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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-68 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1205 PM EDT Tue Aug 20 2024

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Changes to Fire Weather Forecast Zones for WFO
Pendleton, OR: Effective March 2025

Updated to announce the implementation date is changing from September
2024 to March 2025

The NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Pendleton, OR (PDT) is planning
to change Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing northeast Oregon in or
around March 2025. The previous date of September 10, 2024 is no longer
valid. When the exact date is known, NWS will issue an updated Service
Change Notice (SCN). After this change, all forecasts and related
products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

These changes are intended to provide more consistency across fire
weather and fire danger rating areas to benefit the fire community and
decision makers. Nested fire weather zones were developed within
Northeast Oregon's fire danger rating areas. This will allow for
increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, fire weather
watches and red flag warnings within the respective fire weather
programs.

Four current zones will be realigned and converted into eight separate
zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard
products for conditions that vary significantly across Northeast Oregon's
geographic area.

The new zones are listed in Table 2.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs): Current Fire Weather
Forecast Zone Name

OR642: Southern Blue and Strawberry Mountains
OR643: Northern Blue Mountains of Oregon
OR644: Central Blue Mountains
OR645: Wallowa District

Table 2. UGC: New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name

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OR691: Western Forested Blue Mountains
OR692: Northern Blue Mountains of Oregon
OR693: Canyon Grasslands of Wallowa County
OR694: Grande Ronde Valley of Oregon
OR695: Eagle Cap Wilderness
OR696: John Day Valley
OR697: Central Blue Mountains
OR698: Southern Blue Mountains

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Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Pendleton, OR Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS56 KPDT	FWFPDT
Fire Weather Message	WWUS86 KPDT	RFPDPDT

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these weather forecast zone changes.

Final versions of the shapefiles will be available in or around March 2025, with the exact date announced in December 2024.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/2024FWZChange>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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