

NOUS41 KWBC 121915
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 20-70
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
315 PM EDT Wed Aug 12 2020

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: Changes to Fire Weather Forecast Zones for WFO Tucson, AZ,
 effective October 29, 2020.

On or about Tuesday, October 29, 2020, the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Tucson, AZ (WFO TWC) will reconfigure many of its fire weather forecast zones. After this change, all fire weather forecasts and related products for WFO TWC will use the zone number and names shown below.

If October 29, 2020, is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to November 5, 2020.

WFO TWC, in conjunction with fire partners, has redrawn the zone boundaries to align with the Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRA) to better reflect the topographic, climatic and vegetative characteristics of the area. Changes will also be made to account for several administrative boundaries within the forecast area.

The new zones are as follows:

WFO TWC Fire Weather Forecast Zones

New Zone Code	New Zone Name
-----	-----
AZZ150	Sonoran FDRA, Most of Pima County, South Central Pinal County, Tohono O'odham Nation, Tucson Metropolitan Area, TDC

This zone is adjusted to include the entire area covered by the Sonoran FDRA which encompasses the lower desert areas of Pima and south central Pinal counties, the Tohono O'odham Nation and the entirety of the Tucson metropolitan area.

AZZ151: Western Half Desert Grasslands FDRA, Including Elevations up to 5,500 feet in Southeast Corner of Pinal County, Extreme Eastern Pima County, Western Third of Cochise County, Santa Cruz County, TDC

This zone roughly captures the western half of the Desert Grasslands FDRA. The eastern boundary of this zone is nearly the same as the old 151 and 152 zone boundary and runs along the western and southern boundary of the San Carlos Reservation, then south along the west side of the Galiuro, Winchester, Dragoon and Mule Mountains to the Mexico Border. This area includes the southeast corner of Pinal County, the eastern most portions of Pima County, the Baboquivari Mountains, all of Santa Cruz County and the western third of Cochise County.

AZZ152: Eastern Half Desert Grasslands FDRA, Including Elevations up to 5,500 feet in Southwest Graham County and Eastern Two Thirds of Cochise County, Southern San Carlos Reservation and Southern Greenlee County Below 5,000 feet, TDC

This zone roughly captures the eastern half of the Desert Grasslands FDRA which is defined by elevations below 5,500 feet in southwest Graham, the eastern two thirds of Cochise County and southern Greenlee County. The zone is bordered on much of its north by the unchanged Zone AZZ153 which encompasses the White and Gila Mountains of Northeast Graham and Northern Greenlee counties above 5,000 feet.

AZZ153: Northern Graham County, Northern Greenlee County, White and Gila Mountains, Apache Sitgreaves NF, Southern San Carlos Reservation Above 5,000 feet, SDC

This zone boundary is unchanged. The name will be adjusted to include higher elevations of the San Carlos Reservation.

AZZ154: Forest Woodlands FDRA, Includes the Sky Islands of Southeast Arizona Above 5,500 feet, Coronado NF, TDC

This new zone is meant to match the Forest Woodlands FDRA. It includes elevations above 5,500 feet east of Tucson with the exception of the area already encompassed within zone AZZ153. This includes the sky islands in far eastern Pima, Santa Cruz, Graham and Cochise counties.

Table 1: Universal Geographic Codes (UGC): Current Fire Weather Zone Forecast Name

AZZ150: Western Pima County-South Central Pinal County-Tohono O'odham Nation-TDC-

AZZ151: Eastern Pima County-Southeastern Pinal County-Santa Cruz County-Western Cochise County-Coronado NF-TDC-

AZZ152: Southern Greenlee County-Central and Eastern Cochise County-Southern Graham County-Southern San Carlos Apache Nation

AZZ153: Northern Graham County-Northern Greenlee County-White and Gila Mountains-Apache Sitgreaves NF-SDC

Table 2: UGC: New Fire Weather Zone Forecast Name

AZZ150: Sonoran FDRA, Most of Pima County, South Central Pinal County, Tohono O'odham Nation, Tucson Metropolitan Area, TDC

AZZ151: Western Half Desert Grasslands FDRA, Including Elevations up to 5,500 feet in Southeast Corner of Pinal County, Extreme Eastern Pima County, Western Third of Cochise County, Santa Cruz County, TDC

AZZ152: Eastern Half Desert Grasslands FDRA, Including Elevations up to 5,500 feet in Southwest Graham County and Eastern Two Thirds of Cochise County, Southern San Carlos Reservation and Southern Greenlee County Below 5,000 feet, TDC

AZZ153: Northern Graham County, Northern Greenlee County, White and Gila Mountains, Apache Sitgreaves NF, Southern San Carlos Reservation Above 5,000 feet, SDC

AZZ154: Forest Woodlands FDRA, Includes the Sky Islands of Southeast Arizona Above 5,500 feet, Coronado NF, TDC

Table 3: NWS products affected by the WFO Tucson, AZ fire weather zone changes are listed below.

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
FWFTWC	FNUS55	KTWC: Fire Weather Forecast
RFWTWC	WWUS85	KTWC: Fire Weather Message

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

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/twc/FireWeatherZoneChange>

For more information, please contact:

Kenneth Drozd
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
Tucson, AZ
520-670-5156 X 223
kenneth.drozd@noaa.gov

Carl Cerniglia
Fire Weather Program Leader
Tucson, AZ
520-670-5156 X 233
carl.cerniglia@noaa.gov

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

NNNN