



Wildfire Resiliency WUTC Update

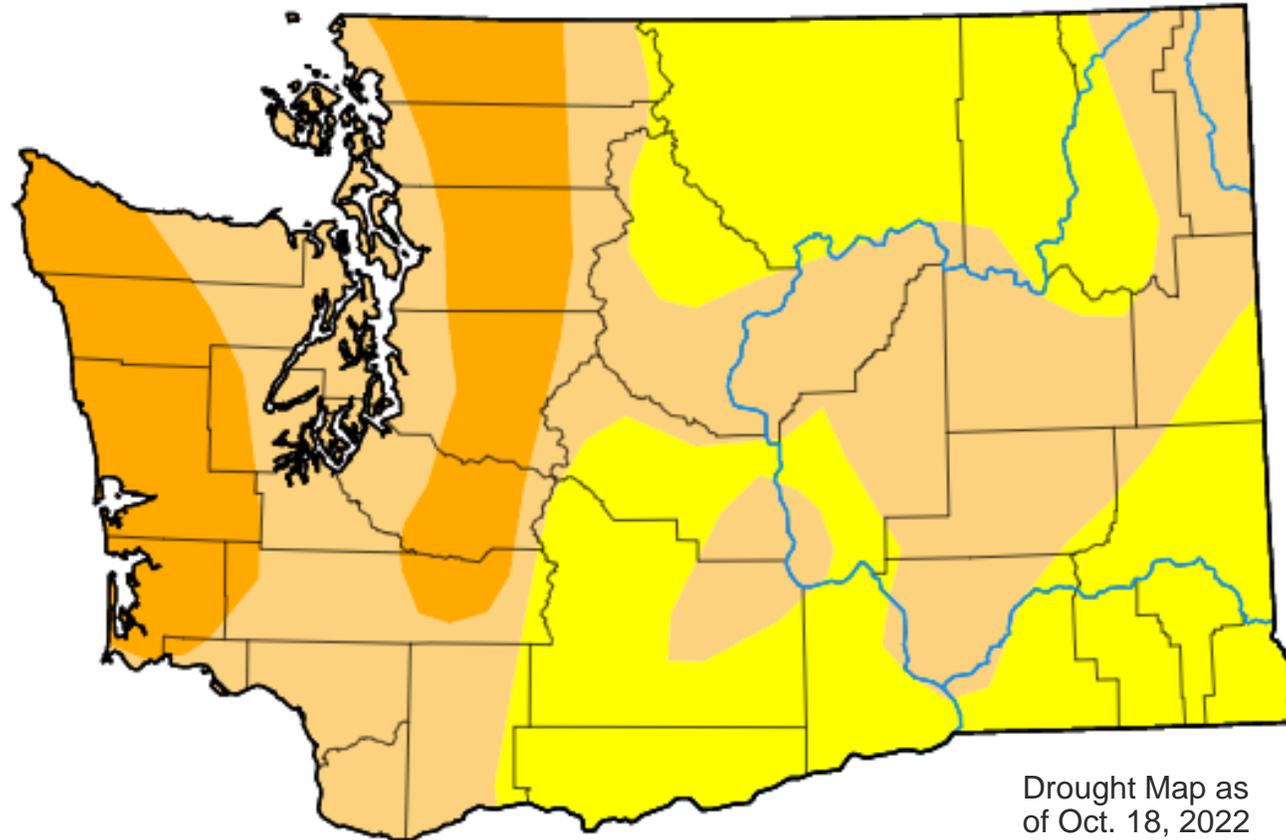
November 3, 2022

David Howell

2022 Fire Season Recap

2022 Washington Wildfire Conditions

Washington Drought Conditions



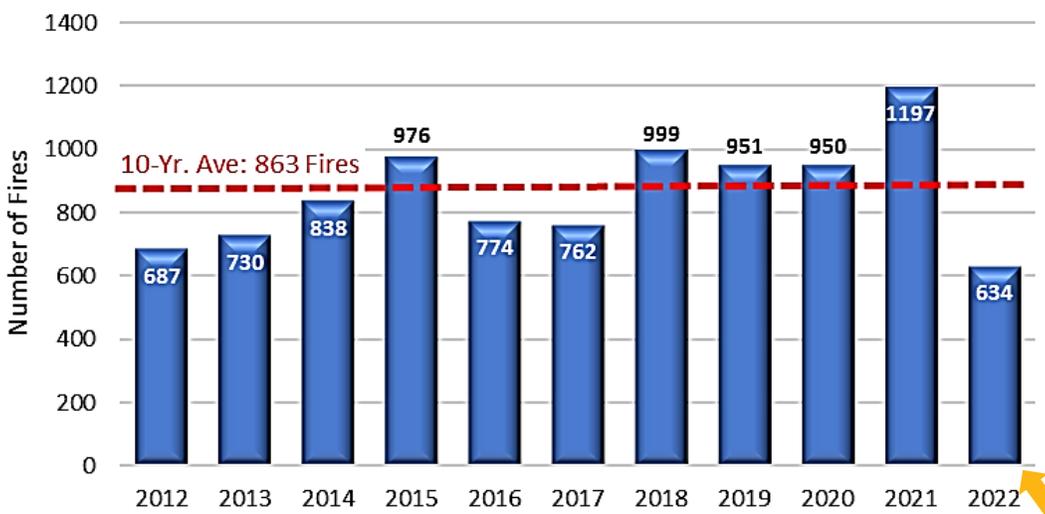
Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)

