



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 10, 2024

High winds expected with blowing dust & Mountain Snow
Travel Advisory for Southwest New Mexico

DEMING - The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) will be monitoring roadway conditions with law enforcement as high wind advisories have been issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) on January 9, 2024, impacts attached from NWS with Press Release. NWS is forecasting very strong winds from 35 to 45 mph with gusts of 650 mph, and heaviest snow fall will be over the Gila & Black Range region, lowlands seeing trace amounts. Roads may become slick, so travel carefully. Gusty winds/Mountain snow event starting Thursday into Friday, January 11-12. High likelihood of cold to bitterly temperatures Friday morning.

The NMDOT would like to remind the traveling public, blowing dust can escalate to blinding dust storms as they move quickly through remote areas. If you must travel, we recommend you monitor local forecast conditions prior to starting your trip and visit our web site as roadway conditions may change quickly throughout New Mexico.

Roadway advisories will be posted on www.nmroads.com, or by calling 511. If you are approaching a dust storm or caught in a dust storm, please follow the guidelines below to help you stay safe.

- Avoid driving into or through a dust storm.
- Do not wait until poor visibility makes it difficult to safely pull off the roadway — do it as soon as possible. Completely exit the highway if you can.
- If you encounter a dust storm, check traffic immediately around your vehicle (front, back and to the side) and begin slowing down.
- Do not stop in the roadway; pull completely out of the travel lanes and as far onto the right shoulder as possible.
- Stop the vehicle in a position ensuring it is a safe distance from the main roadway and away from where other vehicles may travel.
- Turn off all vehicle lights, including your emergency flashers.
- Set your emergency brake and take your foot off the brake.
- Stay in the vehicle with your seat belts buckled and wait for the storm to pass.
- Drivers of high-profile vehicles should be especially aware of changing weather conditions and travel at reduced speeds.

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NMDOT

Mobility for everyone



January 9, 2024
8:43 AM

High Wind & Mountain Snow Event Jan 11-12

Prepared by Luke Rogers



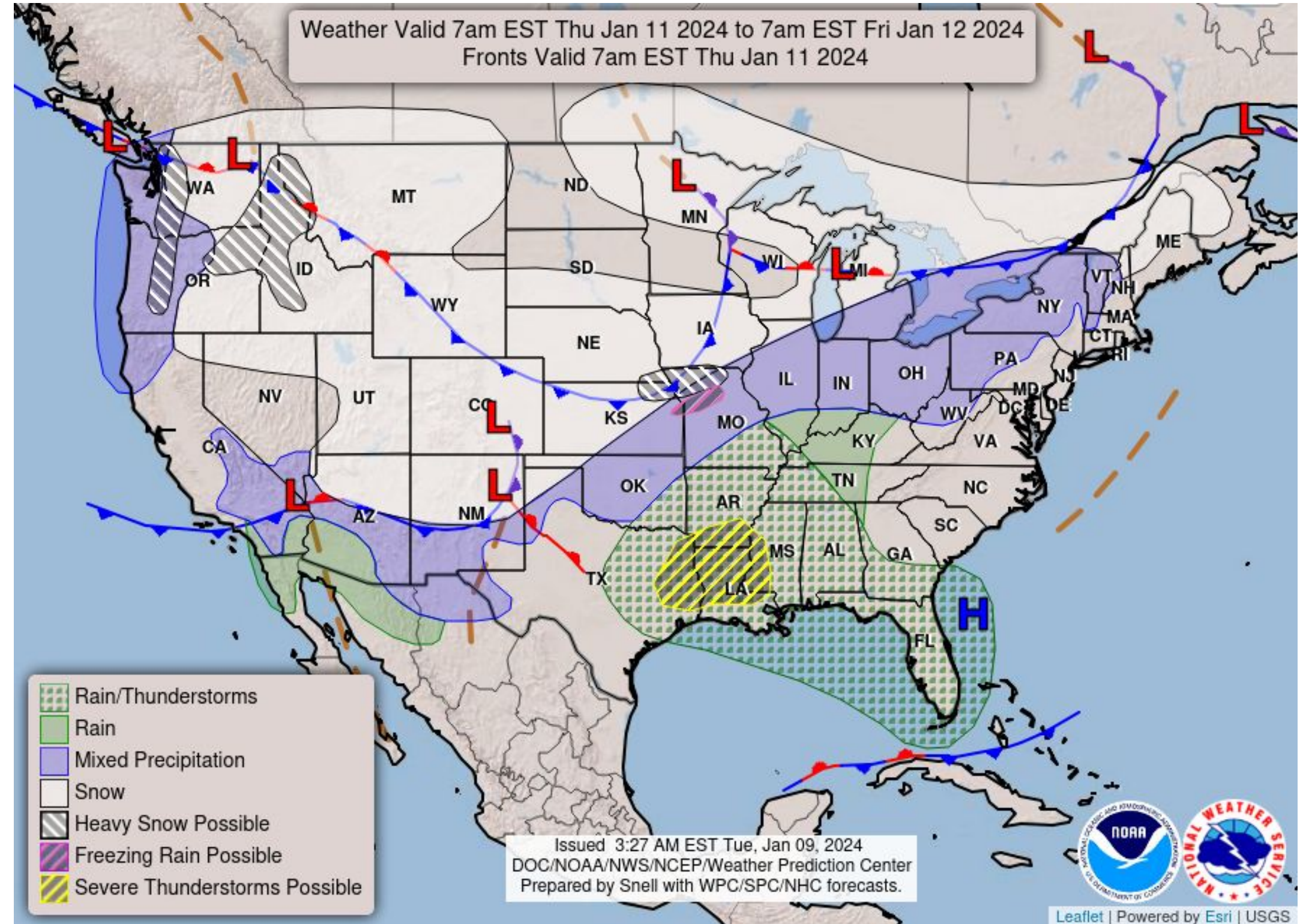
Situation Overview

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Key Messages:

- Strong upper level system and cold front will arrive Thursday/Thursday night
- Strong to damaging winds expected Thursday afternoon and evening
- Blowing dust and reduction to visibilities will be likely
- Mountain snow and lowland rain/mixed precipitation expected

Thursday Surface Chart





Thursday: Strong Winds

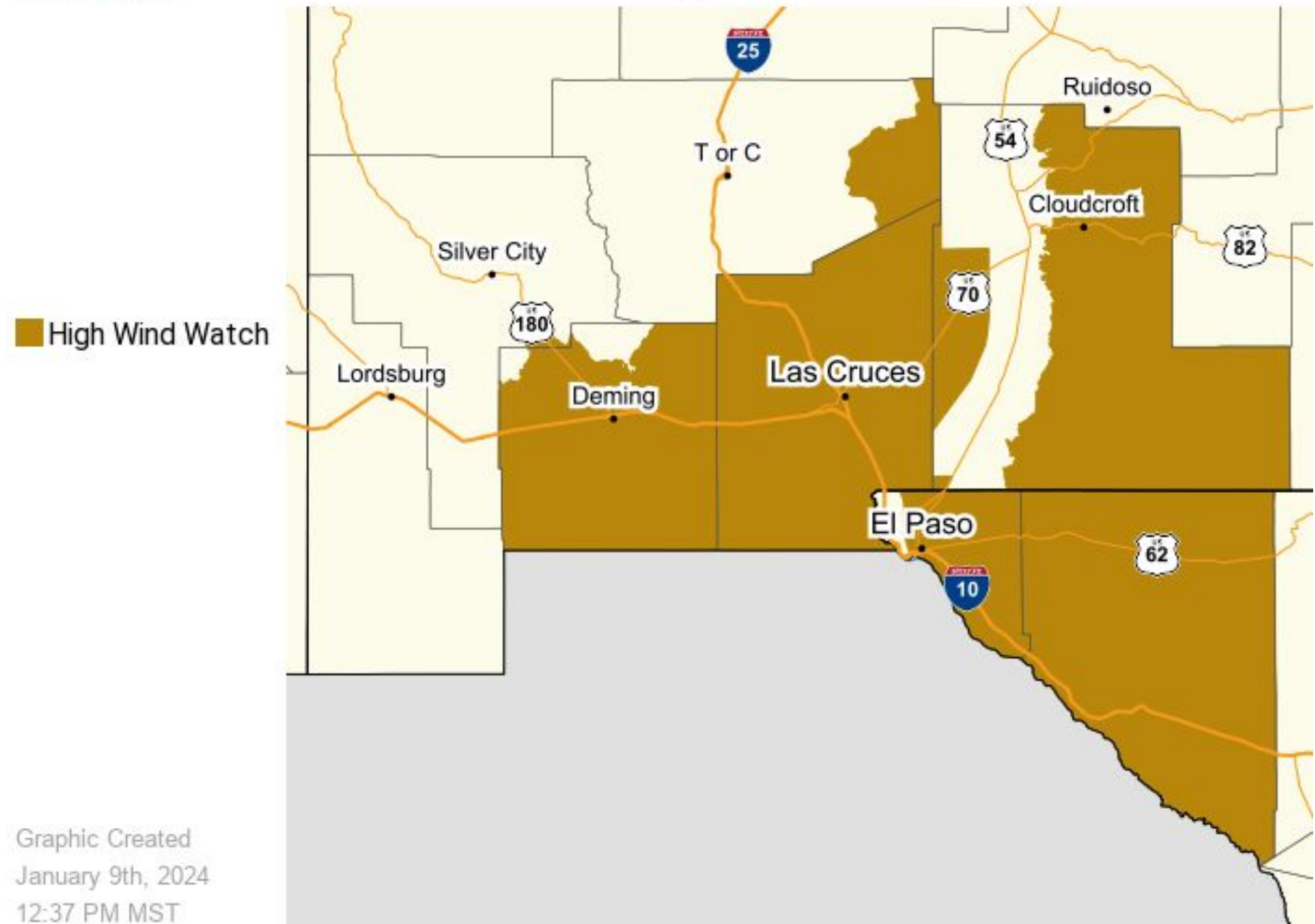
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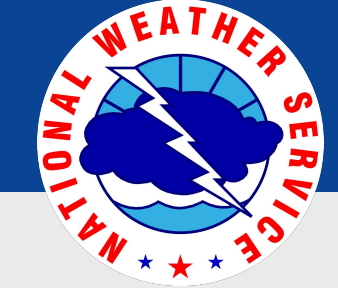
High Wind Watch

- High Wind Watch Thursday: 11AM through midnight
- West winds of 35-45 mph with gusts to 55-65 mph
- Damaging winds could blow down powerlines and trees
- Travel could be difficult for high profile vehicles
- Areas of blowing dust could reduce visibility



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories





Wind Risk Levels

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	Thu, Jan 11 - 1 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 3 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 5 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 7 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 9 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 11 PM	Fri, Jan 12 - 1 AM
El Paso	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Las Cruces	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Alamogordo	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
Deming	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
T or C	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
Cloudcroft	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Silver City	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low

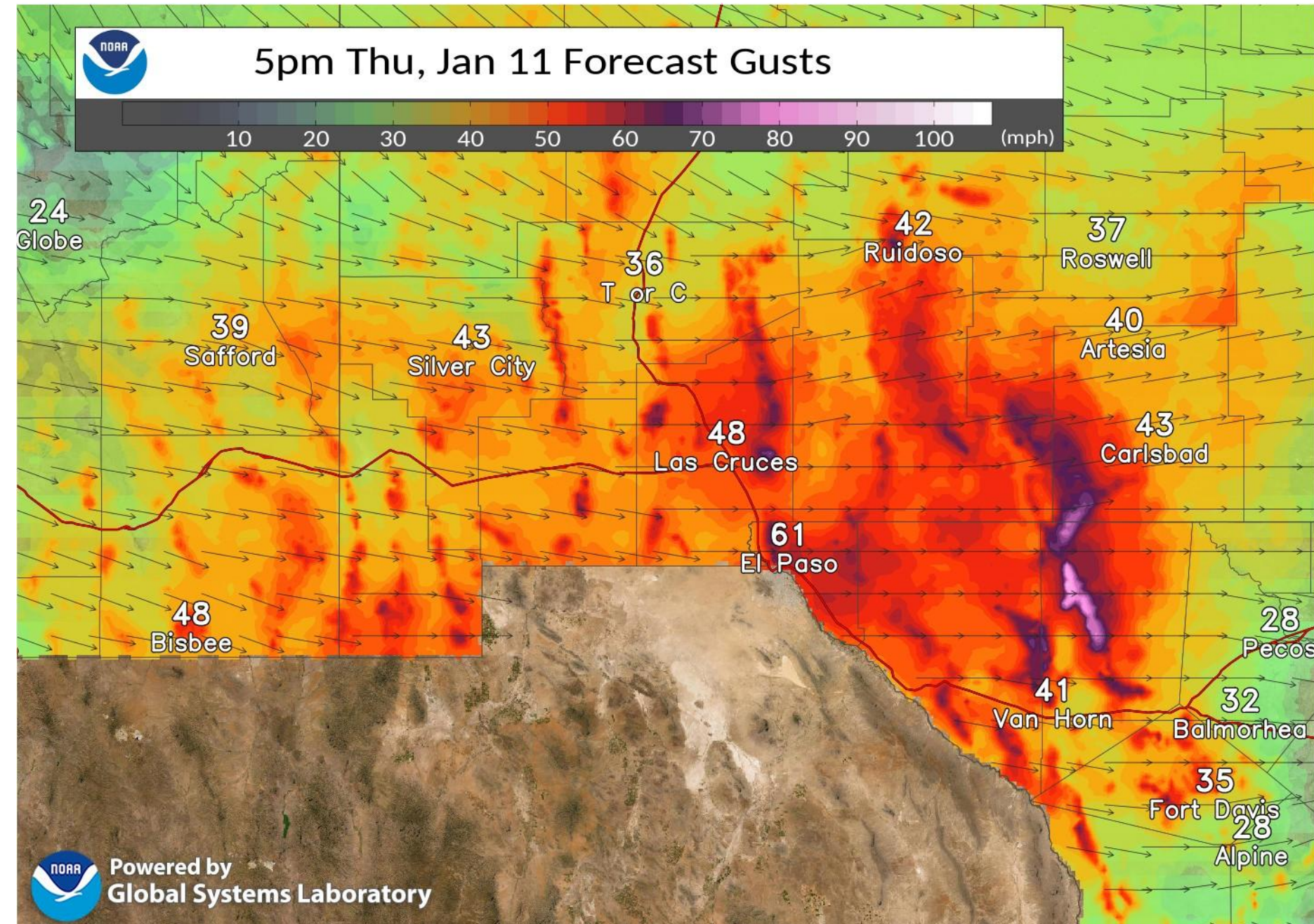
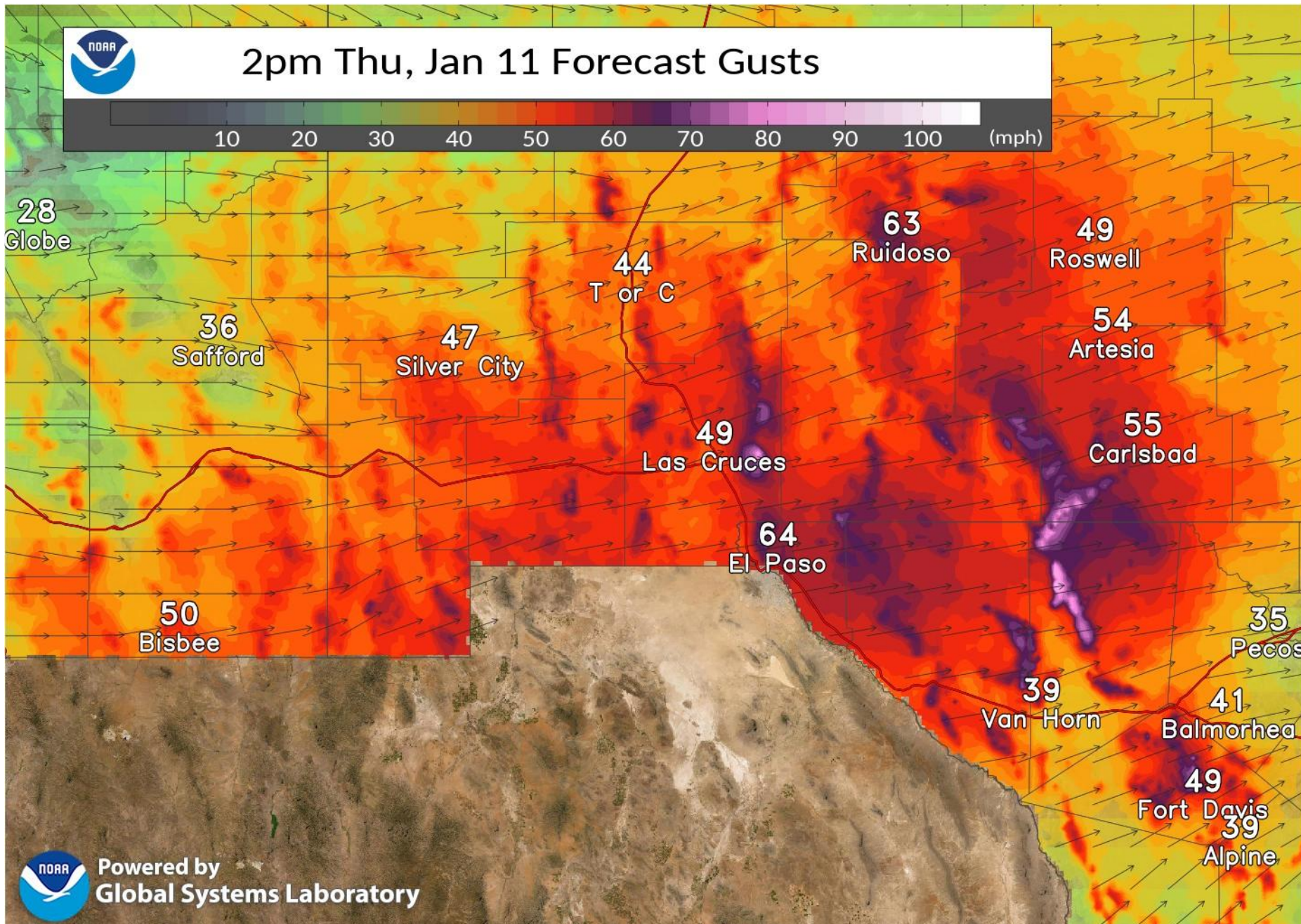
- Strong to damaging wind event on Thursday.
- Wind and blowing dust will likely be impactful during the afternoon/evening.
- Blown down trees & power lines could lead to power outages.
- Travel will be difficult due to winds and blowing dust.





Max Wind Gust Timing - Thursday

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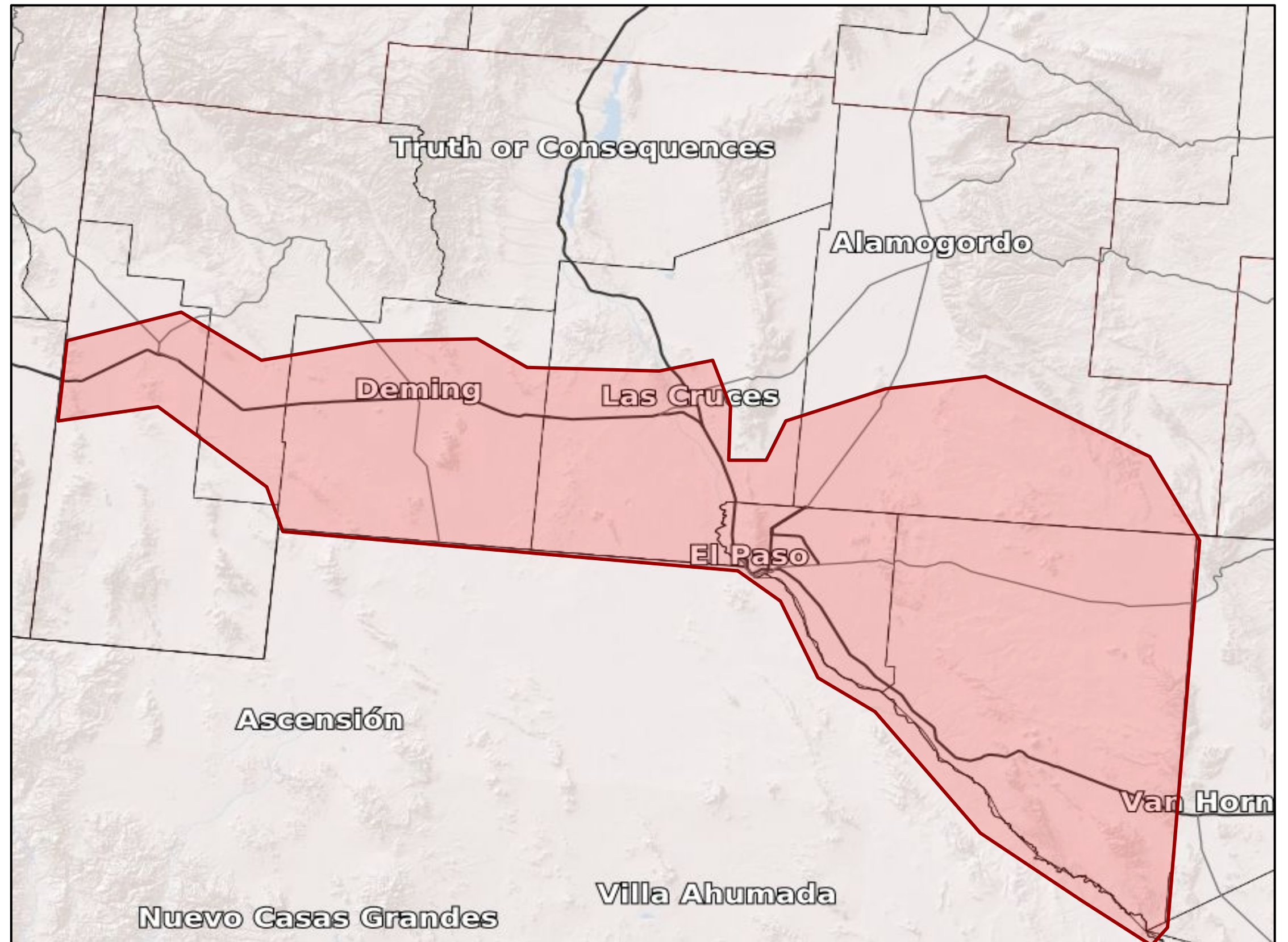
Blowing dust will likely accompany the strong winds, especially along the International Border



Blowing Dust Risk Area

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- Area at greatest risk of seeing blowing dust.
- Areas in and around dust source regions will be at most risk
- Visibilities could drop down to less than 1 mile in some areas.





Rain/Snow/Mix Timing

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	Thu, Jan 11 - 1 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 3 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 5 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 7 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 9 PM	Thu, Jan 11 - 11 PM	Fri, Jan 12 - 1 AM
El Paso							
Las Cruces							
Alamogordo							
Deming							
T or C							
Cloudcroft							
Silver City							

- Cold front will move west to east across the area.
- Lowland rain and mountain snow will be likely.
- Possible change over to mix for lowlands.
- Minor accumulation in the mountains (Gila), little to no accumulation in the lowlands.

RAIN

MIX

SNOW

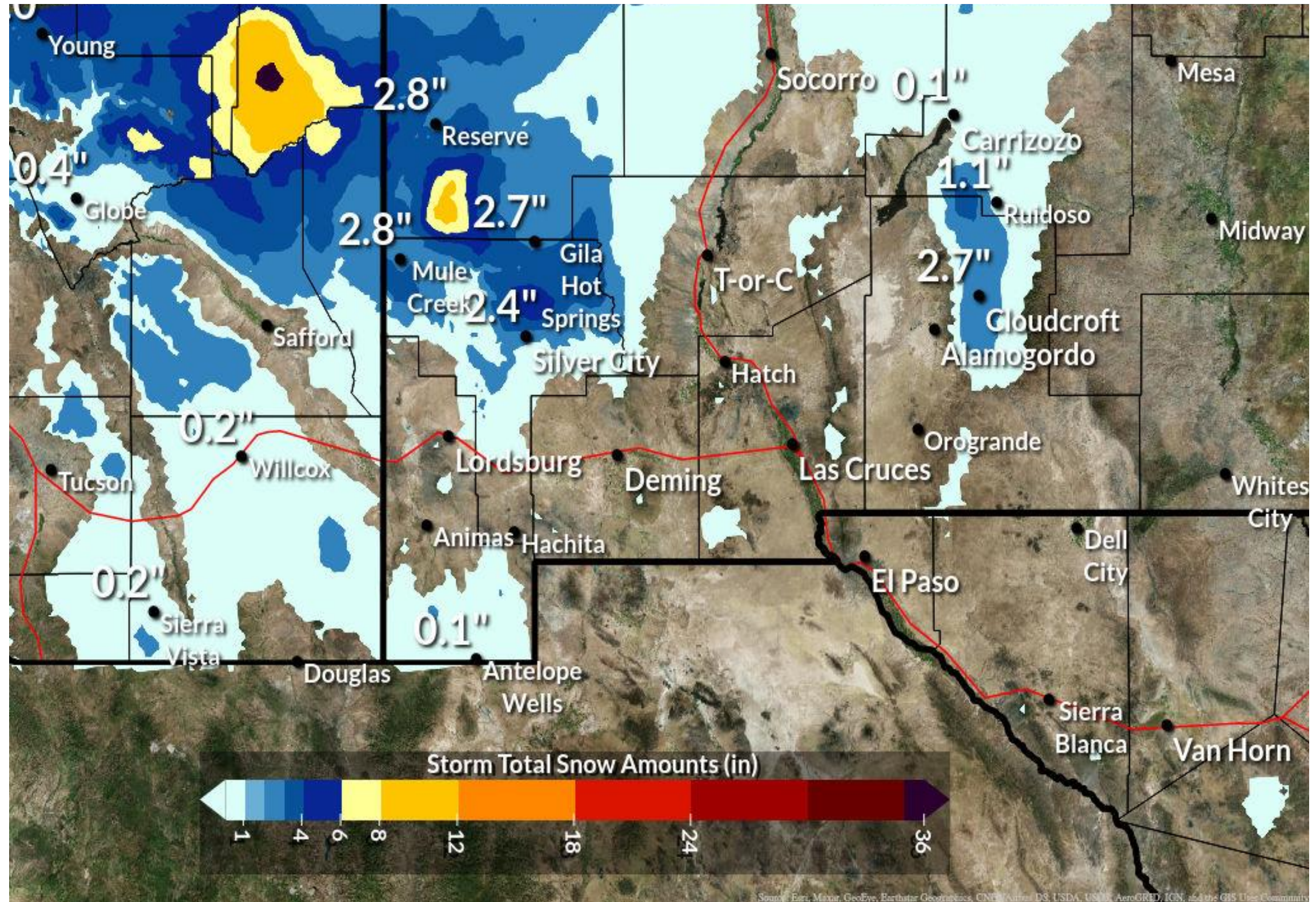




Snow Totals

January 9, 2024
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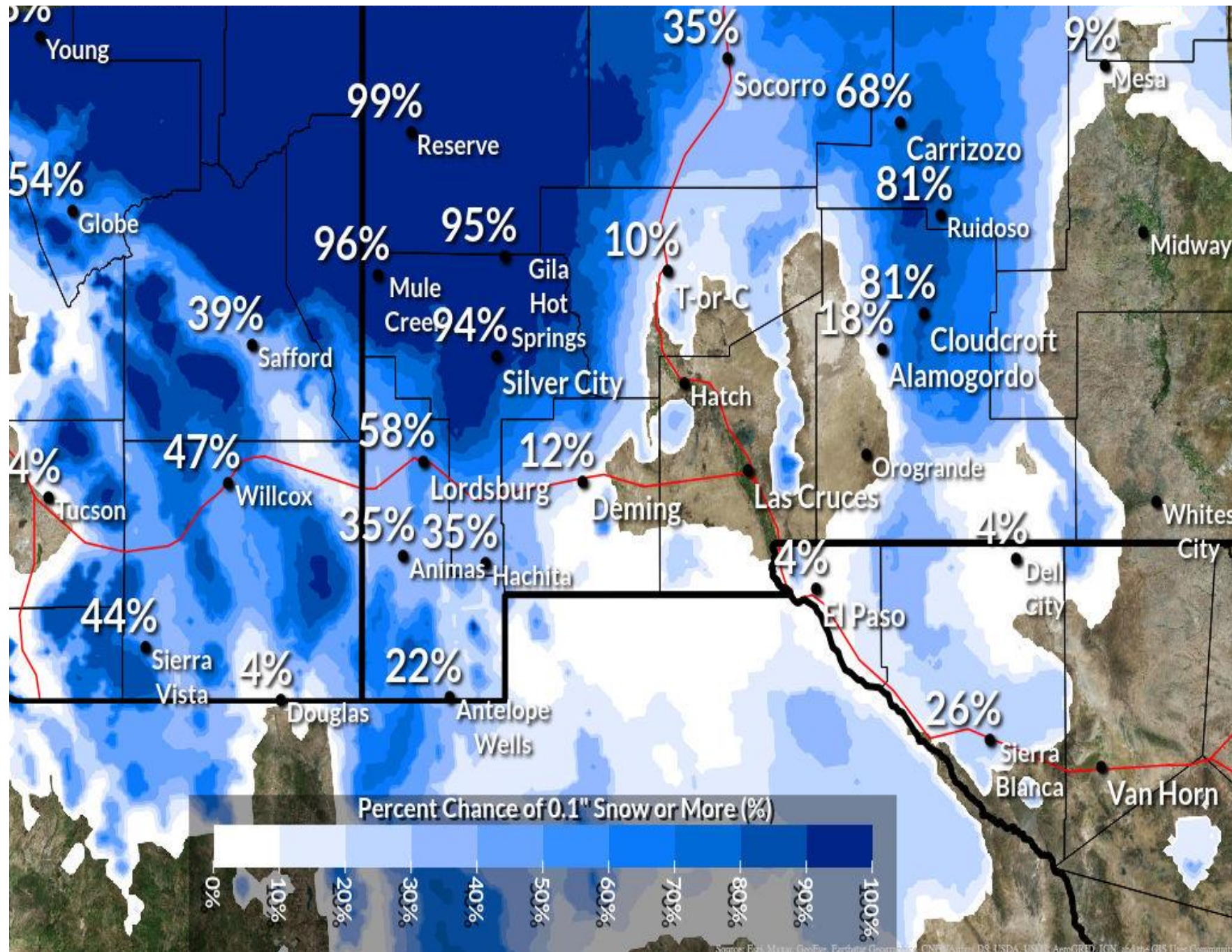
- Minor accumulations for the mountains 2-5 inches
- Little to no accumulations for the lowlands
- Trace to 0.5" for desert lowland sky islands



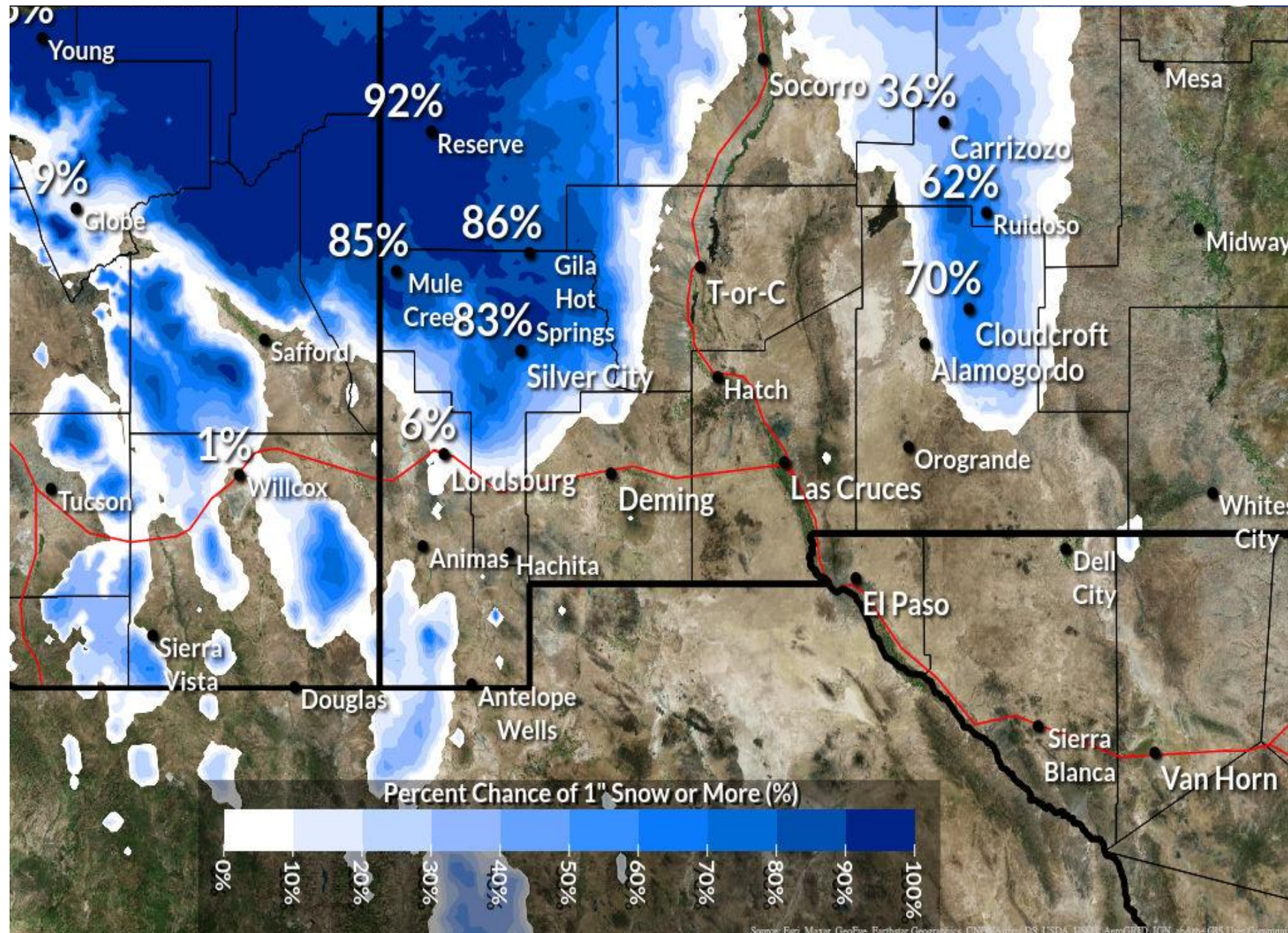


Snow Totals: Probabilities

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Percent Chance of 0.1"

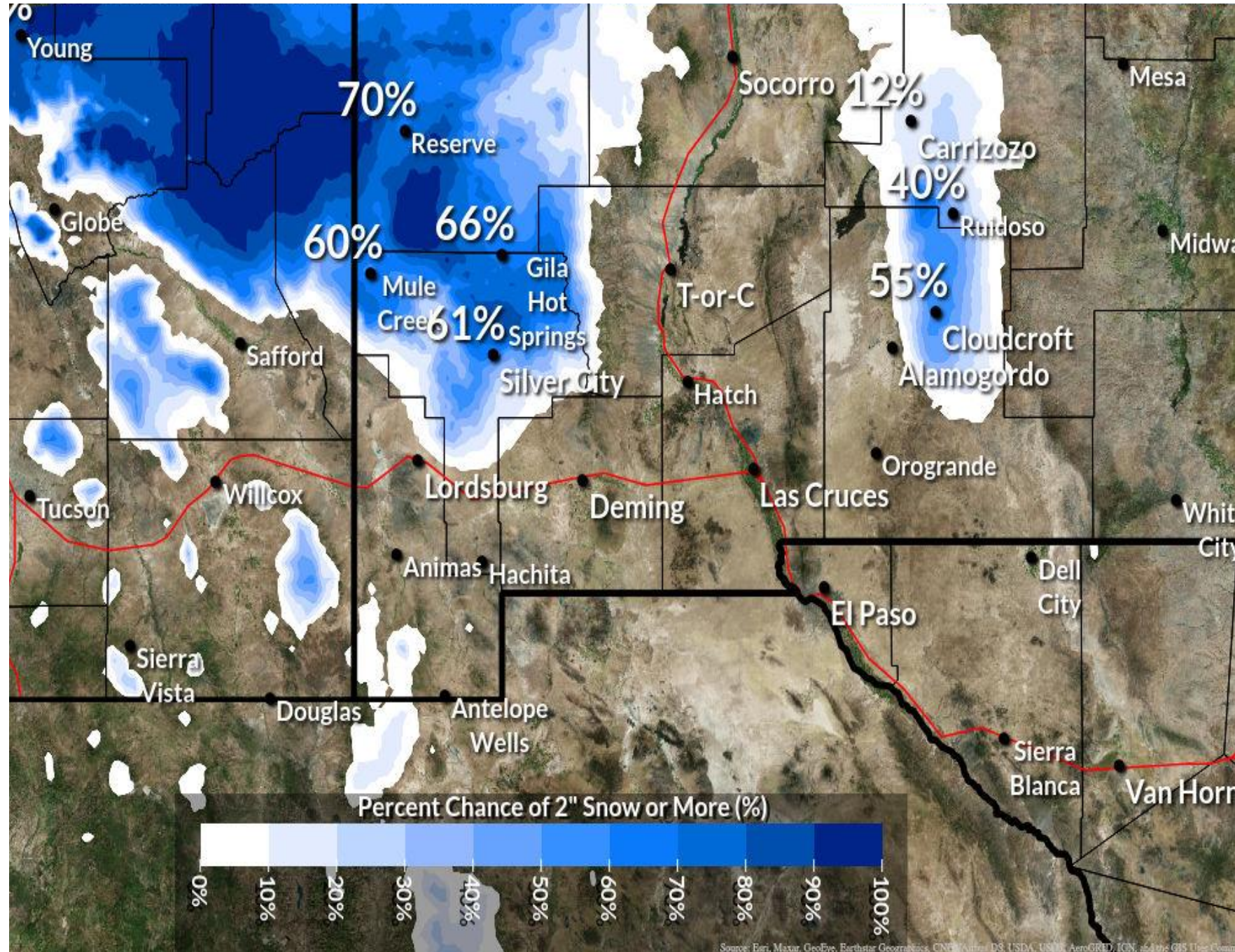


Percent Chance of 1.0"

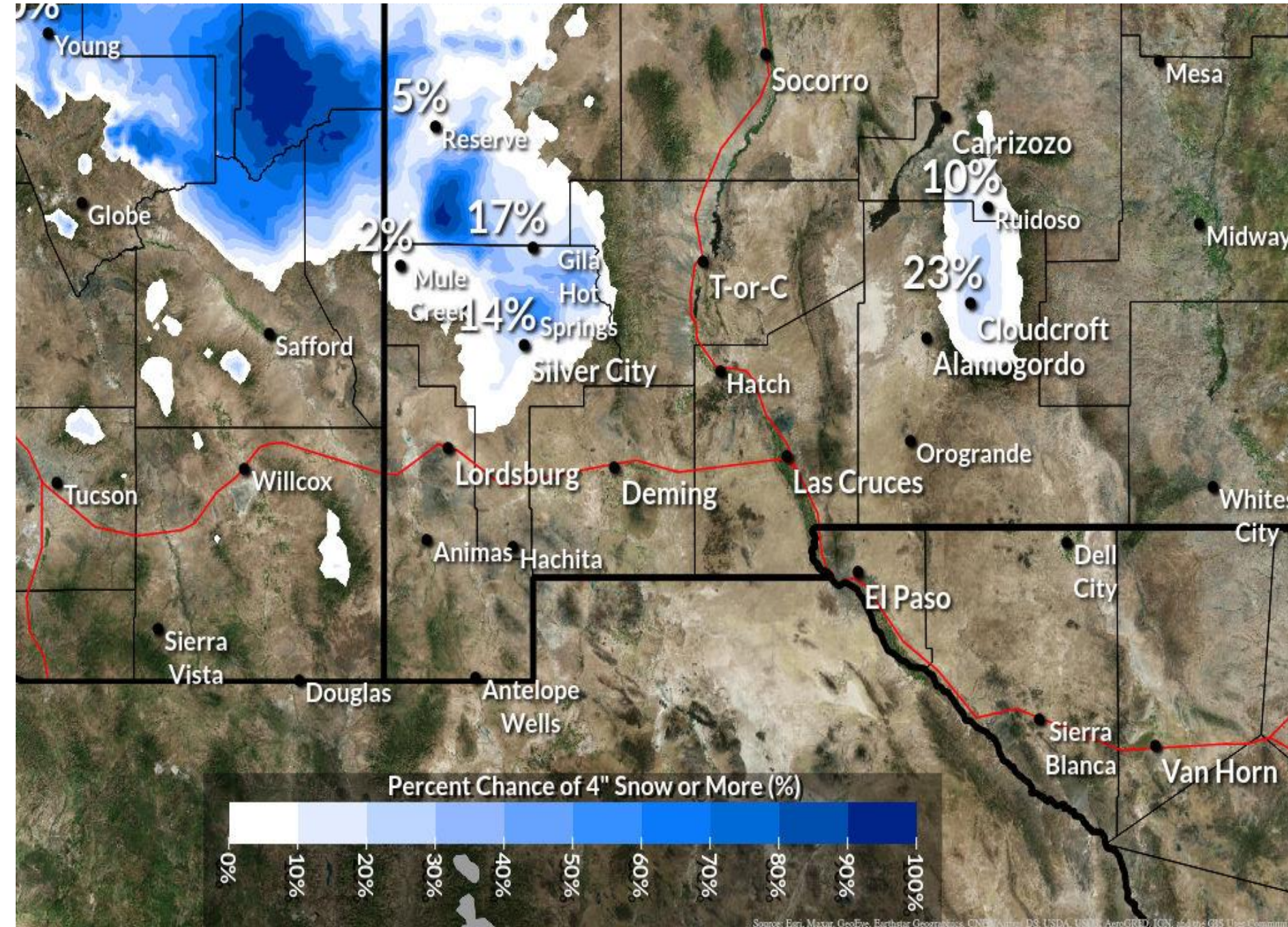


Snow Totals: Probabilities

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Percent Chance of 2.0"



Percent Chance of 4.0"

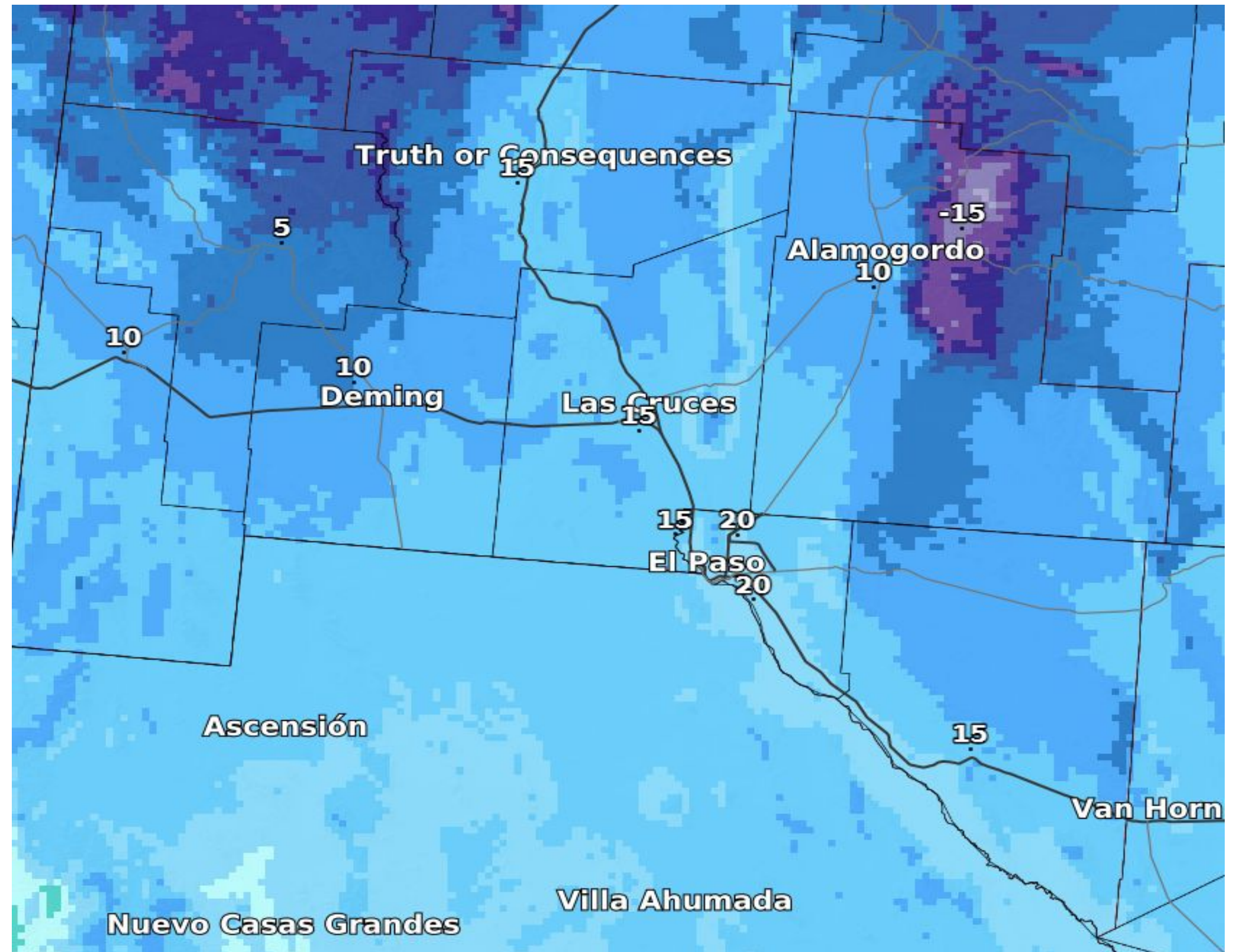


Friday Morning: Cold Temperatures

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Friday Morning Wind Chill Temperatures

- Very cold temperatures expected Friday Morning
- Morning lows will range from the single digits to middle 20s
- Wind chill temperatures will be in the single digits to teens
- Coldest wind chill temps will be from 4AM - 9AM





- Strong system and cold front arrives Thursday-Thursday night
- Very windy conditions and blowing dust likely
- Lowland rain and mountain snow chances through the afternoon/evening
- Chance of rain/snow mix during the evening for lowlands
- Cold wind chill temperatures expected Friday morning

- ***MEDIUM to HIGH confidence for strong winds and blowing dust***
- ***LOW to MEDIUM confidence for precipitation timing, type, and accumulations***
- ***HIGH confidence in cold to bitterly cold temperatures Friday morning***



NWS El Paso Contact Information

January 9, 2024
8:43 AM

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Meteorologist

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Meteorologist

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