

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MANUAL 10-507**

**November 10, 2009**

**Operations and Services**

**Public Weather Services, NWSPD 10-5**

**PUBLIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** This directive supersedes NWSM 10-507, “Public Geographic Areas of Responsibility,” dated October 24, 2007. The following revisions have been made to this manual:

- 1) Approving authority edit: James E. Hoke changed to David B. Caldwell
- 2) Removed Note in section 2.2 pertaining to use of “Netscape 7.0 or higher or Internet Explorer” to view links because the note is not required anymore.
- 3) Made several minor grammatical corrections.

signed

10/27/2009

David B. Caldwell

Date

Director, Office of Climate,  
Water, and Weather Services

**Public Geographic Areas of Responsibility**

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1. Introduction. This manual provides World Wide Web (WWW) links to public zone maps, public zone listings, County Warning and Forecast Area (CWFA) maps, and CWFA listings. Individual state, territorial, and commonwealth public zone maps are presented. Links to geographic areas of responsibility for other NWS service program areas (i.e., Fire Weather, Hydrologic, and Marine services) are also included.

1.1 Public Zones. Public zone listings are arranged alphabetically within each of the six National Weather Service (NWS) Regions (Alaska, Central, Eastern, Pacific, Southern, and Western) and provide zone-related information including: associated state, zone code, zone name, county name/area designation, Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) code, Weather Forecast Office (WFO) name, and WFO ID.

1.2 County Warning and Forecast Areas. CWFA maps are arranged alphabetically by WFO ID within each of the NWS regions. CWFA listings are arranged alphabetically by WFO, state, and county name within each of the NWS regions. The listings consist of WFO name and office ID, county/parish/independent city name and corresponding state, FIPS code, portion of county in CWFA, square mileage of counties and county parts, and population of the entire county.

2. Public Zone and County Warning and Forecast Area Definition/Designation. When defining/designating public zone and CWFA boundaries, full consideration is given to which WFO is most capable of providing warnings and forecasts for the area populace.

2.1 Public Zones. Generally, a zone shape is influenced by topography, political boundaries, climate, population, land use, transportation routes, frequency of hazardous weather, etc.

2.2 County Warning and Forecast Areas. CWFAs are designated by counties/parishes (or parts thereof), and independent cities surrounding a WFO, without regard to state boundaries.

3. NWS National Scale Maps.

3.1 [National Weather Service Regions Map \(.PDF\).](#)

3.2 [U.S. Geographic Boundaries Reference Map \(.PDF\).](#)

4. NWS State Scale Maps.

4.1 [Public Zone Forecast Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)

4.2 [County Warning and Forecast Area \(CWFA\) Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)

4.3 [Federal Information Processing Standards \(FIPS\) Code Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)

5. NWS Local and Regional Scale Maps.

5.1 [CWFA Maps by NWS Region \(.PDF or .JPG\).](#)

6. Public Zone Listings by Region (Including FIPS/County Information).
  - 6.1 [Alaska Region \(.PDF\).](#)
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8. CWFA Areal Coverage Reports (Square Miles).
  - 8.1 [Square Miles \(sorted alphabetically by WFO and County \[.PDF\]\).](#)
  - 8.2 [Square Miles \(sorted alphabetically by WFO Identification \[.XLS\]\).](#)
  - 8.3 [Square Miles \(sorted by size in descending order \[.XLS\]\).](#)
9. Geographic Areas of Responsibility for Other Programs. Information on geographic areas of responsibility for other National Weather Service programs can be found at the following web site or in the following directives:
  - a. Fire Weather Services: [Zone Maps by State \(.PDF or .JPG\);](#)
  - b. Hydrologic Services: [NWSI 10-903](#), Geographic Areas of Responsibility;
  - c. Marine Services: [NWSI 10-302](#), Marine and Coastal Weather Services Areas of Responsibility.