



MOON LAKE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION · P.O. BOX 278 · 800 WEST HWY 40 · ROOSEVELT, UTAH 84066 · 435-722-5400

2021 MLEA WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION PLAN COMPLIANCE REPORT

Approved at the September 8, 2021 MLEA Board of Directors Meeting

INTRODUCTION

Consistent with Utah Code § 54-24-203(4) and §54-24-203(2), Moon Lake Electric Cooperative Association (MLEA) submits its first annual Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) compliance report to the MLEA Board of Directors (Board) which provides the following information:

1. Expenses incurred in the past calendar year to implement the WFPP approved at the June 2020 MLEA Board Meeting.
2. Details of completed plan implementation items undertaken in the past year in compliance with the WFPP plan as approved at the June 2020 MLEA Board Meeting.
3. Plan implementation (completed and scheduled) for high-risk areas for MLEA and the strategies for those outstanding locations.
4. Changes incorporated into the WFPP plan during the previous year and the reason for the changes.

MLEA staff and personnel are pleased with the work undertaken this past year to mitigate risks associated with wildfires. Staff has gone over the annual requirements, reviewed all sections of the WFPP, and discussed high-risk areas and strategies for these locations (see summary section below). Staff will continue to analyze best practices and other measures to further protect its system and implement the WFPP as approved by the Board in June 2020. Staff will also provide the Board an additional compliance report in 2022, and an updated WFPP plan in 2023 according to §54-24-203(4) and §54-24-203(3) of state code.

PLAN EXPENSES

In the previous calendar year, MLEA incurred costs of approximately \$102,723 to implement the WFPP. These costs include personnel, materials, equipment, and other items necessary to meet the requirements and projects of the plan. As a not-for-profit cooperative, MLEA is sensitive to expenses incurred by its members, but feel confident these investments will help make the system stronger and lessen the risk of fire.

COMPLETED PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The following work items were completed in the past year according to the plan.

1. All MLEA transmission lines have been patrolled by drone or ground inspection for possible issues.
2. Maintenance was performed on all transmission lines that were inspected.
 - a. Bells, crossarms & poles have been replaced.
 - b. Vegetation in these lines have been trimmed or removed.
 - c. Rights of way have also been sprayed to prevent & minimize future growth.
3. 22 miles of transmission line from Jensen to Dinosaur has been replaced.
4. The WFPP allows crews to engage a recloser once during an outage, and if it locks out then crews will patrol the line. In an operations meeting this year, MLEA's Line Superintendent and Safety Coordinator stated that due to drought conditions, MLEA has noticed a higher fire risk in some areas of the system. In these higher risk areas, patrolling of the line is required before closing reclosers. These areas are identified on Appendix B of the MLEA WFPP.
5. Due to line inspections & wildfires, approximately 250 poles have been replaced in 2021.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN HIGH-RISK AREAS

(see Appendix B map descriptions)

1. Stockmore
 - a. Contractor trimmed all trees West Fork / North Fork
2. Yellowstone
 - a. Truck in sections were done on tribal ground & drone inspections were done on non-tribal land.
 - b. Contractors trimmed trees near the Boneta breaker.
 - c. East Fork fire burned the area around Moon Lake campground taking out high risk fuel areas. A section of the power line was burned resulting in a rebuild of the line in a lower risk area.
3. Hanna/Tabiona Area
 - a. Contractor removed or trimmed trees in Mt. Tabby springs area & along the Duchesne River.
4. Bandana Ranch
 - a. Line crews inspected & trimmed trees where needed.
 - b. The line along Hwy 40 in the Fruitland area has been inspected.
5. Utahn
 - a. This high-risk area will be inspected in fall 2021.

6. Strawberry Pinnacles
 - a. Inspections & vegetation management on Feeder 2 / Rabbit Gulch have been completed.
7. Strawberry River
 - a. Inspection has been completed in these areas. Work needing to be completed has been prioritized to be scheduled.
8. Uintah Canyon
 - a. Vehicle inspections completed at Farm Creek, Deep Creek & Whiterocks canyon. Due to these inspections, there were trees trimmed & maintenance performed.
9. Monarch / Neola / Lapoint / Great Lakes subs
 - a. All high-risk areas were inspected & vegetation management & maintenance was performed as needed.
10. Roosevelt / Ft. Duchesne
 - a. Inspections are currently being done in these areas. Vegetation management is being completed as needed.
11. Flaming Gorge
 - a. Partial inspections have been completed & future inspections are scheduled for fall of 2021.
 - b. Contractors are scheduled to address this area for vegetation management fall of 2021.
12. Jensen
 - a. Inspections & vegetation management is complete in this area.
13. Bonanza Feeder 2
 - a. MLEA replaced overhead lines with underground at high-risk areas around Baxter pass.

CHANGES TO WFPP

At this time, no changes or modifications to the plan approved in June 2020 are needed.

CONCLUSION

MLEA will continue to work according to the WFPP plan. Additional reviews will take place at the end of 2021 and will be included in next year's annual compliance report.