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Service Change Notice 24-68 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1010 AM EST Mon Dec 23 2024

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

From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Changes to Fire Weather Forecast Zones for WFO
Pendleton, OR: Effective March 18, 2025

Updated to announce the implementation date of March 18, 2025 and to
update information on when shapefiles will be made available.

Effective Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time
(PDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast
Office (WFO) in Pendleton, OR (PDT) will make changes to Fire Weather
Forecast Zones encompassing northeast Oregon. After this change, all
forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names
shown in Table 2 below.

These changes are intended to provide more consistency across fire
weather and fire danger rating areas to benefit the fire community and
decision makers. Nested fire weather zones were developed within
Northeast Oregon's fire danger rating areas. This will allow for
increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, fire weather
watches and red flag warnings within the respective fire weather
programs.

Four current zones will be realigned and converted into eight separate
zones. These new zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard
products for conditions that vary significantly across Northeast Oregon's
geographic area.

The new zones are listed in Table 2.

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

- OR642: Southern Blue and Strawberry Mountains
OR643: Northern Blue Mountains of Oregon
OR644: Central Blue Mountains
OR645: Wallowa District

Table 2. UGCs: New Fire Weather Forecast Zone Name

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OR691: Western Forested Blue Mountains
OR692: Northern Blue Mountains of Oregon
OR693: Canyon Grasslands of Wallowa County
OR694: Grande Ronde Valley of Oregon
OR695: Eagle Cap Wilderness
OR696: John Day Valley
OR697: Central Blue Mountains
OR698: Southern Blue Mountains

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Table 3. NWS Products Affected by the WFO Pendleton, OR Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Fire Weather Forecast	FNUS56 KPDT	FWFPDT
Fire Weather Message	WWUS86 KPDT	RFPDPDT

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

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

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 28, 2025.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/2024FWZChange>

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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