

# Columbia Power Cooperative

## Wildfires 2024

# Demographics

- Service territory 3,122 sq. miles or 1.95 million acres
- 1,029 miles of distribution – 21 miles underground
- 90 miles of transmission; 4 substations
- 2,182 services (meters in place)
- 1,082 member accounts
- 2.89 sq. miles per member account
- Total service territory population – 3,039 (per 2020 Census)
- 15 employees – 5 linemen, 1 mechanic, 1 warehouseman, 1 purchasing coordinator, 2 accounting/member staff, 3 meter readers, 1 janitorial, General Manager

# Wildfire Events

- Wildfires began – July 17
- Wildfires were contained by mid-September
- Ten fires – Lone Rock Fire, Service Fire, Monkey Creek Fire, Snake Fire, Owens Fire, Shoe Fly Fire, Boneyard Fire, Court Rock Fire, Two Cabin Fire, Kinzua Fire
- Micro-burst event – August 4<sup>th</sup> – 25 transmission poles lost
- Member with excavator live contact with distribution line

# Mitigation Strategy

- Communications with I.C and Fire Chiefs
- Focused on Highest System Risk first
- In-house dispatchers deployed linemen according to risk level
- Actions taken:
  - Linemen grub around poles to remove any combustible fuels within 6 feet
  - Linemen using portable sprayers to extinguish any pole fires
  - Three manual de-energizations of distribution taps occurred
  - Landowners used own equipment to create fire breaks to protect structures etc

# Impact of Events

- Significant damage
- Transmission line – 14%
- Distribution line – 4%
- Approximately 700 poles in the black
- Approximately 7 homes were lost
- Approximately \$12.5M total damage-related costs