OWEC Workshop #1
Assessing Wildfire Risk
Todd Simmons
Tillamook People's Utility District



Established in 1936

Tillamook, Clatsop, Yamhill Counties

1250 Square Miles

9 Substations

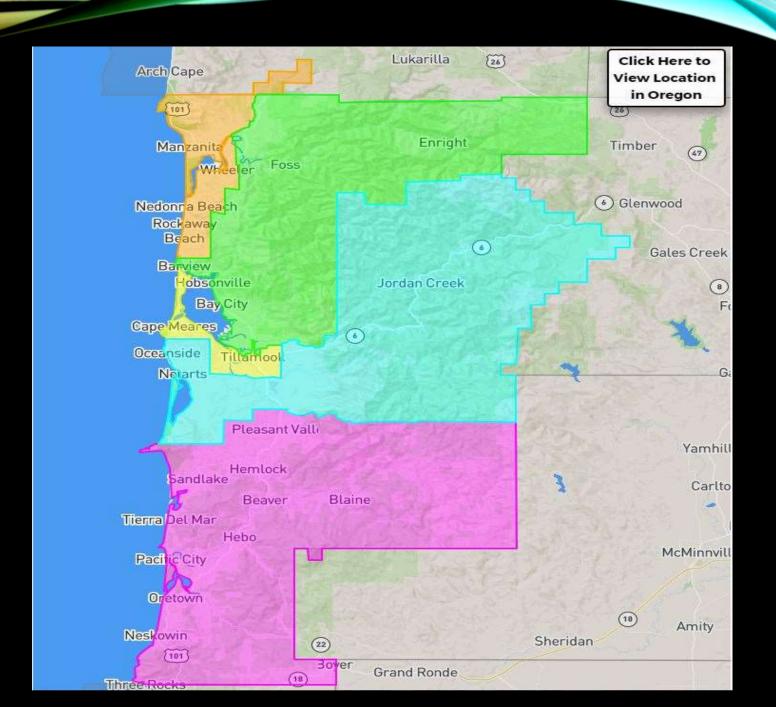
16 Miles Transmission

582 Miles Distribution

86 Miles BPA Transmission

25 Miles Pacificorp Transmission

ODF NW-1 and NW-2



INTRODUCTION

- 1. Policy Statement
- 2. Purpose
- 3. Objectives (principals)
 - a. Ensure public safety
 - b. Mitigate wildfire ignitions
 - c. Assess risks to determine mitigation priorities

UTILITY PROFILE

- 1. Service Area (map)
- 2. Asset Overview (transmission, substations, distribution, fiber)
- 3. Fire Zones (in service area map)

RISK PROFILE

- 1. Risk Assessment
 - a. Current practices (outage data, ground patrols, aerial patrols)
 - b.Future practices Line patrols, LIDAR, re-planting
 - c. Model Fire High Consequence Areas
- 2. Identify FHCA on overlay map
- 3. Table with transmission, distribution, substation, fiber miles by area
- 4. Public Data (Wildfire Risk Explorer)
- 5. Common Language (Risk color?)

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- 1. Vegetation Management
 - a. Resources (FTE, fleet historical investment, staffing reconfiguration)
 - b. Fuel Reduction (hazard tree removal, mowing, trimming)
 - c. Chemical Treatments (Norstar, Matrix Pro)
- 2. System Maintenance (inspection/test and treat)
- 3. System Hardening (steel poles, controls to isolate lines, redundant lines, UG, Beachwire)
- 4. System Protection (trip saver placements based on outage data)

MITIGATION STRATEGIES, cont.

- 5. Operational Tools and Practices
 - a. Vehicles shovel, Pulaski, 5-gallon water can with nozzle, fire extinguisher and chain saw equipped with spark arrester
 - b.Industrial Fire Protection Level (IFPL) Waivers
 - c. Work based training
- 6. Interagency Collaboration (re: ROWs, tree removal, herbicides)
 - a.Industry Connections (share demonstrated technologies, reinforce industry coordination, exchange contact information)

RESPONSE STRATEGIES

- 1. Situational Awareness
 - a. Weather Monitoring (adjust operating procedures during Red Flag days)
 - b.GIS Tools (set up for monitoring and notifications)
 - c. AlertWildfire Cameras
- 2. Interagency Coordination
 - a. Oregon Department of Forestry, Local Fire Departments, Neighboring Utilities, BPA, Pacificorp

RESPONSE STRATEGIES, Cont.

- 3. Operational Response
 - a. Adjust operating procedures during Red Flag days (Line Patrols)
 - b. Reduce reclosing on protection equipment
 - c. Incident Command System
 - d.Internal communication regarding Fire Level status

RISK ASSESSMENT

- Fire zones
- State Forests
- National Forests
- Transmission Line Routes
- Vegetation Management
- Long Term Construction Standards
- Underbuild/Overbuild with other Utilities
- Collaboration with other Agencies

THANKS!

Todd Simmons
General Manager
Tillamook PUD
tsimmons@tpud.org
503 815-8650

