

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION)	CASE NO. GNR-E-25-02
STAFF’S APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL)	
OF A FILING PROCESS FOR WILDFIRE)	ORDER NO. 36774
MITIGATION PLANS)	
)	
)	

On June 18, 2025, Staff (“Staff”) of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) applied to establish a filing process for Wildfire Mitigation Plans (“WMPs”) submitted under the Wildfire Standard of Care Act (“WSCA”). *See Idaho Code* § 61-1801 *et seq.* Staff requested the matter be processed by Modified Procedure, and that the Commission issue an order adopting a WMP filing process no later than September 5, 2025.

On June 18, 2025, Staff moved for a Commission order setting initial temporary filing dates for WMPs.

On June 30, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Intervention Deadline, establishing a deadline for interested parties to petition to intervene. Order No. 36660. The Commission granted intervention to PotlatchDeltic Corporation (“Potlatch”), Idaho Power Company, Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities, Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. (“KEC”), Rocky Mountain Power, a Division of PacifiCorp, the Idaho Department of Lands (“IDL”), the City of Idaho Falls (“Idaho Falls”), Bennett Lumber Products, Inc., Idaho Forest Group, Manulife Investment Management, Molpus Woodlands Group, and Stimson Lumber Company. Order Nos. 36673, 36692, 36697, and 36699.

On July 10, 2025, Staff filed its Supplemental Application which included Staff’s proposed guidelines outlining additional requirements to be included within WMPs, Staff’s proposed “Need to Know Document,” and some alternative proposals from the original Application (“Original Application”).

On July 16, 2025, the Commission issued an interlocutory order suspending the filing of WMPs before a final order issued in this case. Order No. 36674 at 2. The Order also allowed for interested parties to propose schedules for the filing of WMPs in their comments filed in this case. *Id.*

On August 7, 2025, interested parties and utilities submitted comments on Staff's proposals within its Original Application and Supplemental Application.¹

On August 21, 2025, Staff filed reply comments.

Having reviewed the record, the Commission now issues this Order establishing a procedure and filing schedule for WMPs submitted for approval under the WSCA.

BACKGROUND

On February 21, 2025, the first version, Senate Bill 1124a, of the WSCA was introduced in the Idaho Senate State Affairs Committee. After several amendments, that version failed to pass in the Senate. Subsequently, a revised version of the WSCA, Senate Bill 1183, was enacted and took effect on July 1, 2025. The law requires the Commission to annually approve WMPs for investor-owned utilities ("IOUs"). *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(2)(a), -1803(4). Municipal and cooperative utilities ("Unregulated Entities") may also submit WMPs for the Commission's review. *Id.* at § 61-1803(2)(b), -1803(4). The Commission can determine filing deadlines for WMPs, staggering them as needed. *Id.* at § 61-1803(2)(a)–(b), -1803(4), -1803(5). Under the WSCA, if a wildfire results in a lawsuit against an electric corporation, "there is a rebuttable presumption that the electric corporation acted without negligence if, with respect to the cause of the wildfire, the electric corporation reasonably implemented a commission-approved wildfire mitigation plan." *Idaho Code* § 61-1806.

THE APPLICATION

Staff seeks to establish a clear regulatory process for all IOUs, municipalities, and cooperatives to follow and that satisfies the requirements of the WSCA. To accomplish this, Staff proposes filing procedures, guidelines for WMPs, recommended filing dates, and the key components that should be included in WMPs. Staff also requests that the Commission clearly define the necessary elements of a WMP and associated compliance reports, as required by *Idaho Code* §§ 61-1803(3) and 61-1803(5). Staff further requests direction on any other information the Commission believes should be included in these filings.

¹ On August 20, 2025, Potlatch filed comments responding to comments from interested parties filed by the August 7, 2025, public comment deadline. Under IDAPA 31.01.01.202.01(d), a Notice of Modified Procedure establishing a comment deadline and a deadline for replies by the moving party. The Notice of Modified Procedure issued in this case established an August 7, 2025, comment deadline and an August 21, 2025, reply deadline. Potlatch is not the party who filed the Application, which initiated this proceeding. Thus, Potlatch is not the moving party authorized to file comments by the August 21, 2025, reply comment deadline. Instead, Potlatch had to file all its comments by August 7, 2025. Accordingly, Potlatch's comments filed on August 20, 2025, are untimely and will not be considered.

PARTY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fifteen IOUs, municipalities, cooperatives, and electric customers filed comments. While some concerns expressed were unique to individual parties, multiple entities shared many of the same issues.

I. Filing Timeline

Several intervenors raised concerns about the timeline for submitting WMPs. Because the Commission has six months to approve or reject a proposed plan, these commentors worry that some WMPs will not be approved before the next wildfire season. Accordingly, these commenters argued that Staff's proposed schedule unfairly affects Unregulated Entities—such as municipalities and cooperatives—by leaving them insufficient time to get their WMPs approved. Instead of Staff's proposed filing schedule, they recommended a more flexible timeline that would let these entities submit their WMPs earlier to ensure timely approval. For example, one suggestion was for IOUs to file their plans immediately after the Commission issues its final order in this case, with Unregulated Entities submitting by November 1, 2025. However, one commenter, an electric customer, felt the proposed schedule was too rushed and suggested that no plans be submitted before January 1, 2026.

