

MWEC



Wildfire Mitigation Plan 2025 Annual Report

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1. Introduction

For Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC), which aims to safely deliver reliable electricity, wildfire mitigation is without question a top priority. While an electric utility can never fully eliminate the risk of fire, MWEC is committed to taking practical actions available to prevent the devastation that a wildfire could bring to the people and communities we serve.

2. WMP Revision History

WMP Revision History – Reviews / Revisions / Updates to the Plan / Approvals

Date	Revision	Reviewed By Board	Approved By Board	Posted On MWEC.com
04/1/2025 ¹	Draft	Yes	No	No
05/28/2025 ²	1.0	Yes	Yes	Yes
12/30/2025 ³	2.0	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹Initial Review

²Initial Approval

³Added State of Montana Compliance

3. Audit Process

The MWEC Compliance Department will audit, on an annual basis, the effectiveness of the WMP. The results of the audit will be presented to the MWEC Board of Directors in a timely manner and should align with MWEC’s existing business planning process, but no later than June 1.



4. Executive Summary of 2025 WMP Audit

4.1. General Highlights

- MWEC's commitment to the reduction of wildfire risk is without question a top priority. This starts with our Board of Directors and extends to each employee of MWEC.
- MWEC continues to move towards a proactive Wildfire Mitigation model, with significant investment in:
 - Vegetation Management
 - Routine Inspections
 - Transmission
 - Distribution Overhead
 - Distribution Underground
 - Substation
 - Detailed Inspections
 - Transmission
 - Distribution Overhead
 - Substation
 - Wood Pole Inspections
 - Transmission
 - Distribution Overhead
 - Hardening infrastructure.
 - Performance tracking.
- MWEC's implementation of its WMP demonstrates a strong commitment to safety, utilizing data-driven strategies and innovative technologies to significantly reduce ignition risks while enhancing infrastructure resilience.

4.2. Performance Highlights

- There were no Public Safety Power Shutoffs in our service area.
- There were four Red Flag Warnings issued in our service area.
- In Mountrail and Williams Counties, there were 28 days which were classified as a High, Very High or Extreme High Fire Danger Risk.
- There were four Elevated Fire Risk (EFR) settings invocations in our service area.
- There were 40 ignitions reported to MWEC. These potential causes were classified based on initial information available to MWEC.
 - Fifteen ignitions were attributed to MWEC facilities and animals. These ignitions caused five pole fires and one grass fire.
 - These ignitions did not cause any significant damage to members property.
 - Twenty-five ignitions were attributed to lightning/public/unknown. These ignitions caused twenty-three pole fires, and six grass fires.
- SAIDI
 - Fire related outages caused a SAIDI of 3.59, contributing 3.01% of the total yearly SAIDI.



- Vegetation related outages caused a SAIDI of 2.76, contributing 2.39% of the total yearly SAIDI.
- Animal related outages caused a SAIDI of 7.28, contributing 6.29% of the total yearly SAIDI.

4.3. Historical Comparisons

- As this is the first audit of the WMP, there is little data available for historical comparisons.

4.4. Inspections, Testing and Vegetation Management

- Wood Pole Inspection: 10,089 MWEC poles were inspected by a third-party vendor. This process led to the creation of 220 Service Orders and 10 Work Orders. This inspection identified 131 distribution poles and 2 transmission poles, which are scheduled to be replaced over the next 12 months.
 - Pole issues
 - Priority Reject poles – 16 Poles
 - Reject Poles – 117 Poles
- Detailed Inspection: In February of 2025 MWEC completed an aerial inspection of our entire transmission system, this was completed by helicopter. A further 29,515 of MWEC's distribution poles were inspected, leading to the creation of 188 maintenance service orders.
- Vegetation Management: In June of 2025, MWEC initiated a four-year zone trimming cycle. MWEC provides GPS-mapped targets, that result in inspections and clearing designed to reduce the possibility of ignitions near MWEC facilities. MWEC anticipates that Zone 1 trimming will be completed in 2026.
- For Inspections and Vegetation Management efforts: This audit confirms that the MWEC Operations Department performed the following:
 - A QA/QC process on completed vendor authorized work.
 - Spot checks on work performed.
 - A spot check of the service orders created and completed in 2025 met the priority-based repair timelines outlined in the WMP.



4.5. Summary of Incremental Costs

MWEC incurred the following costs to perform the activities required in the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

- BKI Software (Plan creation and maintenance): \$2,500
- Wood Pole inspections: \$167,700
- Detailed Inspections: \$2,500,000¹
- Vegetation Management: \$474,823
- SCADA enhancements: \$100,000¹
 - Total incremental costs: **\$3,342,523**¹

¹Estimated values

4.6. Conclusion

Using any available metric, it can be concluded that 2025 was a great year for wildfire prevention. Some of the success of wildfire prevention could be attributed to weather, but credit also belongs to MWEC's Operations and Engineering Departments, and their continued implementation of the WMP. This execution was comprehensive, and both manageable and sustainable.

No MWEC ignitions occurred while EFR settings were in effect. Vegetation management, pole inspection/testing, and detailed inspections were well planned and organized. They were executed using current technologies and were fully integrated with MWEC's scheduling software. These processes led to the creation of hundreds of service orders, which were electronically logged, assigned, tracked and completed.

Report Reviewed and Approved by MWEC Board of Directors on April 30, 2026