



Winter Weather Briefing

For Central South Carolina and the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST

Decision Support Briefing #1

→ As of Wed, Jan 28, 2026 2:30 PM

NEW

Important Updates

- Potential for an impactful winter storm increasing for this weekend.
- Winter Storm Watches likely to be issued tonight for at least the northern/central Midlands, possibly as far south as portions of the CSRA.



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

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Key Messages

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST

- **Increasing confidence for an impactful winter storm this weekend.**
 - Unusually high snow to liquid ratios. No notable sleet or freezing rain expected.
 - Potential for band/axis of very high snowfall rates and snow amounts to develop somewhere over the area.
- **Timing:** Late Friday night into Sunday morning (heaviest snow Saturday afternoon into early Sunday morning).
- **Additional Impacts:**
 - Wind gusts over 30 mph likely Saturday evening into early Sunday morning.
 - Rain/melting snow initially will quickly freeze forming a layer of ice on roadways/walkways before snow accumulations ramp up.
 - Extremely cold temperatures/wind chill values into early next week.



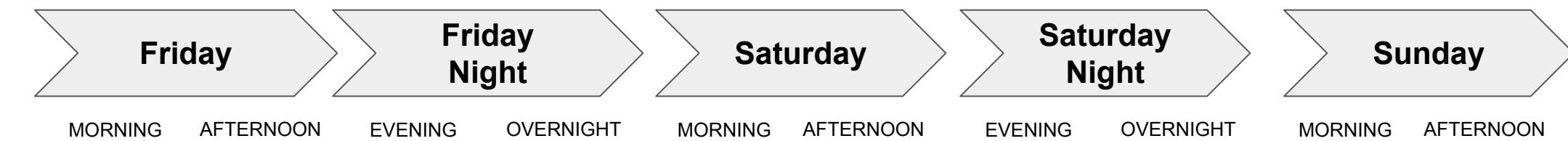
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC

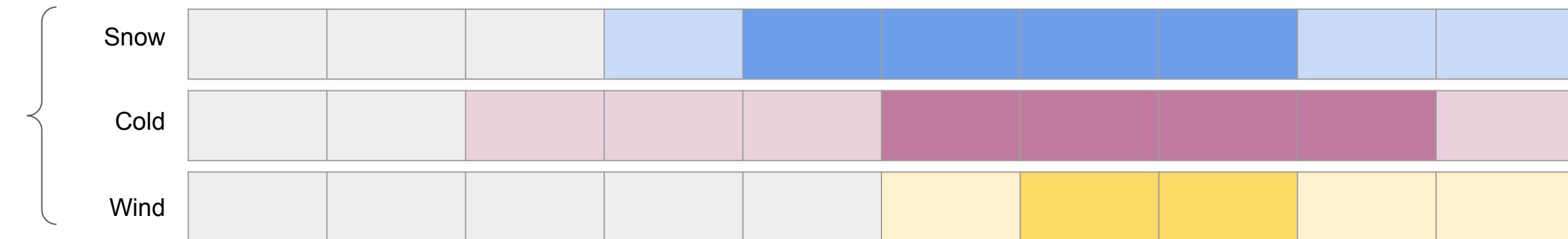


Summary of Greatest Impacts

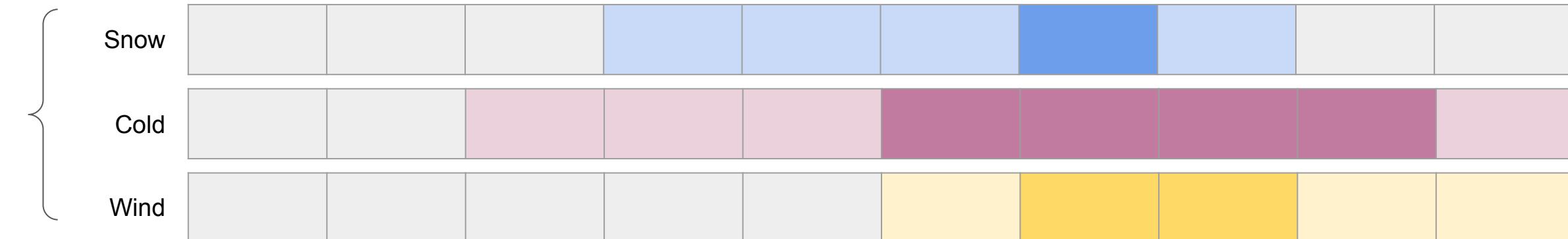
January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



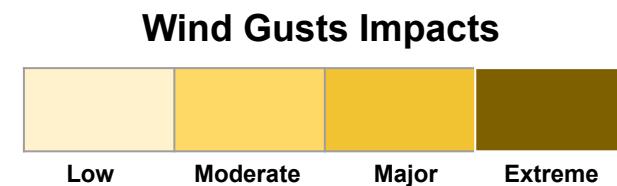
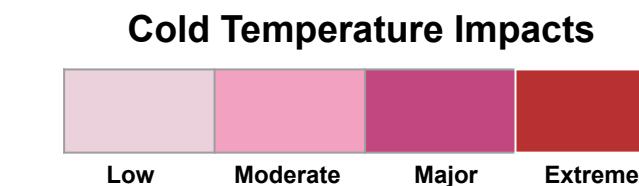
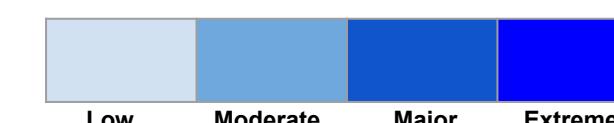
Central & Northern Midlands