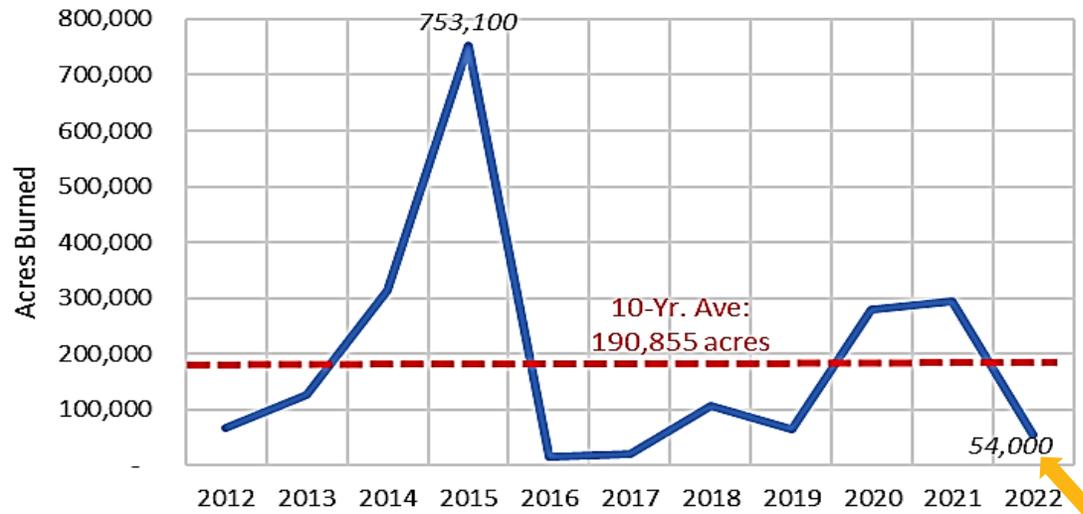
Drought Map as of Oct. 18, 2022

2022 Washington Wildfires by the Numbers

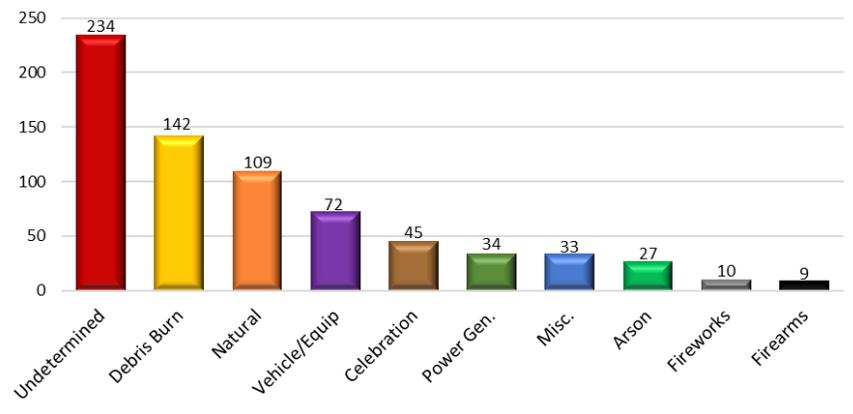
Washington DNR Number of Fires



Washington DNR Acres Burned

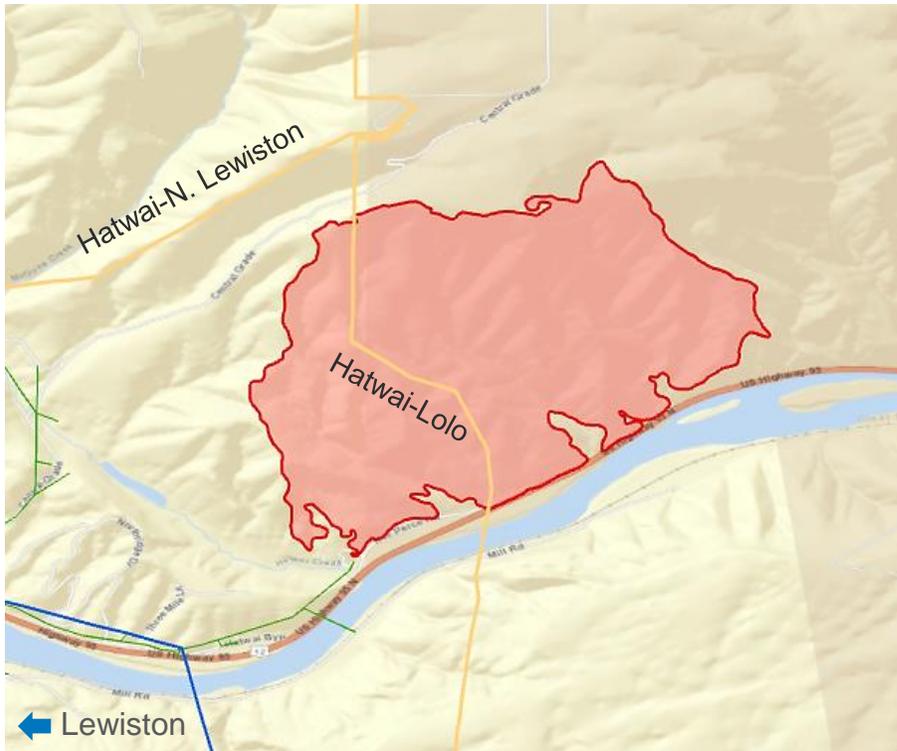


Washington State Fire Cause 2022



In 2022 the DNR was able to keep 94% of fires to 10 acres or less.

