



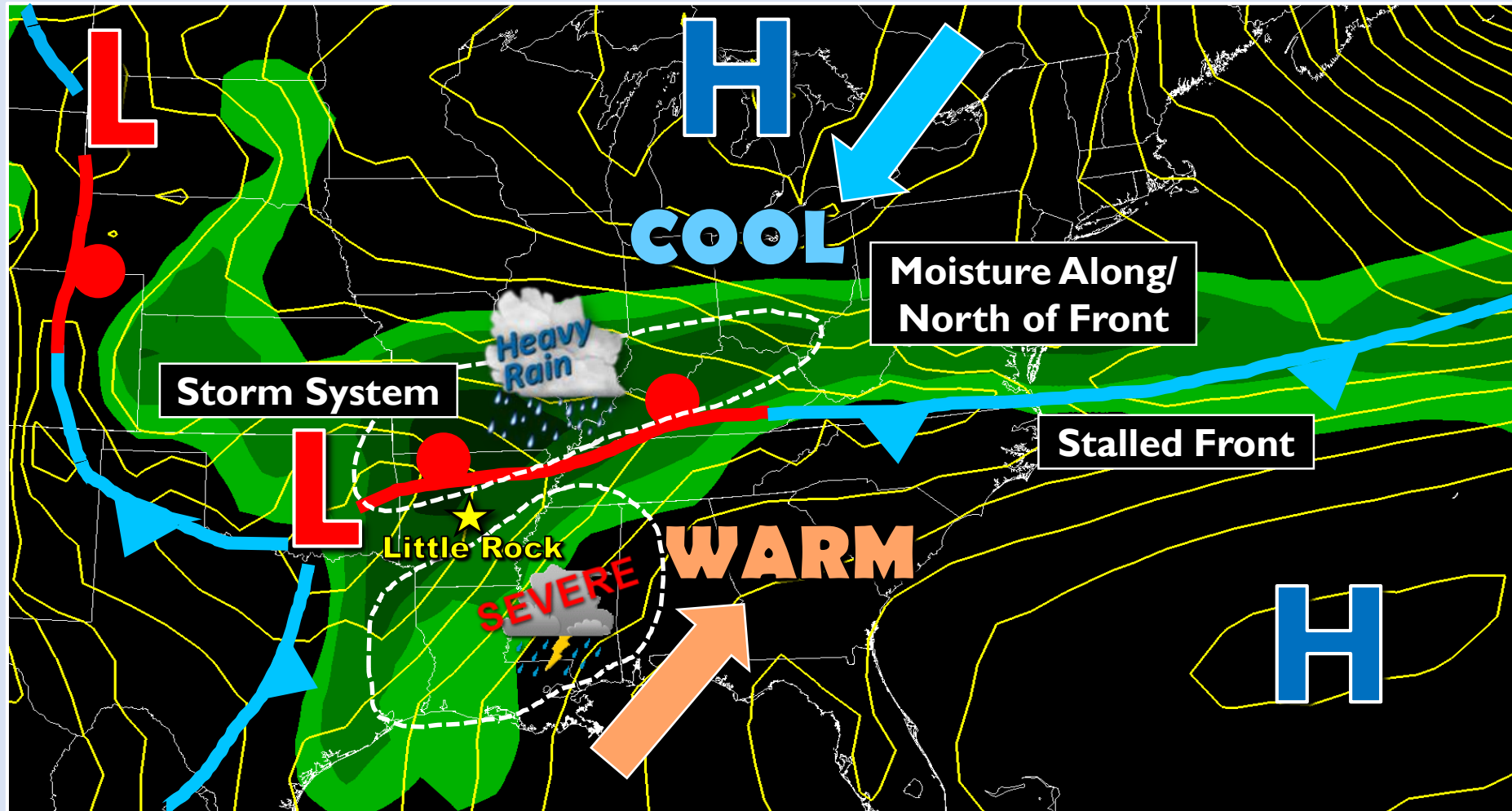
Severe Weather/Heavy Rain Briefing

**National Weather Service
Little Rock, Arkansas**

March 24, 2023 – 6:00 AM

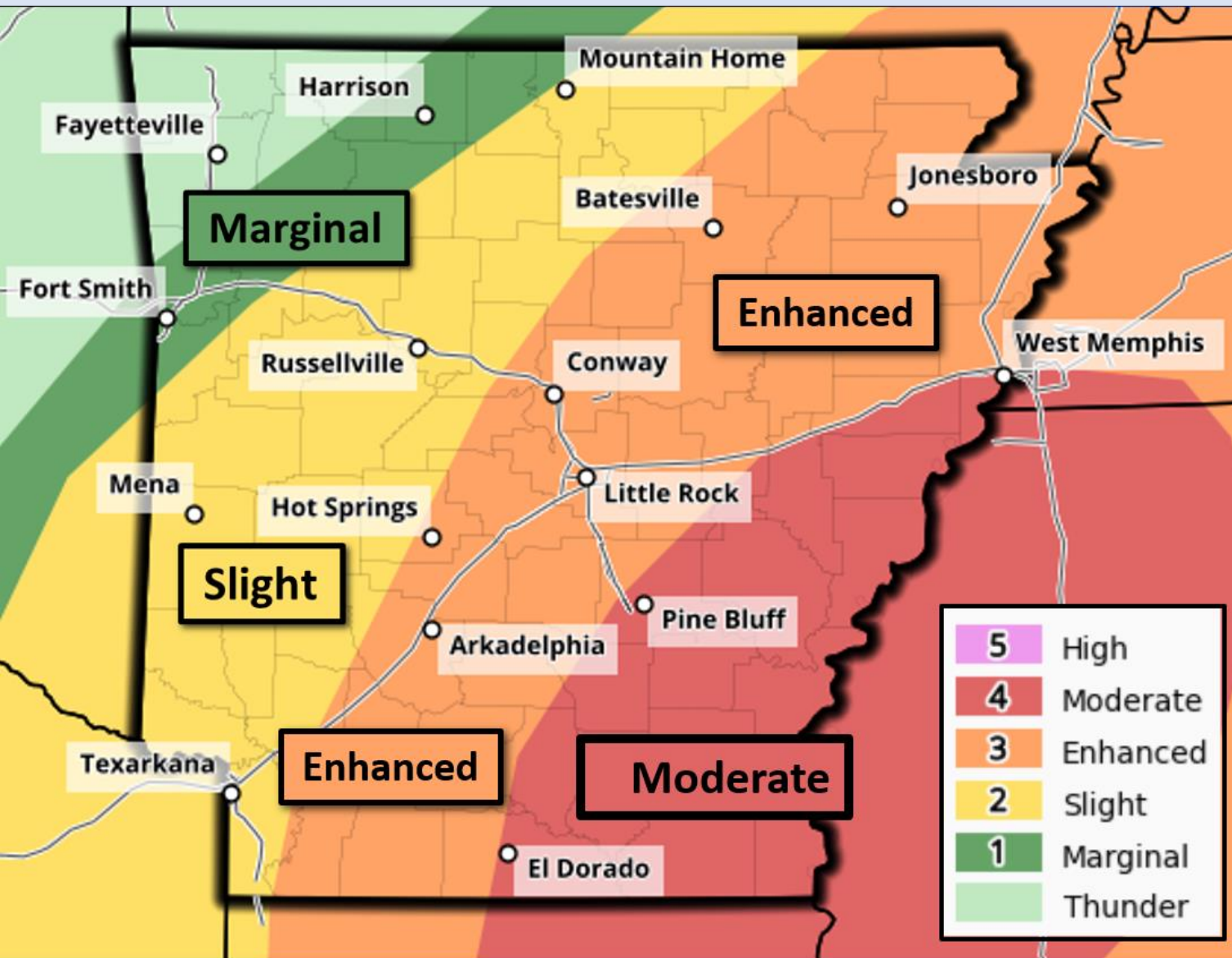


- **An active end to the workweek is expected across Arkansas through tonight with the threat for severe weather and flooding.**
- **Heavy rain fell across far northwest Arkansas over the past 12 hours and more heavy rain is expected across mainly northern and central sections of the state.**
- **Severe storms will ramp up Friday afternoon/evening in central/eastern sections of the state (hail, damaging winds, and tornadoes are all concerns). There is a moderate risk of severe weather over southeast Arkansas with long tracked tornadoes not out of the realm of possibility.**
- **Several inches of rain are likely through Friday across the northern half of Arkansas. With the ground saturated in many areas, flash flooding is possible. Ongoing river flooding (along the Black, Cache, and lower White Rivers) will worsen with new river flooding possible in other basins.**



A front will be stalled from the mid-Atlantic Coast to northern Arkansas. Ahead of a storm system (“L”) and along and north of the front, heavy/excessive rain and cool air is expected, with much warmer conditions and severe thunderstorms farther south.

Severe Weather Friday (March 24)