Eastern GA & CSRA



LEGEND



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

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC

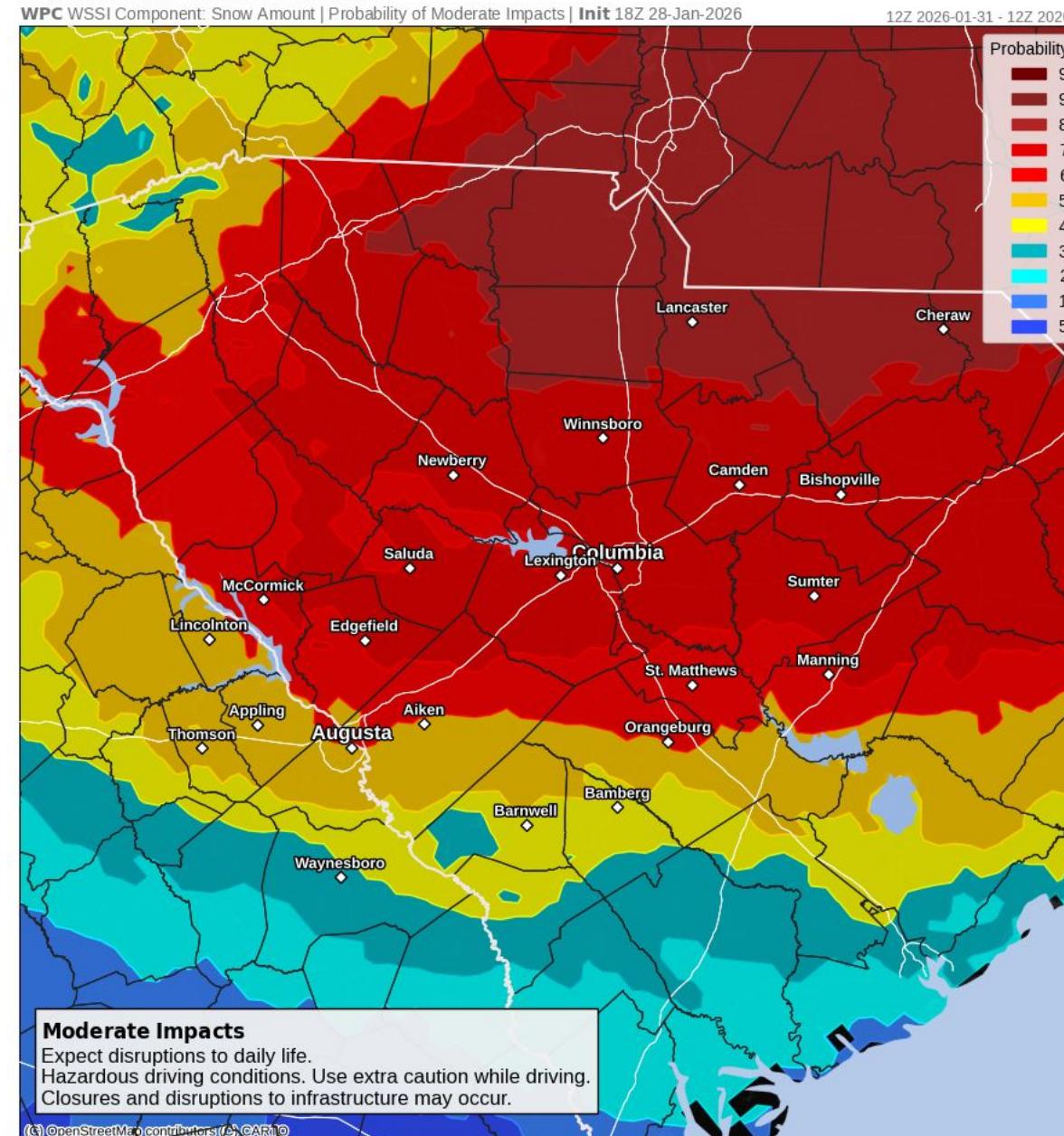


Potential Impacts

Saturday and Saturday Night

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST

Probabilistic WSSI Forecast



Probability of Moderate Impacts continues to increase, with 60-90% confidence across the northern/central Midlands.



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

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



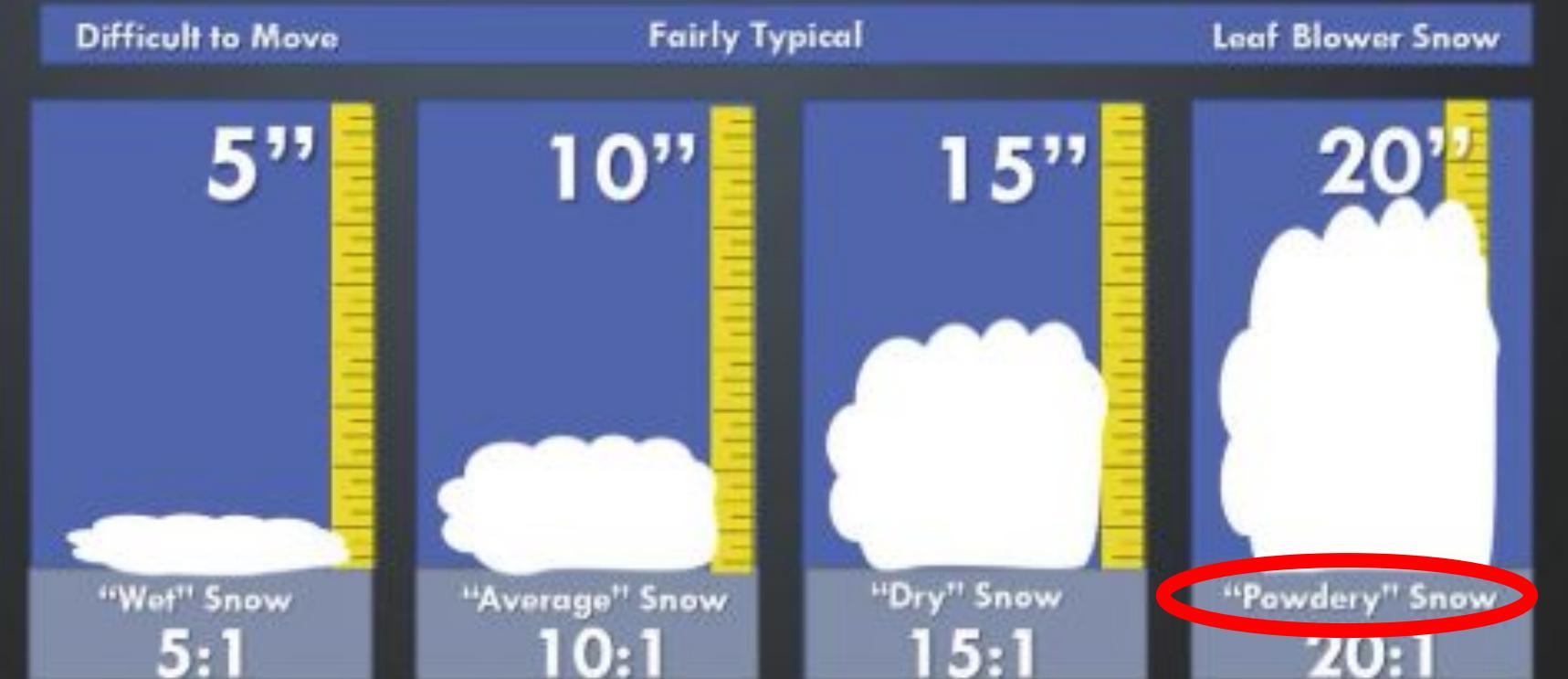
Snow Liquid Ratios

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST

What's The "Snow Liquid Ratio"?

The "Snow Liquid Ratio" (SLR)
Determines the Weight of Your Snow

For Every
1" of Liquid



Average SLR is 8:1
Expected SLR is ~20:1

For Example: In a typical snow event in our area, we could receive 0.15" LIQUID which would yield 1.2" of SNOW.

In this event, that same 0.15" LIQUID would yield ~3" of SNOW.



