NOUS41 KWBC 142200 PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-117 National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD 500 PM EST Wed Dec 14 2022

- To: Subscribers: -NOAA Weather Wire Service -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network -NOAAPort Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees
- From: Mary Mullusky, Chief Forecast Services Division

Subject: Changes to Fire Forecast Zones for WFO Gray and WFO Caribou, ME: Effective March 8, 2023

On or about Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 04:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Offices in Gray, Maine (GYX) and Caribou, Maine (CAR) will change Fire Weather Forecast Zones encompassing the entire state of Maine. After this change, fire weather forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

If March 8, 2023 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 9, 2023 at 2100 UTC.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch and warning products in the fire weather program. These changes will result in an alignment of land agency fire danger rating areas and fire weather forecast zones. This aligning will better connect fire danger rating outputs with our fire weather forecast products for our government partners, media partners and the general public.

The current 33 fire weather zones across the state of Maine will be converted and consolidated down to 14 fire weather zones. The new zones are as follows:

MEZ111: Mid-Coast MEZ112: Coastal Downeast MEZ113: Bangor Region MEZ114: Eastern Penobscot Bay Coast Table 2: Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs): Current Fire Zone Forecast Name _____ MEZ001: Northwest Aroostook County MEZ002: Northeast Aroostook County MEZ003: Northern Somerset County MEZ004: Northern Piscataquis County MEZ005: Northern Penobscot County MEZ006: Southeast Aroostook County MEZ007: Northern Oxford County MEZ008: Northern Franklin County MEZ009: Central Somerset County MEZ010: Central Piscataquis County MEZ011: Central Penobscot County MEZ012: Southern Oxford County MEZ013: Southern Franklin County MEZ014: Southern Somerset County MEZ015: Southern Penobscot County MEZ016: Interior Hancock County MEZ017: Central Washington County MEZ018: Interior York County MEZ019: Interior Cumberland County MEZ020: Androscoggin County MEZ021: Kennebec County MEZ022: Interior Waldo County MEZ023: Coastal York County MEZ024: Coastal Cumberland County MEZ025: Sagadahoc County MEZ026: Lincoln County MEZ027: Knox County MEZ028: Coastal Waldo County MEZ029: Coastal Hancock County MEZ030: Coastal Washington County MEZ031: Southern Piscataquis County MEZ032: Northern Washington County MEZ033: Interior Cumberland Highlands

Table 3: NWS Products Affected by the WFO NWS Gray, ME and Caribou, ME Fire Zone Changes

AWIPS ID	WMO Heading	Product Name
FWFGYX RFWGYX	FNUS51 KGYX WWUS81 KGYX	Fire Weather Forecast Fire Weather Watch
RFWGYX	WWUS81 KGYX	Red Flag Warning
FWFCAR RFWCAR RFWCAR	FNUS51 KCAR WWUS81 KCAR WWUS81 KCAR	Fire Weather Forecast Fire Weather Watch Red Flag Warning

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

Preliminary shapefiles for public and fire weather forecast zones are available online at:

https://www.weather.gov/gis/FireZones
https://www.weather.gov/gis/Counties

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on January 17, 2023.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f653136a6a8e40ca9949efeaae26e46d

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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