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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 11-19
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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TO: Subscribers:
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FROM: Eli Jacks
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SUBJECT: Changes to the Boundaries of Fire Weather Forecast
Zone 201, the Craig Forecast Area, Including Moffat,
Routt and Rio Blanco Counties, CO; and Zone 205, the
Montrose Forecast Area, Including Delta, Gunnison,
Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray, and Northern Hinsdale
Counties, CO, Effective June 7, 2011

Effective Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 1200 Coordinated Universal
Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Grand
Junction (GJT), CO, will split the Craig Forecast Area (COZ201)
into three new fire weather forecast zones, and the Montrose
Forecast Area (COZ205) into four new fire weather forecast
zones.

This change will improve fire weather forecast services for WFO
GJT's fire weather partners and users by better associating zone
areas with weather regimes and terrain.

The split of COZ201, Craig Forecast Area, will create new fire
weather zones for the mountainous terrain of the Park and Gore
Mountain Ranges and the Flat Top Wilderness (new COZ201 -
Routt); the lower elevation terrain in northern Moffat County
(COZ200 Little Snake) and the plateau area of Rio Blanco and
Garfield counties (COZ202 White River).

The split of COZ205, Montrose Forecast Area, will create new
fire weather forecast zones for the mountainous terrain of the
northwest San Juan mountains and Uncompahgre Plateau (COZ291,
Northern San Juan), the lower valleys of Delta and eastern
Montrose counties (COZ292, North Fork), the Paradox Valley area
of western Montrose and San Miguel counties (COZ290, Paradox
Valley) and the mountainous terrain of the West Elk Mountains
(COZ293, Gunnison Basin).

Once this change has been implemented, the fire weather forecast
zone numbers, names and geographical descriptors in Table 1 will

be used in all fire weather forecast products issued by WFO GJT. This change does not affect WFO GJT public weather forecast zones or products.

Table 1: New and Old WFO GJT Fire Weather Forecast Zones

New Fire Weather Zone Number	New Fire Weather Zone Name	Old Fire Weather Zone Number	Old Fire Weather Zone Name
COZ200	Little Snake	COZ201	Craig Forecast Area
COZ201	Routt	COZ201	Craig Forecast Area
COZ202	White River	COZ201	Craig Forecast Area
COZ290	Paradox Valley	COZ205	Montrose Forecast Area
COZ291	Northern San Juan	COZ205	Montrose Forecast Area
COZ292	North Fork	COZ205	Montrose Forecast Area
COZ293	Gunnison Basin	COZ205	Montrose Forecast Area

Table 2: New Zone Descriptors

New Zone COZ200 - Little Snake

COZ200 Physical Description: This zone consists of that portion of Moffat County north of state highway 40, except for the higher elevations in the extreme northeast part of the county, in northwest Colorado.

New Zone COZ201 - Routt

COZ201 Physical Description: This zone is defined as Routt County, the Elkhead Mountains in extreme northeast Moffat County, and higher elevations in extreme eastern Rio Blanco County, east of highway 13, in northwest Colorado.

New Zone COZ202 - White River

COZ202 Physical Description: This zone is defined as that part of Moffat County south of highway 40, and the plateau areas of Rio Blanco County, west of highway 13, in northwest Colorado.

New Zone COZ290 - Paradox Valley

COZ290 Physical Description: This zone consists of the Paradox Valley area of western Montrose and San Miguel Counties.

New Zone COZ291 - Northern San Juan

COZ291 Physical Description: This zone is defined as the northern portion of the San Juan Mountains within Ouray and eastern San Miguel Counties, and the Uncompahgre Plateau within northwest Ouray and western Montrose Counties.

New Zone COZ292 - North Fork

COZ292 Physical Description: This zone is defined as Uncompahgre and North Fork of the Gunnison River basins in Delta, eastern Montrose, and extreme western Gunnison Counties, in western Colorado.

New Zone COZ293 - Gunnison Basin

COZ293 Physical Description: This zone is defined as the Gunnison Basin within Delta and Gunnison Counties in western Colorado

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

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/images/gjt2.png>

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/images/gjt1.png>

Table 3: NWS fire weather watch, warning and forecast products affected by these changes

PRODUCT	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Watch	WWUS85 KGJT	RFWGJT
Red Flag Warning	WWUS85 KGJT	RFWGJT
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS55 KGJT	FWFGJT
National Fire Danger Rating System Forecast	FNUS85 KGJT	FWMGJT

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

A shapefile of the new fire weather forecast zones for WFO GJT is available for download at:

www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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