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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-10
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1100 AM EST Fri Feb 28 2014

To: Subscribers:
     -Family of Services
     -NOAA Weather Wire Service
     -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
     -NOAAPORT
     Other NWS Partners and NWS Employees

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

Subject: Changes in Fire Weather Forecast Zones for Puerto Rico
     and the U.S. Virgin Islands Effective April 1, 2014

Effective April 1, 2014, at 800 AM Atlantic Standard Time, 1200
Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office
in San Juan, PR, will reconfigure the fire weather forecast zones
for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to align with the
boundaries of the National Fire Danger Rating Areas. Upon
implementation of this change, all fire weather forecasts and
related products for PR and the USVI will use the zone number and
name shown below.

Specifically, fire weather zone PRZ020 was separated into 4 new
zones: PRZ025, PRZ026, VIZ001 and VIZ002 (including two new zones
for the Virgin Islands). Zone PRZ021 was separated into two
different mountain ranges: PRZ023 and PRZ024.

Table 1: Fire weather products affected by these changes:

Product Name:	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNCA52 TJSJ	FWFSJU
Fire Weather Watch/Red Flag Warning	WWCA82 TJSJ	RFWSJU
Rangeland/Grassland Fire Danger Statement	FNCA52 TJSJ	RFDSJU

Table 2: Unchanged WFO San Juan Fire Weather Forecast Zones in PR
and the USVI

Zone Code   Zone Name
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PRZ014 South Coastal Plain and Mona Island
This zone includes the Aguirre State Forest, Guanica State
Forest, Guanica Dry Forest, Boqueron State Forest, the Cabo Rojo
and Cartagena Lagoon National Wildlife Refuges and the Mona
Island Nature Reserve in PR.

PRZ015 Southern Hills
This zone includes the south slopes of PR including the Maricao
State Forest.

PRZ016 North Coastal Plain
This zone includes the Pinones State Forest, and the cities of
Arecibo and San Juan, PR.

PRZ017 Northern Hills
This zone includes the north slopes of PR including the Guajataca
and Vega Alta State Forests.

PRZ018 West Coast
This zone includes the west coast of PR including the city of
Mayaguez, PR.

PRZ019 Eastern Interior
This zone includes the cities of Caguas and Humacao, PR.

PRZ022 Luquillo Mountain Range
This zone includes El Yunque National Rain Forest, PR.

Table 3: Changed WFO San Juan Fire Weather Forecast Zones in PR
and the USVI

New Zone Code   New Zone Name
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PRZ023 Central Mountain Range
This zone includes the Rio Abajo and Guilarte State Forests and
Toro Negro Forest Reserve in PR.

PRZ024 Cayey Mountain Range
This zone includes the Carite State Forest Reserve, PR.

PRZ025 Vieques
This zone includes the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge, PR.

PRZ026 Culebra
This zone includes the Culebra National Wildlife Refuge, PR.

VIZ001 Saint Thomas and Saint John, USVI
This zone includes Charlotte Amalie and the Virgin Islands
National Park, USVI.

VIZ002 Saint Croix, USVI
This zone includes Christiansted and the Salt River Bay National
Historic Park, USVI.

These changes have been requested by and coordinated with the
USDA International Institute of Tropical Forestry, Puerto Rico
Fire Corps, US Fish and Wildlife Service and other fire weather
partners and users in PR and the USVI.

Additional information regarding these fire weather forecast zones changes is online at:

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/sju/?n=firezonechanges

Partners and users of WFO San Juan (SJU) fire weather products will need to update their system(s) to continue receiving correct fire weather forecasts/products.

An updated fire weather zone map shapefile containing the new zones is online at:

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

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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