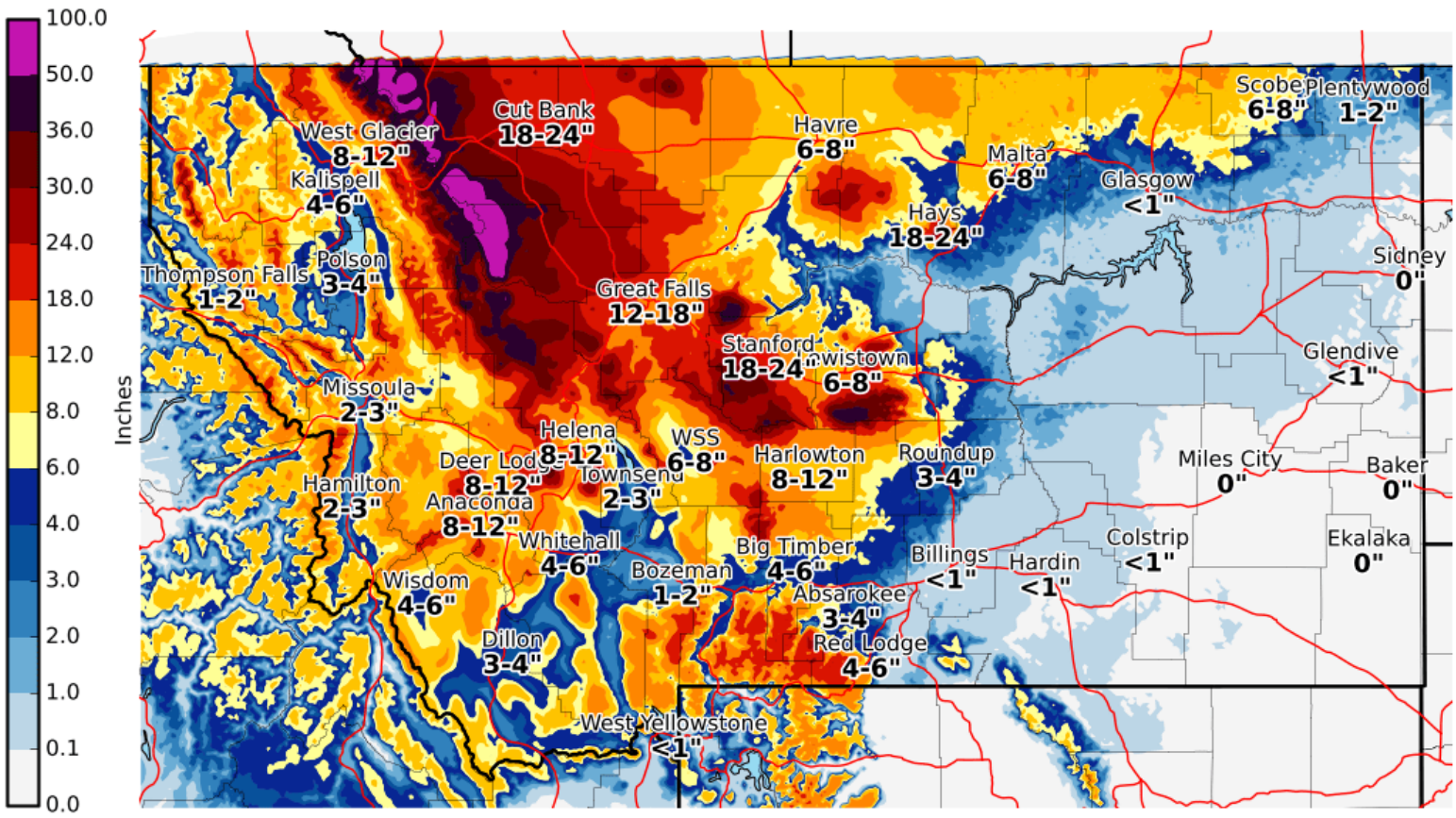
This will be the first widespread strong wind event we had in a few weeks. Thus with leaves still on the trees, some tree damage is possible, along with some downed power lines.

Reminder, do not touch any downed power lines.



Winter Weather to Return To Montana

Expected Statewide Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast
Valid: Friday Through Monday



