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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-05  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
300 PM EST Thu Jan 6 2022

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

FROM:         Kimberly McMahon, Acting Chief  
              Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT:      Changes to the Boundaries of Fire Weather Forecast Zones in  
              Southeast Wyoming (WY) Served by NWS Weather Forecast Office  
              (WFO) Cheyenne, Wyoming (CYS), and West Nebraska Panhandle (NE),  
              Effective March 22, 2022

On or about Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the National Weather Service WFO in Cheyenne, WY, will change its current fire forecast zone boundaries in Southeast Wyoming and the western Nebraska Panhandle. After this change, all fire forecasts and related products will use the new zone configuration described below.

If March 22, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 29, 2022.

All current fire forecast zones will be impacted by this change, including:  
Wyoming: WY301, WY302, WY303, WY304, WY305, WY306, WY307, WY308, WY309, WY310.  
Western Nebraska Panhandle: NE311, NE312, and NE313.

The fire forecast zone count will increase from the current count of 13 to a new total count of 21 zones across Southeast Wyoming (+7) and western Nebraska Panhandle (+1). New NWS Cheyenne Fire forecast zones numbers will be updated to:  
Wyoming: WY417, WY418, WY419, WY420, WY421, WY422, WY423, WY424, WY425, WY426, WY427, WY428, WY429, WY430, WY431, WY432, and WY433.

In addition, the four new zones in western Nebraska Panhandle will be: NE434, NE435, NE436, and NE437.

After this change, WFO CYS fire weather forecast zones will better align with terrain, geo-political fire district boundaries from core partner input, and geospatial coverage of fuels/land cover type. Fire weather zone numbering will change as a result of these changes from the 300 series to a new 400 series of numbers.

Graphical descriptions of the old and new fire weather forecast zones are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/cys/2022NewFireZones>

NWS watch, warning and forecast products affected by these changes are:

WFO Cheyenne Products -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Fire Weather Watch	WWUS85 KCYS	RFCWYS
Red Flag Warning	WWUS85 KCYS	RFCWYS
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS55 KCYS	FWFCYS

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

Shapefiles of the new fire weather forecast zones for WFO CYS is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones>

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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