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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-120
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
500 PM EST Wed Dec 14 2022

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Mary Mullusky, Chief
 Forecast Services Division

Subject: Changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones for WFO Pendleton, OR:
 Effective March 8, 2023

Effective Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 1:00 PM Pacific Standard Time (PST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Pendleton, OR (PDT) will complete changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones encompassing the Washington counties of Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown in Table 2 below.

If March 8, 2023 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 9, 2023 at 2100 UTC.

These changes are intended to provide increased specificity, enhanced representativeness, and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products.

NWS Pendleton will be converting the Washington Public Forecast Zone 520, East Slopes of the Washington Cascades, into two (2) separate zones. This change will allow differences in climatology to properly be addressed while better reflecting the influences of complex terrain that can result in weather changing significantly over short distances. The public forecast zone will be divided roughly north to south into two zones. The westernmost zone will become a new zone named "Upper Slopes of the Eastern Washington Cascade Crest" and the easternmost zone will become a new zone named "Lower Slopes of the Eastern Washington Cascade Crest."

Table 1: Universal Geographic Codes (UGC): Current Public Zone Forecast Name

WAZ520: East Slopes of the Washington Cascades

Table 2: UGC: New Public Zone Forecast Name

WAZ522: Upper Slopes of the Eastern Washington Cascade Crest
WAZ523: Lower Slopes of the Eastern Washington Cascade Crest

Table 3: NWS Pendleton, OR products affected by these public zone changes are listed below.

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
Zone Forecast Product	FPUS56 KPDT	ZFPPDT
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS56 KPDT	PFMPDT
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS66 KPDT	SFTPDT
Public Information Statement	NOUS46 KPDT	PNSPDT
Non-Precipitation Watch/ Warning/Advisory	WWUS76 KPDT	NPWPDT
Winter Weather Message	WWUS46 KPDT	WSWPDT
Flood Watch	WGUS66 KPDT	FFAPDT
Flood Warning	WGUS46 KPDT	FLWPDT
Flood Advisory	WGUS86 KPDT	FLSPDT
Special Weather Statement	WWUS86 KPDT	SPSPDT
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS66 KPDT	AFDPDT
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS76 KPDT	AQAPDT
Regional Weather Roundup	ASUS46 KPDT	RWRPDT

NWS partners and users should take the appropriate action to ensure systems recognize the new UGC (Z) and new zone alignments and names.

Preliminary shapefiles for public forecast zones are available online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on January 17, 2023.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/PublicZoneChanges2023>

For more information, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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