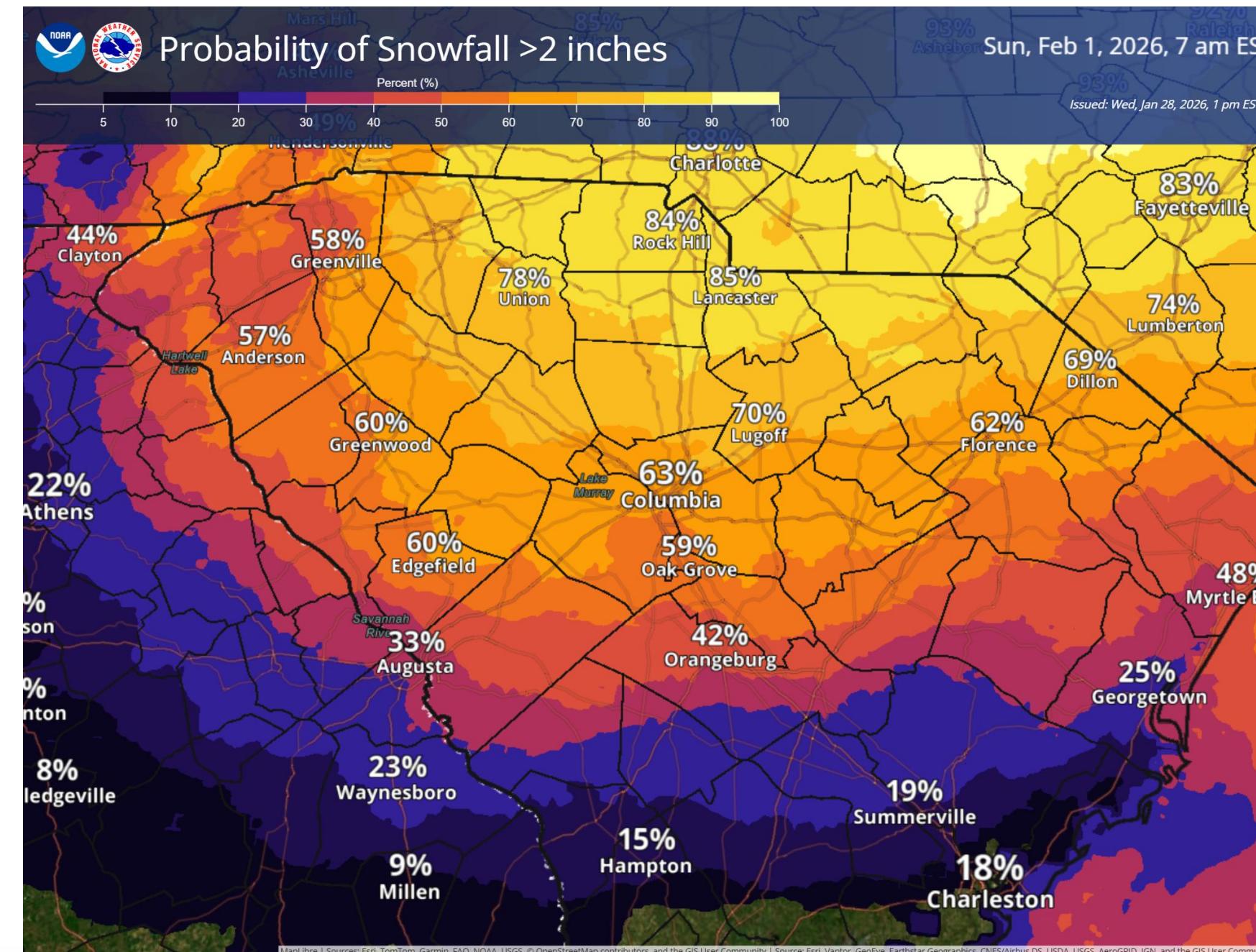
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Snow Probabilities

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



This graphic depicts the chance of 2" of snow or more occurring.

This is our criteria for issuing winter storm watches/warnings.



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

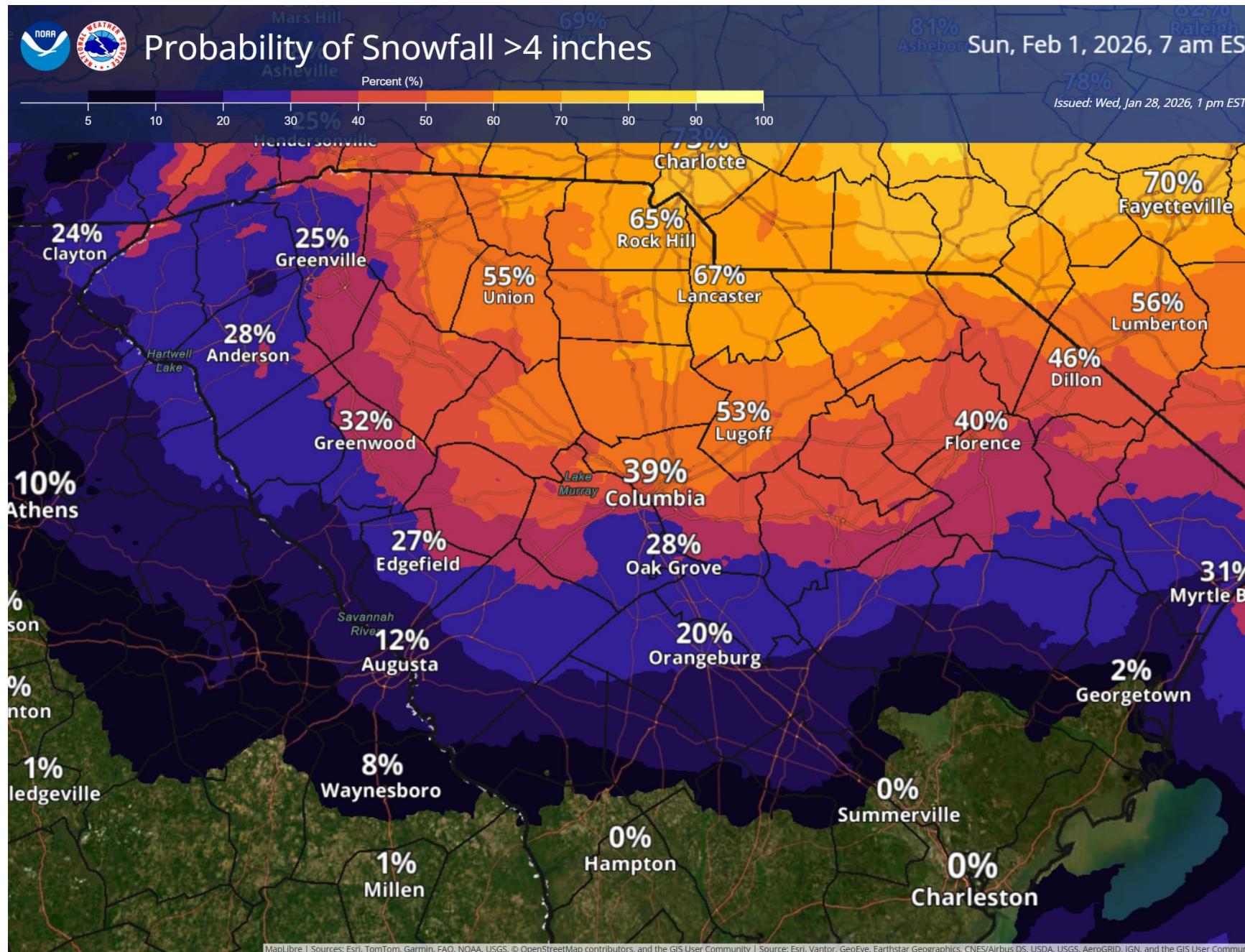
National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Snow Probabilities