II. Justification of Costs

Many intervenors were concerned about having to justify the costs of complying with a WMP. Idaho Falls and KEC argued that requiring them to explain their spending could lead to a review of their rates and internal operations. They are worried that such financial scrutiny could interfere with the authority of their own governing bodies. As a result, they urged the Commission to limit its inquiries into the costs related to their WMPs.

Some commenters—mainly smaller municipalities and cooperatives—argued that cost justification is either unnecessary or should not apply to Unregulated Entities. Others pointed out that wildfire mitigation costs are often hard to separate from routine operational expenses. Because of this, they felt that Staff's proposal is overly burdensome.

These commenters suggested that, instead of detailed cost breakdowns, signed attestations or formal resolutions from their governing bodies should be enough to meet the minimum requirements of the WSCA. These documents could show that the entities have reasonably weighed wildfire mitigation costs and considered cost-effective, practical approaches—like responsible line design for both new and existing infrastructure. Alternatively, Idaho Falls

proposed using a system like the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's ("NERC") periodic spot checks and audits to review costs.

III. Fire Reporting

Fire reporting requirements were another key concern for intervenors. Idaho Falls argued that Staff's proposal to report fires within a quarter mile of utility infrastructure goes beyond what the WSCA requires and is overly burdensome due to the high number of fires in its service area. Instead, it suggested that Staff rely on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Wildland Application Information Portal for fire data.

Other intervenors said they lack the resources to report all fires within a quarter mile of their infrastructure. They recommended that this information be gathered from existing sources instead. Those who did not entirely oppose fire reporting still supported a more limited approach. They generally suggested only reporting the occurrence and general location of fires that directly affect their systems.

Idaho's three largest IOUs proposed a narrower requirement: report only those fires that are over one acre in size, are either known to the utility or reported by the National Interagency Fire Center ("NIFC"), occur within a high wildfire risk area and within a quarter mile of utility infrastructure during the compliance year, and include only causes that are publicly available through NIFC at the time the compliance report is prepared.

IV. Compliance Reports

The intervenors generally asserted that the compliance reporting rules proposed by Staff were too burdensome and went beyond what the WSCA intended. The IOUs argued that setting monthly progress targets could create a false impression that they are not complying with their WMPs. According to the IOUs, plans usually have annual goals that guide actions throughout the year.

The IOUs suggested that compliance reports be submitted on a staggered schedule: Idaho Power on April 1, Rocky Mountain Power on May 1, and Avista Corporation on June 1 each year. These reports would include results from the previous calendar year and should be limited to clearly known and measurable outcomes identified at the time each WMP is prepared.

The Unregulated Entities recommended that the Commission reject Staff's proposed compliance reporting process. They argued that reporting requirements should differentiate between regulated IOUs and Unregulated Entities, with the latter facing less strict rules. As a result,

they called for further discussions and workshops with Staff to create a reporting process that aligns with their interpretation of the WSCA.

V. Proposed Requirements for WMP

Intervenors were generally concerned about being required to develop rolling WMPs with a three-year planning horizon. The IOUs believed such plans would impose a significant administrative burden. Instead, they supported static three-year plans without the inclusion of least-cost, least risk evaluations of line design. KEC expressed similar concerns, urging more flexibility in the guidelines governing WMPs from Unregulated Entities.

Idaho Falls also urged flexibility in the requirements for WMPs. Specifically, Idaho Falls argued that Staff's proposed process would require it to submit extensive and detailed information to the Commission—including monthly targets, cost-benefit analyses, goals, metrics, and specific data for each part of its WMP. According to Idaho Falls, this would be overwhelmingly burdensome. As noted above, Idaho Falls recommended adoption of NERC's process for evaluating system reliability. This process involves regular confirmation of compliance by an electric municipality's governing board, along with occasional spot checks and audits. Idaho Falls asserted that this method is cheap, streamlined, and familiar to municipalities, making it a more practical way for municipal utilities to show compliance.

Customer comments on this issue sought stricter requirements for WMPs. For example, one customer commenter asserted that the non-exhaustive list of "Preventative Actions and Programs" that Staff indicated *may* be included in a WMP is required under *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3)(b). Another commenter recommended that each WMP include detailed descriptions of every wildfire-related damage claim the electric corporation paid over the last two decades, regardless of whether the company admitted liability, paid voluntarily, or because of a court order or arbitration.

VI. Coordination with the Idaho Department of Lands

The IOUs generally supported Staff's proposed WMP requirements, with a few minor adjustments and reforms. Specifically, they requested that discussions of de-energization exclude circumstances where power is terminated at the request of first responders or for planned activities like maintenance or circuit hardening. Although such shut offs may be part of broader wildfire mitigation efforts, the IOUs characterized them as routine operational procedures.

