

# Fire Weather Zone Changes for Southeast Oregon

## Overview

Effective March 2025, the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Boise, ID (BOI) will change the Southeast Oregon fire weather zones within our Fire Weather Area of Responsibility (AOR). The number of fire weather zones in our AOR will increase from three to six, and zone boundaries will follow Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA) and current AOR boundaries, with one additional zone split within one FDRA based on wind climatology. Below are graphics depicting the changes to our fire weather zones.

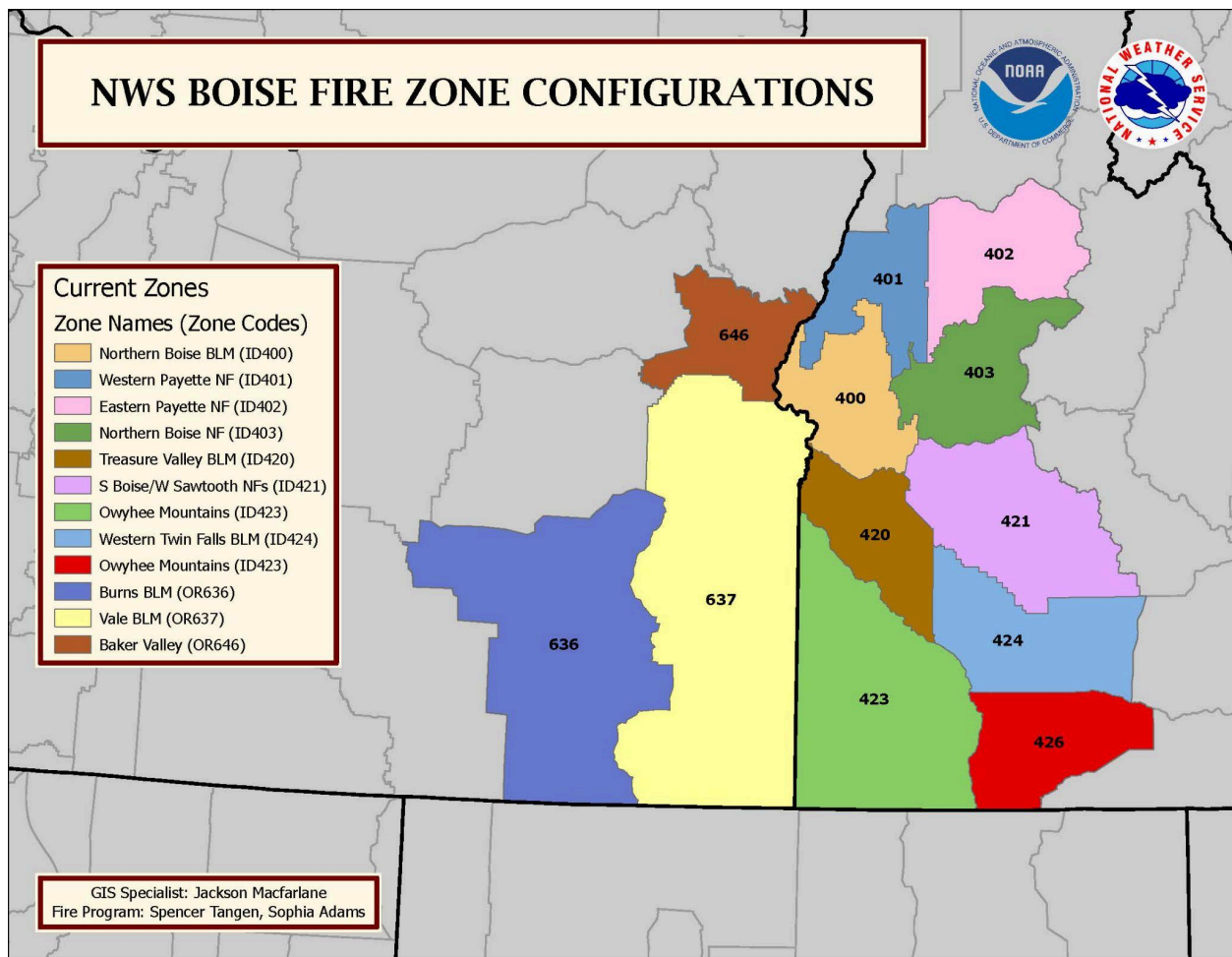


Image 1. Current fire weather zones in WFO BOI's Fire Weather AOR.