January 28, 2026

2:30 PM EST

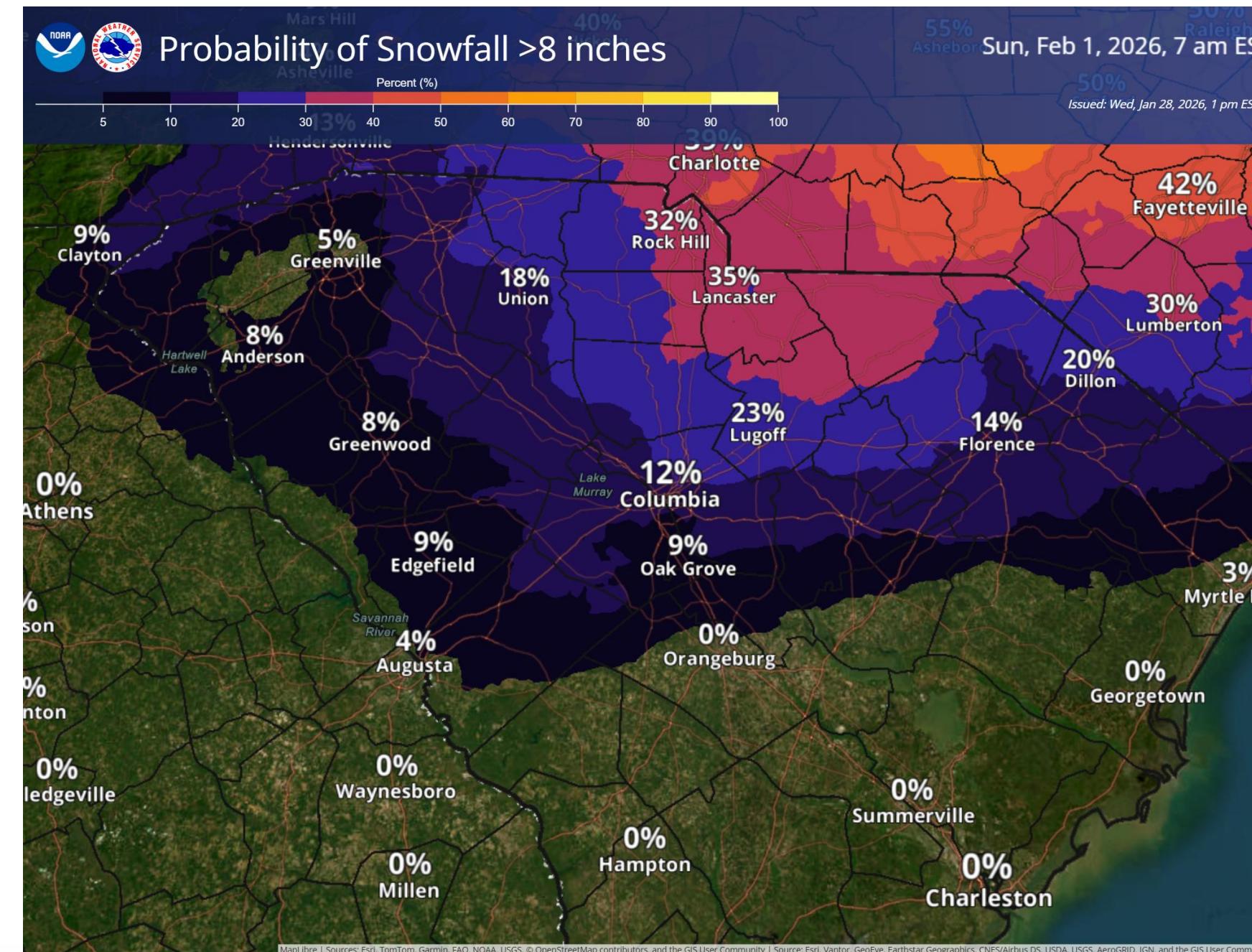


This graphic depicts the chance of 4" of snow or more occurring.



Snow Probabilities

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



This graphic depicts the chance of **8" of snow or more** occurring.



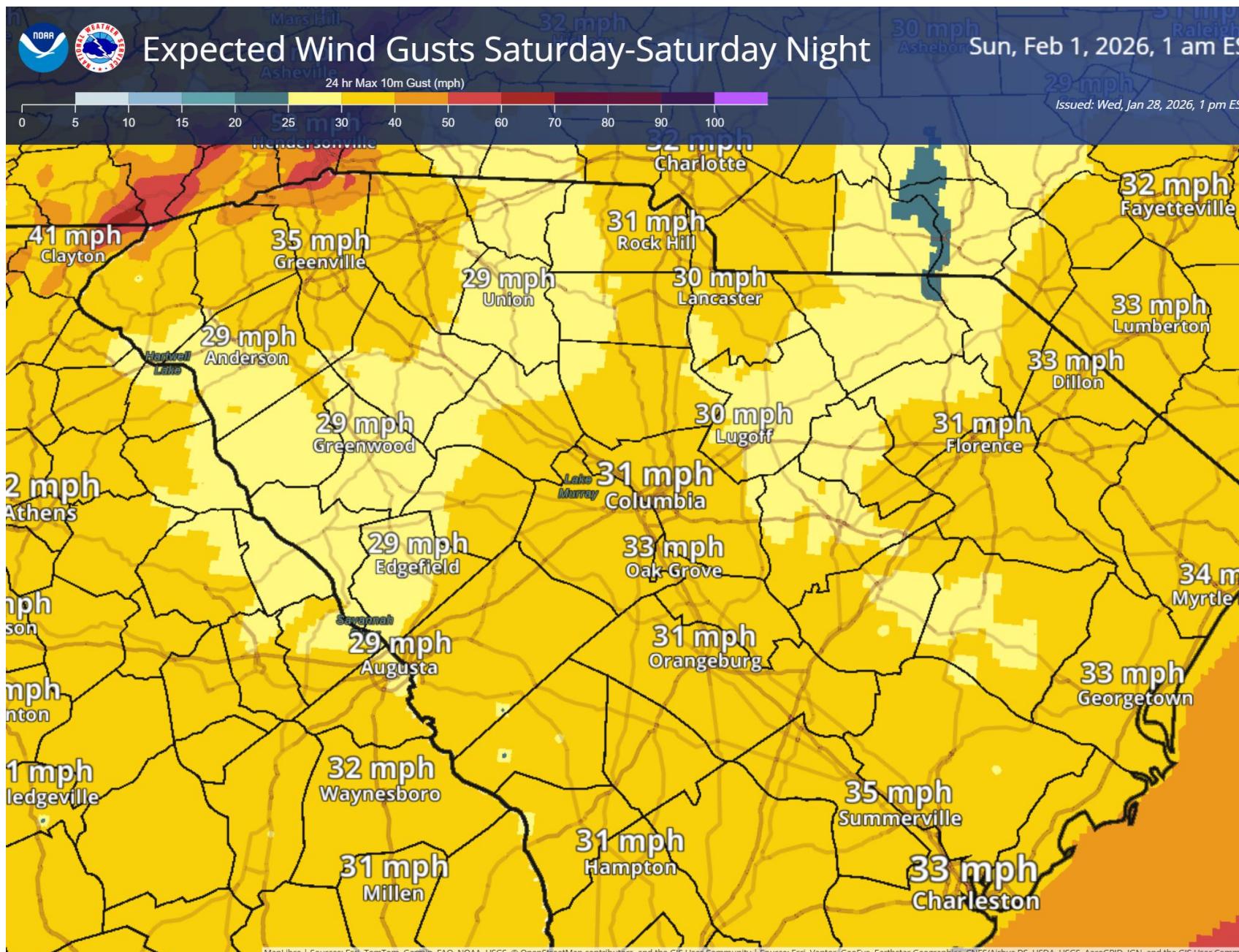
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Strong Winds

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



Strong winds are expected, with gusts upwards of 30-35 mph Saturday and Saturday night.

This could result in blowing/drifting snow which could reduce visibilities!



