

NOUS41 KWBC 211400
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-117
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
900 AM EST Thu Dec 21 2023

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: Changes to Fire Weather Zones for WFO Portland, OR:
Effective March 5, 2024

Reference: Service Change Notice 23-116: Changes to Public Weather Zones
for WFO Portland, OR: Effective March 5, 2024:

[https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf 2023 24/scn23-116 pqr public zone changes 032024.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf%2023%2024/scn23-116_pqr_public_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 change Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing Pacific, Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, Wahkiakum Counties in Southwest Washington and, Tillamook, Lane, Columbia, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, Linn, Benton, Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas Counties in Northwest Oregon. After this change, all fire weather forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown in table 2 below.

The results of these changes will allow for more precise forecasts, watch and warning generation, and clearer website communication for the protection of life and property. These changes have been made with consideration of State and National Forests, local, state and federal partners, geographic boundaries, the Fire Danger Rating Areas, and the needs of public safety and services industries.

14 current zones will be converted into 18 reconfigured zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products for conditions that vary significantly within northwest Oregon and southwest Washington. The new zones are listed in Table 2.

If March 5, 2024 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 6, 2024 at 2100 UTC.

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

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IN OREGON:
ORZ601: North Oregon Coast
ORZ602: North Oregon Coast Range
ORZ603: East Slopes of the Central Oregon Coast Range
ORZ604: Willamette Valley
ORZ605: North Oregon Cascade Foothills
ORZ606: Central Oregon Cascade Foothills
ORZ607: Mt. Hood National Forest - West of Cascade Crest
ORZ608: Willamette National Forest
ORZ612: Central Oregon Coastal Strip

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IN WASHINGTON:
WAZ660: Extreme South Washington Cascades and Foothills
WAZ663: Eastern Gifford Pinchot NF - Mt. Adams Ranger District
WAZ664: South Washington Coast and West Willapa Hills
WAZ665: East Willapa Hills
WAZ667: Clark County Lowlands

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Table 2. UGC: New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name

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IN OREGON:
ORZ680: Northern Oregon Coast
ORZ681: Central Oregon Coast
ORZ682: Northern Oregon Coast Range
ORZ683: Central Oregon Coast Range
ORZ684: Northern and Central Willamette Valley
ORZ685: Southern Willamette Valley
ORZ686: Northern Oregon Cascade Foothills
ORZ687: Central Oregon Cascade Foothills
ORZ688: Mt. Hood National Forest Region
ORZ689: Northern Willamette National Forest
ORZ690: Southern Willamette National Forest

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IN WASHINGTON:
WAZ630: Southern Washington Coast and Willapa Hills
WAZ631: Cowlitz River Lowlands and Eastern Willapa Hills
WAZ632: Cowlitz County Foothills
WAZ633: Clark County Lowlands and Swift Reservoir Region
WAZ634: Southern Gifford Pinchot National Forest
WAZ635: Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest
WAZ636: Western Columbia River Gorge in Oregon and Washington

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

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS56 KPQR	FWFPQR
Fire Weather Message	WWUS86 KPQR	RFWPQR

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

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

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

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/ed6226ca2d6d4906935c8991e3578573>

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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