Many commentors, including the IOUs, recommended that the Commission clarify how it will evaluate recommendations from other governmental agencies, like the Idaho Department of Lands (“IDL”). When describing how input from federal, state, and local agencies was considered in developing vegetation management standards, the IOUs emphasized that they must operate within specific easements or rights-of-way and comply with the National Electrical Safety Code. Therefore, they recommended that the Commission limit its explanation to how agency recommendations directly relating to surface fuels, fuel reduction, or vegetation near utility infrastructure were considered. Comments from IDL itself echoed some of these concerns.

VII. Timber Protections

A group of commentors expressed concern over the lack of what they believed were adequate protections for marketable timber in Staff’s proposed WMP guidelines. *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3)(g)(iii) requires that landowners be compensated at fair market value (“FMV”) for the removal of live, marketable timber. However, these commentors noted that neither the WSCA nor Staff’s proposed guidelines outlined a process for valuation, notice, or dispute resolution.

To address this, these commentors proposed that the Commission require each WMP include a written inventory of all proposed tree removals, identification of an independent third-party timber appraiser if marketable timber is involved, and a procedure allowing landowners to object or seek expedited mediation prior to any timber removal. Inclusion of these requirements would reduce the likelihood of post hoc legal disputes.

The IOUs agreed that clarifying how FMV will be determined could reduce confusion and landowner frustration when timber removal is necessary. Additionally, they also believed that collaborating with all stakeholders to develop a list of timber companies or a centralized map of timber lands would support compliance with the FMV compensation requirement for any timber that is removed.

VIII. Retroactivity

The IOUs disagreed with Staff’s proposed prohibition of retroactive amendments to WMPs. They argue that this limitation does not reflect the practical challenges of implementing a WMP or the required flexibility and innovation during the plan year, while still complying with the WSCA and maintaining eligibility for its liability protections. Accordingly, the IOUs believe they should be allowed—even encouraged—to respond quickly to changing conditions and adopt more efficient or cost-effective wildfire mitigation strategies, even after a WMP has been

approved. According to the IOUs, without the ability to amend a WMP mid-year (subject to Commission review and approval), the WSCA may unintentionally discourage innovation and efficiency by forcing utilities to follow outdated plans strictly, just to preserve liability protections.

STAFF REPLY COMMENTS

Staff's reply comments responded to the key concerns raised by the intervenors, clarifying that any issues not specifically addressed should not be interpreted as agreement or approval. Staff also incorporated some concerns that were originally brought up in public comments. Additionally, a proposed set of WMP guidelines was included as an exhibit with the reply comments. Staff's responses to individual issues are discussed in the sections below.

I. Filing Schedule

Staff indicated that many electric municipalities and cooperatives, in addition to Idaho's three largest IOUs, are ready to file their WMPs with the Commission. Accordingly, Staff stated that it expects up to 15 WMPs to be submitted, in addition to the Commission's usual caseload. Staff stated that reviewing and approving all 15 WMPs before the 2026 fire season is unrealistic and would not allow sufficient time for proper review and stakeholder input.

To address this, Staff has proposed alternative filing schedules, aiming to avoid overwhelming the review process while still ensuring fairness to Unregulated Entities. Staff's two proposed schedules account for each utility's size, complexity, and expressed preferences. Although the proposed schedules may not allow every utility to receive an order approving its WMP before the start of the 2026 fire season, the few that do not should receive one shortly thereafter. The following two tables reflect Staff's two proposed filing schedule options:

Option No. 1: Staff's Preferred Schedule

Electric Corporation Permitted To File			
Month	Large Utility	Medium Utility	Small Utility
No earlier than October 1	Idaho Power	Kootenai Electric	Raft River
No earlier than November 1	Avista	Northern Lights	Idaho County Light and Power
No earlier than December 1	PacifiCorp	City of Idaho Falls	United Electric
No earlier than January 1	Atlanta Power*	Clearwater Power	Lost River Electric*
No earlier than February 1	Lower Valley Energy*	Fall River*	City of Bonners Ferry*
No earlier than March 1	Any other electric corporation that wishes to file		

Option No. 2

Month	Electric Corporation Permitted To File		
No earlier than October 1	Idaho Power	Kootenai Electric	City of Idaho Falls
No earlier than November 1	Avista	Northern Lights	Clearwater Power
No earlier than December 1	PacifiCorp	Raft River	Idaho County Light and Power
No earlier than January 1	Atlanta Power*	United Electric	Lost River Electric*
No earlier than February 1	Lower Valley Energy*	Fall River*	City of Bonners Ferry*
No earlier than March 1	Any other electric corporation that wishes to file		

*These utilities did not request an expedited filing timeline.

Staff Reply Comments at 4. Staff preferred Option 1, believing it offered a balanced and manageable review schedule. Under this option, one large, one medium, and one small utility (based on Idaho customer count) would have the opportunity to file a WMP each month, beginning October 1, 2025. Electric corporations who requested expedited filing would file before those that did not.

