Electric Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plan Template

Version 1.0

1.0 Executive Summary

Provide a brief overview of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and the associated material provided to assist the consumers of the information.

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2.0 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Overview

2.1 Purpose of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Sample language for Section 2.1 provided below:

This Wildfire Mitigation Plan describes in detail the range of activities that a Utility or joint Utilities are taking to mitigate the threat of utility ignited wildfires, including various programs, policies, and procedures. This plan complies with the requirements of HB1032 for investor and customer owned electric utilities (IOU/COU) to prepare a wildfire mitigation plan by October 31, 2024, and every three years thereafter.

2.2 Description of Where WMP Information Can be Found on Utility Website

Provide a short description of how the public and other reviewers can find WMP information on the Utility website. Ensure that the website information on WMPs is relatively easily found and prioritizes the most current and up to date WMP while providing links to previous materials, if available, for reviewer context.

2.3 Statutory Cross-Reference Table

Provide any industry standard or other statutory items referenced within the WMP including what section and page number (if applicable) in the form of hyperlinks. Statutory requirements that do not have a specific reference within the text but apply to the entirely of the plan can be listed without additional information. If no references are noted, this table may be left blank.

Statutory Requirement	**Section & Page Number**
HB 1032 – By October 31, 2024, and every three years thereafter, each Investor-owner and Consumer-owned Utility must review, if appropriate revise, and adopt its wildfire mitigation plan	Sec. XX, pp. XX

3.0 Utility Overview

In the following sections, provide an overview of the utility, its service area, and general description of the purpose of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP).

3.1 Utility Description and Context Setting Table

Provide a short description of the utility and include the context-setting table. For utilities operating in multiple states, complete the table below only for the areas within Washington state.

Note: If two or more utilities are filing jointly, each individual utility will need to provide the following information as well as a combined total. Columns can be added to the right for each individual utility and the furthest left column will contain the "total" or combined data.

Table 1. Context-Setting Information Table

Utility Name	
Service Territory Size (sq miles)	
Service Territory Make-up	[ ]% Urban [ ]% Agriculture [ ]% Barren/Other [ ]% Conifer Forest [ ]% Conifer Woodland [ ]% Desert [ ]% Hardwood Forest [ ]% Hardwood Woodland [ ]% Herbaceous [ ]% Shrub [ ]% Water
Service Territory Wildland Urban Interface (based on total area)	[ ]% Wildland Urban Interface [ ]% Wildland Urban Intermix
Customers Served	
Account Demographic [*Note: Please provide as a percent of total customers served*]	[ ]% Residential [ ]% Agricultural [ ]% Commercial/Industrial

Utility Equipment Make-up (circuit miles) [*Note: Please provide brief description of how line miles are measured or calculated*]	Overhead Dist.: Overhead Trans.: Underground Dist.: Underground Trans.:
Customers have ever been notified of a potential loss of service to due to a forecasted utility de-energization event?	Yes ☐ No ☐
Has developed protocols to pre-emptively shut off electricity in response to elevated wildfire risks?	Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, provide as an appendix the documentation developed by the utility
Has previously preemptively shut off electricity in response to elevated wildfire risk?	Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, then provide the following data for the three trailing calendar years: Number of shut-off events: [ ] Customer Accounts that lost service for >10 minutes: [ ] For prior response, average duration before service restored: [ ]

4.0 Objectives of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan

In this section, please state the objectives of the mitigation plan and how each objective supports a response and recovery system that is:

- *Capable of responding to fire events*
- *Integrated with internal and external stakeholders*
- *Sustainable for your organization in the long-term*

4.1 Minimizing sources of ignition

Describe steps taken to reduce ignitions from energized equipment.

4.2 Resiliency of the electric grid

Describe the utility's ability to withstand fire weather conditions and quickly recover services.

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

Provide within these sections an organizational overview of the utility and wildfire management or response personnel, coordination efforts with other local utilities and infrastructure providers, and any currently obligated or voluntary emergency management communication efforts.

