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Service Change Notice 13-62
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1030 AM EDT Thu Sep 19 2013

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

Subject: Change in Public Weather Forecast Zones for WFO Portland, OR, in
Washington and Oregon: Effective December 3, 2013

Effective Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Portland, Oregon (PQR), will split its existing Western Columbia River Gorge zones (ORZ009 and WAZ023) into western and central sections with two zones in Washington and two zones in Oregon.

The location of the split for the Washington zones will be approximately three miles east of Stevenson, WA, and one mile west of Carson, WA. The location of the split for the Oregon zones will be approximately three miles east of Cascade Locks, OR.

The split will result in four new zones, comprising the Western Columbia River Gorge zone and Central Columbia River Gorge zone with two zones on the Washington side of the river and two zones on the Oregon side of the river.

These changes will improve warnings and forecasts for the Columbia River Gorge. The new zone configuration will assist in providing more targeted information for the Columbia River Gorge, where the weather and climate vary significantly over small distances.

Once these changes are implemented, the following public weather zone numbers and names will be used in all public weather forecast products issued by WFO PQR for the affected zones on either side of the Washington-Oregon border.

Table 1: New Public Weather Forecast Zone Names and Numbers for the WFO Portland Forecast Area Effective December 3, 2013

New Zone Number -----	New Zone Name -----
ORZ015	Western Columbia River Gorge
ORZ016	Central Columbia River Gorge
WAZ045	Western Columbia River Gorge
WAZ046	Central Columbia River Gorge

Public weather forecast zones ORZ009 and WAZ023 will no longer be used by WFO PQR.

A graphical depiction of the new public weather forecast zones as well as detailed geographic descriptions are online at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/notification/images/pqr_zones.pdf

An updated public weather zone shapefile is online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/pubzone.htm>

Partners and users of WFO Portland public weather products will need to update their system(s) to continue receiving correct public weather forecasts/products.

Table 2: Product Categories Affected by Zone Reconfigurations

Product -----	AWIPS ID -----	WMO Header -----
Zone Forecast Product	ZFP	FPUS56 KPQR
Winter Weather Watch/Warning/Advisory	WSW	WWUS46 KPQR
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	NPW	WWUS76 KPQR
Short Term Forecast	NOW	FPUS76 KPQR
State Forecast Table	SFT	FPUS66 KPQR
Special Weather Statement	SPS	WWUS86 KPQR
Public Information Statement	PNS	NOUS46 KPQR
Point Forecast Matrices	PFM	FOUS56 KPQR
Hazardous Weather Outlook	HWO	FLUS46 KPQR
Earthquake Report	EQR	SEUS66 KPQR
State Forecast Product	SFP	FPUS66 KPQR
Regional Temperature/Precipitation Table	RTP	ASUS66 KPQR
Regional Weather Roundup	RWR	ASUS46 KPQR
Hydrologic Outlook	ESF	FGUS76 KPQR
Flood Watch	FFA	WGUS66 KPQR

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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