Option 2 schedules filings from the largest to the smallest utility, followed by those not requesting expedited review. Although this approach uses a clear and consistent method, Staff noted it front-loads the workload and may not allow sufficient time for thorough review. Under both options, the comment period for each WMP will be set when the plan is filed, in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure 31.01.01 *et. seq.* Staff requested that the Commission adopt a filing schedule that reasonably balances expedited requests. Staff also stated that if it later determines it can manage additional filings sooner than expected, it will formally ask the Commission to allow certain utilities to file their WMPs ahead of schedule.

II. Annual Filings

Staff's original application requested that the Commission require electric corporations to file their annual WMP reviews one year after the approval date of their previous plan, with set dates for the IOUs. However, since Staff is now proposing alternative filing schedules, the timing for annual reviews may shift. Instead of the schedule proposed in the Original Application, Staff requested that the Commission direct each electric corporation to file its annual review one year after the approved filing date, consistent with whatever WMP schedule the Commission adopts. Although alternative annual filing dates may be proposed in the initial WMP submissions, Staff believed this is a reasonable starting point for annual review filings.

III. WMP Forecast and Planning Horizon

Staff disagreed with the IOUs' proposed static, three-year WMPs. Staff believed the IOUs proposal for static plans does not align with prior orders or the Commission's planning standards. As noted in Staff's Supplemental Application, Order No. 36042 requires Idaho Power to extend the forecast of its WMP to five years. Idaho Power has followed this approach, submitting rolling plans for 2024 and 2025 that build on prior versions and extend the forecast accordingly. Rocky Mountain Power also develops its WMP with a three-year planning cycle, consistent with its schedules in Utah and Wyoming. *See* Order No. 36405. Accordingly, Staff recommended that each WMP include, at minimum, a three-year forecast.

IV. WMP Requirements for IOUs and Unregulated Entities

Staff believed its proposed WMP guidelines are reasonable, not overly burdensome, and account for the varying size and complexity of each electric corporation. The purpose of the guidelines is to help the Commission clearly define what must be included in a WMP under *Idaho Code* §§ 61-1803(3)(a)–(g), and to establish consistent expectations for all electric corporations choosing to file with the Commission.

Staff asserted that the only difference between IOUs and Unregulated Entities corporations under the WSCA is that IOUs are required to file WMPs, while Unregulated Entities have the option to do so. However, to receive the liability protections offered under *Idaho Code* § 61-1806, Unregulated Entities must have a Commission-approved WMP. Consequently, Staff does not support applying different standards and believes all filers seeking these protections must meet the same statutory requirements.

The WSCA contains standards, procedures, and schedules for infrastructure inspection and maintenance, de-energization practices, and vegetation management. These may be subject to the availability of access to rights-of-way. Staff's proposed guidelines request measurable targets and goals for the sections on infrastructure inspection and maintenance and vegetation management. Staff viewed this information as critical to understanding how a utility plans to carry out its WMP within the designated planning cycle. This information can also aid the Commission's evaluation of whether the plan is feasible, cost-effective, and sufficient to reduce wildfire risk, as required by *Idaho Code* §§ 61-1804(b) and (c). Accordingly, Staff recommended that the Commission adopt its proposed WMP guidelines as minimum requirements for WMPs in addition to those listed under *Idaho Code* §§ 61-1803(3)(a)–(g).

V. Standard Operating Procedures in WMPs

Staff believed it was unnecessary for WMPs to include detailed standards, criteria, or operational protocols for de-energization. De-energizations carried out at the request of fire agencies or for planned utility work are already covered under each utility's Standard Operating Procedures ("SOPs"). Consequently, Staff proposed removing these two situations from the minimum WMP requirements.

In response to concerns about separating wildfire mitigation activities from routine SOPs, Staff maintained that the WMP should serve as the utility's comprehensive wildfire mitigation strategy. Staff acknowledged that wildfire mitigation is just one aspect of a utility's broader operations and that many projects may serve multiple purposes. Rather than trying to split or allocate costs, however, Staff recommended including the full project cost in the WMP, along with an explanation if the project also addresses goals beyond wildfire mitigation. Furthermore, if a mitigation activity provides benefits beyond wildfire risk reduction, Staff recommended that electric corporations explain in their WMPs whether the effort is part of normal operations or goes beyond what is covered in their SOPs. Staff believed most of this information already exists, as it would be developed during internal approvals by each electric corporation's governing board.

VI. "Least Cost, Least Risk" Line Design Requirements

Staff did not believe that including line design methods in a WMP infringes on the authority of the governing boards of Unregulated Entities over costs or rates. Rather, this requirement is clearly outlined in the WSCA and applies to all electric corporations that submit a WMP. To support the contention, Staff noted that *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3)(e) requires all WMPs to include, at a minimum, "financially prudent and reasonably practicable methods of line design for new, planned, and existing lines to mitigate fire risk."

