

NOUS41 KWBC 052015 CCA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-13 Corrected
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
315 PM EST Wed Mar 5 2014

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From: Eli Jacks
 Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Corrected: Changes in Several Fire Weather Forecast Zone
Boundaries for Oregon and Washington: Effective April 1, 2014

Corrected fire zone numbers in Table 2 to reflect Oregon zones instead of
Idaho zones and corrected ORZ646 name to Baker Valley. The original fire
zone shapefile (fz01ap14.zip) is correct.

Effective Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 500 AM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT),
1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in
Pendleton, Oregon (WFO PDT) and Boise, Idaho (WFO BOI) will reconfigure
several fire weather forecast zones in Oregon and Washington to better
capture climatological weather patterns. Upon implementation of this
change, all fire weather forecasts and related products for the changed
zones will use the Universal Geographic Code (UGC) zone number, name and
geographic description shown below.

Table 1: WFO Pendleton OR Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes in Oregon and
Washington

Old Zone UGC Number	New Zone UGC Number	New Zone Name
ORZ609	ORZ639	Eastern Slopes of the North Oregon Cascades

This zone is being modified to move its current eastern boundary so that
the entire town of Maupin is now within the zone. The boundary with zone
641 will now be east of Maupin and then follow the Deschutes River south
to the zones 640 and 610 intersections.

WAZ609	WAZ639	East Slopes of the Southern Washington Cascades
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This zone is being modified to pull its eastern boundary east from Highway
97 to approximately longitude -120.38.

ORZ610 ORZ610 East Slopes of the Central Oregon Cascades

The northeast boundary of this zone is being modified to follow the Deschutes River from the zones northeast corner south until Lake Billy Chinook.

ORZ630 ORZ640 Central Mountains of Oregon

The zone's northwest boundary is being modified to follow the Deschutes River from the northwest corner of the zone south to Lake Billy Chinook. The eastern boundary of this zone is being modified in several places. Along the extreme northern portion of the eastern boundary, the boundary has been moved west to no longer include any of the Western Forested Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA). The central portion of the eastern boundary has been moved east of Mitchell, and will also now include more of the forested lands on the northeast edge of the Ochoco National Forest. A small area of the southern portion of the eastern boundary has been moved west so that it follows more closely with the southwest border of the Southern Blues FDRA.

ORZ631 ORZ641 Lower Columbia Basin of Oregon

The western boundary of this zone has been modified to no longer include any portion of the town of Maupin, and then to follow the Deschutes River south of Maupin to the southwest corner of the zone. The southeast corner of this zone will no longer include the forested area on the Western Forested FDRA. The northeast corner of this zone will also no longer include the Western Forested FDRA.

WAZ631 WAZ641 Lower Columbia Basin of Washington

The southwestern boundary of this zone has been pulled east from Highway 97 to approximately latitude -120.38. Another western portion of this zone has been pulled west from the Benton County, Franklin County and Walla Walla County junction near the Tri-Cities so that Kennewick is now within this zone and the western boundary no longer borders Walla Walla County. The extreme eastern portion of this zone that originally wrapped around the northern Blue Mountains will no longer include Asotin County, but will have a boundary at the Garfield County and Asotin County border. The southeastern boundary of this zone has been modified westward to better align with the Northern Blues FDRA boundary.

ORZ633 ORZ643 Northern Blue Mountains of Oregon

This zone is now much smaller in size. The zone will no longer include any portion of the Central Blues FDRA or Baker County, and will now only include a small northern portion of the Grande Ronde Valley. The southern boundary will run along a small western portion of E Birch Creek Road, cut southeast to Highway 244, along Highway 244 north to US 84, then east along US 84 to just north of La Grande, and then it will turn north to follow the eastern boundary of the Blue Mountains eastward across the northern Grande Ronde Valley north of Summerville, but south of Elgin. The eastern boundary has been modified to better follow FDRA boundaries near the Wallowa/Union county border. The northwest boundary with zone

OR631 has been pushed west to include more of the Blue Mountain foothills.

ORZ634/ORZ635 ORZ645 Wallowa District

This zone's southern and western boundaries have been expanded to include all of the Eagle Cap Wilderness and the surrounding forested areas, including those which extend into Union and Baker counties. The eastern border remains the OR/ID state line and the northern border remains the WA/OR state line.