5	High
4	Moderate
3	Enhanced
2	Slight
1	Marginal
	Thunder

Maximum Hail Size

Up to Softball

Up to Baseball

Up to Golf ball

Up to Quarter

Maximum Wind Speed

80+ mph

60-80 mph

Up to 60 mph

Tornado Potential

High

Medium

Low

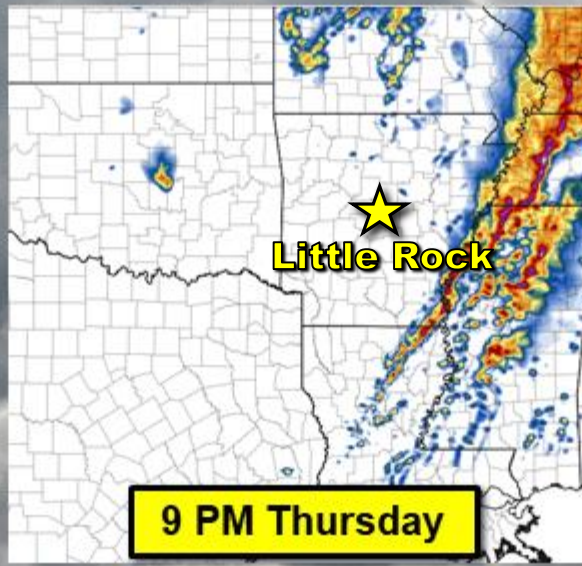
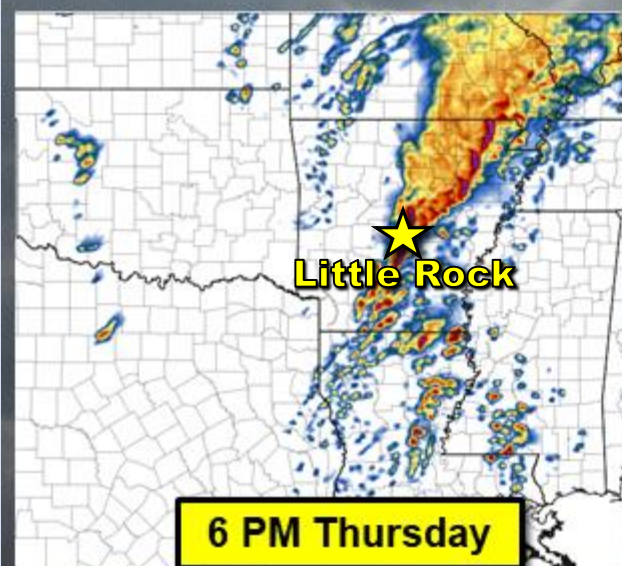
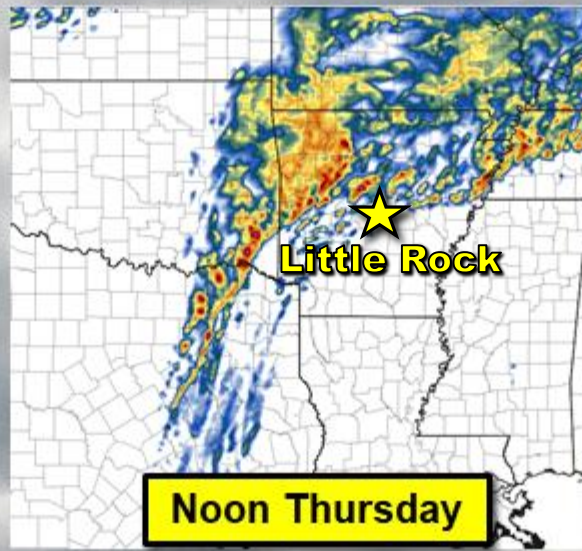
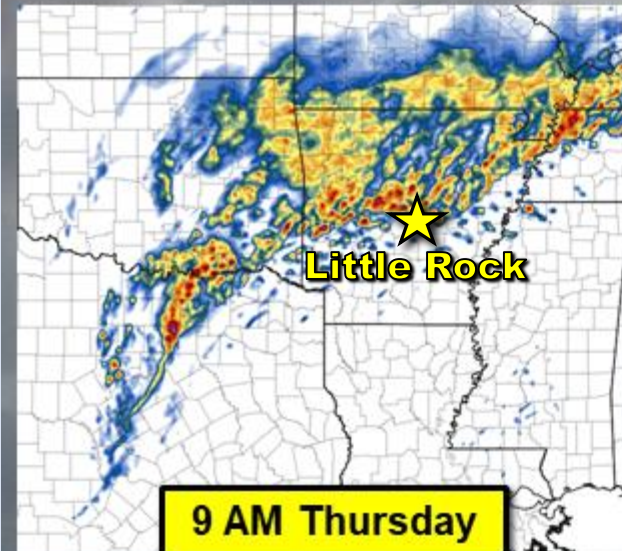
Very Low

Severe weather chances increase markedly Friday afternoon and evening as a strong cold front pushes through the state.

The central/eastern counties have the greatest chance of severe storms.

Damaging winds, hail, and tornadoes are possible with these storms.

Simulated Radar (March 23-24)



Rain will overspread Arkansas through the day and evening before exiting to the east by midnight.

This is how one of our computer models see the situation unfolding.

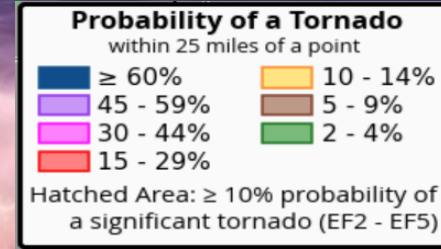
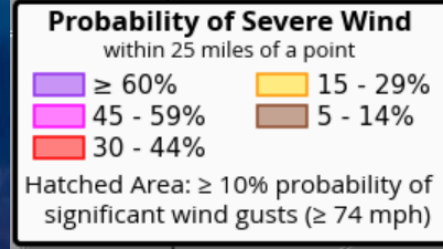
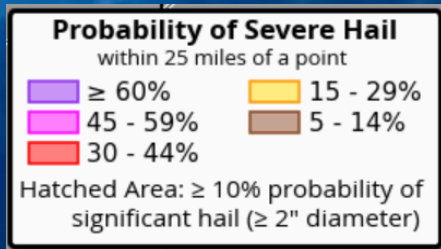
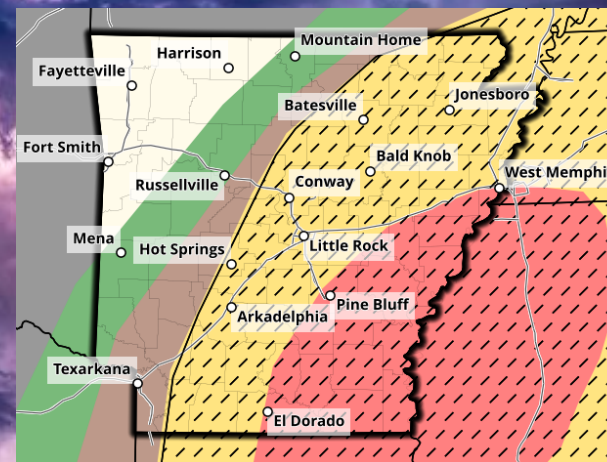
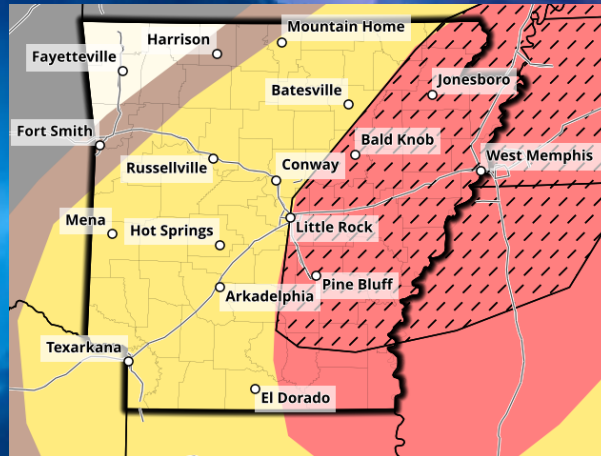
Severe Weather Friday (March 24)



