



## **2023 MLEA WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION PLAN COMPLIANCE REPORT**

Presented and approved at the October 25, 2023 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 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). Included and according to §54-24-203(4) and §54-24-203(3) of state code is an updated and revised Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

### **➤ SUMMARIES**

### **PLAN EXPENSES**

In 2023, MLEA incurred costs of approximately \$301,107 to administer 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 High-risk areas have been patrolled by drone or ground inspection for possible issues and maintenance was preformed where needed.



2. Maintenance was performed on all high-risk areas as well as other distribution lines.
  1. Bells, crossarms & poles have been replaced.
  2. Vegetation in these lines have been trimmed or removed.
  3. Rights of way have also been sprayed to prevent & minimize future growth.
3. The WFPP allows crews to engage a recloser once during an outage, and if it locks out then crews will patrol the line. In higher risk areas, and during drier conditions, patrolling of the line is required before closing reclosers. These areas are identified on Appendix B of the MLEA WFPP.
4. Due to line and pole inspections, approximate 140 poles have been replaced in 2023.

### **PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN HIGH-RISK AREAS**

(see Appendix B map descriptions)

- 1) Hanna/Tabiona Area
  - a) Continued to remove or trim trees along the Duchesne River by Duchesne crews and Moon Lake contractors.
- 2) Farm Creek
  - a) Line crews inspected & trimmed trees where needed.
- 3) Deep Creek
  - a) Line crews inspected & trimmed trees where needed.
- 4) Ft. Duchesne / Whiterocks / Randlett
  - a) Vegetation management including tree trimming was completed in a joint project with the Ute Tribe during their annual spring clean-up.
- 5) Flaming Gorge
  - a) Inspections were completed fall of 2023.
- 6) Rangely Colorado
  - a) Line crews are inspecting & trimming trees where needed.

### **CHANGES TO WFPP**

Pursuant to §54-24-203(4) and §54-24-203(3) of state code Moon Lake Electric performed a full review of its WFPP. Updated information on fire statistics was obtained from the Uintah Basin Interagency Fire Center. Data was included for the counties, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Garfield, in Colorado that we serve as well. The high-risk areas that we are currently monitoring have not changed other than the Moon Lake area where the East Fork fire of 2020 burned vegetation and power lines. We are continuing to review and monitor this area as new growth occurs.

### **CONCLUSION**

MLEA will continue to work according to the WFPP plan. Additional reviews will take place at the end of 2023 and will be included in next year's annual compliance report.