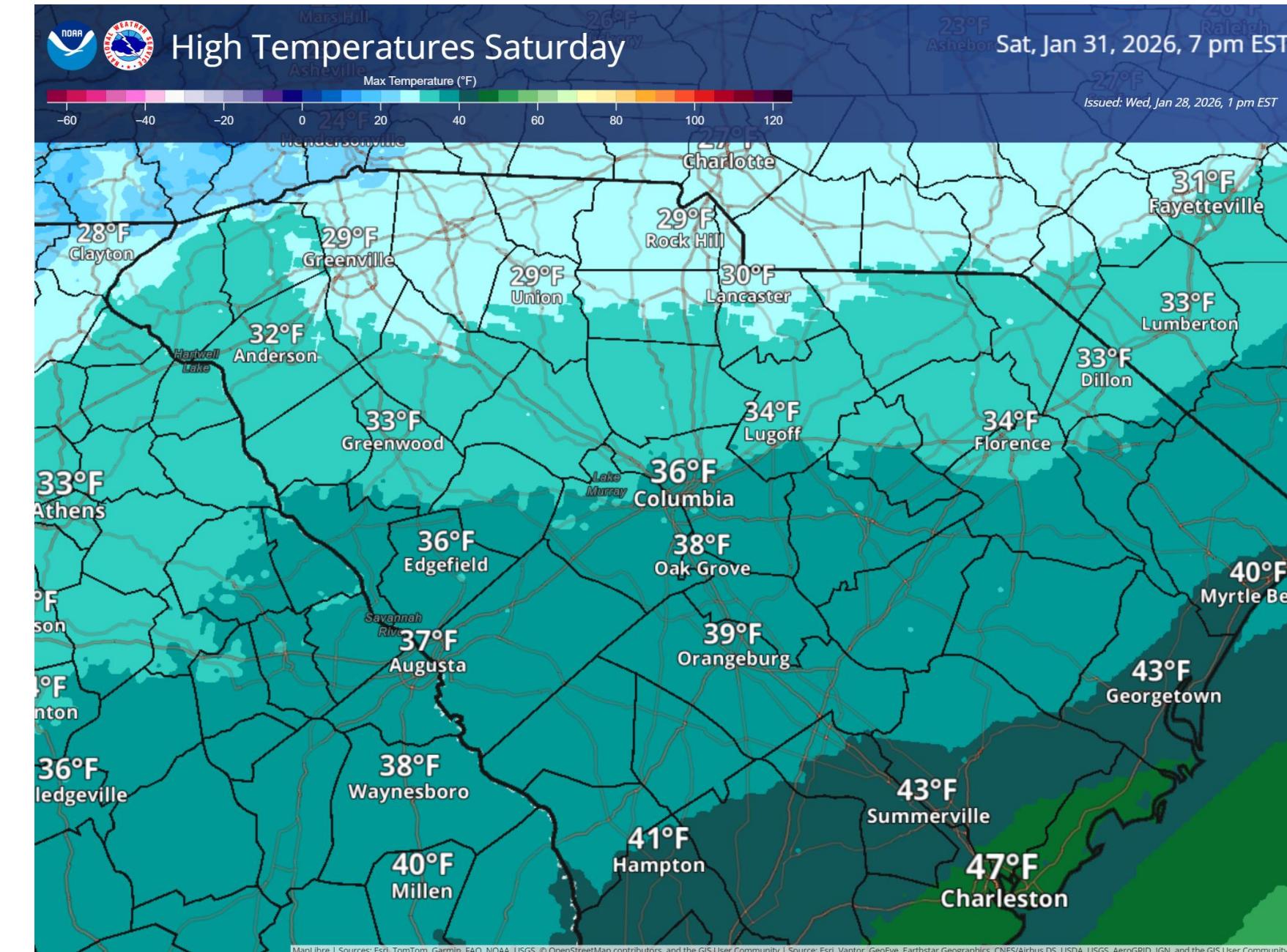
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Saturday Highs

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



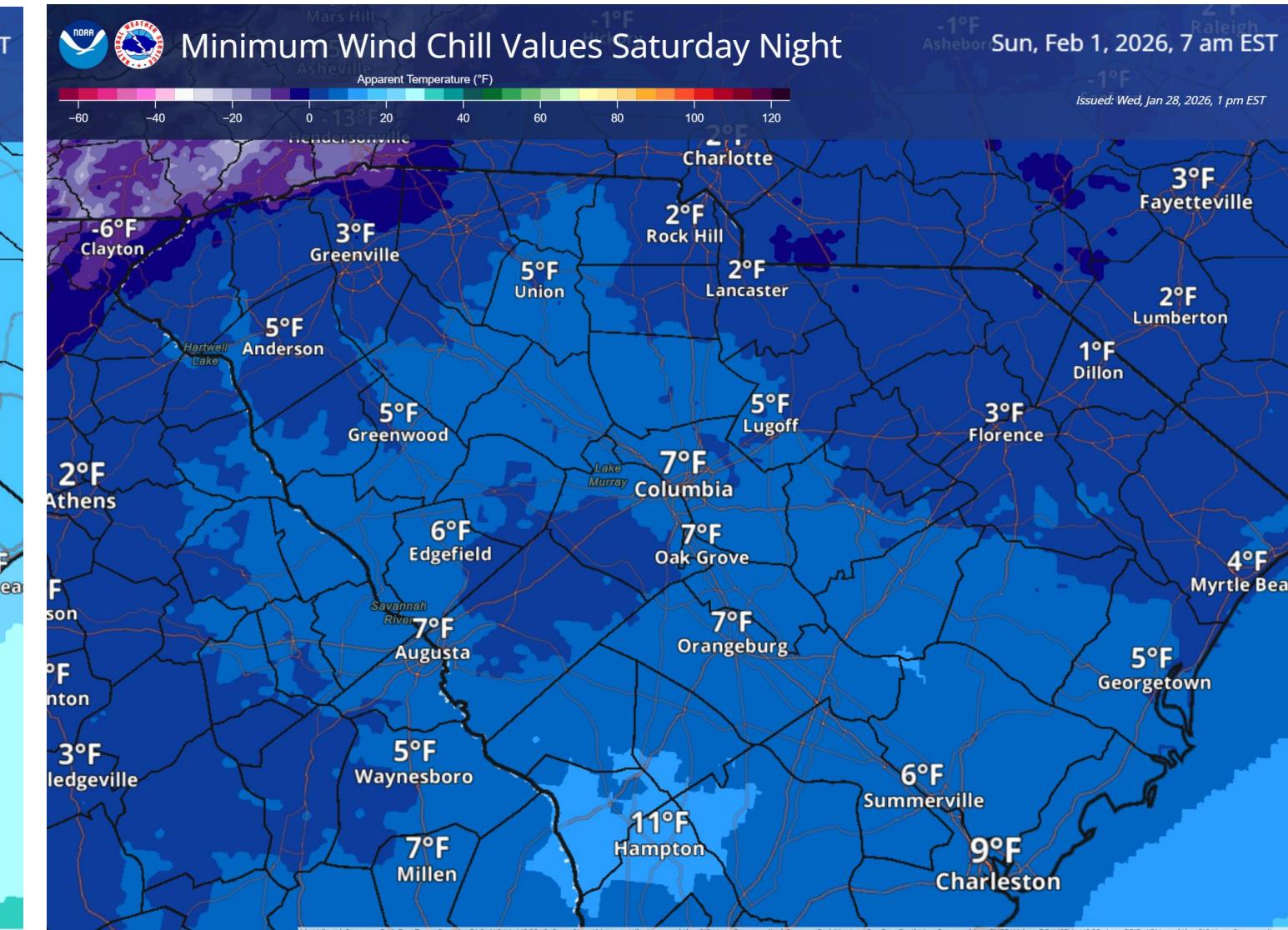
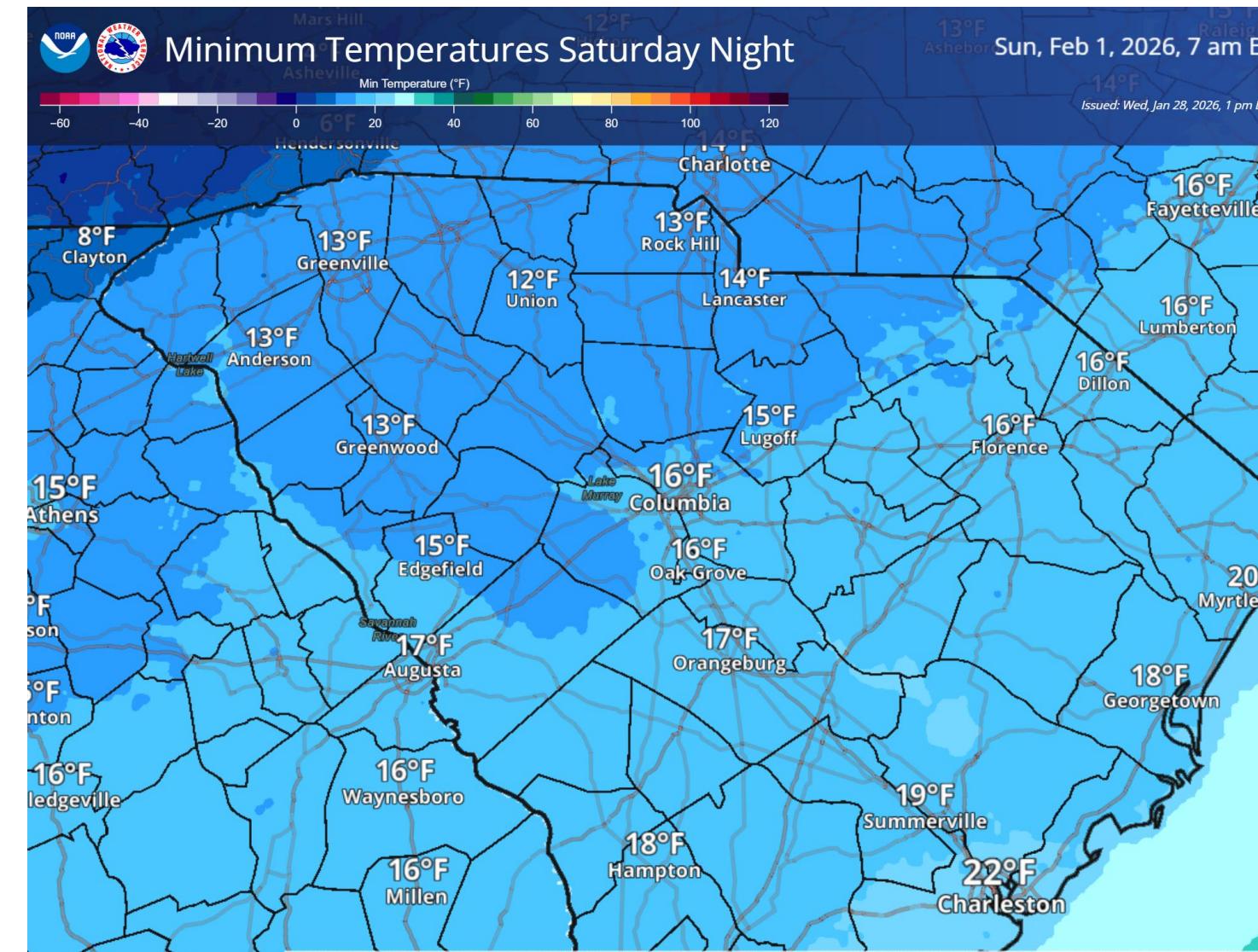
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Saturday Night Lows/Wind Chill