Severe Hail Outlook

Severe Wind Outlook

Tornado Outlook

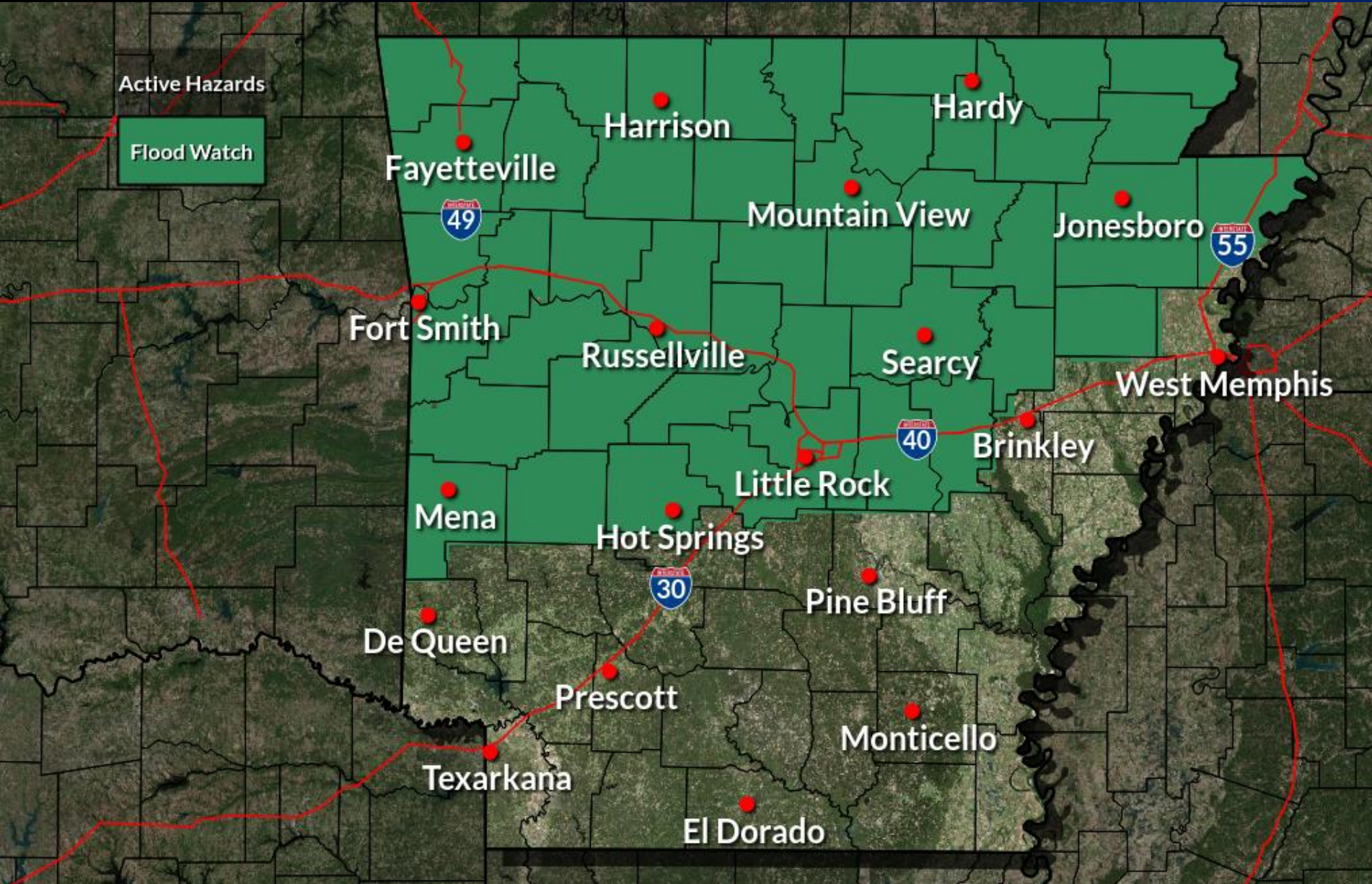


Damaging winds, hail, and a few tornadoes are possible through tonight.

