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Service Change Notice 19-56 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
815 AM EDT Tue Sep 10 2019

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Changes to Fire Weather Forecast Zones for the Kittitas and Yakima Valleys of Washington and the Eastern Columbia River Gorge in Washington: Effective October 10, 2019

Updated to change effective date to on or about October 10, 2019, and to change Critical Weather Day to October 15, 2019.

On Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 1100 AM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), 1800 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in Pendleton, OR, (PDT) and Spokane, WA, (OTX) will reconfigure two of the fire weather forecast zones in the Columbia Basin of Washington. The NWS WFO Portland, OR (PQR) and Pendleton, OR (PDT) will also reconfigure the fire weather forecast zone in the Eastern Columbia River Gorge of Washington. Upon implementation of this change, all fire weather forecasts and related products for the Kittitas and Yakima Valleys of Washington and the Eastern Columbia River Gorge of Washington will use the area coverage below.

If Thursday, October 10, 2019, is declared as a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

WFOs PDT, OTX and PQR in conjunction with the fire partners, have redrawn the zone boundaries to better reflect the climatology, weather differences and administrative needs of the area.

The zone numbers, names, and description of the zone area are listed below:

WFO OTX Fire Weather Forecast Zone

Zone Code: WA676

Zone Name: East Washington South Central Cascade Valleys

This zone includes the Kittitas Valley and the addition of the Yakima Training Center north of Yakima County and the Boylston Mountains.

WFO PDT Fire Weather Forecast Zones

Zone Code: WA675

Zone Name: East Washington Southern Columbia Basin

This zone includes the Yakima Valley and the Yakima Training Center south of Kittitas County as well as the Rattlesnake Hills and the Saddle Mountain National Refuge. The Yakima Training Center north of Yakima County has been annexed into WA676.

Zone Code: WA639

Zone Name: Eastern Columbia River Gorge

This zone includes the Eastern Columbia River Gorge of Washington and the east slopes of the southern Washington Cascades of Klickitat County and will now include the Columbia River Gorge from the mouth of the Little White Salmon River east to Underwood in Skamania County.

WFO PQR Fire Weather Forecast Zones

Zone Code: WA660

Zone Name: South Washington Cascades and Foothills

This zone includes the Wind River and St. Helens Ranger Districts and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest as well as the Washington Department of Natural Resources protected Cascade and Green Mountain foothills. The Columbia River Gorge from the mouth of the Little White Salmon River east to Underwood in Skamania County has been annexed into WA639.

NWS partners and users will need to make necessary changes to their communications systems to accommodate these fire weather forecast zone changes.

Updated fire weather zone shapefiles are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:
https://www.weather.gov/pdt/firewx_zone_changes_2019

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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