Express Fire – Lewiston, ID - July 17th

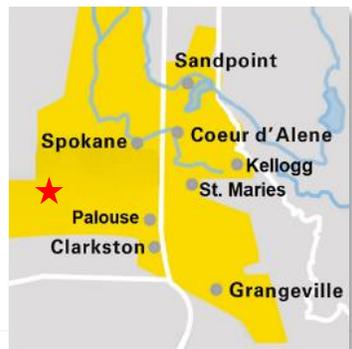
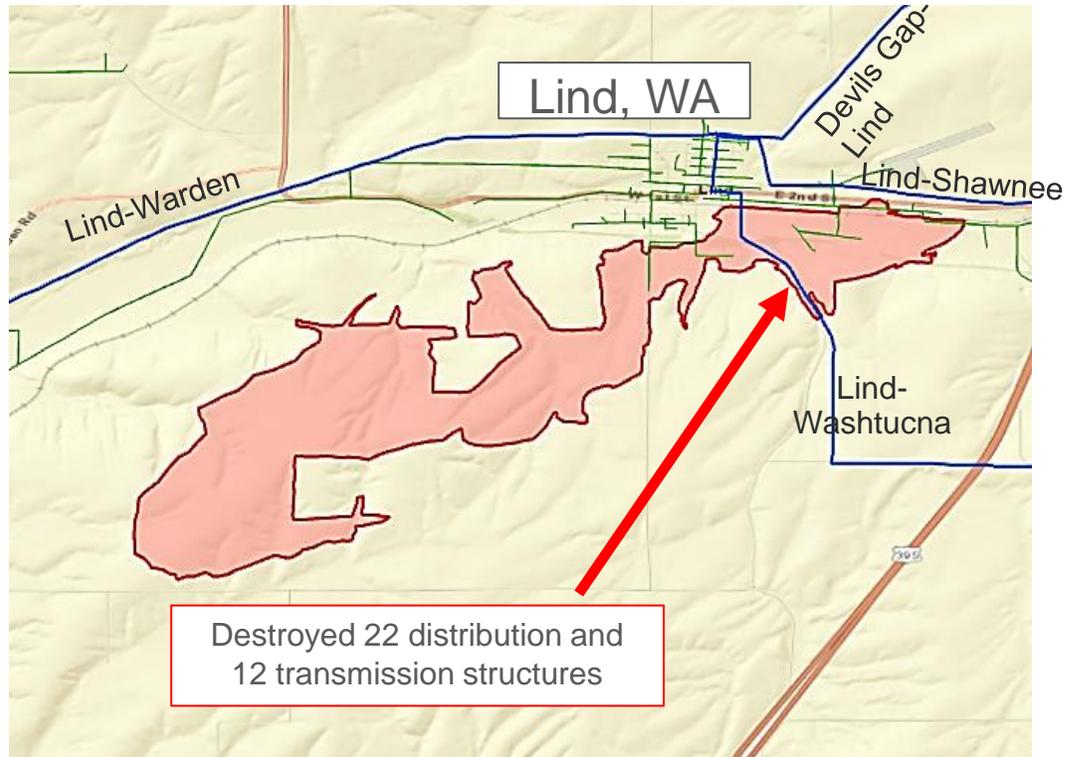


Scenes from the Express fire



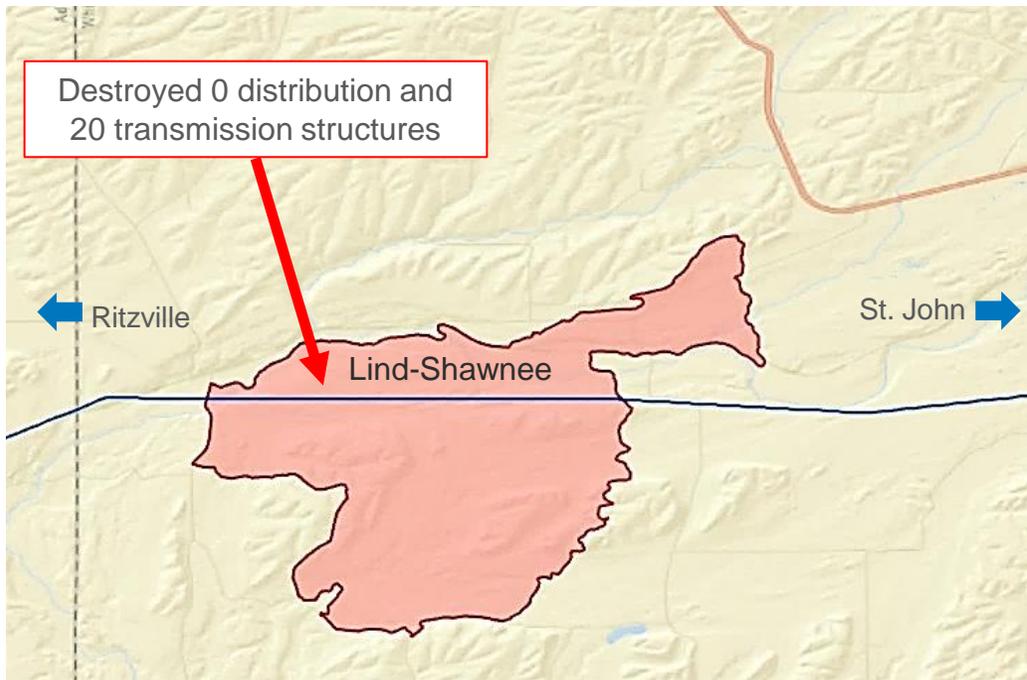
- 1,700 Acres
- Lightning Caused
- 2 outbuildings lost
- Near Hatwai-Lolo 230 kV
- No damage to T&D
- Avista Cost: <\$6,000

Lind Fire – Lind, WA - August 4th



- 2,500 Acres
- Human Caused
- 6 homes & 10 outbuildings lost
- Damaged 12 Transmission & 22 Distribution Structures
- Avista Cost: \$192,000

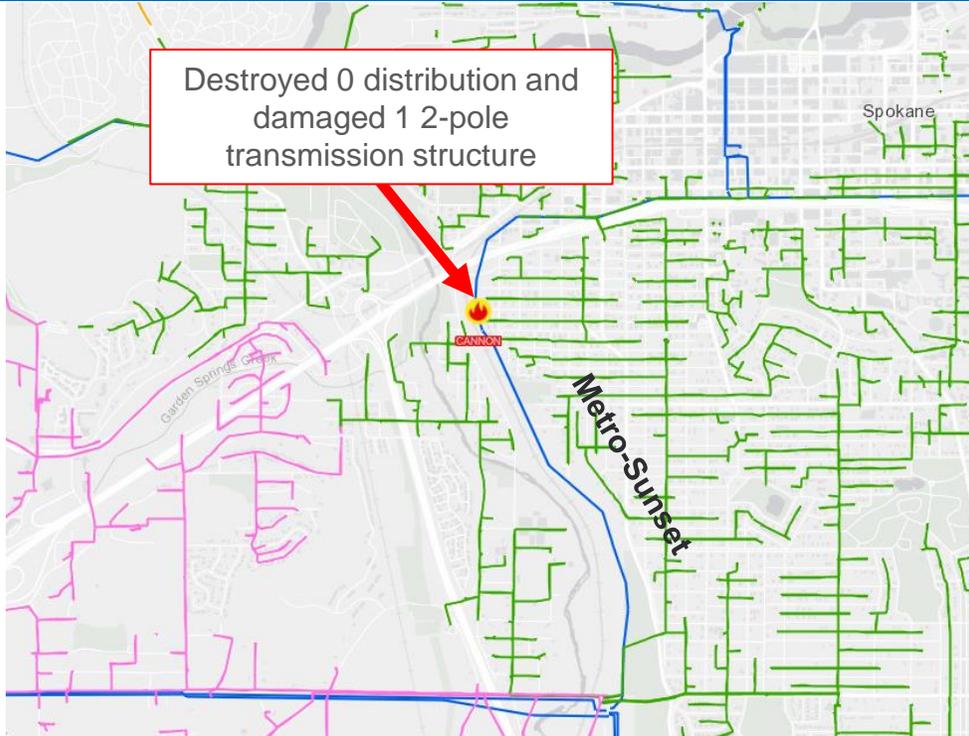
Wagner Road Fire – St. John, WA - August 18th