The possibility of large hail is not very high, but chances of strong winds in excess of 74 mph are quite high over most of eastern Arkansas.

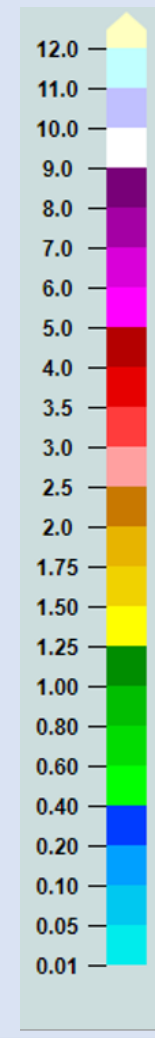
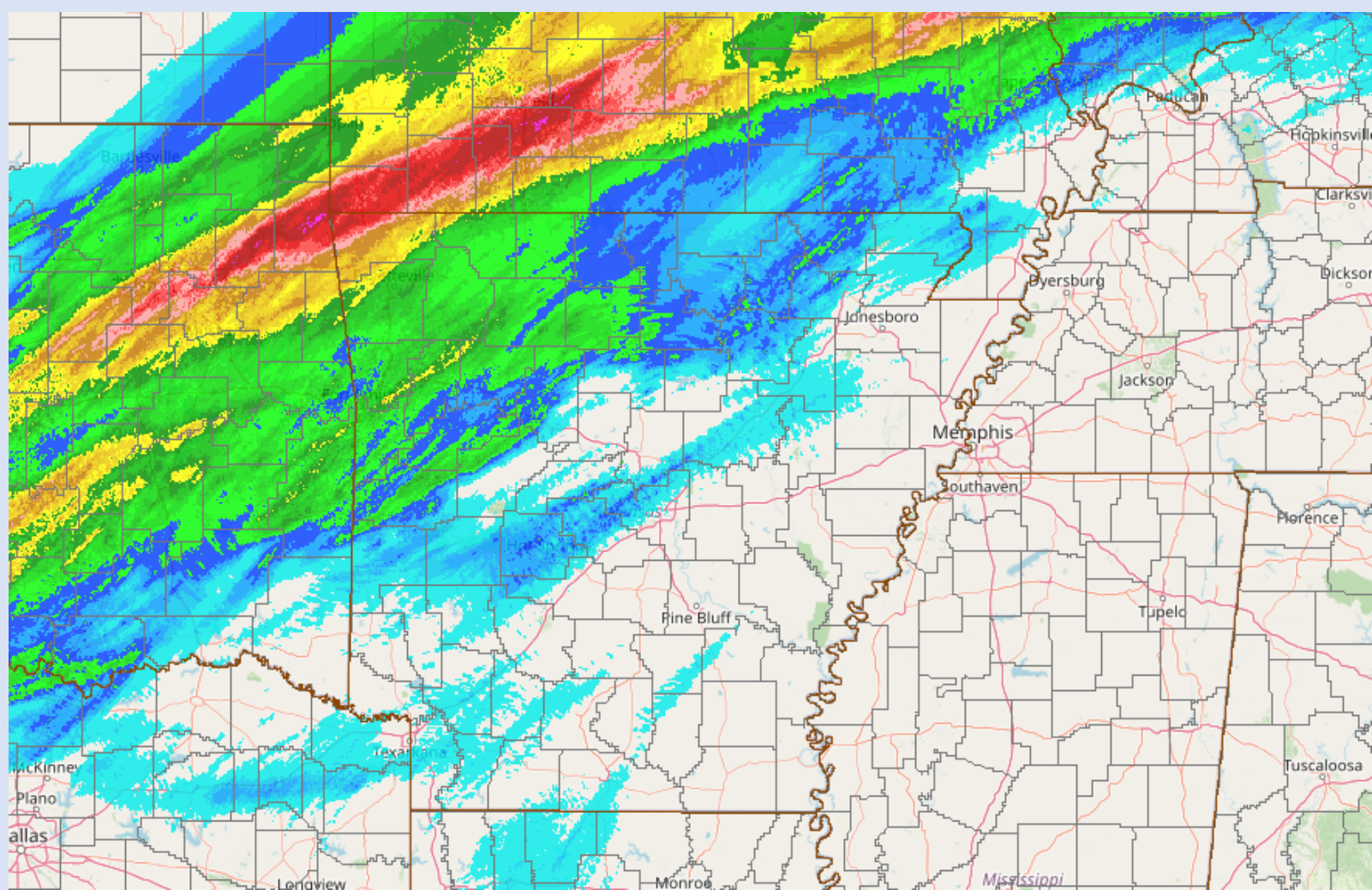
There is also the chance of strong tornadoes, especially over the southeast.

Flood Watches (March 24)



Flood Watches are posted across northern and central Arkansas through early Saturday.

