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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-69
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1220 PM EDT Thu Jun 27 2024

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From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO Seattle, WA: Effective
September 10, 2024

Effective Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 2:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time (PDT), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Seattle, WA (SEW) will complete changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones for western Washington. After this change, all forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

If September 10, 2024 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to September 11, 2024 at 2100 UTC.

These changes are intended to allow WFO Seattle to issue weather watches, warnings, and advisories which will more accurately reflect forecasted weather conditions for a wide variety of weather scenarios. These changes will be most beneficial during the following scenarios: Puget Sound Convergence Zone snowfall events, snowfall events where mountain valley communities are not impacted, coastal flooding events, and tsunami events. These changes could also allow WFO Seattle to explore transitioning to zone-based hydrologic services in the future.

WFO Seattle Public Forecast Zones have been reconfigured using carefully selected elevation thresholds, local climatology, major transportation routes, and main population centers. They also align better with recent zone changes implemented by WFOs Portland, OR, Pendleton, OR, and Spokane, WA as indicated in the following Service Change Notices (SCNs):

[SCN 23-116: Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO Portland, OR: Effective March 5, 2024](#)

[SCN 22-120: Changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones for WFO Pendleton, OR: Effective March 8, 2023](#)

[SCN 21-63: Reconfiguration of Public Forecast Zones by WFO Spokane, WA: Effective September 8, 2021](#)

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

WAZ001: San Juan County
WAZ503: Western Whatcom County
WAZ504: Southwest Interior
WAZ506: Western Skagit County
WAZ507: Everett and Vicinity
WAZ509: Tacoma Area
WAZ510: Admiralty Inlet Area
WAZ511: Hood Canal Area
WAZ512: Lower Chehalis Valley Area
WAZ513: Olympics
WAZ514: Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca
WAZ515: Western Strait of Juan de Fuca
WAZ516: North Coast
WAZ517: Central Coast
WAZ555: East Puget Sound Lowlands
WAZ556: Bellevue and Vicinity
WAZ558: Seattle and Vicinity
WAZ559: Bremerton and Vicinity
WAZ567: West Slopes North Cascades and Passes
WAZ568: West Slopes North Central Cascades and Passes
WAZ569: West Slopes South Central Cascades and Passes

Table 2: UGC: New Public Zone Forecast Name

WAZ001: San Juan County
WAZ301: Cascades of Whatcom and Skagit Counties
WAZ302: Cascades of Snohomish and Northern King Counties
WAZ303: Cascades of Southern King County
WAZ304: Cascades of Pierce and Lewis Counties
WAZ305: Foothills and Valleys of the North Cascades
WAZ306: Foothills and Valleys of Snohomish and Northern King Counties
WAZ307: Foothills and Valleys of Central King County
WAZ308: Foothills and Valleys of Pierce and Southern King Counties
WAZ309: Foothills and Valleys of Thurston and Lewis Counties
WAZ310: Lowlands of Western Whatcom County
WAZ311: Lowlands of Western Skagit and Northwestern Snohomish Counties
WAZ312: Downtown Everett / Marysville Area
WAZ313: Shoreline / Lynnwood / South Everett Area
WAZ314: Eastside
WAZ315: City of Seattle
WAZ316: Lowlands of Pierce and Southern King Counties
WAZ317: Olympia and Southern Puget Sound
WAZ318: Lowlands of Lewis and Southern Thurston Counties
WAZ319: Middle Chehalis River Valley
WAZ320: Willapa and Black Hills
WAZ321: Southern Hood Canal
WAZ322: Northern Hood Canal
WAZ323: Eastern Kitsap County
WAZ324: Port Townsend Area
WAZ325: Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca
WAZ326: Western Strait of Juan de Fuca

WAZ327: Lake Crescent Area including US 101
WAZ328: Olympics
WAZ329: Foothills of the Western and Southern Olympic Peninsula
WAZ330: Northern Washington Coast
WAZ331: Grays Harbor County Coast
WAZ332: Lower Chehalis River Valley
WAZ333: Island County

Table 3: NWS Seattle, WA Products Affected by these Public Zone Changes

Product Name -----	WMO Heading -----	AWIPS ID -----
Zone Forecast Product	FPUS56 KSEW	ZFPSEW
Point Forecast Matrix	FOUS56 KSEW	PFMSEW
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS66 KSEW	SFTSEW
Public Information Statement	NOUS46 KSEW	PNSSEW
Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS76 KSEW	NPWSEW
Special Weather Statement	WWUS86 KSEW	SPSSEW
Winter Weather Message	WWUS46 KSEW	WSWSEW
Coastal Hazard Message	WHUS46 KSEW	CFWSEW
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS66 KSEW	AFDSEW
Avalanche Watch	WOUS46 KSEW	AVASEW
Avalanche Warning	WOUS46 KSEW	AVWSEW
Special Avalanche Bulletin	WWUS86 KSEW	SABSEW
NTWC Segmented Tsunami Watch/Warning/Advisory	WEPA41 PAAQ	TSUWCA

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

Updated public forecast zone shapefiles are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/PublicZones>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on August 26, 2024.

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://arcg.is/1eH80e0>

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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