In response to other comments, Staff revised the language in its proposed guidelines to better align with the WSCA. Specifically, Staff removed the phrase "least-cost, least-risk" and replaced it with language that reflects "a balance of mitigation costs with the resulting reduction in wildfire risk," which more accurately reflects the text of *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3).

Staff's updated proposed guidelines now state:

Additionally, this must include how the electric corporation clearly identifies, selects, and evaluates projects that reflect a balance of mitigation costs with resulting reduction in wildfire risk, for the following, but not limited to...

Staff's Reply Comments - Exhibit 1 at 6.

Staff believed this level of detail is important for the Commission's review of WMPs under *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3)(e). Staff requested that the Commission adopt the revised language described above as part of the minimum requirements for all WMPs.

VII. WMP Amendments

Staff opposed the retroactive application of WMPs without the express approval of the Commission. *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(4) states that Commission-approved WMPs must be implemented upon approval. Staff interpreted this to mean that a WMP becomes effective on the date of the Commission's approval and remains so until approval of a new WMP. Staff requested clarification of the effective period for each approved WMP. If no such clarification is provided, Staff will propose effective dates in each individual WMP filing.

Although Staff is not opposed to utilities filing amendments to approved or pending WMPs, it noted that significant updates or modifications could affect the entire plan. Under *Idaho Code* § 61-1804, the Commission must approve or deny amended plans within six months. Therefore, Staff requested the Commission clarify whether it will accept amendments to filed or approved WMPs, and whether any such amendments could be approved retroactively.

VIII. IDL Participation

Neither Staff's Original nor Supplemental Application addressed the requirement under *Idaho Code* § 61-1804(3) which requires the Commission to consult with interested parties, including the state forester, as identified in *Idaho Code* § 61-1804(2). During informal discussions with the state forester and IDL wildfire risk mitigation program director, IDL expressed its intent to intervene in all future WMP filings to review each plan and provide recommendations. Under *Idaho Code* § 61-1804(3), the state forester's recommendations—particularly those related to vegetation management, fuel reduction, and responsibilities under Title 38 Idaho Code—are presumed reasonable and appropriate. If the Commission finds any recommendation unjust, unreasonable, or not in the public interest, however, it must explain its reasoning in the order approving or rejecting the WMP. *Idaho Code* § 61-1804(3).

IX. Cost Justification

In response to comments suggesting that its proposed process could constitute rate regulation regarding Unregulated Entities, Staff asserted that its proposals are solely intended to satisfy the requirements of *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3), which calls for balancing wildfire mitigation

costs with the resulting risk reduction. Staff disclaimed any intent to evaluate whether any project or action is prudent for cost recovery from ratepayers of Unregulated Entities in the WMP. Rather, the purpose of collecting cost and financial information is to create a complete record to determine whether each WMP meets the statutory requirements. Neither the WSCA nor Staff's proposal gives the Commission authority to set rates or judge cost recovery. Therefore, Staff believed its recommendations do not constitute rate regulation and that requesting financial information is reasonable and appropriate.

X. Cost-Benefit Analysis

Staff proposed requiring electric corporations to submit WMPs with cost estimates for their planned projects and operations. According to Staff, this proposed requirement is not intended to override the authority of the utility's governing board or to determine whether costs are prudent for rate recovery. Rather, its purpose is to ensure Staff can make informed recommendations with a record sufficient to support a Commission decision.

To support this proposed requirement, Staff noted that *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3) requires each WMP to include strategies that reflect a reasonable balance between mitigation costs and wildfire risk reduction. Additionally, *Idaho Code* § 61-1804 directs the Commission to consider the feasibility and cost of implementing each plan. Staff also observed that the WSCA does not distinguish between IOUs and Unregulated Entities regarding WMP content or approval standards. Therefore, Staff did not support altering the statutory requirements to allow more flexibility for Unregulated Entities.

However, Staff acknowledged that each WMP should be tailored to the size and complexity of the utility, as required by *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3), and therefore does not expect all utilities to provide the same level of detail in their cost or risk analyses. Larger companies like Idaho Power, Avista or Rocky Mountain Power may submit more detailed financial analyses, while smaller utilities, such as Atlanta Power, may provide simpler submissions.

XI. Compliance Reports

In response to concerns expressed about the proposed compliance reporting requirements, Staff agreed to hold workshops to determine what information should be included in these reports. Staff believed issues like monthly targets and expenditure tracking can be resolved collaboratively in workshops. To that end, Staff requested that the Commission direct it to hold two workshops with interested parties and submit a joint proposal for standard compliance report requirements by

December 31, 2025. If consensus cannot be reached, each party would submit its own proposal by that same date.

Staff also indicated its openness to discussing potential compliance report filing deadlines during the workshops. Therefore, at this time, Staff does not recommend the Commission set specific filing dates or timeframes for the required compliance reports. Ultimately, Staff expected each electric corporation to provide the same type of information their governing boards would use to evaluate whether their WMP appropriately balances cost and wildfire risk as required by the WSCA.