12 hour rainfall through 5 AM



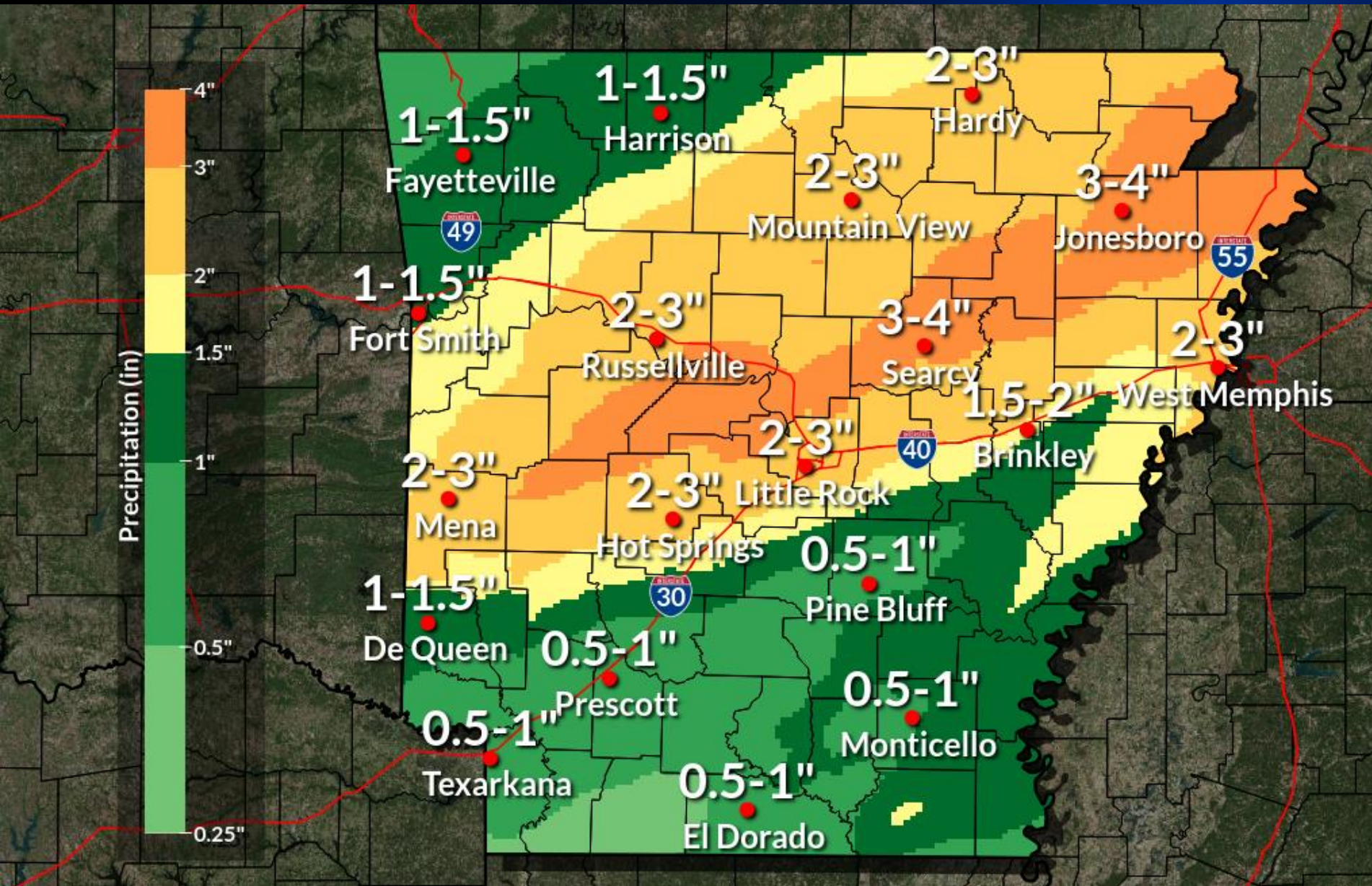
Heavy rain fell across part of far northwest Arkansas over the past 12 hours with over three to four inches in spots.

Other parts of the state have seen around an inch of rain.

Heavy rain is expected to spread to the east and south through the day and into tonight.

Inches

Possible Rainfall (March 24)