- 7,590 Acres
- Unknown Cause
- 4 outbuildings lost
- Damaged 20 Transmission Structures on Lind-Shawnee 115 kV
- Avista Cost: \$202,000



Cannon Fire – Spokane, WA – August 30th



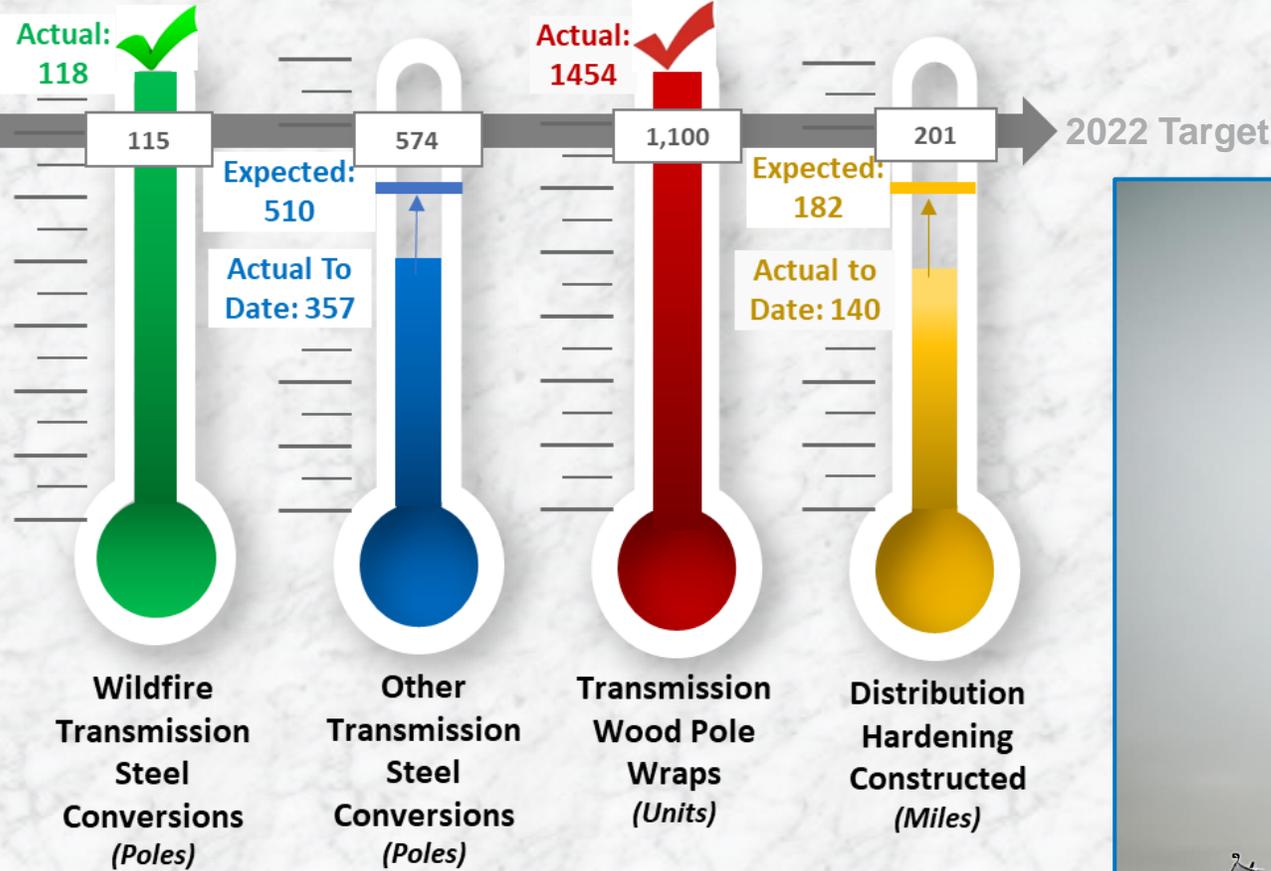
- 1.3 Acres
- Caused by Train
- No damage to homes
- Damaged 1 Transmission Structure on Metro-Sunset 115 kV
- Avista Cost: <\$3,000



Two of our transmission poles in Spokane were damaged by a small fire started by a passing train.

