

NOUS41 KWBC DDHHMM

Service Change Notice 14-13
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
250 PM 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 Several Fire Weather Forecast Zone
Boundaries for Oregon and Washington Effective
April 1, 2014

Effective Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 500 AM Pacific Daylight Time, 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Pendleton (WFO PDT) Oregon and Boise Idaho (WFO BOI) will reconfigure several fire weather forecast zones in Oregon and Washington to better capture climatological weather patterns. Upon implementation of this change, all fire weather forecasts and related products for the changed zones will use the Universal Geographic Code (UGC) zone number, name and geographic description shown below.

Table 1: WFO Pendleton OR Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes in Oregon and Washington

Old Zone UGC Number	New Zone UGC Number	New Zone Name
ORZ609	ORZ639	Eastern Slopes of the North Oregon Cascades

This zone is being modified to move its current eastern boundary so that the entire town of Maupin is now within the zone. The boundary with zone 641 will now be east of Maupin and then follow the Deschutes River south to the zones 640 and 610 intersections.

WAZ609	WAZ639	East Slopes of the Southern Washington Cascades
--------	--------	---

This zone is being modified to pull its eastern boundary east from Highway 97 to approximately longitude -120.38.

ORZ610	ORZ610	East Slopes of the Central Oregon Cascades
--------	--------	--

The northeast boundary of this zone is being modified to follow the Deschutes River from the zones northeast corner south until Lake Billy Chinook.

ORZ630 ORZ640 Central Mountains of Oregon

The zone's northwest boundary is being modified to follow the Deschutes River from the northwest corner of the zone south to Lake Billy Chinook. The eastern boundary of this zone is being modified in several places. Along the extreme northern portion of the eastern boundary, the boundary has been moved west to no longer include any of the Western Forested Fire Danger Rating Area (FDRA). The central portion of the eastern boundary has been moved east of Mitchell, and will also now include more of the forested lands on the northeast edge of the Ochoco National Forest. A small area of the southern portion of the eastern boundary has been moved west so that it follows more closely with the southwest border of the Southern Blues FDRA.

ORZ631 ORZ641 Lower Columbia Basin of Oregon

The western boundary of this zone has been modified to no longer include any portion of the town of Maupin, and then to follow the Deschutes River south of Maupin to the southwest corner of the zone. The southeast corner of this zone will no longer include the forested area on the Western Forested FDRA. The northeast corner of this zone will also no longer include the Western Forested FDRA.

WAZ631 WAZ641 Lower Columbia Basin of
Washington

The southwestern boundary of this zone has been pulled east from Highway 97 to approximately longitude -120.38. Another western portion of this zone has been pulled west from the Benton County, Franklin County and Walla Walla County junction near the Tri-Cities so that Kennewick is now within this zone and the western boundary no longer borders Walla Walla County. The extreme eastern portion of this zone that originally wrapped around the northern Blue Mountains will no longer include Asotin County, but will have a boundary at the Garfield County and Asotin County border. The southeastern boundary of this zone has been modified westward to better align with the Northern Blues FDRA boundary.

ORZ633 ORZ643 Northern Blue Mountains of
Oregon

This zone is now much smaller in size. The zone will no longer include any portion of the Central Blues FDRA or Baker County, and will now only include a small northern portion of the Grande Ronde Valley. The southern boundary will run along a small western portion of E Birch Creek Road, cut southeast to Highway 244, along Highway 244 north to US 84, then east along US 84 to just north of La Grande, and then it will turn north to follow the

county line. The southern boundary is Highway 20, and the western boundary follows close to the Harney county line and then north close to the Grant/Crook county line.

WAZ675 WAZ675 Eastern Washington Southern
Columbia Basin

This zone is being modified to no longer include Kennewick, WA. A portion of the southwest border has also been modified so that it now follows more closely along the Mabton-Bickleton Highway.

WAZ681 WAZ681 Yakima Alpine District

The southeast corner of this zone has been modified to include slightly more of the forested area west of Bickleton, WA.

Table 2: WFO Boise ID Fire Weather Forecast Zone Changes in Oregon

Old Zone UGC Number	New Zone UGC Number	New Zone Name
-----	-----	-----

IDZ637	IDZ637	Vale BLM
--------	--------	----------

This zone is being modified slightly to bring the northern boundary back to the Malheur/Baker county line. The remainder of the zone remains unchanged. No RAWs will be affected and the zone name will remain unchanged. It will remain labeled "Vale BLM."

IDZ638	IDZ638	Baker County
--------	--------	--------------

This zone will include mostly BLM and private lands in Baker County, but also some small portions of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The eastern boundary will follow the OR/ID state line from Brownlee Dam south to the Baker/Malheur county line. The southern boundary will now be the Baker/Malheur county line from the Idaho border westward to where it meets the Wallowa Whitman National Forest (NF) boundary. The western boundary will then run northward to where Highway 26 hits the Wallowa Whitman NF boundary, then diagonally eastward to 44 35 55N 117 55 00W, and then northward up the west side of the Baker Valley to the Union/Baker county line (this gathers portions of the broken land that covers the Wallowa Whitman NF). This boundary breaks the lower valley from the higher terrain to the west. The northern boundary will then follow the Union/Baker County line eastward to the Wallowa Whitman NF/Eagle Cap Wilderness boundary. This zone will remain labeled "Baker Valley."

Table 3: WFO PDT Fire Weather Products Affected by this Change:

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
-----	-----	-----

Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS55 KPDT	FWFPDT
Fire Weather Watch/ Red Flag Warning	WWUS85 KPDT	RFPDPT
National Fire Danger Rating System	FNUS85 KPDT	FWMPDT

Table 4: WFO BOI Fire Weather Products Affected by this Change:

Product Name	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
-----	-----	-----
Fire Weather Planning Forecast	FNUS55 KBOI	FWFBOI
Fire Weather Watch/ Red Flag Warning	WWUS85 KBOI	RFWBOI
National Fire Danger Rating System	FNUS85 KBOI	FWMBOI

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>

More information on WFO Pendleton's new fire weather zones is online at:

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pdt/reference/Firewx_Zone_Alterations_PDT_2014.pdf

and WFO Boise's new fire weather zones is online at:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/boi/firewx/change20140317.php>

For more information please contact:

Michael Vescio	Robert Diaz
Meteorologist-in-Charge	Meteorologist-in-Charge
Michael.Vescio@noaa.gov	Robert.Diaz@noaa.gov
NWS WFO Pendleton	NWS WFO Boise
Pendleton, OR 97801	Boise, Id 83705
541-276-7832	208-334-9060

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

\$\$