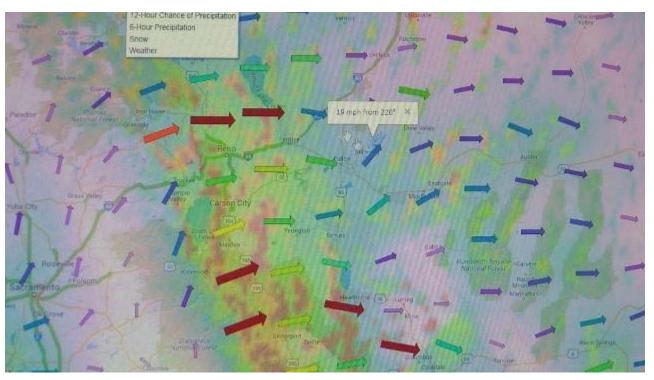
Rural road conditions available online through new site

GALLATIN COUNTY

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BOZEMAN, Mont. -

A new website may come in handy for people making a multi-state trip or using rural roads for their holiday travel this week.

<u>One-Stop-Shop</u> was created by a team that includes Montana State University students and faculty. The Western Transportation Institute and Caltrans, the California department of transportation, are both partners in developing the site.

It allows users to see traffic reports as well as weather conditions like snow, wind and fires in different states all on one map. Developers say they saw the need for a rural road conditions map because there was not enough information on the roads to serve people who use them daily.

The site is designed to be a supplement instead of a replacement to navigation devices to better prepare drivers for conditions they may face.

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"We've taken a little bit of a different approach than navigation devices. We've taken the approach that the informed driver is going be the smart driver. They'll make good decisions if they know what's out there now, and if they know what's coming down the pipe versus just trusting technology to guide them," said Doug Galarus, one of the developers of the site.

The site is not fully functional on smartphones yet, but developers say they hope to have it available on mobile devices by next year.

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