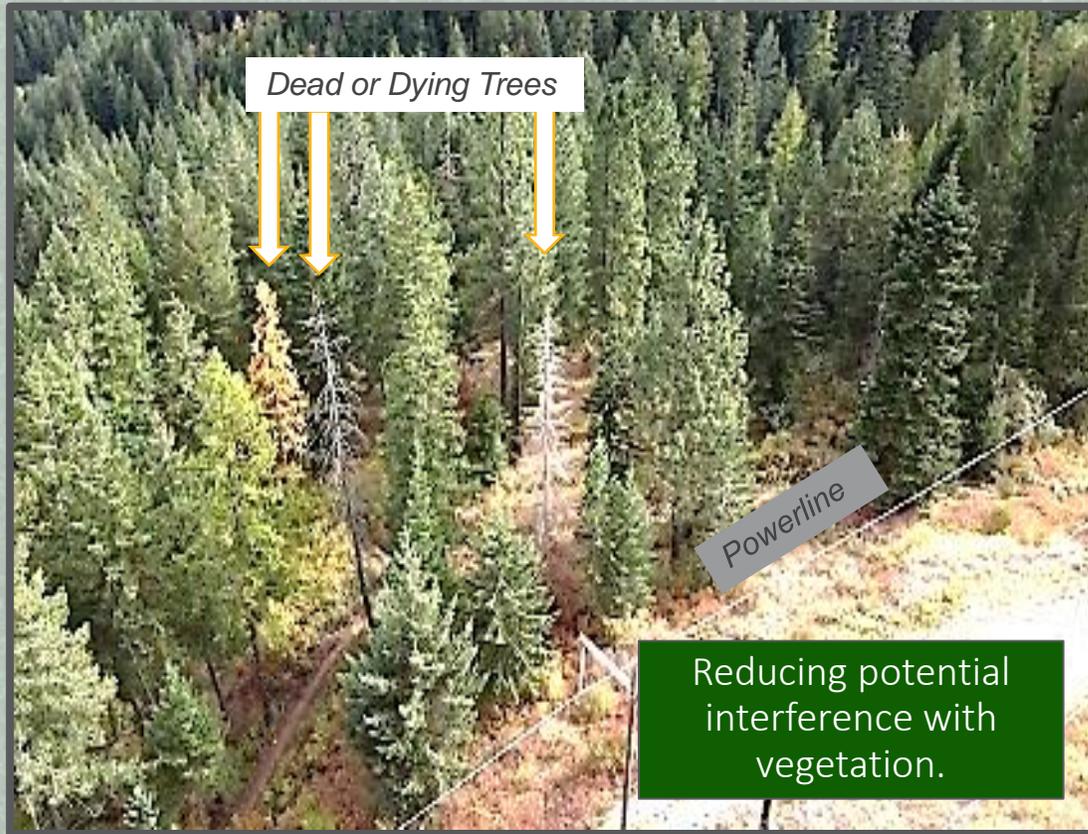
Wildfire Plan Performance

Grid Hardening: Protecting Transmission & Reducing Ignition

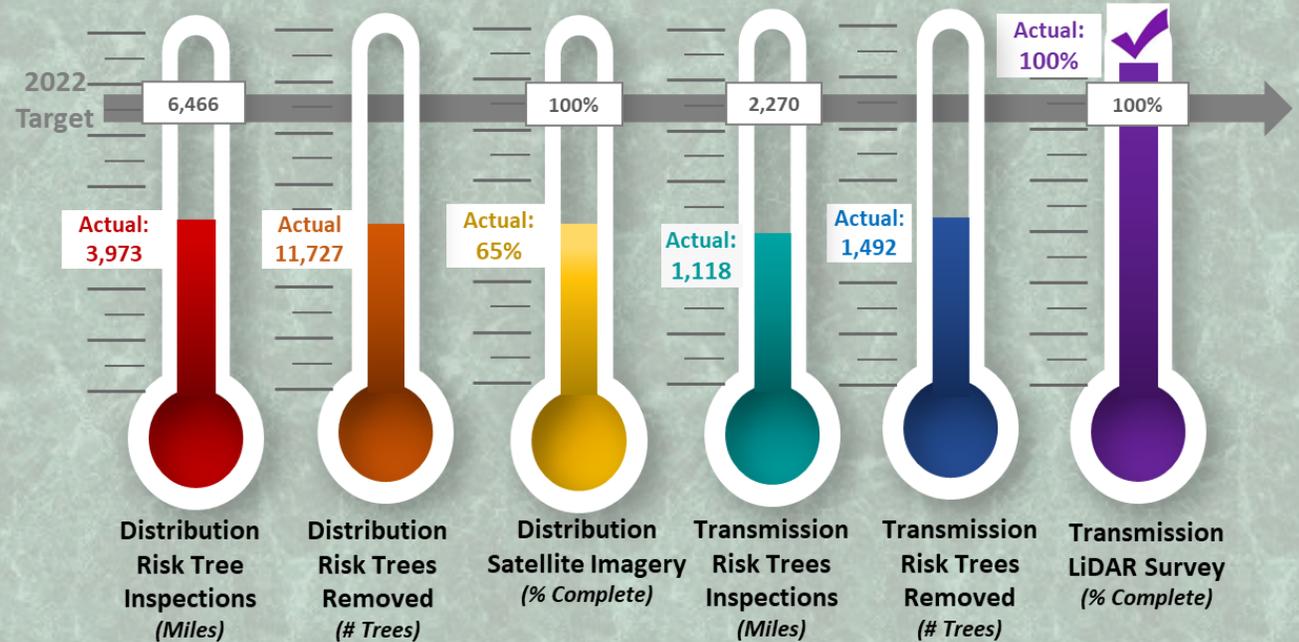


Reducing spark ignition events and protecting infrastructure from the impacts of wildfire.

