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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-116
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
900 AM EST Thu Dec 21 2023

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

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

Subject: Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO Portland, OR: Effective March 5, 2024

Reference: Service Change Notice 23-117: Changes to Fire Weather Zones for WFO Portland, OR: Effective March 5, 2024:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf_2023_24/scn23-117_pqr_fire_zone_changes_032024.pdf

Effective Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 1:00 PM Pacific Standard Time (PST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Portland, OR (PQR) will complete changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones for southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. After this change, all public forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

These changes are intended to allow WFO PQR to issue more accurate weather watches, warnings, and advisories for a wide variety of weather scenarios. These changes will be most beneficial during the following weather scenarios: easterly wind events in the Columbia River Gorge and Portland metro; winter storms in the lowlands and/or mountains of southwest WA and/or northwest OR; windstorms impacting coastal areas; coastal flooding events; dense fog events; air stagnation and/or air quality events; heatwaves; cold snaps and frost/freeze events.

WFO PQR's Public zones have been reconfigured using carefully selected elevation thresholds, local climatology, major transportation routes, and main population centers.

If March 5, 2024 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 6, 2024 at 21:00 UTC.

Table 1. Universal Geographic Code (UGC): Current Public Forecast Zone Name

ORZ001: North Oregon Coast
ORZ002: Central Oregon Coast
ORZ003: Coast Range of Northwest Oregon

ORZ004: Central Coast Range of Western Oregon
ORZ005: Lower Columbia
ORZ006: Greater Portland Metro
ORZ007: Central Willamette Valley
ORZ008: South Willamette Valley
ORZ010: Northern Oregon Cascade Foothills
ORZ011: Northern Oregon Cascades
ORZ012: Cascade Foothills in Lane County
ORZ013: Cascades in Lane County
ORZ014: Upper Hood River Valley
ORZ015: Western Columbia River Gorge
ORZ016: Central Columbia River Gorge

WAZ019: South Washington Cascades
WAZ020: Willapa Hills
WAZ021: South Washington Coast
WAZ022: I-5 Corridor in Cowlitz County
WAZ039: Greater Vancouver Area
WAZ040: South Washington Cascade Foothills
WAZ045: Western Columbia River Gorge
WAZ046: Central Columbia River Gorge

Table 2. UGC: New Public Forecast Zone Name

ORZ101: Clatsop County Coast
ORZ102: Tillamook County Coast
ORZ103: Central Coast of Oregon
ORZ104: North Oregon Coast Range Lowlands
ORZ105: Central Oregon Coast Range Lowlands
ORZ106: North Oregon Coast Range
ORZ107: Central Oregon Coast Range
ORZ108: Lower Columbia River
ORZ109: Tualatin Valley
ORZ110: West Hills and Chehalem Mountains
ORZ111: Inner Portland Metro
ORZ112: East Portland Metro
ORZ113: Outer Southeast Portland Metro
ORZ114: West Central Willamette Valley
ORZ115: East Central Willamette Valley
ORZ116: Benton County Lowlands
ORZ117: Linn County Lowlands
ORZ118: Lane County Lowlands
ORZ119: West Columbia River Gorge of Oregon above 500 ft
ORZ120: West Columbia River Gorge I-84 Corridor
ORZ121: Upper Hood River Valley
ORZ122: Central Columbia River Gorge I-84 Corridor
ORZ123: Clackamas County Cascade Foothills
ORZ124: Cascade Foothills of Marion and Linn Counties
ORZ125: Lane County Cascade Foothills
ORZ126: North Oregon Cascades
ORZ127: Cascades of Marion and Linn Counties
ORZ128: Cascades of Lane County

WAZ201: South Washington Coast
 WAZ202: Willapa and Wahkiakum Lowlands
 WAZ203: Willapa Hills
 WAZ204: Cowlitz County Lowlands
 WAZ205: North Clark County Lowlands
 WAZ206: Inner Vancouver Metro
 WAZ207: East Clark County Lowlands
 WAZ208: South Washington Cascade Foothills
 WAZ209: West Columbia River Gorge - SR 14
 WAZ210: Central Columbia River Gorge - SR 14
 WAZ211: South Washington Cascades

Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Portland, OR Public Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Zone Forecast Product	FPUS56 KPQR	ZFPQR
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS56 KPQR	PFMPQR
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS66 KPQR	SFTPQR
Public Information Statement	NOUS46 KPQR	PNSPQR
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS76 KPQR	NPWPQR
Flood Watch	WGUS66 KPQR	FFAPQR
Flood Warning	WGUS46 KPQR	FLWPQR
Flood Advisory	WGUS86 KPQR	FLSPQR
Special Weather Statement	WWUS86 KPQR	SPSPQR
Winter Weather Message	WWUS46 KPQR	WSWPQR
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS66 KPQR	AFDPQR
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS76 KPQR	AQAPQR
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS46 KPQR	CFWPQR
Surf Zone Forecast	FZUS56 KPQR	SRFPQR
Short Term Forecast	FPUS76 KPQR	NOWPQR

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

Preliminary shapefiles for public weather forecast zones are available online at:

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 23, 2024.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4f96fcc650f340b7a48a86596d4beb93>

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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