XII. Fair Market Value of Timber

Staff observed that the term “fair market value” is not defined in the WSCA. Staff believed electric corporations should outline how they will determine or achieve fair market value in relevant situations within their WMPs. Staff encouraged electric corporations to collaborate with interested parties to establish a fair and consistent approach to determining fair market value.

XIII. Timber Company Contacts or Maps

Staff generally supported the proposed collaboration among stakeholders to create a working list of timber companies or a centralized map of timber-owned lands. However, Staff indicated that IDL may be the more appropriate agency to host such information.

XIV. Late Filed Comments

Due to the compressed timeline of this case, Staff recommended that the Commission consider any late filed comments.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the authority and power granted it under Title 61 of the Idaho Code, including the WSCA. The purpose of WSCA is to provide electric service that is safe, reliable, and affordable, while minimizing risk to the public. *See Idaho Code* § 61-1802. Addressing wildfire risk is a growing priority for electric utilities, and proper planning is essential to both prevent wildfires and respond effectively when they occur. To foster this planning, the WSCA provides liability protections to electric corporations that comply with a Commission-approved WMP. *See Idaho Code* § 61-1806. The Commission’s experience and expertise in regulating electric utilities led the Idaho Legislature to assign it the responsibility of reviewing and approving required and voluntarily filed WMPs. To ensure a timely and thorough

review of proposed WMPs, the Commission establishes the following filing schedule, guidelines, and essential components for WMPs.

I. Filing Schedule

Idaho Code § 61-1803 authorizes the Commission to set the filing schedule for WMPs. Staff anticipates the filing of as many as 15 WMPs before the 2026 wildfire season. To avoid a flood of filings and promote orderly, efficient review of WMPs, we find it reasonable to adopt Staff's proposed Option 1 filing schedule. This schedule allows one large, one medium, and one small utility (based on its number of Idaho customers) to submit its proposed WMP for approval each month. Additionally, we find it reasonable to allow electric corporations that requested expedited filing to submit their WMPs before those that did not. In sum, we find Staff's proposed Option No. 1 to be a balanced and manageable initial review schedule.

We acknowledge that the approved filing schedule may not allow every electric corporation to obtain a Commission-approved WMP before the 2026 wildfire season. However, we anticipate that those that do not are likely to receive one shortly thereafter. Furthermore, we find it reasonable to ensure some flexibility in the filing schedule. Specifically, should Staff subsequently determine that it can handle more WMP filings, we direct Staff to formally request Commission approval to update the approved filing schedule and allow certain electric corporations to file WMP ahead of schedule.

II. Annual Reviews and WMP Updates

Commission-approved WMPs must be reviewed and updated annually. *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(4). To maintain a balanced and manageable review schedule going forward, we find it reasonable to direct electric corporations to file updated WMPs one year after the approval date of their previously approved WMP.

III. WMP Requirements for IOUs and Unregulated Entities

Several Unregulated Entities argued that they should be treated differently from IOUs, suggesting fewer requirements or more flexibility than IOUs is appropriate. Other than permitting, rather than requiring, Unregulated Entities to submit WMPs, the WSCA does not expressly treat Unregulated Entities differently than IOUs. *Compare Idaho Code* § 61-1803(2)(a) *with Idaho Code* § 61-1803(2)(b). Instead, the WSCA addresses differences among electric corporations by requiring that each WMP be tailored to the scope and complexity of the corporation's operations. *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3). Acknowledging this minor discrepancy does not otherwise authorize

different treatment of Unregulated Entities. Therefore we will not impose fewer requirements upon Unregulated Entities solely based on their regulatory status.

IV. WMP Projections and Planning Horizon

We next consider the planning timeframe for WMPs. Consistent with established practice, we find it reasonable to require electric corporations to develop rolling WMPs with a minimum three-year planning horizon. As stated in prior proceedings, WMPs must incorporate long-term planning while maintaining the flexibility to address emerging risks as they arise. *See* Order No. 36405. Requiring each iteration of a WMP to roll the planning and forecast horizon forward serves the need for long-term planning while still allowing flexibility to address emergent threats. Although this approach may place a greater burden on electric corporations than a static three-year plan, we find that the improved wildfire risk reduction provided by a rolling plan justifies the additional burden.

V. Exclusion of Standard Operating Procedures in WMPs

We concur with Staff's view that WMPs need not contain exhaustive standards or procedures for every possible instance of live de-energization. Standards and protocols for de-energization requested by fire agencies or for planned work that are included in an electric corporation's SOPs may not be part of its wildfire mitigation strategy. Accordingly, standards and protocols for these kinds of de-energizations need not be duplicated in a WMP.

However, a WMP should be a comprehensive plan to address wildfire risk. Although many of an electric corporation's projects may support multiple objectives beyond wildfire mitigation, it is not necessary to separate the costs among those different purposes. Rather, a WMP should include the full cost of the project with an explanation of any additional objectives the project serves beyond wildfire mitigation. If a project provides benefits beyond wildfire risk mitigation, the WMP should explain whether the effort is part of its SOPs or exceeds them.

