

# **2022 Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative Wildland and Fire Protection Plan Compliance Report**

Approved at the October 26, 2022 Raft River Board of Directors Meeting

Consistent with Utah H.B. 66 (Wildland Fire Planning and Cost Recovery Amendments), Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative Incorporated (Raft River REC) is submitting the second annual cost and compliance report to the Public Service Commission.

The intent of the report is to provide the commission with the following:

1. To provide an overview of operation and maintenance costs associated with the implementation of the plan for the past year.
2. To provide an overview of operational protocols as defined in the plan in an effort to mitigate fire risk.

The following are costs incurred for the 2021 calendar year:

## **1.Operation and Maintenance Expense Summary 2021**

Note: Inspections also include action to remediate problem ie: bad connections/ broken insulators, leaky transformers etc. There has also been enhanced focus to a more aggressive approach in managing vegetation around poles that have electrical devices that require connections that can fail due to weather and transient events.

## **2.Protocols used to enhance fire mitigation through operations 2021**

Raft River REC has adopted the protocol during high fire risk periods to do complete line inspections on power lines that have experienced circuit interruption. We have equipment that will sense a fault (overcurrent) situation and open the portion of line, removing it from service. These pieces of equipment will operate automatically to clear any temporary faults in nature. If the fault is not temporary, the device will lock out, which means it will remain de-energized. When we find these situations, we will not try to reclose the device until the entire section of line has been inspected, verifying it can be safely be re-energized without initiating a spark.

Raft River REC actively communicates with member owners in an effort to educate and inform them of the measures we can all take to reduce fire hazards, such as reporting problem trees, loose or hanging wires, or keeping equipment and personal items away from poles and transformers.

Raft River REC schedules line replacement projects on annual workplans. The determination of lines to be selected are based on various factors such as pole age and condition, span length, conductor type, and accessibility. This is a major component of system hardening, that can greatly enhance fire mitigation.

The implementation of the Fire Mitigation plan has been instrumental in the alignment with various agencies to allow Raft River REC the collaborative approach to reducing and even eliminating fire hazards. Though there is still much work to be done to accomplish all things listed in the plan, we feel we have made extensive progress in the right direction.

Description	Costs in Dollars
Transmission Costs to mitigate fire risk through vegetation management, pole and line inspections including pole testing	22,390
Substation Inspections, vegetation control, oil sampling, and the repair of any deficiencies	20,395
Distribution line Inspections, repairing of deficiencies, including the removal of and treatment of vegetation on poles with devices	72,617
Total	115,402

All board members are supportive of the initiatives and direction of the plan. There were no modifications or changes needed at this time to the fire mitigation plan.