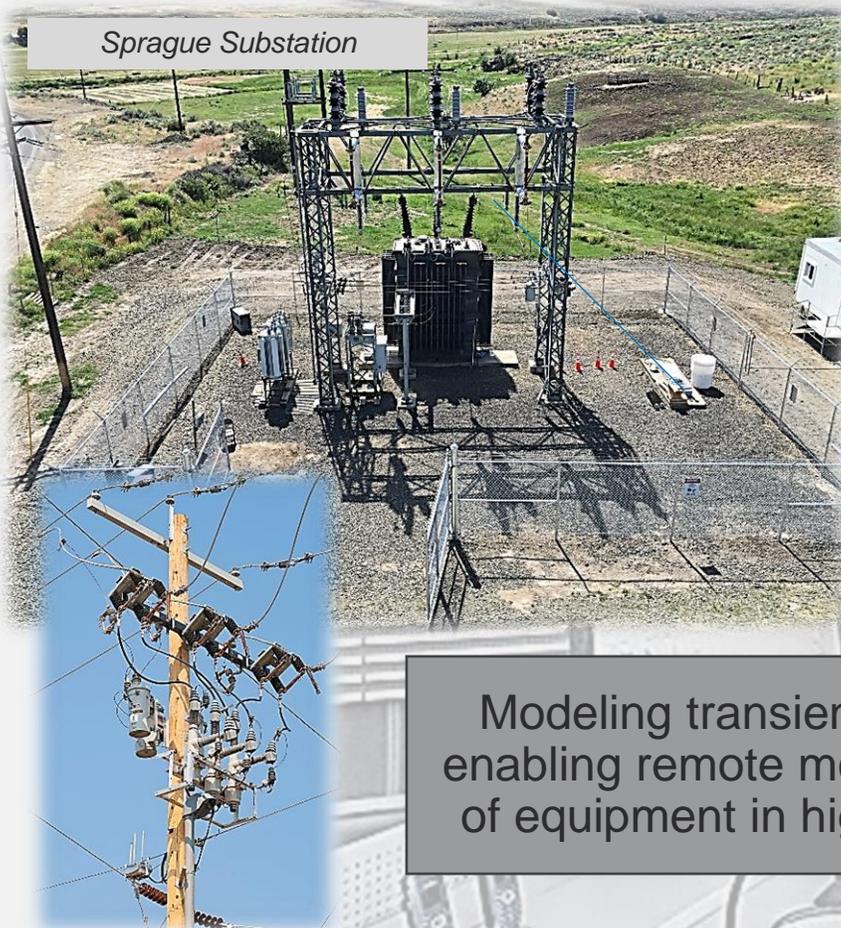
Removing Hazard Trees to Reduce Risk



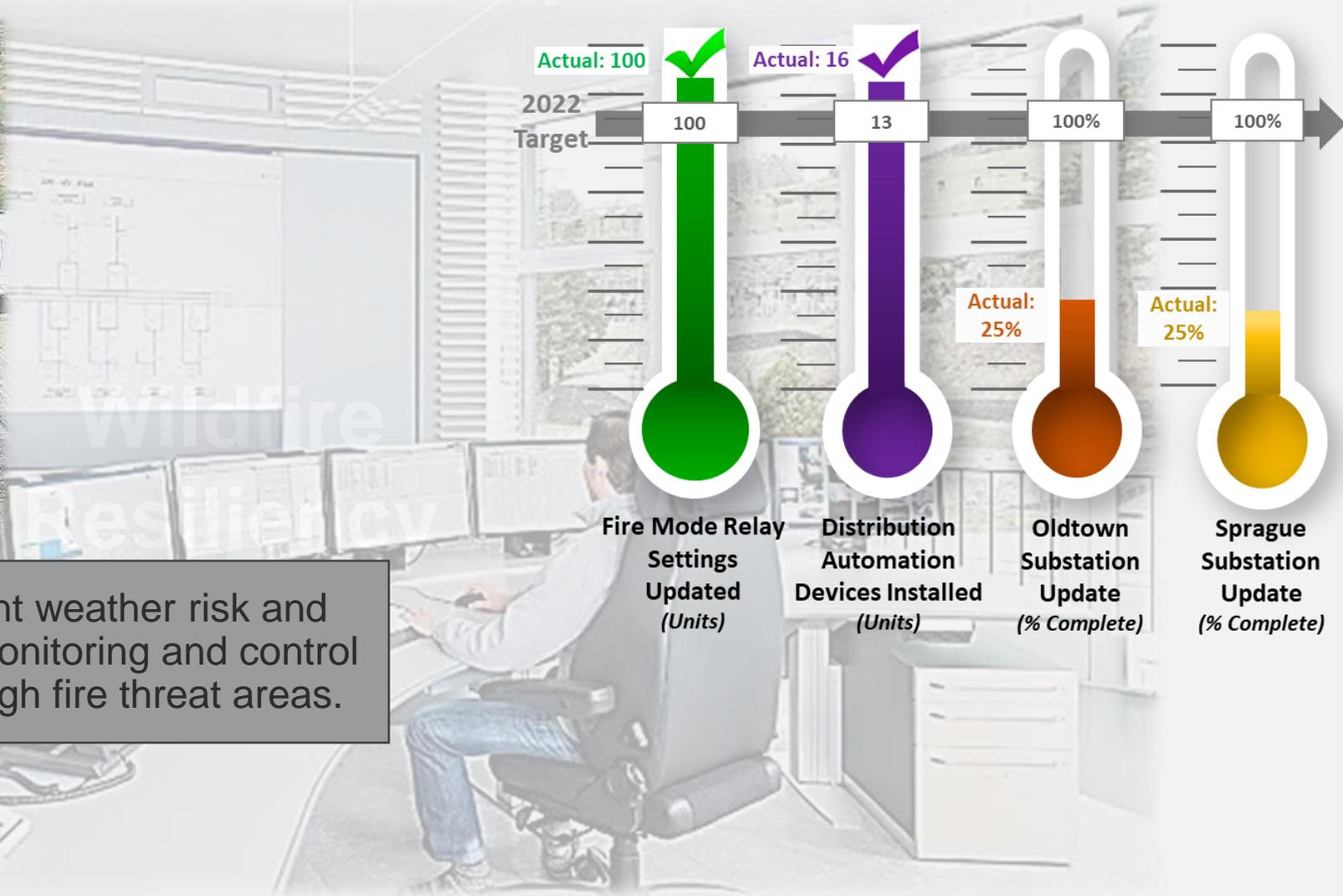
Avista is implementing a 100% risk tree identification in non-urban areas on an annual basis as well as adding satellite (distribution) and LiDAR (transmission) data collection to identify existing or potential vegetation issues.



Automating the System



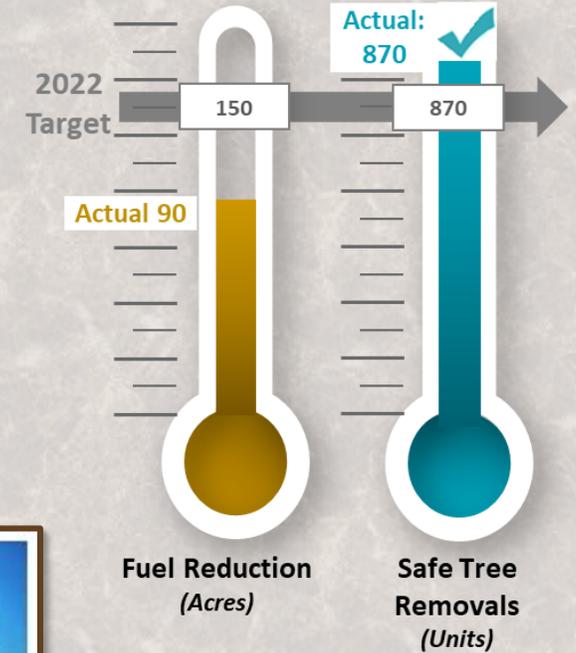
Modeling transient weather risk and enabling remote monitoring and control of equipment in high fire threat areas.



