

NOUS41 KWBC 181628
PNSWSH

SERVICE CHANGE NOTICE 08-31
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
1228 PM EDT FRI APR 18 2008

TO: SUBSCRIBERS:
-FAMILY OF SERVICES
-NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE
-EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK
-NOAAPORT
OTHER NWS PARTNERS...USERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: ELI JACKS
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FIRE WEATHER ZONES IN SOUTHEAST
IDAHO: EFFECTIVE MAY 8 2008

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY MAY 8 AT 1200 COORDINATED UNIVERSAL TIME /UTC/...THE
NWS WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE /WFO/ IN POCATELLO IDAHO /PIH/ WILL CHANGE
SOUTHEAST IDAHO FIRE WEATHER ZONE BOUNDARIES AND ZONE DESCRIPTOR NAMES.

THIS CHANGE SUPPORTS A MORE EFFICIENT FORECAST PROCESS AND PROVIDES NWS
FIRE WEATHER PARTNERS WITH IMPROVED WATCH...WARNING AND FORECAST PRODUCTS.
HISTORICALLY...THERE IS A HIGH FREQUENCY OF LIGHTNING-CAUSED FIRES
ORIENTED ALONG A SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST AXIS IN THE SALMON RIVER MOUNTAINS
EAST OF THE MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER. THIS AREA IS CURRENTLY REPRESENTED
BY TWO WEST-EAST ORIENTED ZONES /IDZ405 AND IDZ406/ THAT SPAN A WIDE AREA
WITH LARGE VARIATION IN TERRAIN AND FUEL TYPES. THIS RESULTS IN PLANNING
FORECASTS THAT ARE BROAD AND GENERIC. THE CHANGE BEING IMPLEMENTED FOR
THIS SEASON WILL SHIFT ORIENTATION OF THE FIRE WEATHER ZONES TO BETTER
REFLECT LIGHTNING CLIMATOLOGY IN THE AREA AND PROVIDE ZONES MORE CLOSELY
ALIGNED WITH FIRE AGENCY DISPATCH BOUNDARIES.

ONCE THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED...THE FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTORS WILL BE USED IN ALL FIRE WEATHER FORECAST PRODUCTS ISSUED FOR
SOUTHEAST IDAHO:

FIRE WEATHER ZONE NUMBER -----	ZONE DESCRIPTOR -----
IDZ475	EAST SALMON RIVER MOUNTAINS/SALMON NF

ID475 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: THE WESTERN HALF OF THE SALMON-CHALLIS
NATIONAL FOREST /NF/ BETWEEN THE MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER AND THE SALMON
RIVER MOUNTAINS. THE ZONE IS BORDERED ON THE NORTH BY THE NORTH LEMHI
COUNTY LINE AND BORDERED ON THE SOUTH BY THE SALMON RIVER.

IDZ476	LEMHI AND LOST RIVER RANGE/CHALLIS NF
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IDZ476 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: ALL OF THE LAND FROM THE SALMON RIVER
MOUNTAINS TO THE MOUTH OF THE BIRCH CREEK VALLEY LITTLE LOST RIVER VALLEY

AND BIG LOST RIVER VALLEY. THE ZONE IS BORDERED ON THE NORTH BY THE MONTANA STATE LINE AND BORDERED ON THE SOUTHWEST BY THE SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST.

IDZ477 SAWTOOTH RANGE/NORTHERN SAWTOOTH NF

IDZ477 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: THE NORTHERN SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST AND CAMAS PRAIRIE. THE ZONE IS BORDERED ON THE NORTH BY THE SALMON RIVER AND TO THE NORTHWEST BY THE PIONEER MOUNTAINS. THE ZONE IS BORDERED TO THE WEST BY THE BOISE NATIONAL FOREST AND TO THE SOUTH BY THE NORTHERN GOODING AND LINCOLN COUNTY LINES.

IDZ409 MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER VALLEY/TWIN FALLS BLM

IDZ409 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: PORTIONS OF THE MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER VALLEY AND CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT. THE ZONE IS BORDERED TO THE WEST BY THE WESTERN LINCOLN AND MINIDOKA COUNTY LINES AND TO THE SOUTH BY THE SNAKE RIVER. THE ZONE IS BORDERED TO THE NORTH BY THE LITTLE LOST RIVER AND TO THE EAST BY CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT.

IDZ410 UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY/IDAHO FALLS BLM

IDZ410 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: THE UPPER SNAKE RIVER VALLEY. THE ZONE IS BORDERED TO THE NORTH BY THE TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST AND TO THE EAST BY THE CARIBOU NATIONAL FOREST. THE ZONE IS BORDERED TO THE WEST BY CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT AND TO THE SOUTH BY THE SNAKE RIVER.

IDZ413 CARIBOU RANGE/CARIBOU NF

IDZ413 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: THE ZONE BOUNDARY WAS UPDATED FOR BETTER MAPPING OF THE SOUTHEAST SIDE OF AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR.

IDZ403 NORTHERN BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

IDZ403 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: THE EASTERN BOUNDARY WAS CORRECTED SO THAT THE LITTLE CREEK REMOTE AUTOMATED WEATHER STATION /RAWS/ OBSERVING SITE CORRECTLY LIES ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER. THE RAWS SITE WILL NOW BE CORRECTLY LOCATED WITHIN FIRE WEATHER ZONE IDZ475.

NWS WATCH...WARNING AND FORECAST PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY THESE CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONES IDZ475...IDZ476...IDZ477...IDZ409...IDZ410 AND IDZ413:

PRODUCT	WMO HEADING	AWIPS IDENTIFIER
FIRE WEATHER WATCH	WWUS85 KPIH	RFWPIH
RED FLAG WARNING	WWUS85 KPIH	RFWPIH
FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST	FNUS55 KPIH	FWFPIH
NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING	FNUS85 KPIH	FWMPIH
SYSTEM FORECAST		

FOR FIRE WEATHER ZONE IDZ403:

PRODUCT	WMO HEADING	AWIPS IDENTIFIER
FIRE WEATHER WATCH	WWUS85 KBOI	RFWBOI
RED FLAG WARNING	WWUS85 KBOI	RFWBOI
FIRE WEATHER PLANNING FORECAST	FNUS55 KBOI	FWFBOI
NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING	FNUS85 KBOI	FWMBOI
SYSTEM FORECAST		

NWS CUSTOMERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO THEIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS TO ACCOMMODATE THESE ZONE CHANGES.

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CHANGE IS SOONER THAN SPECIFIED BY NWS POLICY /NWS INSTRUCTION 10-1805/. THIS REDUCTION OF ADVANCE NOTICE WAS REQUESTED BY THE IMPACTED LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES AND WILL REQUIRE MINIMAL CHANGES TO SOFTWARE.

SHAPEFILES OF THE NEW FIRE WEATHER ZONES FOR THE NWS POCATELLO OFFICE ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/GEODATA/CATALOG/WSOM/HTML/FIREZONE.HTM](http://www.weather.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm)

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THESE PRODUCT CHANGES...PLEASE CONTACT:

RICK DITTMANN
METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
POCATELLO IDAHO
PHONE: 208-232-9306
EMAIL: RICK.DITTMANN@NOAA.GOV

NATIONAL SERVICE CHANGE NOTICES ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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