

A Texas Highway 90 Special: Winter Storm Saturday December 5th, 2020

Overnight Friday into Saturday December 5th, a disturbance perused to the south of the region with a stripe of snow falling across the high terrain of west Texas.

An upper-level low developed over Mexico and slowly pivoted eastward Saturday. Plenty of cold air and lift were generated by the storm system. This allowed precipitation to fall in the form of snow for areas above 3500' across the Hwy 90 corridor between Valentine and just west of Marathon in Texas.



Our Lady of Peace Church Alpine, Melinda Eli

By 3AM CST, light precipitation began to develop over the Presidio valley, moving eastward through the early morning hours, and becoming broader in coverage. Marfa and Alpine began seeing snowfall prior to sunrise with the heaviest snowfall still to come through the morning hours. Totals by 9AM CST Saturday were approaching 0.5" to as much as 3" along the stretch from Valentine to Alpine with heavy snow settled



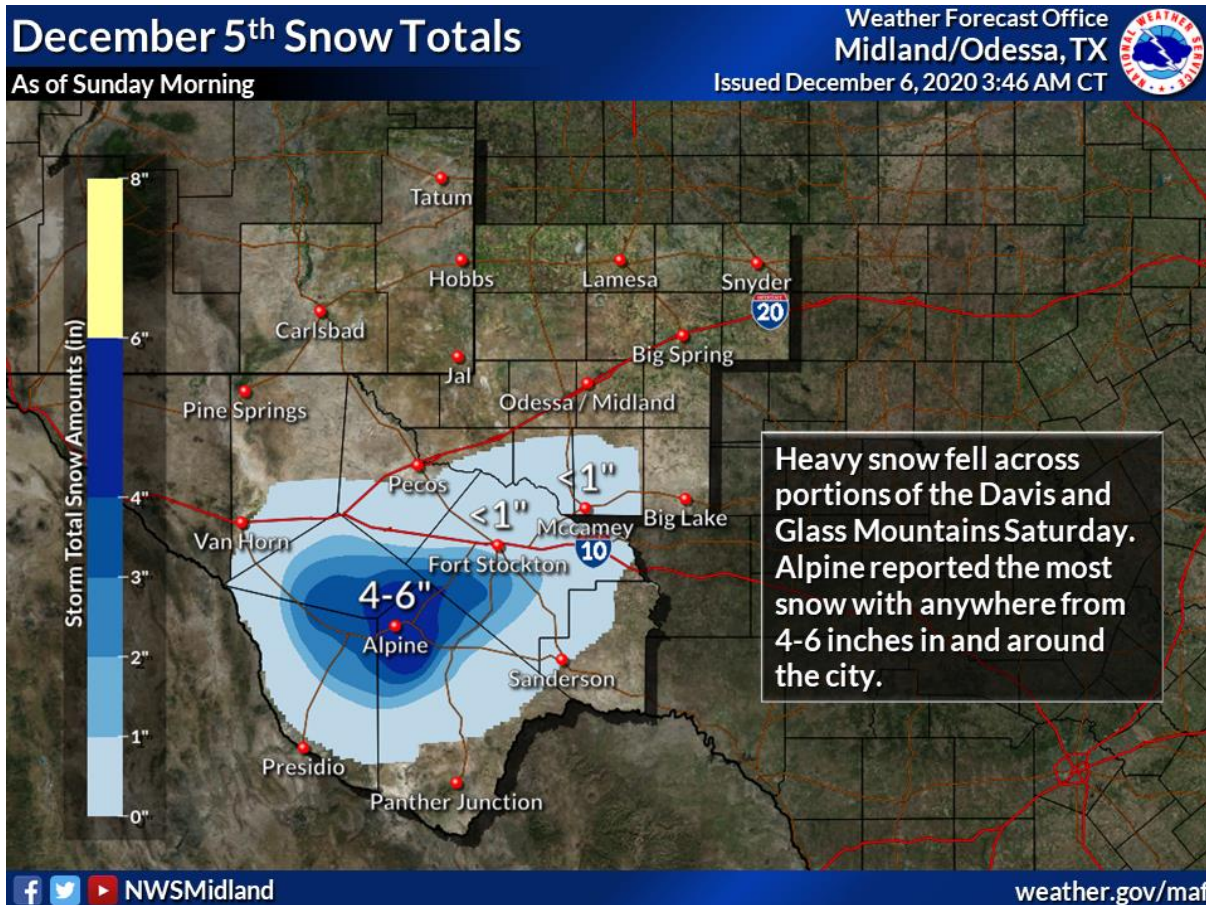
Park in Marfa, Marfa Public Radio

over the Glass Mountains to Marfa. Alpine would eventually be ground zero for the heaviest snowfall with up to 1"/hr snowfall being reported for a short time. This was a classic elevation dependent

storm where areas below 3500' struggled to accumulate efficiently, but the higher terrain were able to quickly rack up several inches of snow.

Areas to the north also saw some brief periods of snowfall with Fort Stockton and even Crane seeing a burst of snow, but no accumulation was able to come of it. A swath of 3-6" was common over the TX 118

corridor from eastern Jeff Davis county down to Alpine. By Noon Saturday, the snow had already begun moving out of the area as the best lift pivoted to the northeast and weakened through the afternoon. No matter, a vast wintry scene



was on display across portions of the Marfa Plateau and adjacent mountains. Many pictures and videos were sent in by locals enjoying the glistening white that fell over the landscape.

Special thanks to everyone who sent in reports, pictures, and video of the event. It was a quick “Snow & Go” for the totality of the event, but through great communication and vigilance of our west Texas natives, everything went smoothly, and everyone was able to enjoy the rare event.



Alpine, Joe Trussell



Deer in the Snow, Adam Brant