National Weather Service
Great Falls Montana
09/26/2019 07:20 AM MDT

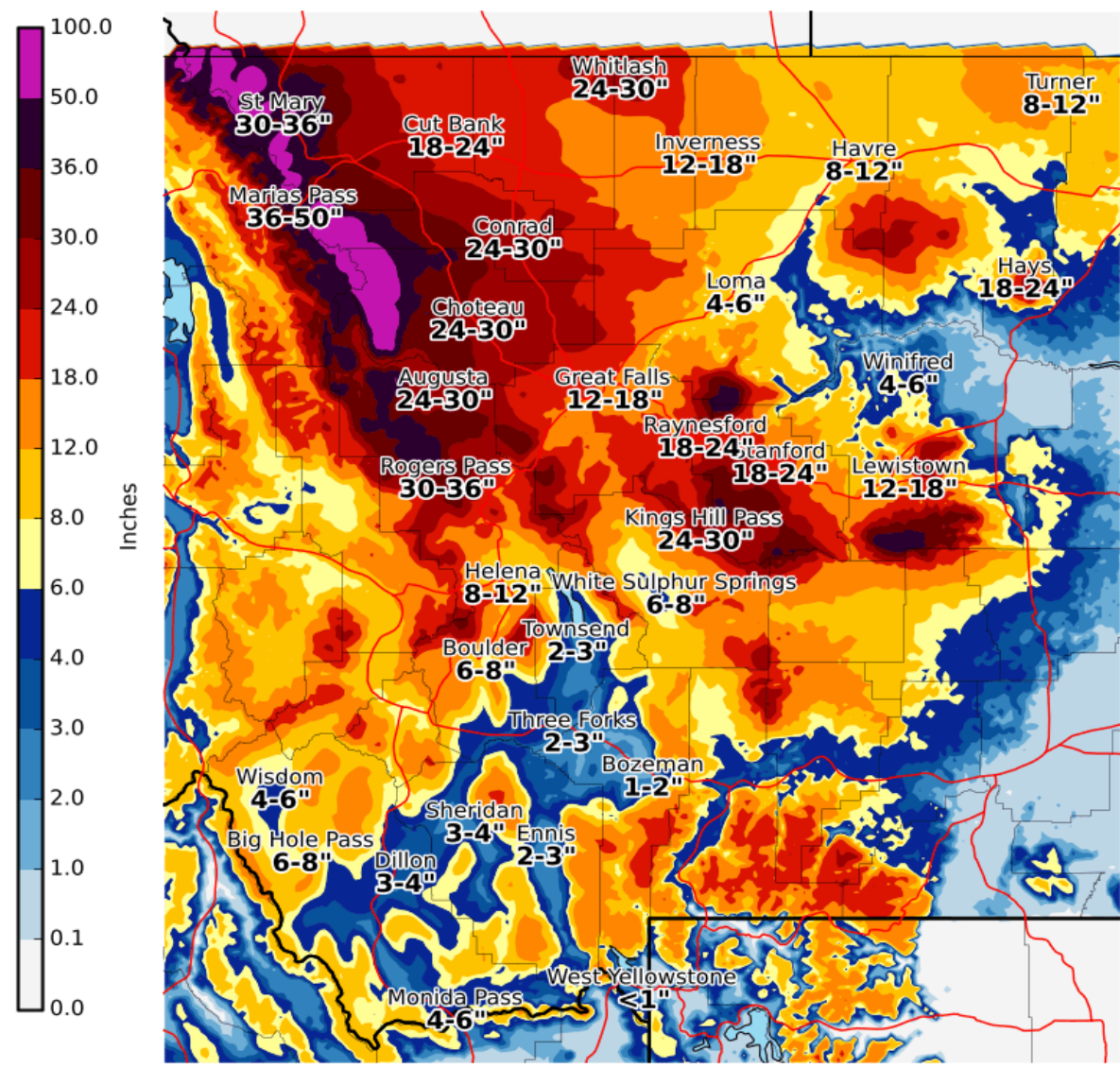
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- Overall Central portions of Montana from Cut Bank to Great Falls to Stanford Lewistown and Harlowton are expected to see the highest snowfall accumulations
- Western Montana could have some moderate to high accumulations, especially across the mountains
- Eastern Montana stays mostly rain
- The Rocky Mountain Front could see 2 to 4 feet of snow
- Check back for the latest snowfall accumulations



Winter Weather to Return To Montana

Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast
Valid: Friday Through Monday



National Weather Service
Great Falls Montana
09/26/2019 07:08 AM MDT

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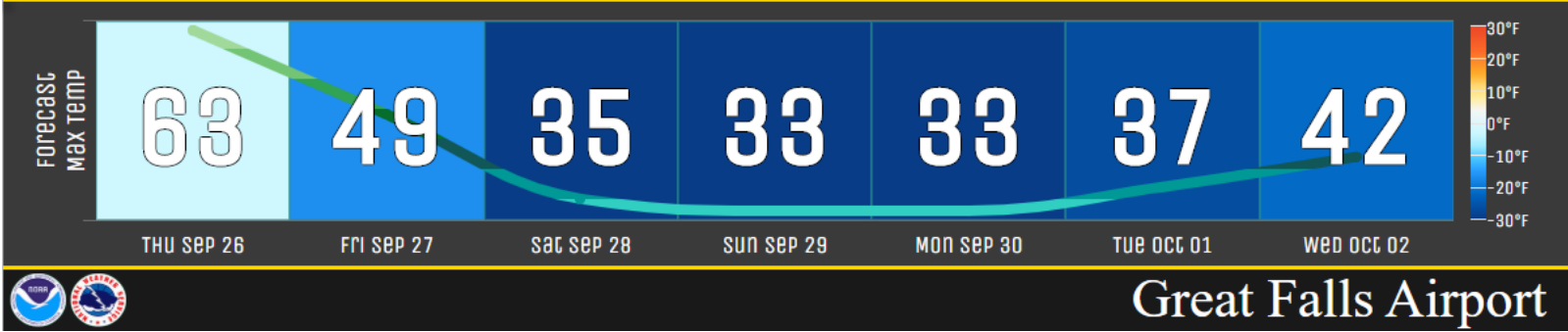
Taking a closer look

