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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-68  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1220 PM EDT Thu Jun 27 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: Changes to Fire Weather Forecast Zones for WFO Pendleton, OR:  
Effective September 10, 2024

Effective Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 2:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Pendleton, OR (PDT) will change Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing northeast Oregon. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

If September 10, 2024 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to September 11, 2024 at 2100 UTC.

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 |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|
| -----                 | -----       | -----    |
| 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.

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 August 26, 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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