N/A WAZ645 Asotin County

This new zone will include the lowlands of Asotin County. It is bordered on the northwest by the Asotin/Garfield county line and the northeast by the Asotin/Whitman county line along the Snake River. The eastern border is the WA/ID state line and the southern border is the WA/OR state line. The western boundary is along the east side of the Northern Blue Mountains.

ORZ632 ORZ644 Central Blue Mountains

This zone will include the southern and western portions of the Western Forested FDRA and the northern portion of the Central Blue Mountains, including the Elkhorn Mountains, as well as the Grande Ronde Valley. The northern boundary will run just north of the Umatilla National Forest, eastward to E Birch Creek Road, cut southeast to Highway 244, along this highway north to US 84, then east along US 84 to just north of La Grande, and then it will turn north to follow the eastern boundary of the Blue Mountains eastward across the northern Grande Ronde Valley north of Summerville, but south of Elgin. The eastern boundary will run along the east side of the Grande Ronde Valley, west along the Union/Baker county line, then south, west of the Baker Valley and east of the Elkhorn Mountains. The southern boundary will run from just south of the Elkhorn Mountains, west along Highway 26, but then north of the John Day Valley. The southwest corner will include a western portion of the John Day Valley, but will remain north of the Ochoco Mountains. The western boundary will cut through the middle of Wheeler County following FDRA boundaries.

ORZ632 ORZ642 Southern Blue and Strawberry Mountains

This zone will include the Southern Blue Mountains and therefore portions of the Umatilla, Malheur and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, as well as the John Day Valley. The northern boundary will be just north of the John Day Valley. The eastern boundary will run south along the western edge of the forests and then along the Malheur/Grant county line, and then the Malheur/Harney county line. The southern boundary is Highway 20, and the western boundary follows close to the Harney county line and then north close to the Grant/Crook county line.

WAZ675 WAZ675 Eastern Washington Southern Columbia Basin

This zone is being modified to no longer include Kennewick, WA. A portion of the southwest border has also been modified so that it now follows more

closely along the Mabton-Bickleton Highway.

WAZ681 WAZ681 Yakima Alpine District

The southeast corner of this zone has been modified to include slightly more of the forested area west of Bickleton, WA.

Table 2: WFO Boise ID Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes in Oregon

Old Zone UGC Number -----	New Zone UGC Number -----	New Zone Name -----
ORZ637	ORZ637	Vale BLM

This zone is being modified slightly to bring the northern boundary back to the Malheur/Baker county line. The remainder of the zone remains unchanged. No Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) will be affected and the zone name will remain unchanged. It will remain labeled "Vale BLM."

ORZ638 ORZ646 Baker Valley

This zone will include mostly Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private lands in Baker County, but also some small portions of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The eastern boundary will follow the OR/ID state line from Brownlee Dam south to the Baker/Malheur county line. The southern boundary will now be the Baker/Malheur county line from the Idaho border westward to where it meets the Wallowa Whitman National Forest (NF) boundary. The western boundary will then run northward to where Highway 26 hits the Wallowa Whitman NF boundary, then diagonally eastward to 44 35 55N 117 55 00W, and then northward up the west side of the Baker Valley to the Union/Baker county line (this gathers portions of the broken land that covers the Wallowa Whitman NF). This boundary breaks the lower valley from the higher terrain to the west. The northern boundary will then follow the Union/Baker County line eastward to the Wallowa Whitman NF/Eagle Cap Wilderness boundary. This zone will remain labeled "Baker Valley."

Table 3: WFO PDT Fire Weather Products Affected by this Change

Product Name -----	WMO Header -----	AWIPS ID -----
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS55 KPDT	FWFPDT
Fire Weather Watch/ Red Flag Warning	WWUS85 KPDT	RFWPDT
National Fire Danger Rating System	FNUS85 KPDT	FWMPDT

Table 4: WFO BOI Fire Weather Products Affected by this Change

Product Name -----	WMO Header -----	AWIPS ID -----
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS55 KBOI	FWFBOI
Fire Weather Watch/ Red Flag Warning	WWUS85 KBOI	RFWBOI
National Fire Danger Rating System	FNUS85 KBOI	FWMBOI

An updated fire weather zone map shapefile containing the new zones is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm>

More information on WFO Pendleton's new fire weather zones is online at:

www.wrh.noaa.gov/pdt/reference/Firewx_Zone_Alterations_PDT_2014.pdf

and WFO Boise's new fire weather zones is online at:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/boi/firewx/change20140317.php>

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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