VI. Line Design Requirements

Idaho Code § 61-1803(3)(e) requires WMPs to include line design methods for new, planned, and existing lines that are both financially prudent and reasonably practicable for wildfire risk mitigation. Accordingly, WMPs must explain how an electric corporation's line design methods reduce the potential for wildfire ignition, including a cost evaluation. This cost evaluation need not be least-cost, least risk, but it must show how the mitigation project strikes the necessary

“balance of mitigation costs with the resulting reduction in wildfire risk” required by the WSCA. See *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3)(e).

VII. WMP Amendments and Retroactivity

Idaho Code § 61-1806(1) creates a rebuttable presumption that an electric corporation acted without negligence if, with respect to the cause of the wildfire, the electric corporation reasonably implemented a commission-approved WMP. This rebuttable presumption applies to any action or omission reasonably consistent with an approved WMP *in effect* when the fire began. This rebuttable presumption applies only to actions or omissions reasonably consistent with the approved WMP in effect when the fire began. *Idaho Code* § 61-1806(1). Stated differently, a WMP must be approved to provide liability protection to electric corporations. More importantly, this liability protection applies only to fires ignited while the approved WMP is effective. A plain, ordinary reading of the statutory text indicates a WMP is effective upon Commission approval, and that this approval cannot be retroactive to cover prior fires.

With respect to mid-year amendments to approved plans, we find it reasonable to permit their filing. However, to avoid disrupting the review of other WMPs, electric corporations must first consult with Staff to discuss the proposed amendment and coordinate a filing date that supports efficient review of all plans. Once filed, proposed amendments will be processed in accordance with the Commission’s Rules of Procedure.

VIII. IDL and State Forester Recommendations

Under *Idaho Code* § 61-1804(3), the state forester’s recommendations, particularly those related to vegetation management, fuel reduction, and responsibilities under Title 38, are presumed reasonable and appropriate. We will apply this statutory presumption when reviewing WMPs. However, we decline to set a definitive framework for how IDL’s recommendations will be considered at this time, as each WMP is expected to differ. As a result, the relevance and persuasive force of IDL’s comments and recommendations may vary from case to case.

IX. Cost Justification

One of the most contested aspects of this case is Staff’s proposal to require a cost-benefit analysis in WMPs to justify spending on projects related to WMPs. To support this proposed requirement, Staff argued that such an analysis was necessary to determine whether planned expenditures were justified relative to anticipated wildfire risk reduction benefits. However, some Unregulated Entities were concerned that explaining their expenditures could result in review of

their rates and internal management, potentially undermining the authority of their own governing authorities.

Under *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3), WMPs must reasonably balance anticipated wildfire risk reductions against the anticipated mitigation costs. Assessing whether the WMP has achieved this balance requires a review of the cost-benefit analysis underlying the expenditures outlined therein. Additionally, *Idaho Code* § 61-1804 requires the Commission to consider the feasibility and cost of implementing each WMP when deciding whether or not to approve a WMP. Review of the cost-benefit analysis supporting WMP expenditures can inform the Commission's consideration of those costs. Finally, the WSCA is intended to guide the prudent use of resources to address wildfire risks with justifiable costs, keeping utility rates affordable and protecting Idaho residents and their property. *Idaho Code* § 61-1802. Including a cost-benefit analysis in WMPs supports this goal by requiring electric corporations to perform a balancing test that assesses whether expenses are prudent.

Accordingly, we find it reasonable to direct all electric corporations to include a cost-benefit analysis in their proposed WMPs that justifies the expenditures for risk mitigation described within. This directive does not amount to rate regulation. Rate regulation occurs when a government body sets the prices a company can charge. The WSCA grants the Commission authority solely to approve or reject a proposed WMP, not to regulate the rates an Unregulated Entity charges. The Commission has no authority other than that given to it by the legislature. It exercises a limited jurisdiction, and nothing is presumed in favor of its jurisdiction. *See United States v Utah Power & Light Co.*, 98 Idaho 665, 667, 570 P.2d 1353, 1355 (1977).

Furthermore, unlike IOUs, Unregulated Entities are not obligated to obtain a Commission-approved WMP and may choose not to pursue one. Seeking Commission approval of a WMP may influence an Unregulated Entity's decisions, including those related to service rates. However, any rate changes made to obtain approval of a WMP for an Unregulated Entity would be entirely voluntary and subject to their own processes only. This is not rate regulation.

X. Timber Protections

Idaho Code § 61-1803(3)(g)(iii) requires that landowners be compensated at FMV for the removal of live, marketable timber from timber company land adjacent to a utility right-of-way. Some commenters recommended establishing guidelines for valuation, notice, and dispute resolution related to timber removal to help prevent future legal conflicts. We decline to do so.

