

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Washington

Location	Type	Years	Details
Auburn	WSO CWSU	1970 - present	The NWS began operating a radar observatory at the Seattle ARTCC on 8/15/1970, processing data from FAA radars at Seattle and Spokane in Washington, and from Salem and Klamath Falls in Oregon. Operations were 8 hours a day initially, then increased to 24 hours a day beginning in September 1971. A Center Weather Service Unit was established in the late 1970's. The radar functions were discontinued in the early 1990's.
Bellingham	WBO	1938-1940	A Weather Bureau office was briefly operational at the Herald Building, opening October 1938 and becoming a second-order station in September 1940.
Blaine	WBO	1908-1915	
Chehalis	WBAS	1928-1941	A Weather Bureau Airport Station opened at the municipal airport in July 1928. Functions of the Chehalis office were moved to a new facility at the Olympia airport in May 1941.
Ellensburg	WBAS	1940-1953	The Weather Bureau jointly operated an office with the CAA at Bowers Field beginning in January 1940. The Weather Bureau took over sole operation in September 1953, then shared operations with the CAA again beginning in August 1952. The CAA took over full-time in August 1953.
Hoquiam	WBO	1942-1945	A Weather Bureau office was established in November 1942, and was closed in November 1945.
Kelso	WBAS	1946-1953	The Weather Bureau opened an airport station at the Kelso Airport in December 1946. It initially operated 24 hours a day, then was part-time afterward. The office closed at the end of August 1953.
La Crosse	WBO	1943-1948	A Weather Bureau office was operated at the La Crosse Hotel, from August 1943 to September 1948.
Neah Bay	WBO	1898-1902	
North Head	WBO	1902-1953	A Weather Bureau office was established at the lighthouse reservation on North Head, a rocky point near Ilwaco, at the mouth of the Columbia River. It was closed in June 1953, with services transferred to a new office in Astoria, OR.
Olympia	WBAS WSO	1941-1998	The Weather Bureau moved the functions of the Chehalis office to a new facility at Olympia Municipal Airport in May 1941. Upper-air observations were transferred here from Seattle in June 1962, then were discontinued in February 1964. A separate fire weather forecasting office operated at the state capitol grounds in the mid 1980's. The office was closed in 1998.
Pasco	WBAS	1930-1935	
Port Angeles	SigSvc WBO WBAS	1883-1934, 1947-1953	The Signal Service opened an office on Front St. in January 1883. The office was moved to the Opera House when the Weather Bureau took over in July 1892. It was relocated to the Norse Building in March 1916, then to its own facility in January 1918. The office was closed at the end of July 1933. A separate office was established on the Coast Guard grounds in

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January 1947, then this was closed and transferred to the Coast Guard in January 1953.

Port Crescent WBO 1898-1916

Port Townsend WBO 1939-1946 The Port Townsend office was established at the Post Office building in March 1939. It operated through 1946, before closing at the beginning of 1947.

Quillayute WBAS
WSO
WSMO
WSCMO 1966-present The Quillayute office was established in August 1966, after being relocated from Tatoosh Island, taking surface and upper-air observations. It was designated as a Weather Service Meteorological Observatory in 1972, which was then contracted out in 1981.

Seattle WBO
HQ
DFO
FAWS
RDO
WBAS
WBFO
WSO
WSMO
WSFO
WSCMO
WFO 1893-present The Weather Bureau established its Seattle city office in May 1893. The first airport station was established at Boeing Field in 1928. The regional headquarters office was located at the airport site from 1942 to 1944, before moving downtown to the Federal Building; most of the city office functions moved to the airport at the same time. The headquarters operations were consolidated at Salt Lake City, UT in 1949. A second airport site opened at Sea-Tac Airport in November 1944. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was also added in 1944. A district forecast office and river district office was established in 1948, and moved to Sea-Tac Airport in 1949. Upper-air observations began at Sea-Tac in 1956. The forecast office was moved back downtown in 1965, and the Boeing Field was closed, with observations being transferred to the FAA. The Sea-Tac site became a Weather Service Contract Meteorological Observatory in 1981, and was transferred to the FAA in 1996. The forecast office moved to the Sand Point area in 1982.

Spokane SigSvc
WBO
WBAS
WSO
WSCMO
WFO 1881-present A Signal Service office was established in August 1880 at the Spokane Times building, and began operations the following year. Fires destroyed the office in late 1884 and in August 1889. When the Weather Bureau took over, the office was located in the Blalock Building, then moved to the Jamieson Building in 1892 and the Empire State Building in 1908. A WBAS was established at Felts Field in May 1932, with upper air observations beginning in September 1939. The city office was consolidated at the airport in January 1941. The office moved to Geiger Field (current Spokane International Airport) in December 1947. In 1995, the office was moved to a new facility north of Fairchild AFB, and the old office briefly operated under NWS contract until the FAA took over in 1996.

Stampede Pass WBO
WBMO
WSMO
WSCMO 1935-1995 An office was established at Stampede Pass, in the Cascade Range northwest of Easton. Operations began under NWS contract in April 1981, and continued until commissioning of the Automated Surface Observing System.

Stevenson WBO 1946-1952 Operations of this office were transferred from the CAA in December 1946. The station operated 16 hours a day. It was closed on 4/15/1952.

Tacoma WBO 1897-1953 The first Weather Bureau office in Tacoma opened at the Chamber of Commerce building in May 1897. It operated in locations downtown, before closing in April 1953.

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Tatoosh Island	SigSvc WBO	1883-1966	The Signal Service opened a second-order station at Tatoosh Island, a small island off the northwest tip of Washington state, near Neah Bay. The Weather Bureau took over in 1891, continuing as a second-order station; it became a first-order station in 1938. Upper-air observations began in 1940. A WSR-3 radar was commissioned at the site 10/1/1960, then decommissioned in January 1964. The office was closed 8/1/1966 after upper-air observations were transferred to the Quillayute office.
Twin	WBO	1899-1902	
Walla Walla	WBO WBAS WSO	1893-1998	The first Weather Bureau office in Walla Walla operated from the Pains Brothers building, relocating to the Ransoms building in 1904, the Baker Building in 1911, and the Post Office Building in 1914. The office was reduced to part-time operations in 1973, dealing with agricultural duties, and closed in the late 1990's.
Wenatchee	WBO WSO	1961-1998?	A Weather Bureau office was established at the Washington State University Tree Fruit Experiment Station. It operated as a fire weather and agricultural weather office.
Yakima	WBO WBAS WSO	1928-1996	The Weather Bureau office for Yakima was established 11/15/1928 at the Holtzinger Building. The office was relocated to the municipal airport in September 1946, taking over weather operations from the CAA. In 1989, operations were reduced to 16 hours a day, before the office closed in 1996 during the modernization.