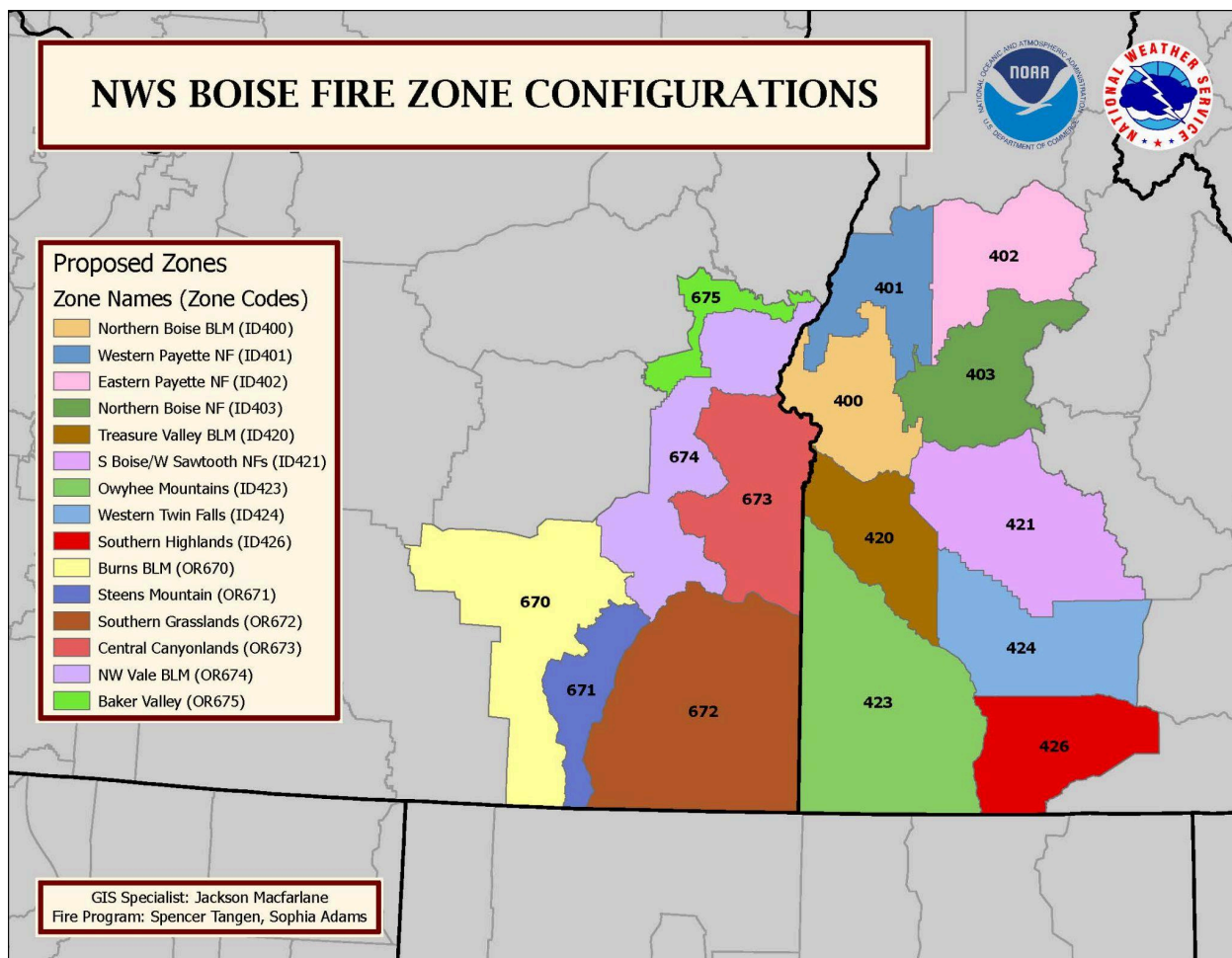


Image 2. Proposed fire weather zones in WFO BOI's Fire Weather AOR. Only the zones across Southeast Oregon are changing. Changes will be implemented March 2025.

## Justification

The fire management agencies operating under the Southeast Oregon Fire Danger Operating Plan and Blue Mountain Fire Danger Operating Plan requested WFO BOI to adjust our fire weather zones to align with interagency FDRAs. FDRAs are based on the components of fire danger: vegetation, climate, and topography. They also may incorporate local boundaries.

Firefighters are briefed daily on the fire environment with a focus on both fire weather and fire danger. The differences in zones used to communicate fire weather and fire danger information adds unnecessary complexity to understanding the fire environment and applying critical metrics appropriately. Aligning our fire weather zones with FDRAs will assist firefighters with integrating fire weather products (including the Fire Weather Planning Forecast and Red Flag Warnings/Fire Weather Watches) with fire danger information. This will improve strategic and tactical decision making, enhance situational awareness, and improve safety for our fire weather partners and the public.

## Configuration Change Details

If you are affected by these changes, take the appropriate actions so your system(s) recognize the new zone Universal Geographic Codes (UGC) and the new zone boundaries effective March 2025.

The proposed changes to the BOI fire weather zones have been closely coordinated with our local partners.

**Table 1. WFO BOI's Affected Fire Weather Zones**

<b>Current Fire Weather Zone/UGC</b>	<b>New Fire Weather Zone/UGC</b>
Burns BLM / ORZ636 Vale BLM / ORZ637 Baker Valley / ORZ646	Burns BLM / ORZ670 Steens Mountain / ORZ671 Southern Grasslands / ORZ672 Central Canyonlands / ORZ673 Northwestern Vale BLM / ORZ674 Baker Valley / ORZ675

**Table 2. WFO BOI's Products Affected by These Changes**

<b>Product Name</b>	<b>WMO Header</b>	<b>AWIPS ID</b>
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS55 KBOI	FWFBOI
Fire Weather Watch / Red Flag Warning	WWUS85 KBOI	RFWBOI

## Questions or Comments

If you have any questions or comments about this change, please contact:

Jay Breidenbach

Warning Coordination Meteorologist

National Weather Service Boise, ID

[jay.breidenbach@noaa.gov](mailto:jay.breidenbach@noaa.gov)

(208) 334-9861 x 2

Spencer Tangen

Fire Weather Program Manager

National Weather Service Boise, ID

[spencer.tangen@noaa.gov](mailto:spencer.tangen@noaa.gov)

(208) 334-9060