Partnerships & Relationships



Avista is actively engaged with several land management agencies to financially assist them in fuel reduction near our facilities.



Reducing wildfire ignition risk by changing system protection and operations in response to increased fire threat.

Lessons Learned in 2022

Dry Land Mode Operations

Dry Land Mode = Seasonal Protection Changes

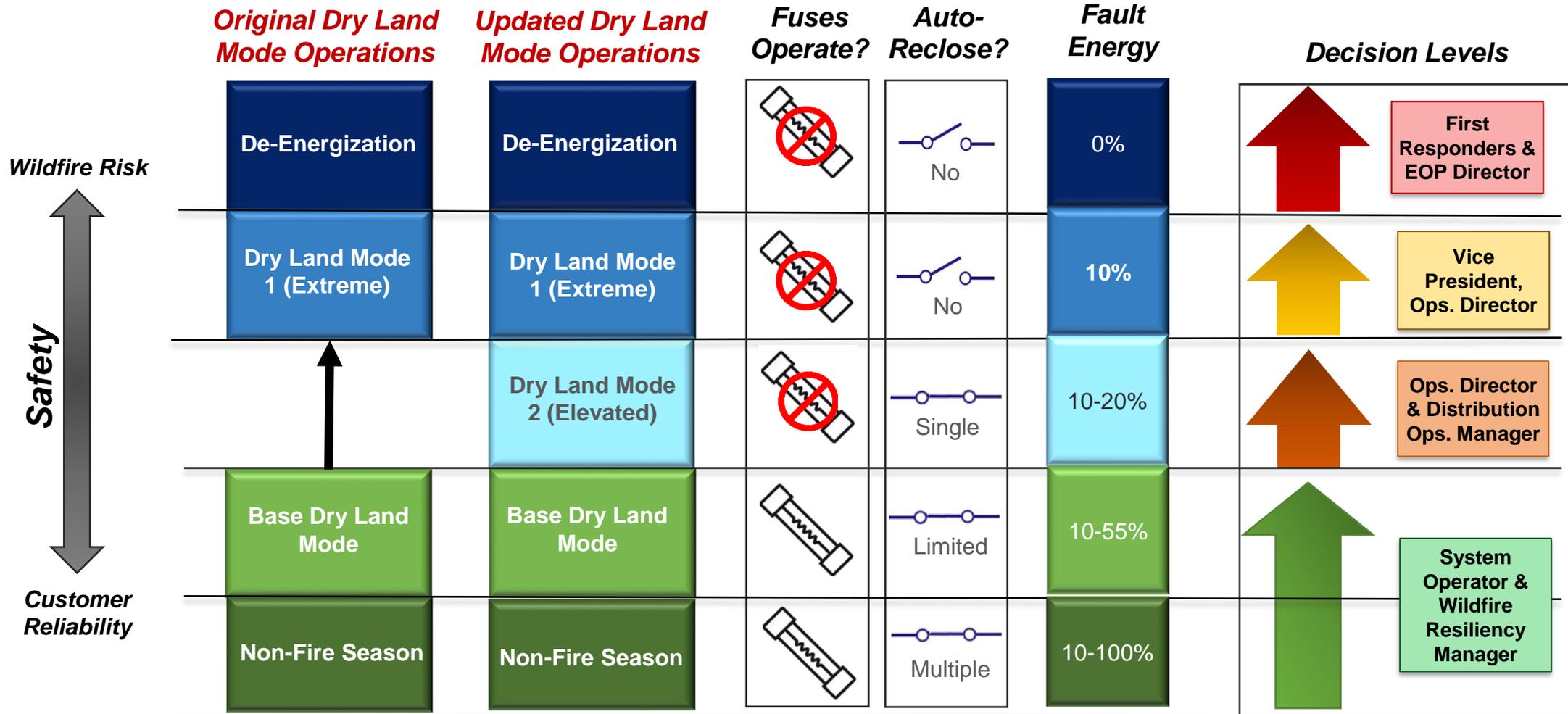
- Historically a Non-Reclosing Strategy
- Enhanced Dry Land Mode is More Sensitive & Reduces Wildfire Risk
- *Dry Land Mode May Result in Larger Outages and Longer Outage Times Due to Required Patrol of Feeder*



Historical Dry
Land Mode
Start Dates:



Effective Dry Land Mode Operations



Vegetation Management

Scaling the vegetation management risk tree program to complete 100% risk inspection annually is a bigger lift than anticipated.

- **Competitive Labor Markets for Contractors**
- **Forest Health Issues**
- **Incorporating New Technologies**



These pictures are of the same group of trees, four months apart, after a beetle infestation.

Customer Communication

Community Outreach

- Washington DNR
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Spokane Tribe
- Colville Tribe
- Telephone Townhall Meetings
- Spokane County
- Stevens County
- Kootenai County
- Benewah County
- N. Idaho Fire Chiefs



