

Exh. ALB-4  
Docket UE-19\_\_\_\_  
Witness: Allen L. Berreth

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PACIFICORP dba  
PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Respondent.

Docket UE-19\_\_\_\_

**PACIFICORP**

**EXHIBIT OF ALLEN L. BERRETH**

**Pacific Power Wildfire Mitigation Presentation**

**December 2019**



# Pacific Power Wildfire Mitigation Plan

November 19, 2019



# Wildfire Mitigation: PacifiCorp

Utilizing the California Wildfire Mitigation Plan as a template;

PacifiCorp has developed a mitigation plan for the six state system as a whole.

## Minimize Risk of Fault Source being the Utility

- Inspect / Correct Programs
- Vegetation Management
- Asset Hardening (insulated conductor)
- Construction Standards
- Fire threat Monitoring
- Proactive De-Energization

## React When Faults Occur

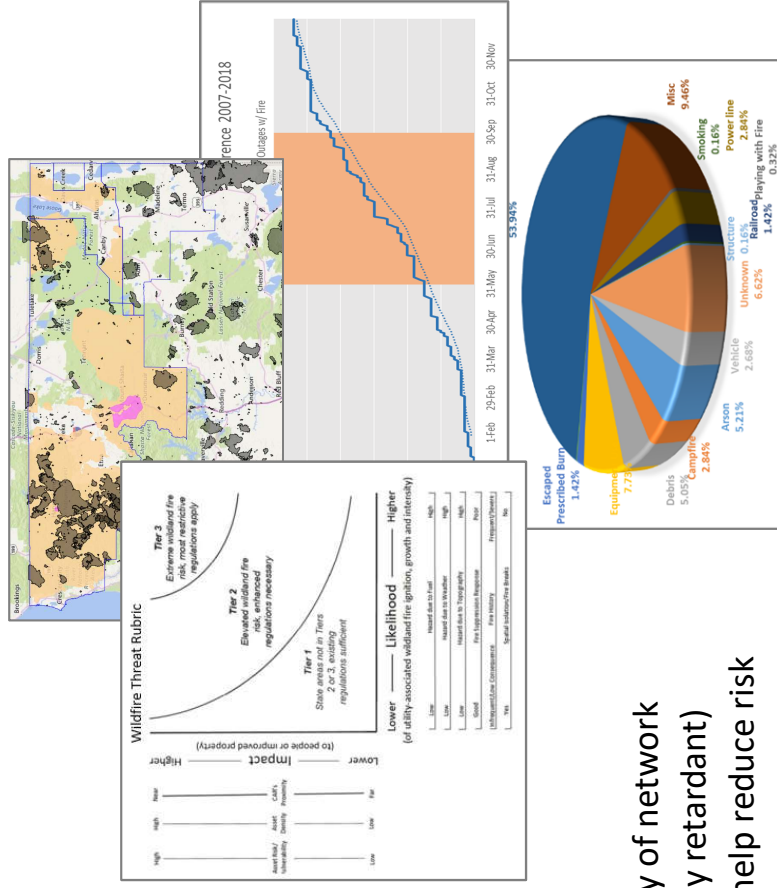
- Modernizing infrastructure (Relays / Reclosers)
- Operational Response

## Be Resilient to Non-utility Ignitions

- Monitor lightning events and react when in proximity of network
- Protect base of pole from grass fire (Pole wrap / spray retardant)
- Education of public on fire threat and how they can help reduce risk

