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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-69 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1015 AM EST Mon Dec 23 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 Public Forecast Zones for WFO Seattle, WA:  
Effective March 18, 2025

Updated to announce the implementation date of March 18, 2025 and to  
update information on when shapefiles will be made available.

Effective Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
(PDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast  
Office in Seattle, WA (WFO SEW) will make changes to Public Weather  
Forecast Zones for western Washington. After this change, all forecasts  
and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown in  
Table 2 below.

If March 18, 2025 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation  
will be postponed to March 19, 2025 at 2100 UTC.

These changes are intended to allow WFO Seattle to issue weather watches,  
warnings, and advisories which will more accurately reflect forecasted  
weather conditions for a wide variety of weather scenarios. These  
changes will be most beneficial during the following scenarios: Puget  
Sound Convergence Zone snowfall events, snowfall events where mountain  
valley communities are not impacted, coastal flooding events, and tsunami  
events. These changes could also allow WFO Seattle to explore  
transitioning to zone-based hydrologic services in the future.

WFO Seattle Public Forecast Zones have been reconfigured using carefully  
selected elevation thresholds, local climatology, major transportation  
routes, and main population centers. They also align better with recent  
zone changes implemented by WFOs Portland, Pendleton, and Spokane:

\* [SCN 23-116: Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO Portland, OR:  
Effective March 5, 2024](#)

\* [SCN 22-120: Changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones for WFO Pendleton,  
OR: Effective March 8, 2023](#)

\* [SCN 21-63: Reconfiguration of Public Forecast Zones by WFO Spokane, WA:  
Effective September 8, 2021](#)

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

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WAZ001: San Juan County  
WAZ503: Western Whatcom County  
WAZ504: Southwest Interior  
WAZ506: Western Skagit County  
WAZ507: Everett and Vicinity  
WAZ509: Tacoma Area  
WAZ510: Admiralty Inlet Area  
WAZ511: Hood Canal Area  
WAZ512: Lower Chehalis Valley Area  
WAZ513: Olympics  
WAZ514: Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca  
WAZ515: Western Strait of Juan de Fuca  
WAZ516: North Coast  
WAZ517: Central Coast  
WAZ555: East Puget Sound Lowlands  
WAZ556: Bellevue and Vicinity  
WAZ558: Seattle and Vicinity  
WAZ559: Bremerton and Vicinity  
WAZ567: West Slopes North Cascades and Passes  
WAZ568: West Slopes North Central Cascades and Passes  
WAZ569: West Slopes South Central Cascades and Passes

Table 2: UGCs: New Public Zone Forecast Name

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WAZ001: San Juan County  
WAZ301: Cascades of Whatcom and Skagit Counties  
WAZ302: Cascades of Snohomish and Northern King Counties  
WAZ303: Cascades of Southern King County  
WAZ304: Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties  
WAZ305: Foothills and Valleys of the North Cascades  
WAZ306: Foothills and Valleys of Snohomish and Northern King Counties  
WAZ307: Foothills and Valleys of Central King County  
WAZ308: Foothills and Valleys of Pierce and Southern King Counties  
WAZ309: Foothills and Valleys of Thurston and Lewis Counties  
WAZ310: Lowlands of Western Whatcom County  
WAZ311: Lowlands of Western Skagit and Northwestern Snohomish Counties  
WAZ312: Downtown Everett / Marysville Area  
WAZ313: Shoreline / Lynnwood / South Everett Area  
WAZ314: Eastside  
WAZ315: City of Seattle  
WAZ316: Lowlands of Pierce and Southern King Counties  
WAZ317: Olympia and Southern Puget Sound  
WAZ318: Lowlands of Lewis and Southern Thurston Counties  
WAZ319: Middle Chehalis River Valley  
WAZ320: Willapa and Black Hills  
WAZ321: Southern Hood Canal  
WAZ322: Northern Hood Canal  
WAZ323: Eastern Kitsap County  
WAZ324: Port Townsend Area  
WAZ325: Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca  
WAZ326: Western Strait of Juan de Fuca

WAZ327: Lake Crescent Area including US 101  
WAZ328: Olympics  
WAZ329: Foothills of the Western and Southern Olympic Peninsula  
WAZ330: Northern Washington Coast  
WAZ331: Grays Harbor County Coast  
WAZ332: Lower Chehalis River Valley  
WAZ333: Island County

Table 3: NWS Seattle, WA Products Affected by the WFO SEW Public Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Zone Forecast Product	FPUS56 KSEW	ZFPSEW
Point Forecast Matrix	FOUS56 KSEW	PFMSEW
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS66 KSEW	SFTSEW
Public Information Statement	NOUS46 KSEW	PNSSEW
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS76 KSEW	NPWSEW
Special Weather Statement	WWUS86 KSEW	SPSSEW
Winter Weather Message	WWUS46 KSEW	WSWSEW
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS46 KSEW	CFWSEW
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS66 KSEW	AFDSEW
Avalanche Watch	WOUS46 KSEW	AVASEW
Avalanche Warning	WOUS46 KSEW	AVWSEW
Special Avalanche Bulletin	WWUS86 KSEW	SABSEW
NTWC Segmented Tsunami Watch/Warning/ Advisory	WEPA41 PAAQ	TSUWCA

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 forecast zone shapefiles are online at:

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 28, 2025.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://arcg.is/1eH80e0>

For more information, please contact:

Reid Wolcott  
Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
NWS Seattle, WA  
[reid.wolcott@noaa.gov](mailto:reid.wolcott@noaa.gov)

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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