

NOUS41 KWBC 231850  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-61  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
250 PM EDT Thu Jun 23 2022

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

From:         Gregory Schoor, Acting Chief  
              Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject:      Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO Great Falls,  
              MT: Effective September 7, 2022

Effective Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 2:00 PM Mountain Daylight Time (MDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Great Falls, MT (TFX) will complete changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones encompassing their entire County Warning Area of north-central, central, and southwest Montana. After this change, all public forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

If September 7, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to September 8, 2022 at 2000 UTC.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products in the Public Weather Program.

Twenty (20) current zones will be converted into thirty (30) new zones. These new zones are being created primarily to optimize issuance of public forecast and hazard products for conditions that can vary significantly across the highly variable terrain of this region.

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

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- MTZ008: Beaverhead County
  - MTZ009: Northern Rocky Mountain Front
  - MTZ010: Eastern Glacier County
  - MTZ011: Hill County
  - MTZ012: Cascade County
  - MTZ013: Chouteau County
  - MTZ014: Central and Southern Lewis and Clark County
  - MTZ015: Madison County
  - MTZ044: Toole County
  - MTZ045: Liberty County
  - MTZ046: Eastern Pondera County
  - MTZ047: Blaine County

MTZ048: Southern Rocky Mountain Front  
 MTZ049: Eastern Teton County  
 MTZ050: Judith Basin County  
 MTZ051: Fergus County  
 MTZ052: Jefferson County  
 MTZ053: Broadwater County  
 MTZ054: Meagher County  
 MTZ055: Gallatin County

Table 2: UGC: New Public Zone Forecast Name

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 MTZ301: East Glacier Park Region  
 MTZ302: Northern High Plains  
 MTZ303: Eastern Glacier, Western Toole, and Central Pondera  
 MTZ304: Eastern Toole and Liberty  
 MTZ305: Hill County  
 MTZ306: Northern Blaine County  
 MTZ307: Southern Rocky Mountain Front  
 MTZ308: Southern High Plains  
 MTZ309: Eastern Pondera and Eastern Teton  
 MTZ310: Western and Central Chouteau County  
 MTZ311: Bears Paw Mountains and Southern Blaine  
 MTZ312: Cascade County below 5000ft  
 MTZ313: Judith Basin County and Judith Gap  
 MTZ314: Fergus County below 4500ft  
 MTZ315: Upper Blackfoot and MacDonald Pass  
 MTZ316: Gates of the Mountains  
 MTZ317: Little Belt and Highwood Mountains  
 MTZ318: Snowy and Judith Mountains  
 MTZ319: Helena Valley  
 MTZ320: Big Belt, Bridger and Castle Mountains  
 MTZ321: Meagher County Valleys  
 MTZ322: Elkhorn and Boulder Mountains  
 MTZ323: Canyon Ferry Area  
 MTZ324: Missouri Headwaters  
 MTZ325: Madison River Valley  
 MTZ326: Gallatin Valley  
 MTZ327: Northwest Beaverhead County  
 MTZ328: Beaverhead and Western Madison below 6000ft  
 MTZ329: Ruby Mountains and Southern Beaverhead Mountains  
 MTZ330: Gallatin and Madison County Mountains and Centennial  
 Mountains

Table 3: NWS WFO Great Falls, MT products affected by these public zone changes are listed below.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Zone Forecast Product	FPUS55 KTFX	ZFPTFX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS55 KTFX	PFMTFX
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS65 KTFX	SFTTFX
Public Information Statement	NOUS45 KTFX	PNSTFX
Non-Precipitation Watch/ Warning/Advisory	WWUS75 KTFX	NPWTFX

Flood Watch	WGUS65 KTFX	FFATFX
Flood Warning	WGUS45 KTFX	FLWTFX
Flood Advisory	WGUS85 KTFX	FLSTFX
Special Weather Statement	WWUS85 KTFX	SPSTFX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS45 KTFX	WSWTFX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS65 KTFX	AFDTFX
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS75 KTFX	AQATFX
Area Forecast Product	FPUS65 KTFX	AFPTFX
State Forecast Product	FPUS65 KTFX	SFPMT
Regional Weather Roundup	ASUS45 KTFX	RWRMT
Watch County Notification	WWUS65 KTFX	WCNTFX

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

Updated public forecast zone shapefiles are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/tfx/NewZonesAnnouncement>

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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