5.1 Utility Roles and Responsibilities

Please provide a utility wildfire program organizational chart highlighting the wildfire specific staff/positions within the utility. The utility should also provide a detailed description of the wildfire specific roles within the utility and the responsibilities of said roles.

5.2 Coordination with local utilities/departments

Describe any coordination involving other local utilities and/or departments essential to wildfire response and recovery (e.g., water utilities).

5.3 Coordination with communication infrastructure providers

Describe coordination and communication with Communication infrastructure providers.

5.4 Emergency Management / Incident Response Organization

Describe utility's efforts (if any) to coordinate with relevant safety agencies as well as other relevant local and state agencies to establish roles, responsibilities, and structure of communication for emergency management system alerts. Coordination efforts may include but are not limited to:

- *Emergency management system structure during red flag conditions and wildfires*
- *Relevant training exercises the utility may participate in relating to red flag conditions and wildfires*

(WA DNR suggests that the utility include existing emergency management system language in an appendix. It is recommended that utilities adopt or adapt the FEMA National Incident Management System as a guide).

6.0 Wildfire Risks and Drivers Associated with Design, Construction, Operation, and Maintenance

Within these sections, provide any specific information regarding the risks and risk drivers specific to the utility service and surrounding areas as well as enterprise-wide safety risks.

6.1 Particular risks and risk drivers associated with topographic and climatological risk factors

List primary risk drivers for wildfires specific to the utility service area and briefly describe the utility's prioritization of stated risks (what is most important in a service area), and how climatological risks may change going forward. Example risk drivers may include:

- *Extended drought;*
- *Vegetation type;*
- *High winds;*
- *Steep terrain;*
- *Lack of early fall rains*

6.2 Enterprise-wide Safety Risks

Describe methodology for identifying and presenting enterprise-wide safety risks related to wildfires.

7.0 Wildfire Preventative Strategies

Within these sections, provide any specific information regarding current prevention strategies, lessons learned from the prevention activities, and considerations for the future state.

7.1 Weather Monitoring

7.1.1 Current Strategy Overview

Provide detail to the weather monitoring (if any) conducted by the utility.

The following is a list of possible weather monitoring sources:

- *United States National Weather Service*
- *United States Forest Service Wildland Fire Assessment System*
- *National Fire Danger Rating System*

7.1.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to weather monitoring that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

7.2 Design and Construction Standards

7.2.1 Current Strategy Overview

Detail any instances where the utility is engaged in system design and hardening practices or pilot efforts for purposes of wildfire mitigation. If any industry best practices are being utilized, note the standard or code, as applicable, and how the utility uses that standard in its processes.

7.2.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to design and construction standards that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

7.3 Fuel & Vegetation Management

7.3.1 Current Strategy Overview

Detail any instances where the utility is developing or implementing programs and practices to manage fuels and vegetation for purposes of wildfire mitigation. If any industry standards are used as a baseline for Vegetation Management, please cite and briefly describe the standard(s).

7.3.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to vegetation management that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

7.4 Inspections and Corrective Responses

7.4.1 Current Strategy Overview

Detail any instances where the utility is engaged in inspection practices or pilot projects (e.g., new practices could include use of LiDAR, infrared, drones, etc.) for purposes of wildfire mitigation. For any inspection program descriptions, include details on what steps are taken if any inspections do not meet minimum requirements. If any industry standards are used as a baseline for Inspections, please cite and briefly describe the standard(s).

7.4.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to the inspection program that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

7.5 Workforce training

7.5.1 Current Strategy Overview

Describe any standard workforce training or changes to work rules/practices related to wildfire mitigation, from wildfire ignition, spread, and mitigation itself to the workforce dealing with heavier assets, new grounding requirements, hotter temperatures, higher wind-speeds, etc.

7.5.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to workforce training efforts that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

7.6 Relay and Recloser Policy

7.6.1 Current Strategy Overview

Describe the utility's relay and recloser policy, including the use of pulse reclosers and other SCADA controlled reclosers. Additionally, describe if the utility changes the relay settings to more quickly or easily de-energize a circuit during certain conditions.