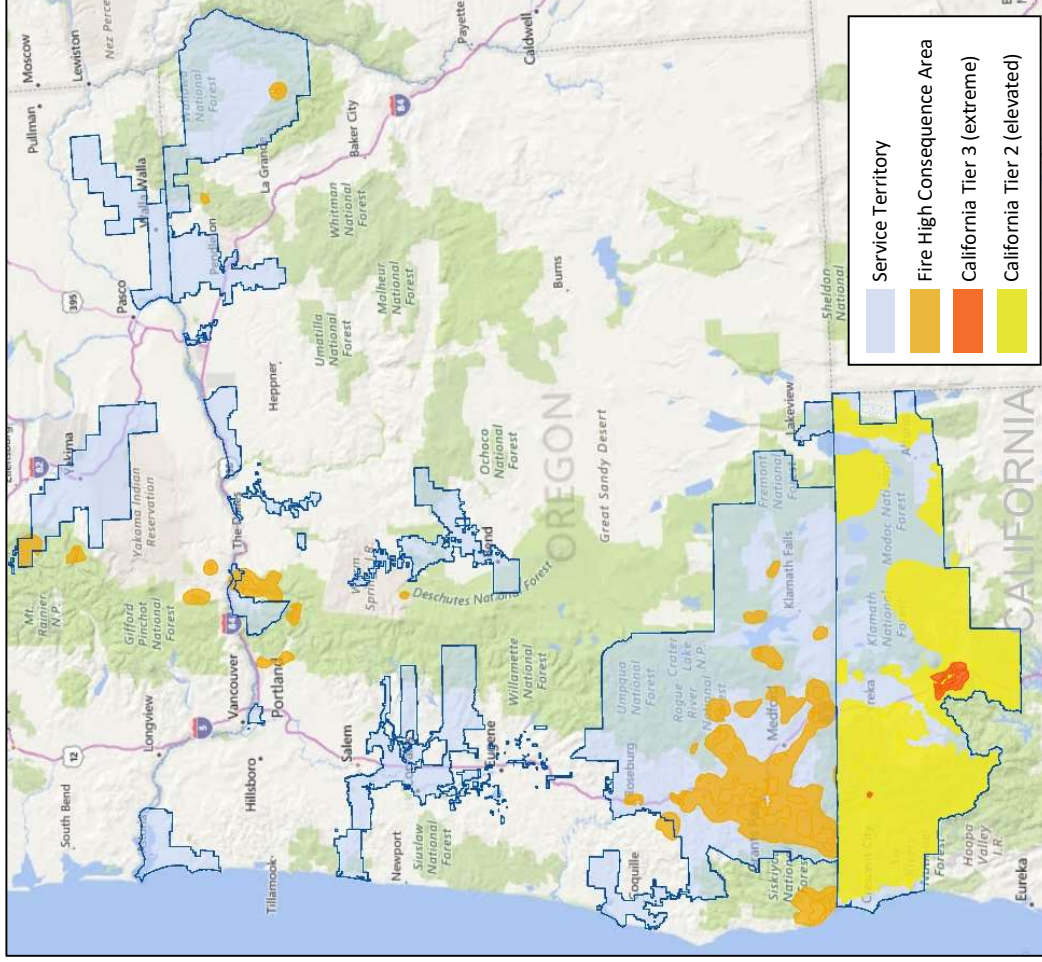
## Respond when Fires Put Utility Equipment at Risk

- Emergency Action Center process
- Monitor situation to be able to rapidly coordinate with authorities when fires are near utility facilities
- Reactively de-energize consistent with local fire authorities



## RISK-BASED APPROACH: Fire High Consequence Areas (FHCA)

- Utilizing the same modeling concepts used in California, areas were identified in Oregon and Washington where there is an elevated risk of utility-associated wildfires to **occur** and **spread rapidly**, and where communities face an elevated risk of damage or harm from wildfires
- Per state requirement in California, Tier 3 and Tier 2 are shown regardless if facilities exist in the area; making the impact of Tier 2 seem larger than it is
- In Oregon and Washington, a similar methodology was used to identify FHCAs
- FHCAs are used to prioritize wildfire mitigation initiatives, such as, increased inspections, system hardening and proactive de-energization





## **OPERATIONAL PRACTICES**

- Non-reclosing strategies, field procedures (e.g., line patrols before re-energization; on-site fire prevention/response practices) and/or test energization policies are being evaluated
- Exploring alternative recloser settings (that can be set remotely) during periods of elevated fire-risk conditions for specifically identified distribution circuits within FHCAs

## **INSPECTIONS AND CORRECTIONS**

- Modifications to inspection frequency and condition correction schedules to mitigate fire risk conditions are being considered in all three states
- Increased frequency of inspections to one year visual and five year detail in FHCAs and accelerating correction timeframes for identified fire risk conditions



## **SYSTEM HARDENING**

- System hardening programs and design standards have been developed to improve wildfire resistance; reducing the susceptibility of assets to external factors such as contamination and incidental contact
- System hardening alternatives in FHCAs, including installation of insulated conductor, pole replacements, and relays in 2020

## **VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

- Wildfire mitigation plan includes conducting additional annual vegetation inspections, maintaining clearances at all times, pole clearing, and reducing the high risk tree inventory

## **SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**

- Established process to monitor publically available weather information to alert System Operations of Red Flag Warning days
- Install weather monitoring equipment on candidate proactive de-energization circuits providing more localized weather information to inform triggering thresholds for de-energization



## **PROACTIVE DE-ENERGIZATION**

- Under identified extreme wildfire weather conditions in the FHCA, proactive de-energization will be implemented on pre-identified circuits or sections of circuits
- 1. Utilizing automated weather systems monitoring, an alert is generated when thresholds are exceeded (wind, temperature, humidity, precipitation, and cumulative moisture deficiency), and a proactive de-energization event is triggered.
- 2. When an event is triggered, a Proactive De-energization Event Plan is prepared which contains the timing details, area, and forecasted duration of the event.
- 3. Notifications are then made to internal departments for next steps:
  - Customer Service for customer notification (48 hours notice is desired)
  - Emergency Management for local emergency services coordination and feedback
  - Regulation for notification to the director of the CPUC safety and enforcement division (SED).
  - Local Operations for required switching / line patrolling
  - Regional Business Manager for preparation of customer care centers and large customer contact
- 4. Conditions are continuously monitored and when thresholds are no longer exceeded, lines are patrolled and re-energized.