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



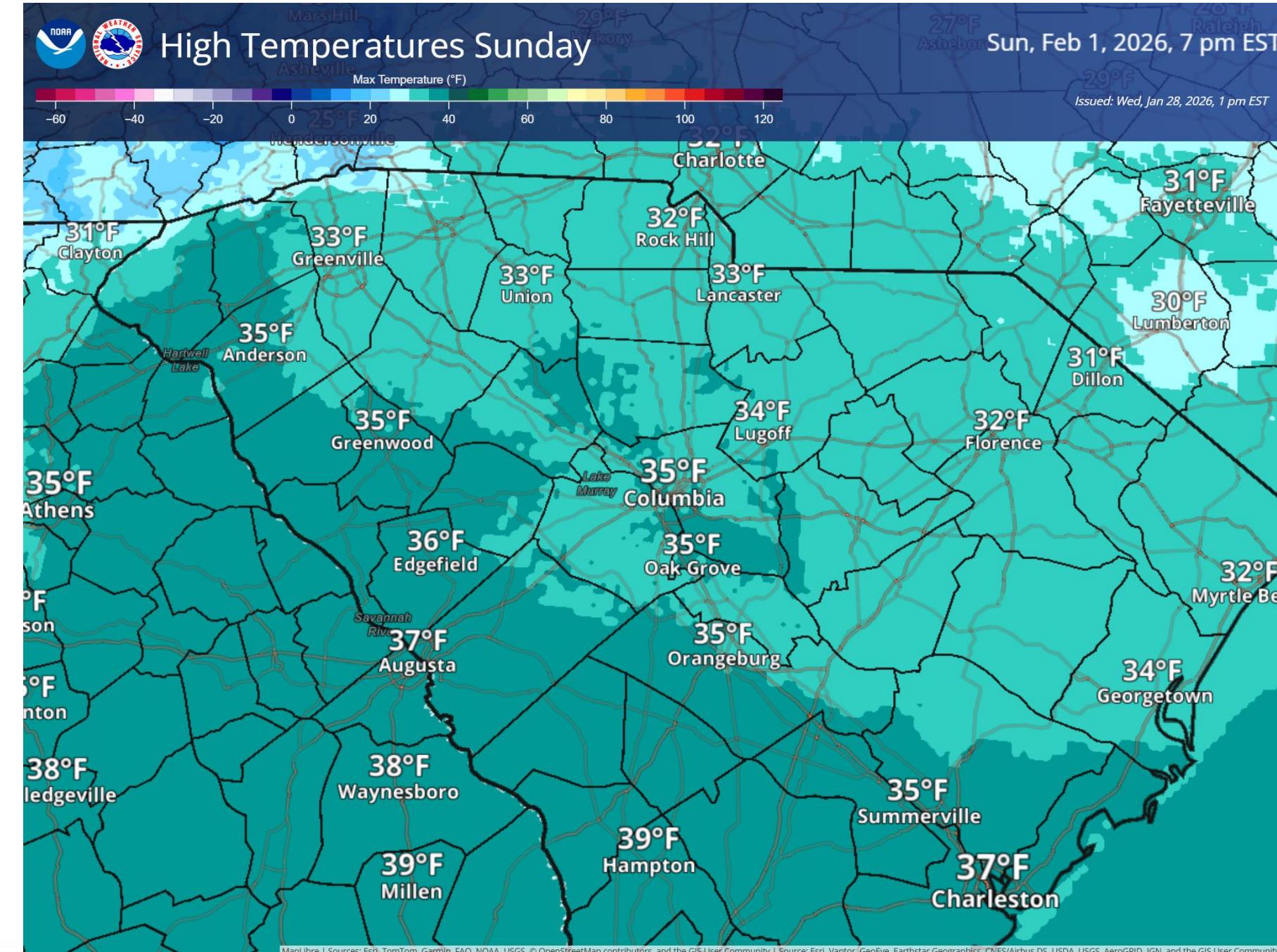
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Sunday Highs