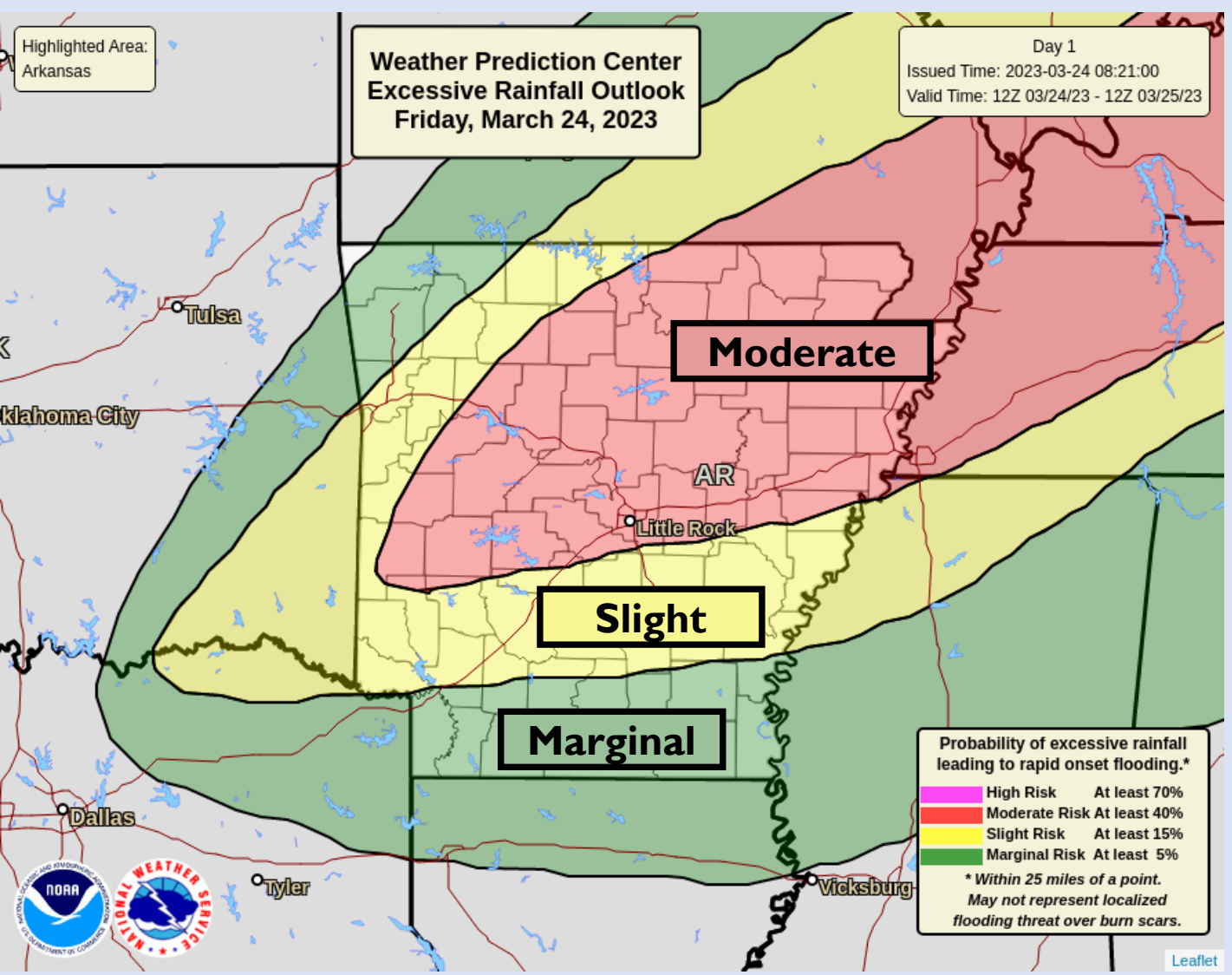


Several inches or more of rain is expected through tonight across a good part of Arkansas. This is on top of the rain that has already fallen.

Flash flooding is likely in some areas given the saturated soils across the area.

This rainfall will drain into area tributaries, with river flooding worsening.

