NOUS41 KWBC 271642 PNSWSH Service Change Notice 11-19 National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC 1242 PM EDT Wed Apr 27 2011 To: Subscribers: -Family of Services -NOAA Weather Wire Service -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network -NOAAPort

From: Eli Jacks Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

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 Uncompany 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	New Fire	Old Fire	Old Fire
Weather Zone	Weather Zone	Weather Zone	Weather Zone
Number	Name	Number	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 Uncompangre Plateau within northwest Ouray and western Montrose Counties.

New Zone COZ292 - North Fork COZ292 Physical Description: This zone is defined as Uncompany and North Folk 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:

https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive

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