

# Precipitation Type Graphic

## Documentation Page

**Purpose:** The National Weather Service in Caribou and Gray has created graphics that easily display precipitation types for mixed winter weather events. These graphics can be used by core customers for briefing purposes on upcoming winter events.

**Product Creation:** These graphics are created automatically when each individual weather forecast office updates the official forecast. An individual forecast graphic will be created in 3 hour increments through the first 24 hours, then in 6 hour increments thereafter through 120 hours (5 days). Depending on how many forecast updates will dictate how often these graphics are created, but on average the first 24 hour forecast will be updated 6 times a day and the day 2 to 5 period will be updated twice daily (~ 3 p.m. and 3 a.m.).

**Product Location:** Graphics will be hosted via the NWS Internet pages at the following URL:

<http://www.weather.gov/car/WeatherTypeCovForecast>

Note: The URL will be hidden for the first test season (winter 2015-16) and will only be available for a small test group to evaluate the graphics.

**Precipitation Type Graphic Example:** The precipitation type page consists of the main graphic with the toggle commands at the bottom of the page. See image below for number reference locations:

- 1. Valid Time** – Provides you with the graphic valid time in either 3hr or 6hr forecast time periods
- 2. Legend** – Simple legend that explains what the precipitation type graphic colors are representing (a more detailed description of this legend is in the following section of this document).
- 3. Weather Type Graphic** – This is the main graphic for the Caribou County Warning Area. A snapshot of the precipitation types will be displayed in this window for the valid time. You will at times see a thin colored line separating different precipitation types; this is an artifact in the graphic creation process and should be ignored.
- 4. Creation Time** – This represents the time that these graphics were created.
- 5. Toggle Options** – Simple toggle control that either advances one image at a time forward or backwards, in addition to automatic loop options.

**\*\*Prototype Under Development - not to be relied on for operational decision making\*\***

### Weather Type

Valid: Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 06 AM EST

1. Valid Time

2. Legend

- Rain
- Snow
- Wintry Mix
- Ice
- Chance Rain
- Chance Snow
- Chance Wintry Mix
- Chance Ice

3. Weather Type Graphic

Map locations and weather types: Estcourt Station (Chance Ice), Madawaska (Chance Ice), Van-Buren (Chance Ice), Caribou (Chance Ice), Presque Isle (Chance Ice), Clayton Lake (Chance Ice), Greenville (Chance Ice), Millinocket (Ice), Houlton (Chance Ice), Calais (Chance Rain), Eastport (Chance Rain), Bangor (Chance Rain), Machias (Chance Rain), Bar Harbor (Chance Rain). An artifact line is shown near Bangor.

4. Creation Time









National Weather Service  
Caribou Maine  
01/08/2016 12:07 PM EST

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Previous Image Loop Backwards Loop Forwards Next Image Stop

5. Toggle Options

**Legend:** The below table explains what each precipitation type in the legend represents:

	<b>Probability of Precipitation (POP)</b>	<b>Weather Type Definition</b>
 <b>Rain</b>	$\geq 55\%$	<b>Exclusively rain or drizzle</b>
 <b>Snow</b>	$\geq 55\%$	<b>Exclusively snow</b>
 <b>Wintry Mix</b>	$\geq 55\%$	<b>Any combination of rain, snow, freezing drizzle or sleet</b>
 <b>Ice</b>	$\geq 55\%$	<b>Exclusively freezing rain or freezing drizzle, or any weather combination that includes freezing rain</b>
 <b>Chance Rain</b>	$\leq 54\%$	<b>Exclusively rain or drizzle</b>
 <b>Chance Snow</b>	$\leq 54\%$	<b>Exclusively snow</b>
 <b>Chance Wintry Mix</b>	$\leq 54\%$	<b>Any combination of rain, snow, freezing drizzle or sleet</b>
 <b>Chance Ice</b>	$\leq 54\%$	<b>Exclusively freezing rain or freezing drizzle, or any weather combination that includes freezing rain</b>

**Feedback:** Please provide feedback on these prototype products by emailing [Donald.Dumont@noaa.gov](mailto:Donald.Dumont@noaa.gov). The National Weather Service is looking for any suggested improvements or how you use these products operationally.