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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 22-61 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
400 PM EDT Fri Aug 19 2022

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

From: Daniel Roman, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Changes to Public Forecast Zones for WFO Great Falls,
MT: Effective September 13, 2022

Updated zone change implementation date from September 7, 2022 to
September 13, 2022.

Effective Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 2:00 PM Mountain Daylight Time (MDT), 2000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Great Falls, MT (TFX) will complete changes to Public Weather Forecast Zones encompassing their entire County Warning Area of north-central, central and southwest Montana. After this change, all public forecasts and related products will use the new zone numbers and names shown below.

If September 13, 2022 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to September 14, 2022 at 2000 UTC.

These changes are intended to provide increased flexibility and improved accuracy of forecast, watch, warning, and advisory products in the Public Weather Program.

Twenty (20) current zones will be converted into thirty (30) new zones. These new zones are being created primarily to optimize issuance of public forecast and hazard products for conditions that can vary significantly across the highly variable terrain of this region.

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

MTZ008: Beaverhead County
MTZ009: Northern Rocky Mountain Front
MTZ010: Eastern Glacier County
MTZ011: Hill County
MTZ012: Cascade County
MTZ013: Chouteau County
MTZ014: Central and Southern Lewis and Clark County
MTZ015: Madison County
MTZ044: Toole County

MTZ045: Liberty County
 MTZ046: Eastern Pondera County
 MTZ047: Blaine County
 MTZ048: Southern Rocky Mountain Front
 MTZ049: Eastern Teton County
 MTZ050: Judith Basin County
 MTZ051: Fergus County
 MTZ052: Jefferson County
 MTZ053: Broadwater County
 MTZ054: Meagher County
 MTZ055: Gallatin County

Table 2: UGC: New Public Zone Forecast Name

MTZ301: East Glacier Park Region
 MTZ302: Northern High Plains
 MTZ303: Eastern Glacier, Western Toole and Central Pondera
 MTZ304: Eastern Toole and Liberty
 MTZ305: Hill County
 MTZ306: Northern Blaine County
 MTZ307: Southern Rocky Mountain Front
 MTZ308: Southern High Plains
 MTZ309: Eastern Pondera and Eastern Teton
 MTZ310: Western and Central Chouteau County
 MTZ311: Bears Paw Mountains and Southern Blaine
 MTZ312: Cascade County below 5,000 feet
 MTZ313: Judith Basin County and Judith Gap
 MTZ314: Fergus County below 4,500 feet
 MTZ315: Upper Blackfoot and MacDonald Pass
 MTZ316: Gates of the Mountains
 MTZ317: Little Belt and Highwood Mountains
 MTZ318: Snowy and Judith Mountains
 MTZ319: Helena Valley
 MTZ320: Big Belt, Bridger and Castle Mountains
 MTZ321: Meagher County Valleys
 MTZ322: Elkhorn and Boulder Mountains
 MTZ323: Canyon Ferry Area
 MTZ324: Missouri Headwaters
 MTZ325: Madison River Valley
 MTZ326: Gallatin Valley
 MTZ327: Northwest Beaverhead County
 MTZ328: Beaverhead and Western Madison below 6,000 feet
 MTZ329: Ruby Mountains and Southern Beaverhead Mountains
 MTZ330: Gallatin and Madison County Mountains and Centennial Mountains

Table 3: NWS WFO Great Falls, MT Products Affected by these Public Zone Changes

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Zone Forecast Product	FPUS55 KTFX	ZFPTFX
Point Forecast Matrices	FOUS55 KTFX	PFMTFX
Tabular State Forecast	FPUS65 KTFX	SFTTFX
Public Information Statement	NOUS45 KTFX	PNSTFX

Non-Precipitation Watch/Warning/Advisory	WWUS75 KTFX	NPWTFX
Flood Watch	WGUS65 KTFX	FFATFX
Flood Warning	WGUS45 KTFX	FLWTFX
Flood Advisory	WGUS85 KTFX	FLSTFX
Special Weather Statement	WWUS85 KTFX	SPSTFX
Winter Weather Message	WWUS45 KTFX	WSWTFX
Area Forecast Discussion	FXUS65 KTFX	AFDTFX
Air Quality Alert Message	AEUS75 KTFX	AQATFX
Area Forecast Product	FPUS65 KTFX	AFPTFX
State Forecast Product	FPUS65 KTFX	SFPMT
Regional Weather Roundup	ASUS45 KTFX	RWRMT

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>

A graphical depiction of this change is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/tfx/NewZonesAnnouncement>

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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