

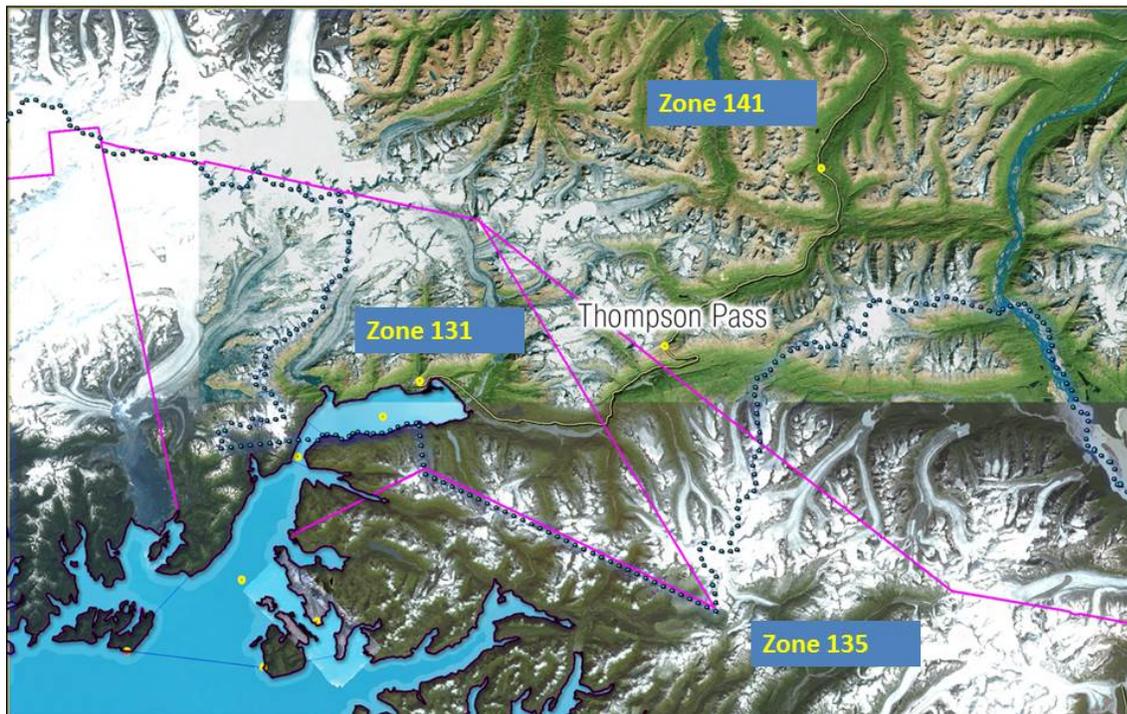
WFO Anchorage Fire and Public Zone Changes Effective June 12, 2014

Background

WFO Anchorage implemented GFE in Winter 2003/2004. The current public zones were designed at that time. Since then, a boundary error has been discovered between Zone 131 (Valdez) and 135 (Cordova). Thompson Pass and Keystone Canyon, two important landmarks near Valdez, are actually located in Zone 135, Cordova and Zone 141, the Copper River Basin. This most impacts alerts issued through WarnGen, which unless they are drawn very specifically, will issue warnings in Cordova for Keystone Canyon and the Copper River Basin for Thompson Pass, instead of Valdez for both locations.

The highway system into Valdez runs through Thompson Pass and Keystone Canyon, which is also drainage for the Lowe River. This is the only over-land route into and out of Valdez, so this section of road is very important to the town's residents. In addition, the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline follows this route to its terminal on the other side of Valdez Arm. Thus, this forecast is essential to all the residents of Valdez. Cordova is located on another section of Prince William Sound and would not be affected by events in Thompson Pass or Keystone Pass.

Figure 1. Current Zone Boundaries

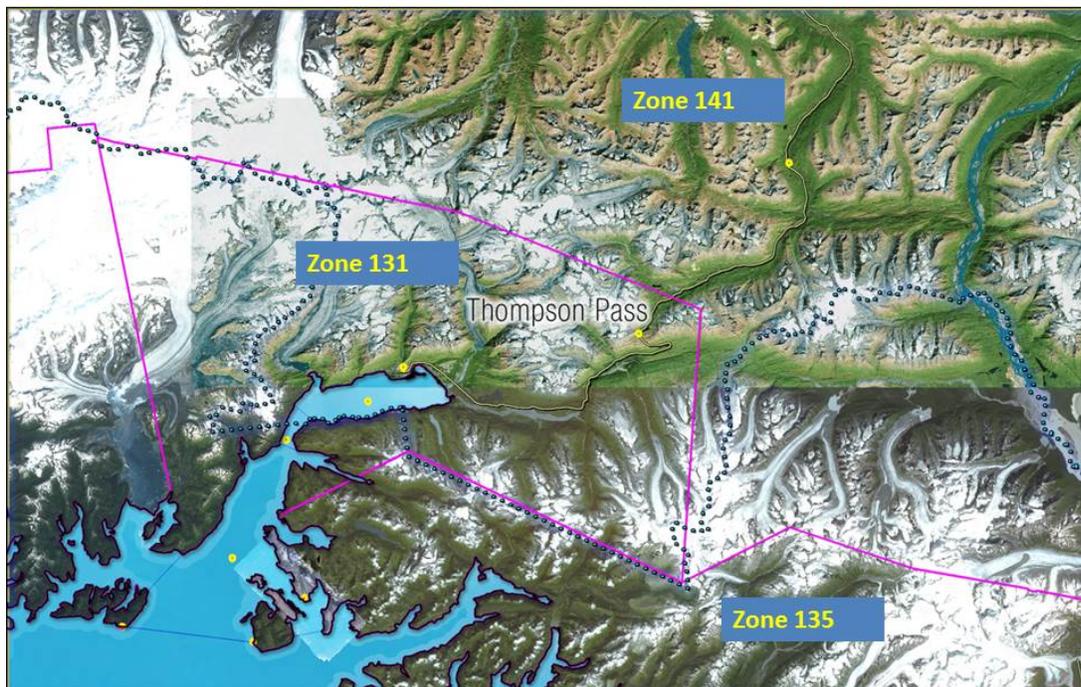


Although the current zone boundaries show Thompson Pass in Zone 135 (Cordova), the text forecast and the long-fused warnings have always placed Thompson Pass and Keystone Canyon in 131 (Valdez). Climatologically, Thompson Pass has always been included in Zone 131. A change to these boundaries would simply correct the files for use of WarnGen and Point and Click webpages – no changes to the actual warning and forecast services would occur.

Proposal

Anchorage wishes to realign the borders of Zones 131, 135 and 141 in the following manner:

Figure 2. Proposed Zone Boundaries effective June 12, 2014



This will place Thompson Pass and Keystone Canyon in Zone 131, and drainages north of Cordova into 141. Again, this would be a correction to the boundaries, not a change to services, so zones will not need to be renamed or renumbered.