- The Rocky Mountain Front and adjacent high plains look to get the most snow, possibly measuring in feet
- Widespread amounts near a foot are possible Friday through Monday
- Note...these are snowfall forecasts, and snow depths may vary given settling and melting of snowfall



Winter Weather to Return To Montana

Forecast Daily Max Temp vs Departure for Sep 26-Oct 02, 2019



- High Temperatures will plummet this weekend into early next week
- By Sunday and into Monday highs across the area will be in the 30s north and central, to 40s across the southwest
- Above is an example of forecasted high temperatures take from the Great Falls Area

Forecast Daily Min Temp vs Departure for Sep 26-Oct 02, 2019



- Low Temperatures will also plummet this weekend into early next week
- By Sunday and into Monday lows across the area could be in the teens to 20s, with wind chills in the single digits
- Above is an example of forecasted low temperatures taken from the Great Falls Area



Winter Weather to Return To Montana



Before the Storm Hits



Have extra food and water on hand that requires no cooking or refrigeration in case power is lost.



Flashlight, extra batteries, and a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio to receive emergency information.



If possible, consider moving vehicles away from trees/power lines, which could fall from the weight of the heavy, wet snow accumulating on them.

Above are some good tips to help plan for this storm.

This is a significant fall storm, that could produce significant widespread impacts. Near blizzard conditions are possible in some areas.

What makes this storm more significant is the snowfall will be wet/heavy and with leaves still on the trees, significant tree damage, along with power line damage is possible.

Power outages could be widespread and last much longer than normal if the outages become widespread.



Winter Weather to Return To Montana

Key Points



Hazards: Difficult driving is possible on Thursday because of high winds. Some tree and power line damage is also possible. For Friday through Sunday in areas of heavy snow, tree, power line and livestock impacts could be significant because of the amount of forecasted snowfall.



Areas Impacted: North Central MT will see the most impacts, but portions of Southwest MT will also become impacted, especially by late in the weekend and into early next week.



Timing & Duration: Strong winds are expected on Thursday. Heavy snow is possible over the Rocky Mountain Front and adjacent Plains Friday night into Sunday, possibly continuing into Monday for some areas. Further south and east, snow is expected Saturday into Monday. The snow could be heavy at times in these areas as well, with winter highlights possible.



Impacts: Widespread power outages, tree damage and [livestock impacts](#) are likely. Some power outages could last several days, making the impacts worse.



Historical Perspective: Storms of this magnitude have not happened since 1934. In early October 2017, the Havre area received over 12 inches of snow, with Rocky Boy receiving over 2 feet of snow, along with widespread power outages in this region.



Confidence

- **High** – A weather pattern change to colder temperatures and snowy conditions.
- **Medium** – Forecast snowfall amounts and the exact time the rain changes to snow. The exact time when the rain changes to snow will have a significant impact on total snow accumulations.

Probabilistic Information At:
www.weather.gov/tfx/winter

Winter Weather Quick Facts and Preparedness:



Quick facts you should know about winter weather:

- Snow can occur at temperatures as high as 46 degrees if conditions are right.
- The record for most snowfall in the Lower 48 in a 24 hour period is 75.8" at Silver Lake, Colorado in 1921.
- Blizzard conditions are met when visibility in falling and blowing snow reaches ¼ mile or less and sustained wind speeds of 35 mph or greater occur for 3 hours or more.
- As little as 1/16" of ice can begin to impact roadways and sidewalks.
- As the wind increases, the body is cooled at a faster rate. The "wind chill" is a way for meteorologists to communicate what the combination of wind and temperature "feels like" to exposed skin.

Preparedness:

- A **Winter Storm Watch** is issued when conditions are favorable for significant winter weather and/or blizzard conditions. *Time to prepare!*
- A **Winter Storm Warning** is issued when a combination of heavy snow, blowing snow, and possibly ice mixed with snow is expected to impact the area. *Time to act!*
- A **Blizzard Warning** is issued when the combination of strong wind, low visibility, and heavy snow will significantly impact daily life.

Find out more information on our web page: www.weather.gov/tfx/

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