7.6.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to relay or recloser operations that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

7.7 De-energization

7.7.1 Current Strategy Overview

Provide specific information about plans (if any) to de-energize, either proactively or through relay settings. List the conditions (if any) under which the utility may enact a de-energization to prevent ignitions. Does the utility staff consider each of the generic conditions typically listed equally, or are some prioritized or not included in the specific deliberations?

If a utility does not plan on enacting proactive de-energization, please list other mitigations to limit ignitions under extreme conditions. Additionally, utilities should describe their notification timelines and procedures ahead of, during, and following a proactive de-energization.

This section is not intended to provide detail to restoration of service following a de-energization. That information will be provided in Section 8.

7.7.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to the de-energization strategy or program that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

8.0 Community Outreach and Public Awareness

8.1 Current Community Outreach and Public Awareness Program

Provide a description of customer engagement and outreach activities or programs performed over the past three years. If any evaluations or assessments of customer engagement was performed, briefly describe the findings as appropriate. This may include efforts to increase awareness that a WMP exists, notification of activities under the WMP, etc. If the Utility utilizes proactive de-energization, this section should be used to describe any efforts made to educate or

interact with the public regarding awareness of this tactic as well as the strategy used to notify in the event of a proactive de-energization.

Examples may include, but are not limited to, engagement with the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, initiatives to reach customers with limited English proficiency, or interagency meetings to promote best management practices. Examples of evaluations may include number of impressions, customers reached, or resources provided/requested.

8.2 Planned Updates

Describe any updates, additions, or amendments to community outreach and public awareness strategies or program that are anticipated in the upcoming three years. If applicable, describe what led to the change and the anticipated benefit or improvement once implemented. If it is a pilot program, describe the pilot period.

9.0 Restoration of Service

Within this section, provide the detailed process for restoring service after an outage as outlined by the utility during high fire risk conditions or following a de-energization or wildfire event. When applicable reference specific sections within the utility's restoration plan (if available) that detail the steps performed by the utility before during and after restoration.

The State Energy Office – Energy Emergency Management is available to support utilities with this.

10.0 Evaluating the Plan

Provide within these sections how the utility tracks and evaluates the effectiveness of its wildfire mitigation plan and the associated mitigation efforts. If this is an initial WMP submission, some sections may not apply or have any historical context. In such cases, the section can be used to describe future states if such information is known. If leaving blank, please indicate that the information is not yet available.

10.1 Metrics and Assumptions for Measuring Plan Performance

Provide within these sections metrics that are relevant to the utilities wildfire mitigation efforts and may help measure/benchmark the utilities performance on such mitigation efforts. Sample metrics tables has been provided in Appendix A.

10.2 Impact of Metrics on Plan

Provide data on the performance of selected metrics including historical metrics (as possible).

10.3 Reviewing, Updating, and Approving the Plan

Detail designated internal and external reviewers and approvers for required updates to the WMP.

10.4 Identifying and Addressing Areas of Continued Improvement in the Plan

Describe adjustments, improvements, or additions to the plan derived from metric tracking, lessons learned, or any other processes contributing to continuous improvement efforts.

10.5 Monitoring the Effectiveness of Inspections

Describe processes for monitoring the effectiveness of inspections, including inspections performed by contractors.

Appendix A.

A.1 Metrics Tables

External Risk Metrics						
Metric type	**External Risk Event**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**Unit(s)**	**Comments**
1. Red Flag Warnings	Red Flags Warning Days* for Weather Zone that includes Utility Service Territory				#Days	
2. Wind Conditions	High Wind Warning Days* in Weather Zone that includes Utility Service Territory				#Days	
3. [Other Relevant Weather Metric]	[Other relevant weather pattern metrics tracked]				[unit]	
4. Increase of Customers/Infrastructure in High-Risk Areas [Utility to designate appropriate basis for measure the change in risk, such as location within WUI.]	Circuit Miles in [high risk area as defined by Utility]				#Miles	
	As Percentage of Total Distribution Circuit Miles				%	
	Customer Accounts in [high risk area as defined by Utility]				# Cust. Accounts	
	As Percentage of Total Customer Accounts				%	

Notes:
***** Red Flag Warnings and High Wind Warnings are declared by the National Weather Service.

