

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MANUAL 10-507  
NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

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

**PUBLIC GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**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 January 3, 2018. This directive incorporates the following changes:

1. Removed sections 1.1 and 1.2 to condense with sections 2.1 and 2.2 respectively and added clarifying language to description for Public Forecast Zones and County Warning and Forecast Areas in Section 2.
2. Updated hyperlinks in sections 6, 8, and 9.

October 24, 2023

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**Public Geographic Areas of Responsibility**

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## **1. Introduction**

This manual provides World Wide Web (WWW) links to public forecast zone maps, public forecast 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 National Weather Service (NWS) service program areas (i.e., Fire Weather, Hydrologic, and Marine services) are also included.

## **2. Public Forecast Zone and County Warning and Forecast Area Definition/Designation**

### **2.1 Public Forecast Zones**

The NWS issues forecasts and some watches and warnings for public zones which usually are the same as counties but in many cases are subsets of counties. Counties are subset into zones to allow for more accurate forecasts because of the differences in weather within a county due to such things as elevation or proximity to large bodies of water. Public forecast zone listings are arranged alphabetically by state within each of the six 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.

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**

The CWFA is the counties/zones for which each WFO/Weather Service Office (WSO) is responsible for issuing forecasts and warnings. CWFA maps are arranged alphabetically by WFO/WSO 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/WSO 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.

CWFAs are designated by counties/parishes (or parts thereof), and independent cities surrounding a WFO/WSO, 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 Forecast Zone 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.**
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- 6.1 [Alaska Region.](#)
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- 7.4 [Pacific Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7.5 [Southern Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 7.6 [Western Region \(.PDF\).](#)
- 8. **CWFA Areal Coverage Reports (Square Miles).**
- 8.1 [Square Miles \(sorted alphabetically by WFO \[.PDF\]\).](#)
- 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*.