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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 15-12  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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FROM: Eli Jacks  
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

SUBJECT: Changes to the boundaries of some Grand Junction, UT,  
Weather Forecast Office Fire Weather Forecast Zones,  
Effective April 7, 2015

Effective Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Grand Junction, CO (GJT), will split its Grand Junction Forecast Area (COZ203) into two new fire weather forecast zones and its Durango Forecast Area (COZ207) into three new fire weather forecast zones. These changes will improve services for WFO GJT fire weather partners by better associating zone areas with weather regimes and terrain.

The split of the Grand Junction Forecast Area (COZ203) will create new fire weather forecast zones for the mountains and valleys of central Colorado (COZ205) and the mountains and valleys of west-central Colorado (COZ203).

The split of the Durango Forecast Area (COZ207) will create new fire weather forecast zones for the lower elevations of southwest Colorado in Montezuma, southern La Plata, western Dolores and San Miguel, and southwest Montrose Counties (COZ207); the mountainous and foothill terrain in eastern Dolores and northeast Montezuma Counties (COZ294); and the mountainous and lower elevation terrain in northern La Plata, San Juan, southern Hinsdale, and Archuleta Counties (COZ295).

In addition, the western portion of San Miguel County and the extreme southwest portion of Montrose County will move from COZ290 (Paradox Valley) into two of the new fire weather forecast zones of the Durango Forecast Area in southwest Colorado. Specifically, the southwestern portion of current fire weather forecast zone COZ290 will be moved into new fire weather forecast zones COZ207 (the area below about 7000 feet elevation) and COZ294 (the area above about 7000 feet elevation).

Once these changes have been implemented, the fire weather forecast zone numbers, names and geographical descriptors in Table 1 and Table 2 will be used in all fire weather forecast products issued by WFO GJT.

Table 1: New/Old Zone Numbers/Names

New Fire Weather Zone Number	New Fire Weather Zone Name	Old Fire Weather Zone Number	Old Fire Weather Zone Name
COZ203	Lower Colorado River	COZ203	Grand Junction Forecast Area
COZ205	Colorado River Headwaters	COZ203	Grand Junction Forecast Area
COZ207	Southwest Colorado Lower Forecast Area	COZ207	Durango Forecast Area
COZ294	Southwest Colorado Upper West Forecast Area	COZ207	Durango Forecast Area
COZ295	Southwest Colorado Upper East Forecast Area	COZ207	Durango Forecast Area

Table 2: New Geographic descriptions

**COZ203** Lower Colorado River  
Physical Description: This zone consists of that portion of Mesa and Garfield counties west of New Castle, CO, except the area encompassing the Grand Mesa.

**COZ205** Colorado River Headwaters  
Physical Description: This zone consists of that portion of Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin Counties east of New Castle, CO, plus the portion of the Grand Mesa within eastern Mesa County.

**COZ207** Southwest Colorado Lower Forecast Area  
Physical Description: This zone is defined as the lower elevations, generally areas below 7000 feet elevation, of southwest Colorado in Montezuma, southern La Plata, western Dolores, San Miguel, and southwest Montrose Counties.

**COZ294** Southwest Colorado Upper West Forecast Area  
Physical Description: This zone consists of the mountainous and foothill terrain, generally above 7000 feet elevations, in eastern Dolores and northeast Montezuma Counties.

COZ295 Southwest Colorado Upper East Forecast Area  
Physical Description: This zone is defined as the mountainous and lower elevation terrain in northern La Plata, San Juan, southern Hinsdale, and Archuleta Counties.

Graphical depictions of the old and new fire weather forecast zones are online at:

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/gjt/fire/OldGJTFWZones.png>

and

<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/gjt/fire/NewGJTFWZones.png>

NWS watch, warning and forecast products affected by these changes are:

PRODUCT	WMO HEADING	AWIPS ID
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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 online at:

[www.nws.noaa.gov/geodata/catalog/wsom/html/firezone.htm](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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