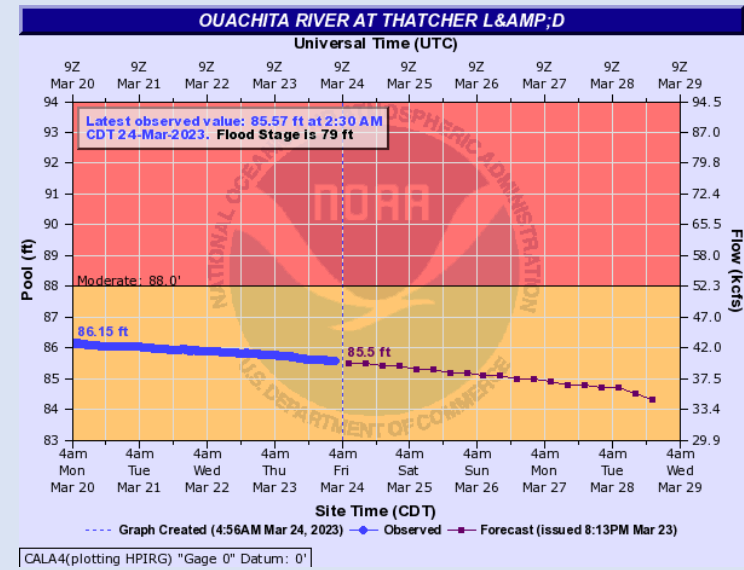
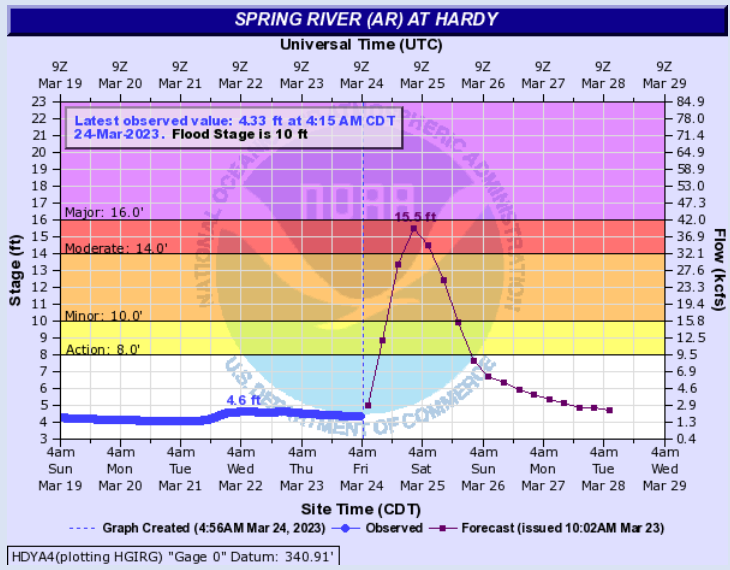
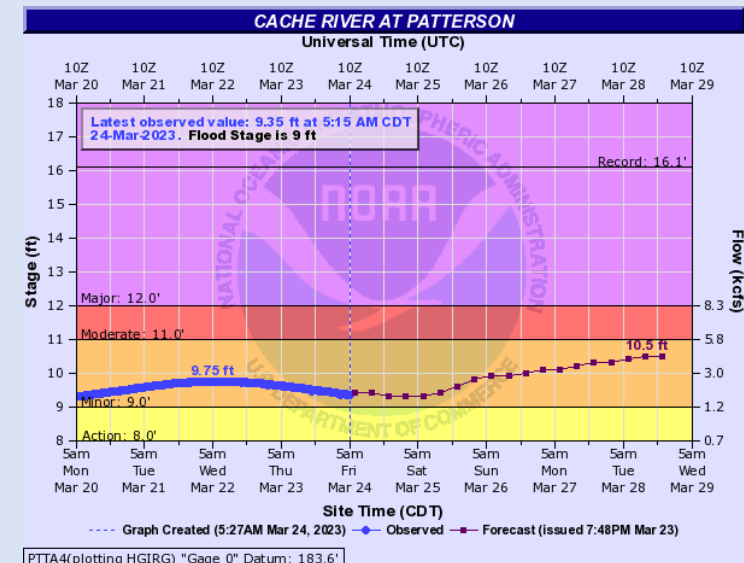
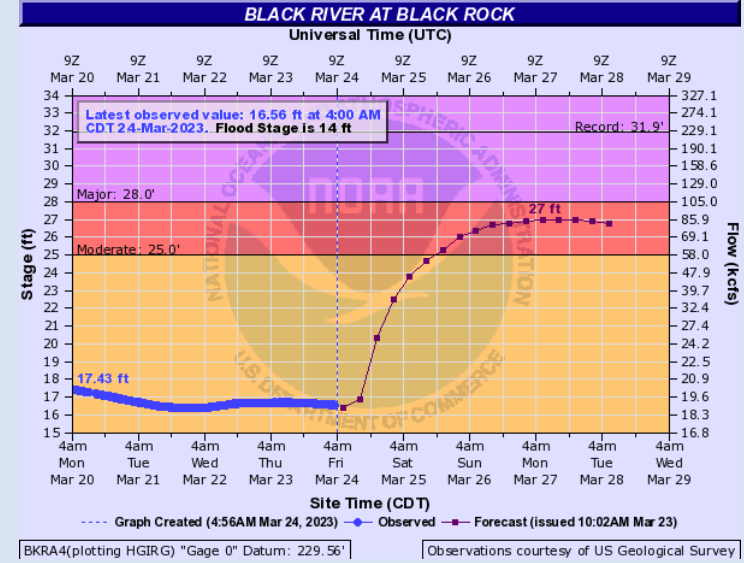
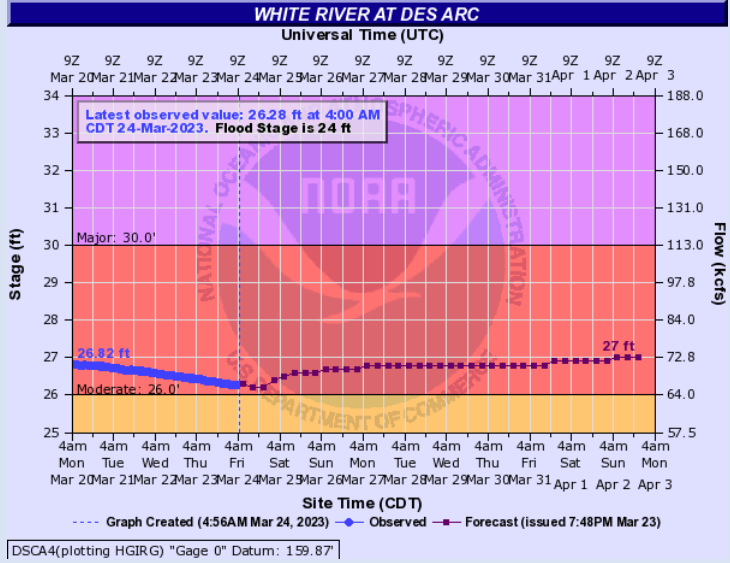
Excessive Rainfall Outlooks (March 24)



Heavy/excessive rain is expected over a large part of Arkansas through tonight. With the ground saturated in many areas, the water simply has no place to go.

As such, there is a slight to moderate chance of seeing flash flooding. The area highlighted in red is where flash flooding is the most likely.

Elevated Rivers (Forecast March 23)



Many area rivers, including the Black, White, Spring, Ouachita and Cache are in flood. With additional rainfall expected in these basins, these rivers are likely to see additional rises. Other area rivers are also likely to see rises and go into flood as the water drains.



Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

Thunderstorms (no label)

No severe storms expected

Lightning/flooding threats exist with all storms



Enhanced (ENH)

Numerous severe storms possible

More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense

Marginal (MRGL)

Isolated severe storms possible

Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity



Moderate (MDT)

Widespread severe storms likely

Long-lived, widespread and intense

Slight (SLGT)

Scattered severe storms possible

Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms



High (HIGH)

Widespread severe storms expected

Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense



NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts of at least 58 mph, and/or hail of at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.



For the latest information



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