23 Communities
8 Counties
3 Tribes

35,885 Customers Engaged

Telephone Town Hall Meetings

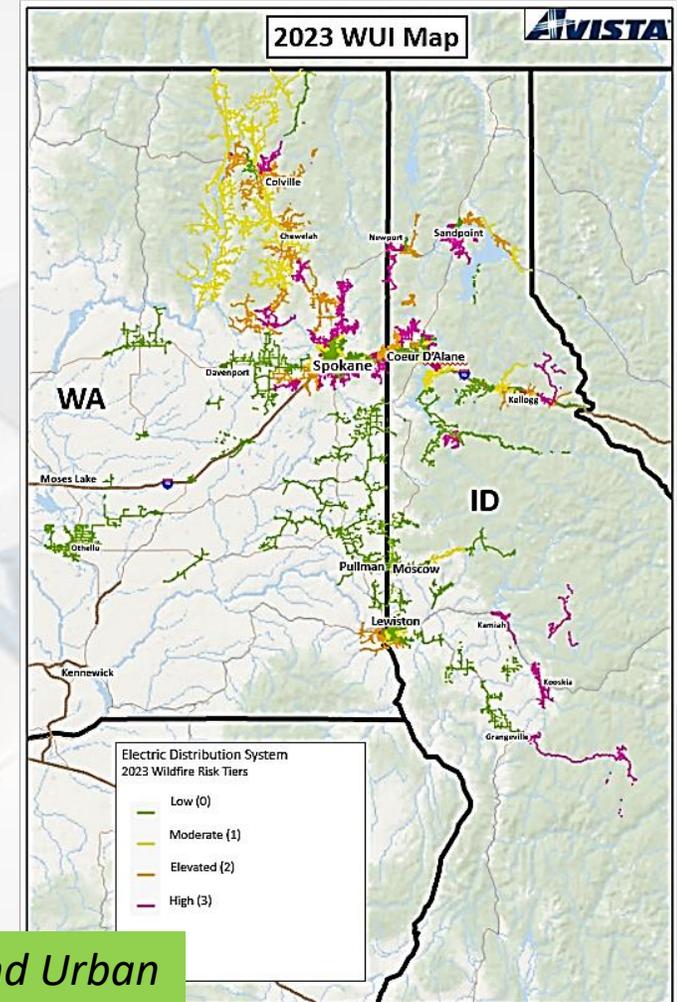


Avista's Equity Advisory Team

Goals for 2023

2023 Wildfire Plan

- Increase Distribution Grid Hardening Goals from 200 to 275 miles
- Move to 100% Risk Tree for Transmission & Distribution
- Add 35 Circuit Breakers to Automated Dry Land Mode (YE Total: 151 devices)
- Improve Metrics & Performance Measures
- Develop Customer Contact Roster for Elevated Dry Land Mode Operations
- Formalize Customer Intake Portal for Safe Tree Program
- Enhance Community Outreach and Communications
- Consider Incorporating Equity Into Our Wildfire Decisions
- Underground New Facilities in High Consequence Areas

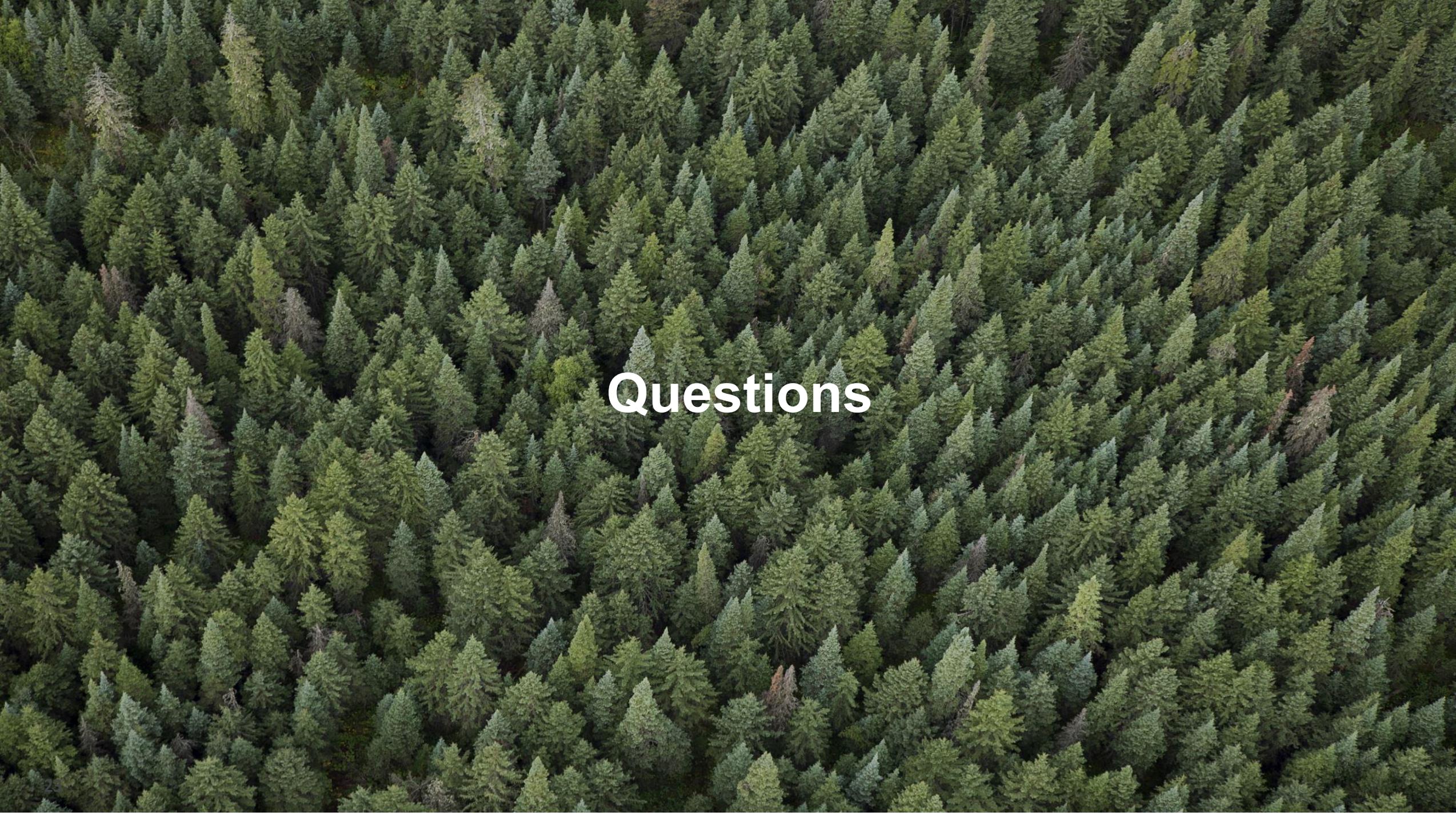


A new Wildland Urban Interface model will be used in 2023

PSPS



- **Update Avista's PSPS Strategy for the 2023 Fire Season**
- **Develop Criteria for potential implementation of a PSPS.**
- **Ensure alignment with NW Utilities**

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest of evergreen trees, likely spruce or fir, covering a hillside. The trees are packed closely together, creating a textured, green surface. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or early morning/late afternoon. The word "Questions" is centered in the middle of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Questions