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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-14
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
300 PM EST Thu Jan 6 2022

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

From: Kimberly McMahon, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Reconfiguration of Fire Weather Zones by WFO Spokane, WA and WFO
Pendleton, OR: Effective March 22, 2022

On or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 100 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices in Spokane, WA (OTX) and Pendleton, OR (PDT) will reconfigure Fire Weather Forecast Zones across all of Eastern Washington. After this change, all fire forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 29, 2022.

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 Eastern Washington'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.

The Pendleton and Spokane, WA Forecast Offices have also transferred responsibility of several fire weather zones. The transfer was implemented to best align our fire weather zones with our public forecast areas of responsibilities.

17 current zones will be realigned and converted into 20 separate zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly across Eastern Washington geographic area.

No changes are being made to the Idaho Fire Weather Forecast zones.

Tables 1 and 2 below detail the zone changes. Additionally, two zones will transfer responsibility from WFO Spokane to WFO Pendleton, and one zone will transfer from WFO Pendleton to WFO Spokane. Tables 3 and 4 detail those changes.

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

WAZ639: East Washington Southern Washington Cascades
WAZ641: Lower Columbia Basin of Washington
WAZ643: Blue Mountains of Washington
WAZ645: Wallowa District - Asotin County
WAZ662: East Portion of North Cascades NP/Lake Chelan NRA
WAZ673: East Washington Northern Columbia Basin
WAZ674: East Washington Palouse and Spokane Area
WAZ675: East Washington Southern Columbia Basin
WAZ676: East Washington South Central Cascade Valleys
WAZ677: East Washington Central Cascade Valleys
WAZ680: East Washington South Central Cascade Mountains
WAZ681: Yakama Alpine District
WAZ682: East Washington Central Cascades Mountains
WAZ684: East Washington Okanogan/Methow Valley
WAZ685: East Washington North Cascades
WAZ686: East Washington Northeast
WAZ687: East Washington Okanogan Highlands

Table 2: UGC: New Fire Zone Forecast Name

WAZ690: Kittitas Valley
WAZ691: Lower Columbia Basin
WAZ692: Blue Mountains of Washington
WAZ693: Southeast Washington Grande Ronde Valley
WAZ694: Yakama Alpine District
WAZ695: East Washington South Central Cascade Mountains
WAZ696: East Washington Central Cascades
WAZ697: East Portion of North Cascades National Park/Lake Chelan National
Recreation Area
WAZ698: East Washington North Cascades
WAZ699: Okanogan Highlands & Kettle Mountains
WAZ700: Selkirk Mountains of Northeast Washington
WAZ701: Foothills of Northeast Washington
WAZ702: Colville Reservation
WAZ703: Okanogan Valley
WAZ704: Methow Valley
WAZ705: Foothills of Central Washington Cascades
WAZ706: Waterville Plateau
WAZ707: Western Columbia Basin
WAZ708: Eastern Columbia Basin - Palouse - Spokane Area
WAZ709: Lower Palouse - Snake River

Table 3: Washington Fire Weather Zones Transferring from WFO Spokane to WFO Pendleton

WAZ690: Kittitas Valley
WAZ695: East Washington South Central Cascade Mountains

Table 4: Washington Fire Weather Zones Transferring from WFO Pendleton to WFO Spokane

WAZ709: Lower Palouse - Snake River

Table 5: NWS Products Affected by the WFO Spokane, WA/Pendleton, OR Fire Zone Changes

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
FWFOTX	FNUS56 KOTX	Fire Weather Forecast
RFWOTX	WWUS86 KOTX	Fire Weather Message
FWFPDT	FNUS56 KPDT	Fire Weather Forecast
RFWPDT	WWUS86 KPDT	Fire Weather Message

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Updated public zone shapefiles are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/otx/EasternWAFireZoneChanges>

For more information, please contact:

Spokane National Weather Service:

Stephen Bodnar
Fire Weather Program Leader
NWS Spokane, WA
stephen.bodnar@noaa.gov
509-244-0110, ext. 227

Ronald Miller
Meteorologist-in-Charge
NWS Spokane, WA
ronald.miller@noaa.gov
509-244-0110, ext. 222

Pendleton National Weather Service:

Mary Wister
Fire Weather Program Leader
NWS Pendleton, OR
mary.wister@noaa.gov
541-276-8134

Mike Vescio
Meteorologist-in-Charge
NWS Pendleton, OR
michael.vescio@noaa.gov
541-276-7832

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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