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



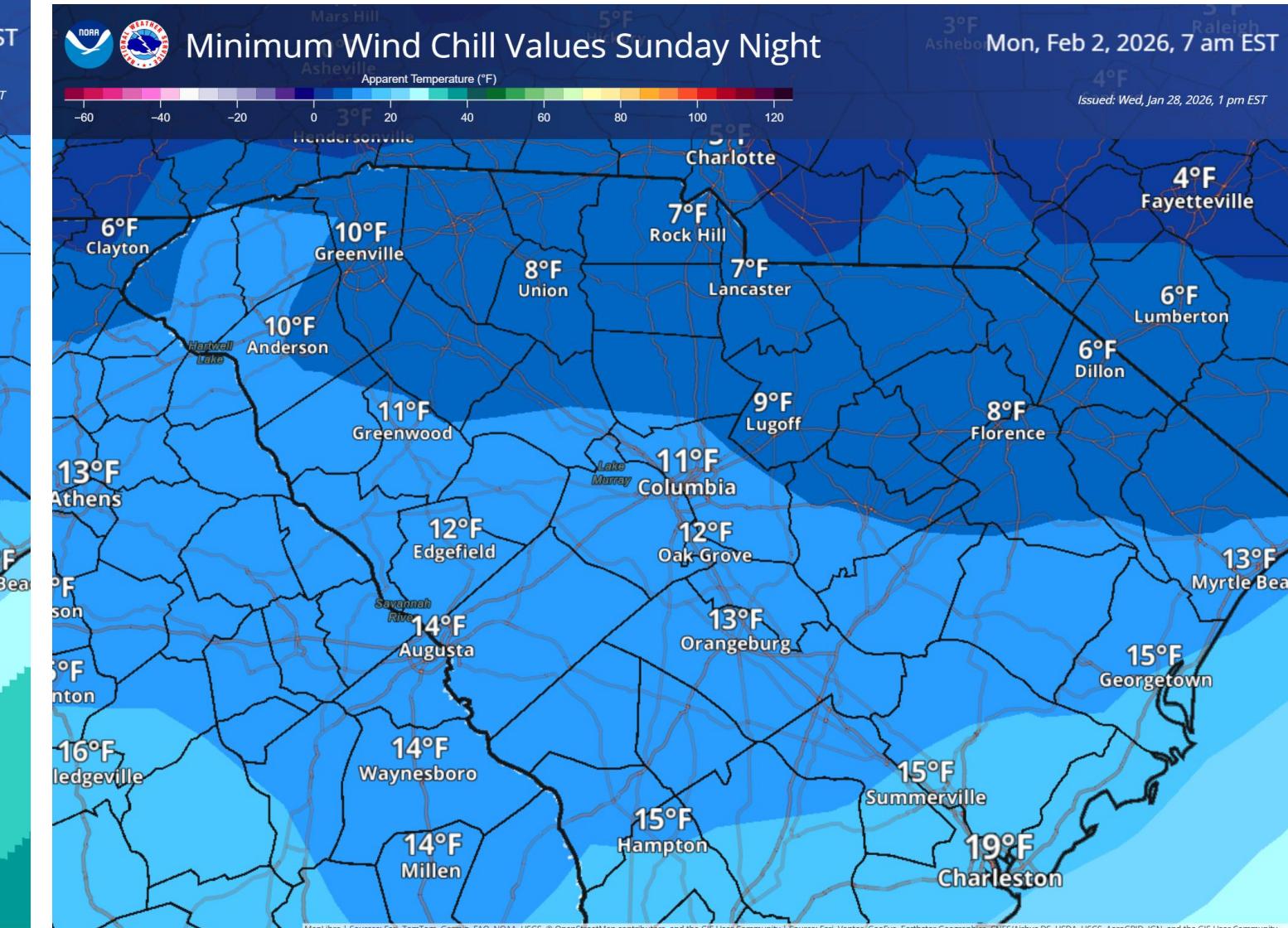
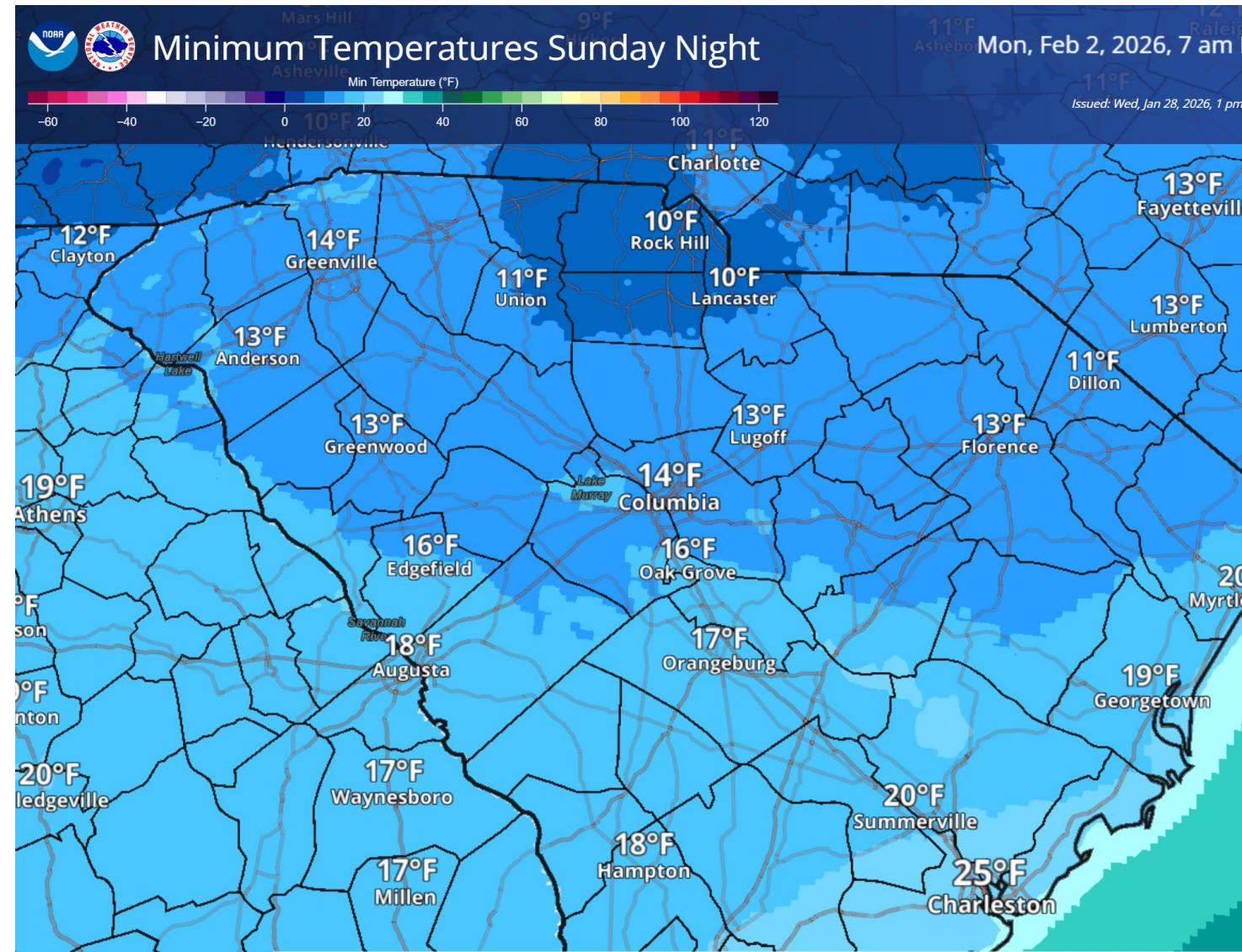
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