Performance Metrics						
Metric type	**Progress metric name**	**2023**	**2024 (Projected)**	**2025 (Projected)**	**Unit(s)**	**Comments**
1. Distribution Inspections	Patrol Inspections ***Performed***				# circuit miles	
	Intrusive Inspections ***Performed***				# circuit miles	
	Routine Vegetation Management ***Performed***				# circuit miles	
2. Transmission Inspections	Patrol Inspections ***Performed***				# circuit miles	
	Intrusive Inspections ***Performed***				# circuit miles	
	Routine Vegetation Management ***Performed***				# circuit miles	
Notes:						

Outcome Metrics

Event Category	Cause category	2023 Actual	2024 Projected	2025 Projected	2030 Projected	2035 Projected	Unit(s)	Comments
Outage Event - Distribution	Contact from object - Distribution (non vegetation)						# outages	
	Vegetation caused - Distribution						# outages	
	Equipment / facility failure - Distribution						# outages	
	Wire-to-wire contact - Distribution						# outages	
	Contamination - Distribution						# outages	
	Utility work / Operation						# outages	
	Vandalism / Theft - Distribution						# outages	
	Other- Distribution						# outages	
	Unknown- Distribution						# outages	
Outage Event - Transmission	Contact from object - Transmission						# outages	
	Vegetation caused - Transmission						# outages	
	Equipment / facility failure - Transmission						# outages	
	Wire-to-wire contact - Transmission						# outages	
	Contamination - Transmission						# outages	
	Utility work / Operation						# outages	
	Vandalism / Theft - Transmission						# outages	
	Other- Transmission						# outages	
	Unknown- Transmission						# outages	
Utility-Caused Ignitions* Distribution	Contact from object - Distribution						# ignitions	
	Vegetation caused - Distribution						# ignitions	
	Equipment / facility failure - Distribution						# ignitions	
	Wire-to-wire contact - Distribution						# ignitions	
	Contamination - Distribution						# ignitions	
	Utility work / Operation						# ignitions	
	Vandalism / Theft - Distribution						# ignitions	
	Other- Distribution						# ignitions	
	Unknown- Distribution						# ignitions	
Utility-Caused Ignitions* Transmission	Contact from object - Transmission						# ignitions	
	Vegetation caused - Transmission						# ignitions	
	Equipment / facility failure - Transmission						# ignitions	
	Wire-to-wire contact - Transmission						# ignitions	
	Contamination - Transmission						# ignitions	
	Utility work / Operation						# ignitions	
	Vandalism / Theft - Transmission						# ignitions	
	Other- Transmission						# ignitions	
	Unknown- Transmission						# ignitions	
Safety Hazards - Distribution** (No Outage/Ignition)	Level 1						# hazards discovered	
	Level 2						# hazards discovered	
	Level 3						# hazards discovered	
Safety Hazards - Transmission (No Outage/Ignition)	Level 1						# hazards discovered	
	Level 2						# hazards discovered	
	Level 3						# hazards discovered	
Vegetation Management (No Outage/Ignition)	Offcycle Treatment - Distribution						# poles	
	Offcycle Treatment - Transmission						# poles	
Systemwide Information	SAIDI						All Events, # minutes/year	
	SAIFI						All Events, # times/year	

Notes:

* An "ignition" is deemed to occur if each of the following conditions is met: (1) a utility owned or controlled facility was associated with the fire; (2) the fire was self-propagating and of a material other than electrical and/or communication facilities; (3) the resulting fire traveled greater than one linear meter from the ignition point; and (4) the utility has knowledge that the fire occurred.

** A Level 1 Safety Hazard is defined as _____. [Note: Rename or add categories to align with existing utility practices]
A Level 2 Safety Hazard is defined as _____.
A Level 3 Safety Hazard is defined as _____.