

NOUS41 KWBC 262150 AAA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 25-95 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
450 PM EST Thu Feb 26 2026

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

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Operations Services Division

Subject: Updated: Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO Bismarck, ND,
effective April 16, 2026

Updated to change the implementation date from March 3, 2026 to April 16,
2026 and final versions of the shapefiles will be available on March 24,
2026.

Effective on Thu, April 16, 2026, at 3:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST),
2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in
Bismarck, ND (WFO BIS) will change Public Forecast Zones encompassing
McLean, Morton, Sioux, and Ward Counties in central North Dakota. The
McLean, Morton, Sioux, and Ward Forecast Zones will each be split into
two zones. After this change, all forecasts and related products will
use the zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If April 16, 2026 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation
will be postponed to April 20, 2026 at 2100 UTC.

These changes will result in more geographically precise forecast, watch
and warning products for the general public and will enhance web-based
graphical product consistency and appearance.

Four current zones will be converted into eight separate zones. These new
zones are being divided to optimize issuance of hazard products for
conditions that vary significantly in central North Dakota, especially
during winter weather and high wind events.
The new zones are listed in Table 2.

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

NDZ011: Ward
NDZ021: McLean
NDZ034: Morton
NDZ045: Sioux

Table 2. UGC: New Public Forecast Zone Name

NDZ055: Northwest Ward
 NDZ056: Central and Southern Ward/Minot Area
 NDZ057: Western McLean
 NDZ058: Eastern McLean
 NDZ059: Western Morton
 NDZ060: Eastern Morton
 NDZ061: Western Sioux
 NDZ062: Eastern Sioux

Table 3. NWS products affected by the WFO Bismarck, ND, by these Public forecast zone changes are listed below.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS63 KBIS	AFDBIS
Flood Watch	WGUS63 KBIS	FFABIS
Hazardous Weather Outlook	FLUS43 KBIS	HWOBIS
Non-Precipitation Weather Message	WWUS73 KBIS	NPWBIS
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS53 KBIS	PFMBIS
Public Information Statement	NOUS43 KBIS	PNSBIS
Recreational Forecast	SXUS43 KBIS	RECBIS
Special Weather Statement	WWUS83 KBIS	SPSBIS
State Forecast Product	FPUS63 KBIS	SFPND
Winter Weather Message	WWUS43 KBIS	WSWBIS
Zone Forecast	FPUS53 KBIS	ZFPBIS

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

Preliminary shapefiles for public forecast zones are available online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on March 24, 2026.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/bis/zonechange2026>

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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