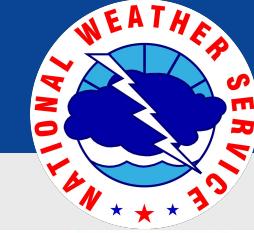
Sunday Night Lows/Wind Chill

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST



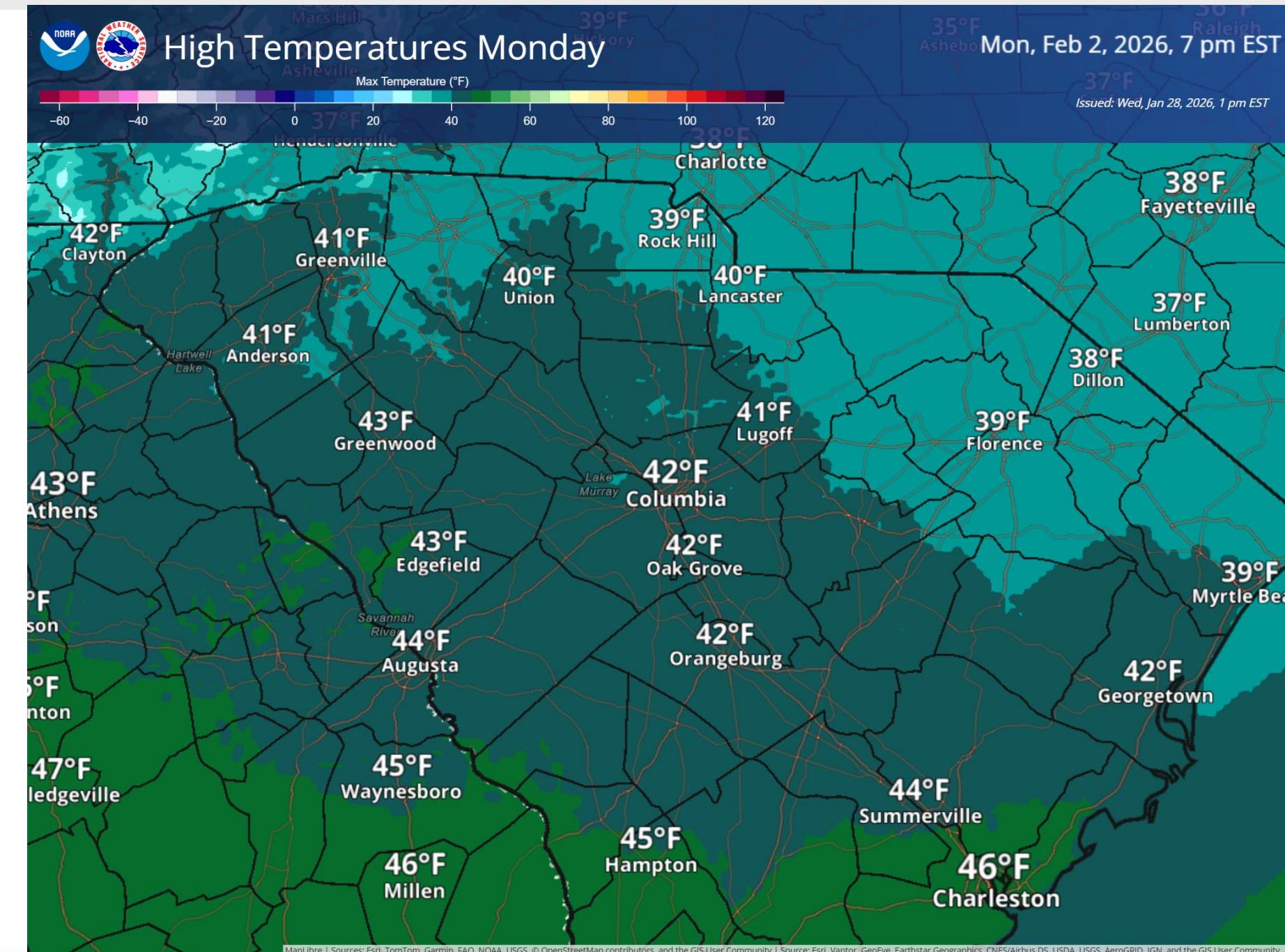
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

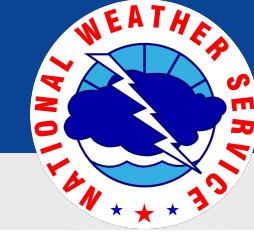
National Weather Service
Columbia, SC



Monday Highs

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST





Temperature Summary

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST

Highs, Mins, and Minimum Wind Chill

Maximum Temperature Forecast (°F)

	1/29	1/30	1/31	2/1	2/2	2/3
	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Aiken	45	51	36	36	42	47
Appling	47	50	37	37	45	50
Augusta	47	52	37	37	44	49
Bamberg	47	55	39	36	43	48
Barnwell	48	55	39	37	44	49
Bishopville	42	48	34	33	39	44
Camden	43	48	34	34	41	46
Chesterfield	43	47	31	32	40	44
Columbia	45	50	36	34	41	47
Edgefield	46	51	36	36	44	48
Lancaster	43	47	30	33	40	45
Lexington	45	51	36	34	41	47
Lincolnton	48	50	36	37	45	50
Manning	44	53	37	33	41	45
McCormick	47	50	35	37	44	50
Newberry	44	48	33	34	41	47
Orangeburg	47	55	39	35	42	47
Saint Matthews	46	54	37	34	41	47
Saluda	46	50	35	36	43	48
Sumter	44	51	36	33	41	45
Thomson	46	49	35	36	44	49
Waynesboro	48	53	38	38	44	50
Winnsboro	43	47	32	34	41	46



Maximum Temperature Forecast (°F)

Created: 2 pm EST Wed 1/28/2026 | Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Minimum Temperature Forecast (°F)

	1/29	1/30	1/31	2/1	2/2	2/3
	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Aiken	25	26	22	16	17	22
Appling	26	26	22	16	18	24
Augusta	26	26	23	17	18	24
Bamberg	25	26	22	17	17	21
Barnwell	25	25	22	16	16	21
Bishopville	22	22	20	13	13	17
Camden	22	22	20	13	13	19
Chesterfield	20	20	20	12	12	16
Columbia	25	25	22	14	14	20
Edgefield	25	26	20	15	16	21
Lancaster	21	22	20	14	10	16
Lexington	24	24	21	15	15	21
Lincolnton	25	25	20	15	16	23
Manning	24	25	20	15	15	19
McCormick	25	25	20	15	15	21
Newberry	23	24	20	12	12	19
Orangeburg	26	27	23	17	17	21
Saint Matthews	26	26	22	16	16	21
Saluda	22	23	20	12	13	19
Sumter	24	24	21	15	15	19
Thomson	26	26	21	15	18	24
Waynesboro	25	25	22	16	17	22
Winnsboro	24	25	21	12	12	19



Minimum Temperature Forecast (°F)

Created: 2 pm EST Wed 1/28/2026 | Values are minimums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)

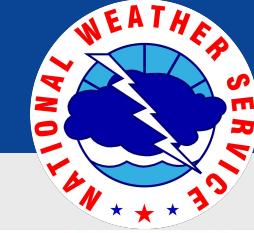
	1/29	1/30	1/31	2/1	2/2	2/3
	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
Aiken	21	26	10	3	10	18
Appling	26	26	13	6	19	25
Augusta	25	26	14	6	16	24
Bamberg	25	26	12	7	18	22
Barnwell	25	25	12	7	17	22
Bishopville	22	18	7	1	7	19
Camden	23	22	9	3	14	19
Chesterfield	21	20	9	2	7	17
Columbia	25	25	12	4	16	22
Edgefield	23	26	9	4	11	18
Lancaster	21	22	8	1	5	17
Lexington	26	24	9	3	11	18
Lincolnton	23	25	11	4	12	24
Manning	24	25	9	4	17	21
McCormick	23	25	11	5	10	23
Newberry	23	24	9	2	9	20
Orangeburg	26	27	12	5	18	22
Saint Matthews	26	26	11	6	12	22
Saluda	23	23	9	2	11	20
Sumter	24	24	10	5	16	20
Thomson	23	26	10	3	12	20
Waynesboro	22	25	11	3	12	19
Winnsboro	24	25	10	3	9	20



Minimum Wind Chill Forecast (°F)

Created: 2 pm EST Wed 1/28/2026 | Values are minimums over the period beginning at the time shown.





Contact and Next Briefing Information

January 28, 2026
2:30 PM EST

For Central South Carolina and the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia



Briefing Webpage

- <https://www.weather.gov/media/cae/DSSBuilder/LatestBriefing.pdf>



Next Briefing

- 6am Thursday 1-29-2026
- Method: Email, webinar in the afternoon planned.



Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: 6am Thursday 1-29-2026



Contact Information

Web

- weather.gov/columbia

Phone

- (803) 822-8135 (public)

Email

- NWS.Columbia@noaa.gov

Facebook

- [NWSColumbia](https://www.facebook.com/NWSColumbia)



- [@NWSColumbia](https://twitter.com/NWSColumbia)



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

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC