



NWS Briefing

Low Elevation Snow and Ice

Wednesday, 10 February 2021

1PM PST

Overview / Potential Impacts



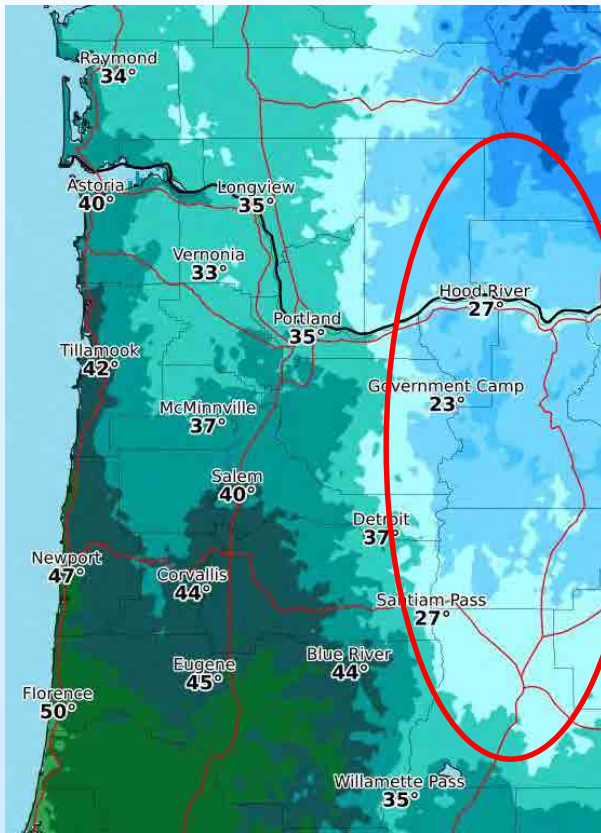
- Cold temperatures beginning Thursday and lasting through the weekend. Warming up on Monday.
- 2 Potential Lowland Snow / Freezing Rain Events
 - Round 1 - Late Thursday through Friday afternoon
 - Round 2 - Friday night through Saturday morning
- Focus will be on the 1st system
 - Potential Impacts
 - Primary - Travel
 - Secondary – Power Interruptions
- We plan on doing a second webinar on Friday to discuss round 2 Friday night through Saturday morning.

Thursday (2/11)

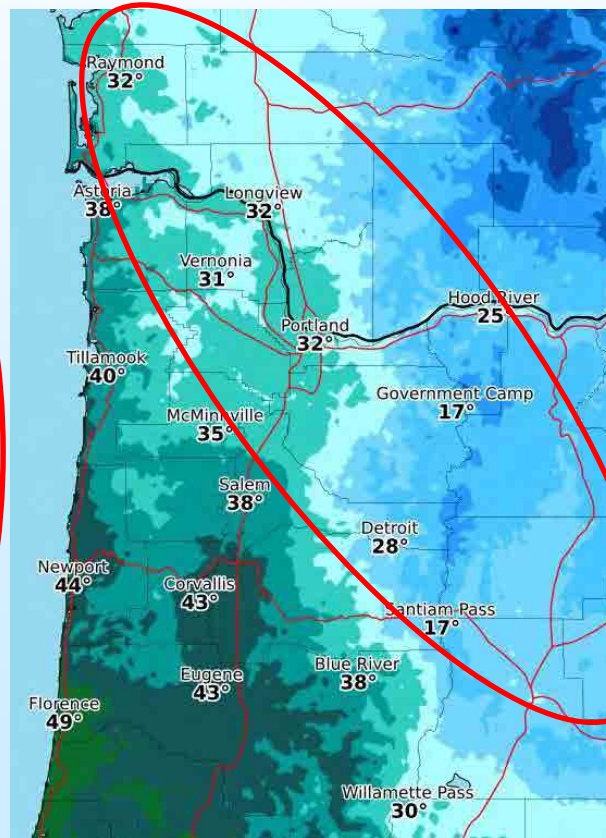
Step #1: Cold Air Moves In



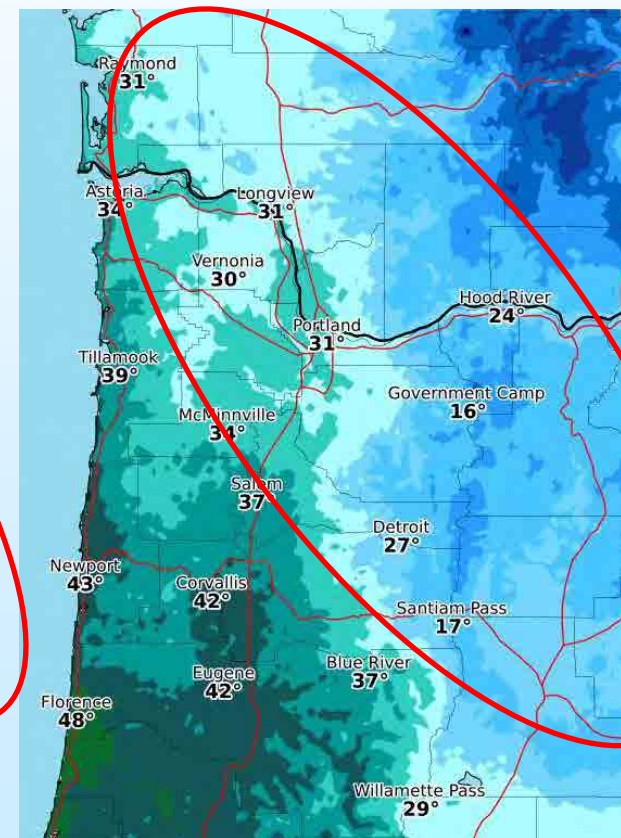
12 PM Thu



4 PM Thu



8 PM Thu



Forecast Low Temperatures Thursday Night

Weather Forecast Office

Portland, OR

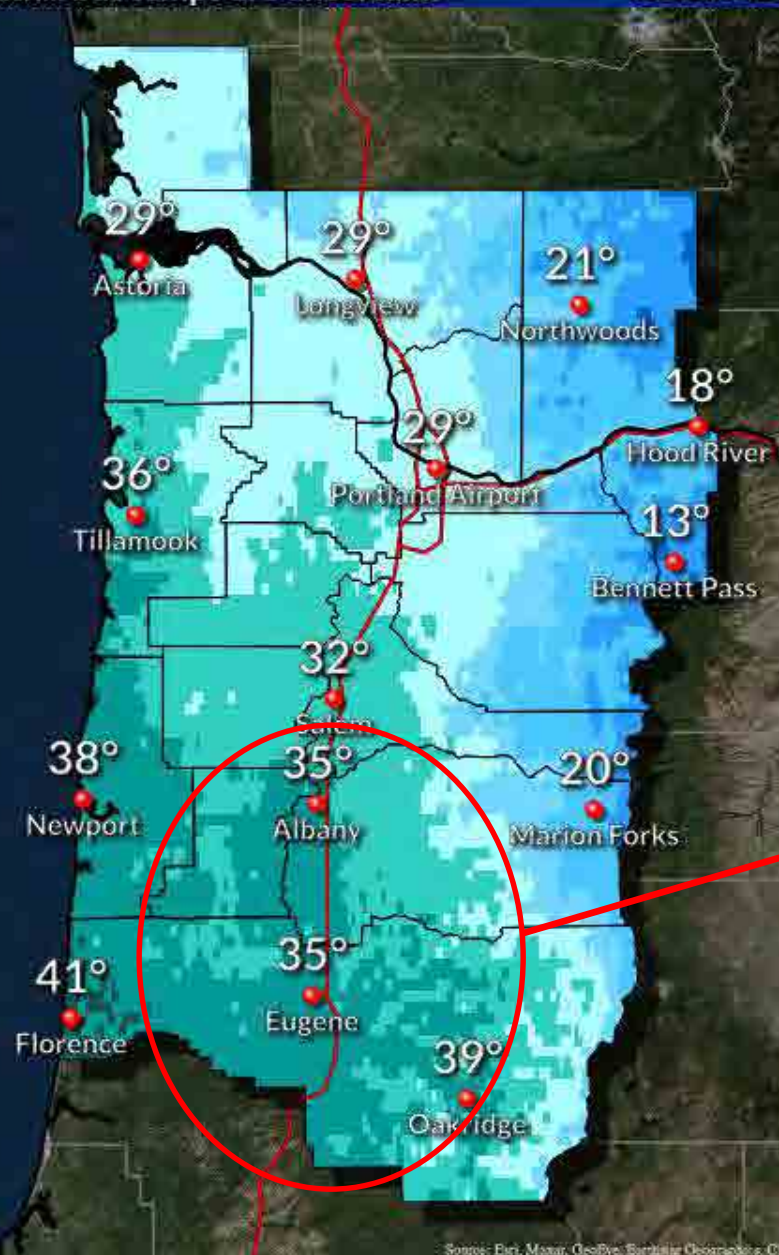


Mainly a cold rain expected from Albany south... but temps are uncertain!

Issued Feb 10, 2021 10:53 AM PST

Low Temperature (F)

45°
40°
35°
30°
25°
20°
15°
10°
5°



IMPORTANT:

There is still uncertainty regarding how cold it will get in the south valley. Some guidance brings this area to below freezing, which would result in freezing rain Thursday night.

Sources: Euro, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Forecast High Temperatures on Friday

Weather Forecast Office

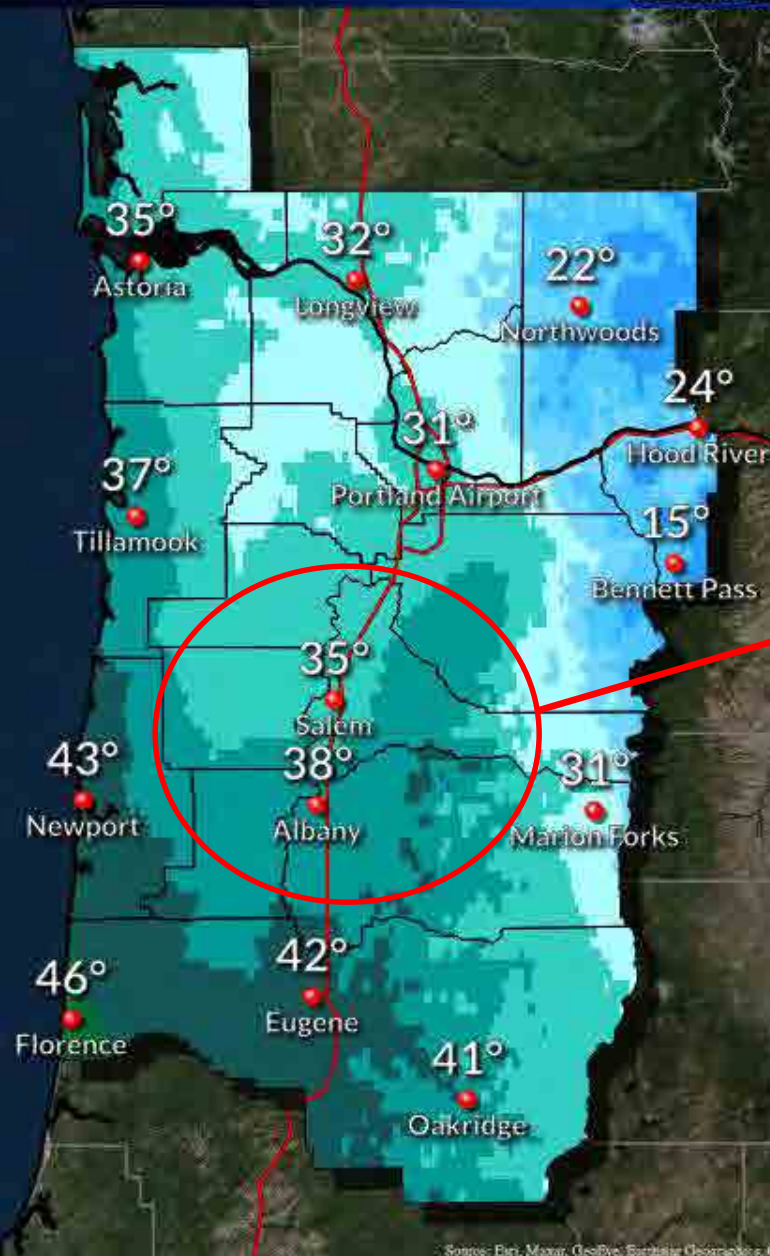
Portland, OR

Issued Feb 10, 2021 11:09 AM PST



High Temperature (F)

50°
45°
40°
35°
30°
25°
20°
15°
10°



IMPORTANT:

Some guidance keeps high temperatures **BELOW** freezing in the central valley on Friday. If these locations stay below freezing, accumulating snow on Friday will be likely.

Sources: Eri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Forecast Low Temperatures Friday Night

This appears to be the coldest night

Weather Forecast Office

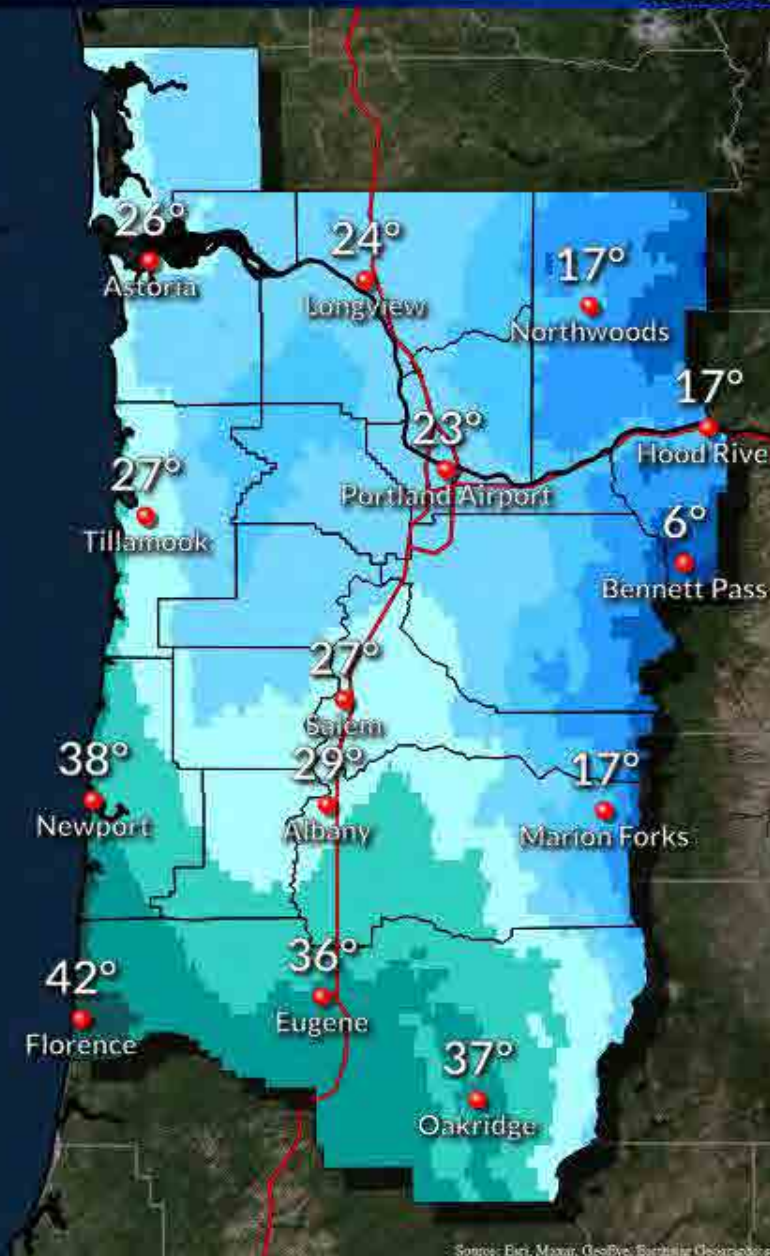
Portland, OR

Issued Feb 10, 2021 12:08 PM PST



Low Temperature (F)

45°
40°
35°
30°
25°
20°
15°
10°
5°
0°
-5°



Temperatures are expected to drop below 25 degrees across the greater Portland/Vancouver metro area Friday night. Wind chills will fall into the lower teens.

Sources: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Snow Forecast Thursday Morning through Friday afternoon

Weather Forecast Office

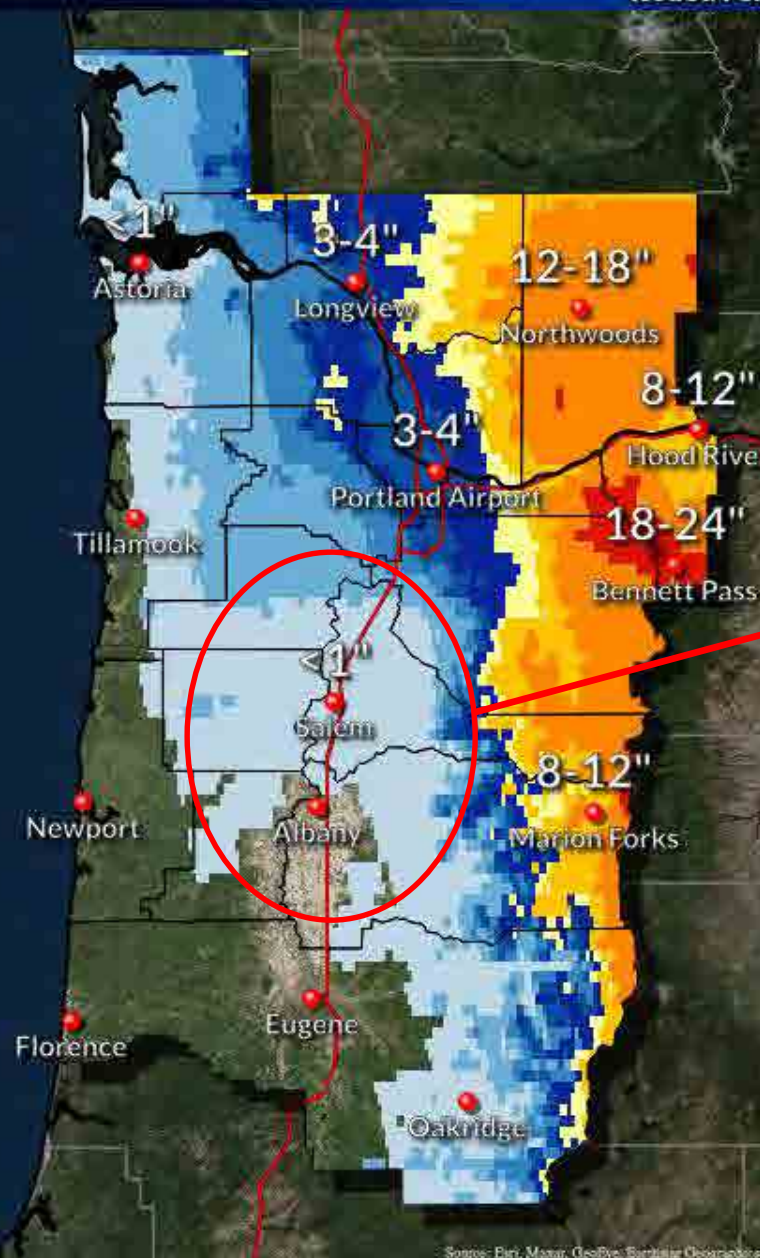
Portland, OR

Issued Feb 10, 2021 11:22 AM PST



Snow Amount (in)

36"
30"
24"
18"
12"
8"
6"
4"
2"
0"



IMPORTANT:

The snow forecast is most uncertain in the central valley, as temperatures will be marginal. If the coldest model guidance verifies, these spots will likely wind up with more snow than depicted here.

Sources: Euro, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Snowfall Probabilities

LOCATION	≤ 1"	> 1"	> 3"	>6"
Astoria	70%	30%	0%	0%
Kelso	5%	95%	50%	0%
Portland	30%	70%	50%	5%
Salem	70%	30%	10%	0%
Hood River	10%	90%	85%	45%

Max Wind Gusts Thursday and Thursday Night

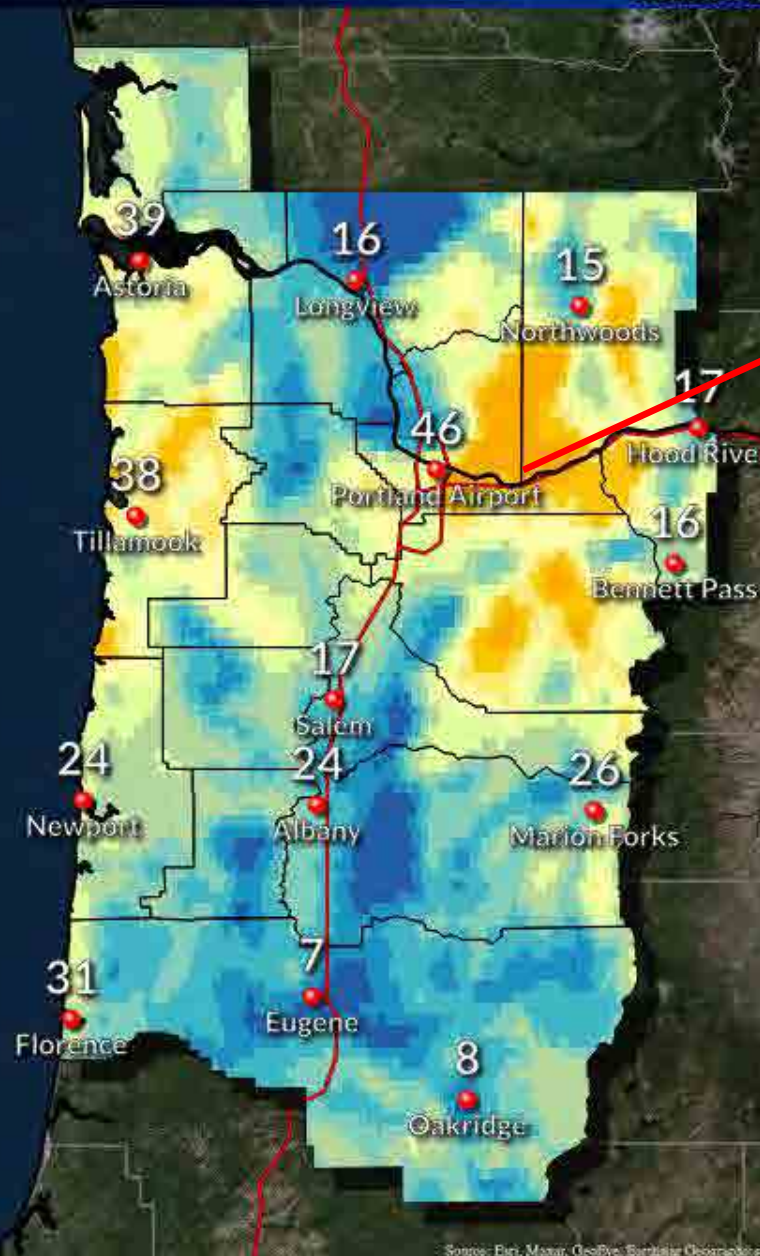
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Portland, OR



Windiest near the Columbia Gorge

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Gusts 50-60 mph over the western Columbia Gorge

Gusty winds should result in blowing snow in the west Columbia Gorge and eastern portions of the Portland/Vancouver metro. Significantly reduced visibilities

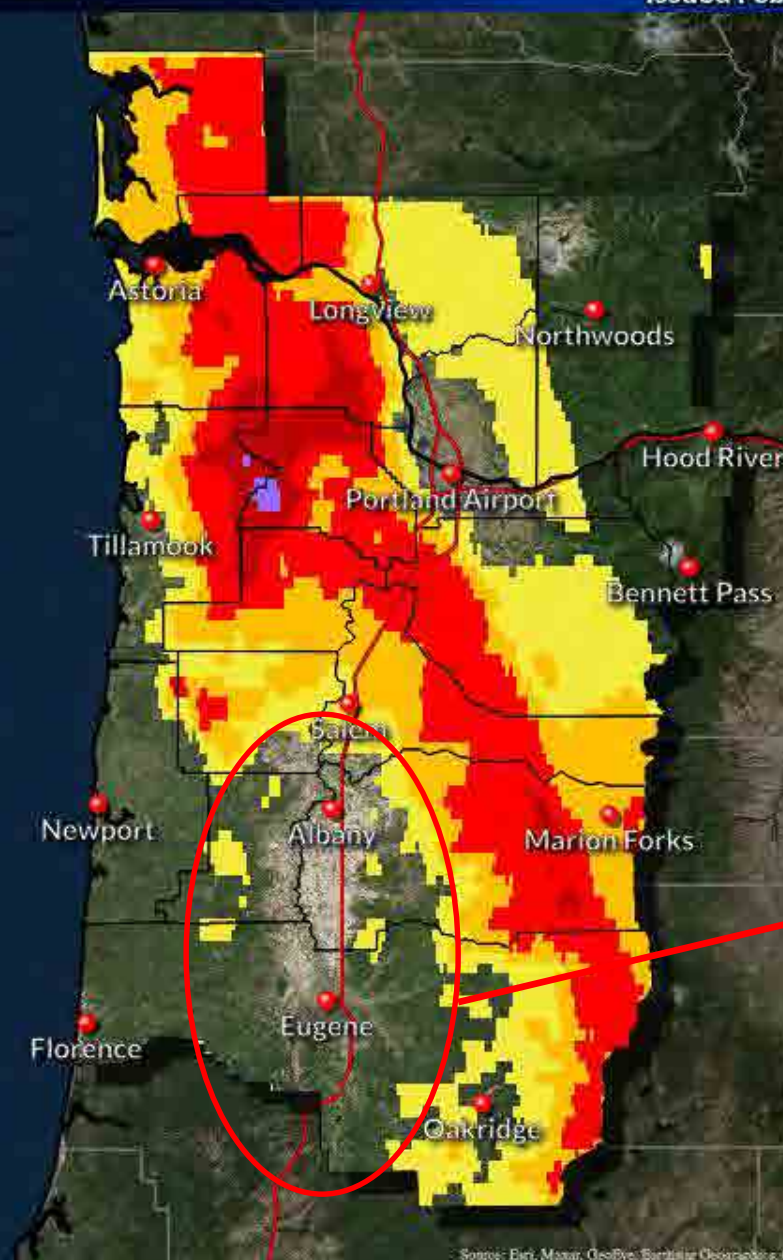
Sources: Euro, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Forecast Ice Accumulations Thursday through Friday afternoon

Weather Forecast Office

Portland, OR

Issued Feb 10, 2021 11:39 AM PST



IMPORTANT:

The freezing rain threat is most uncertain from Albany to Eugene. Ice accumulations **ARE** possible in the south valley Thursday night if the coldest model guidance verifies.

Sources: Euro, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Location	Approximate Start Time	Most Likely Precipitation Type
Hood River and the Columbia Gorge	2am to 6am Thursday	Snow
Portland/Vancouver metro area	10am to 2pm Thursday (brief period of freezing rain possible before 10 am)	Mainly snow, however some freezing rain is possible between 7-10 am Thursday.
Central Willamette Valley	6pm to 11pm Thursday	Mainly freezing rain, but some snow too.
South WA/North OR Coast	7pm to 11pm Thursday	Mainly freezing rain, but some snow possible south WA coast
Cascades/Foothills	2am-6am Thursday	Both snow and freezing rain (except Lane County Cascade Foothills where mainly rain is expected)
Willapa Hills	10am-2pm Thursday	Snow

Friday Night – Saturday



More snow and ice with even greater impacts?

- Similar Locations At Most Risk, but...
 - Snow/Ice Threat May Extend Further to the South and West
- Snow Amounts Potentially a Little Heavier
- Some Risk of Freezing Rain / Sleet southern periphery
- A second webinar is planned on ***Friday*** to discuss the potential second round of precip Friday night into Saturday

Summary / Impacts



- Becoming colder on Thursday and especially Thursday night.
- Cold temperatures will be prolonged, and some spots may not warm up to above freezing until Sunday or Monday.
- Round 1 brings accumulating snow and freezing rain to most of the area Thursday through Friday afternoon. South Willamette Valley, Lane County Cascade Foothills, and central OR coast may be spared from round 1 with just rain.
- Round 2 brings more accumulating snow and freezing rain Friday night into Saturday, which may be more impactful. The south valley has a better chance for snow and ice from round 2.