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Service Change Notice 14-19
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Eli Jacks
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Change in Some Public Weather Forecast Zones for WFO
Seattle, WA, Effective June 12, 2014

Effective Thursday, June 12, 2014, at 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Seattle, WA (SEW), will make three revisions to boundaries of public weather forecast and warning zones in western Washington.

1. The portion of the Washington Cascades in the WFO SEW forecast area, which currently is in two zones, will be regrouped into three zones. This is a more natural zone grouping with respect to weather, terrain and considerations of commerce and land use, resulting in improved forecast and warning services.

WAZ518 - West Slopes Northern Cascades and Passes and WAZ519 - West Slopes Central Cascades and Passes will be split into three new zones: WAZ567 - Cascades of Whatcom and Skagit Counties, WAZ568 - Cascades of Snohomish and King Counties and WAZ569 - Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties.

2. The more urbanized area of the current WAZ505 - East Puget Sound Lowlands zone will be split off into its own zone called WAZ556 - Bellevue and Vicinity; while the East Puget Sound Lowlands zone, which is generally higher elevation and strongly affected by its proximity to the Cascades, will retain its name but be renumbered as WAZ555.

3. The Kitsap County portion of the current WAZ508 - Seattle/Bremerton Area zone will be split off into its own zone called WAZ559 - Bremerton and vicinity; while the remaining portion of WAZ508 will be renamed and renumbered WAZ558 - Seattle and Vicinity.

Table 1: New WFO SEW public weather forecast zone names and numbers effective June 12, 2014

New Zone Number	New Zone Name
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WAZ567	Cascades of Whatcom and Skagit Counties
WAZ568	Cascades of Snohomish and King Counties
WAZ569	Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties
WAZ555	East Puget Sound Lowlands
WAZ556	Bellevue and Vicinity
WAZ558	Seattle and Vicinity
WAZ559	Bremerton and Vicinity

WFO SEW will no longer use public weather forecast zones WAZ505, WAZ508, WAZ518 and WAZ519. WFO SEW fire weather zoned and products are not affected by this change.

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

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/resources/sew_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 SEW public weather products may need to update their system(s) to continue receiving correct public weather forecasts/products.

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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