The WSCA does not define what constitutes FMV. Nor does the WSCA expressly grant the Commission authority to provide such a definition. Accordingly, we lack the authority to do so. *See United States v Utah Power & Light Co.*, 98 Idaho at 667, 570 P.2d at 1355 (holding that the Commission's jurisdiction is limited to that granted by statute).

Moreover, determining the amount a landowner should receive for removed timber is akin to fixing damages in a civil case. The power to determine and award civil damages is the exclusive province of the judicial courts and beyond the Commission's jurisdiction. *See Pounds v. Denison*, 115 Idaho 381, 384, 766 P.2d 1262, 1265 (Ct. App. 1988) (holding that awarding civil damages is the exclusive province of judicial courts; *McNeal v. Idaho Pub. Utilities Comm'n*, 142 Idaho 685, 691, 132 P.3d 442, 448 (2006) (observing that the Commission is not a judicial court), *abrogated on other grounds by Verska v. Saint Alphonsus Reg'l Med. Ctr.*, 151 Idaho 889, 265 P.3d 502 (2011)). We do, however, encourage electric corporations to collaborate with interested parties to establish a fair and consistent approach to determining fair market value. Similarly, we encourage the electric corporations to develop a list of timber companies or a centralized map of timber lands to support compliance with the FMV compensation requirement for any timber that is removed.

XI. Compliance Reports

Finally, under *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(5), electric corporations with an approved WMP must submit an annual compliance report to the Commission, unless directed otherwise by Commission rule or order. Such reports must provide documentation detailing how the components and measures of the WMP were developed and adopted, the related expenditures, and the actions taken to implement the plan.

Given the substantial number of comments on Staff's proposed compliance report requirements, we find it reasonable to direct Staff to conduct two workshops to determine the necessary report content. These workshops should address topics such as fire reporting requirements, monthly compliance targets and expenditures, filing dates, and achieving consistency in language and formatting across all WMPs. Following the workshops, interested parties may submit joint proposed standard compliance report requirements by December 31, 2025. If consensus is not reached, individual proposals may be submitted by the same date.

XII. Staff's Proposed WMP Guidelines

Attached to Staff's reply comments as Exhibit No. 1 is a revised set of proposed guidelines for electric corporations to follow for the WMP filings. Considering our decisions above general

lack of objection to Staff's Exhibit No. 1, we find it reasonable to accept and approve it as guidelines for each electric corporation's WMP filing. Each electric corporation must comply with these guidelines for its WMP to satisfy the requirements for approval going forward.

XIII. Staff's Proposed "Need to Know" Document

Attached to Staff's Supplemental Application as Exhibit No. 2, is a proposed "Need to Know" document. The purpose of this document is to gather essential information to support Staff's review and processing of a WMP from an Unregulated Entity. As previously stated, *Idaho Code* § 61-1803(3) requires WMPs to be reflective and commensurate with the size and complexity of the electric corporation's operations and of the nature of the fire risk it faces. We find it reasonable to direct Unregulated Entities to submit a completed copy of Staff's proposed "Need to Know" document with their initial WMP filings to aid Staff in its review of the plan.

XIV. Annual Wildfire Update Meetings

Before the WSCA was enacted, the Commission held annual meetings with Idaho's three largest IOUs to receive updates on wildfire conditions and their mitigation efforts. We will continue to hold these meetings. To avoid having them overlap with WMP annual reviews, these meetings shall occur annually during the third week in May, or as close thereto as reasonably possible. Additionally, as Unregulated Entities may now submit WMPs, we find it reasonable to offer them the opportunity to participate in these meetings, should they choose to do so.

XV. Review Fees for WMP from Unregulated Entities

Idaho Code § 61-1803(2)(b) authorizes the Commission to assess Unregulated Entities a reasonable fee for reviewing their WMPs. This is necessary because, unlike IOUs that are assessed special regulatory fees annually, Unregulated Entities generally do not pay fees that cover the cost of their supervision and regulation. Accordingly, we find it reasonable to direct Staff to issue quarterly invoices to each Unregulated Entity based on time and expense principles to review its WMP pursuant to *Idaho Code* § 61-1004. If a Unregulated Entity has no outstanding balance during a quarter, the issuance of an invoice is unnecessary.

XVI. Notices to Interested Parties

Idaho Code § 61-1804(2) requires electric corporations to provide notice to certain interested parties within five days of filing a WMP for review and approval. To facilitate the participation of those interested parties in the review process, we find it reasonable to direct electric corporations to include the information Staff proposed in these notices. Specifically, this notice

must include a copy of the notice to the Commission of the filing of the WMP, the case number for the case in which the WMP will be reviewed, and information about how to participate in the proceeding.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that electric corporations shall file their WMPs with the Commission for review according to the schedule reflected in Option No. 1 from Staff's reply comments and reproduced in Exhibit A attached to this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that electric corporations shall file updated WMPs for their annual review one year after the filing date of their previously approved WMP.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that electric corporations shall develop rolling WMPs with a minimum three-year planning horizon.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that WMPs need not contain exhaustive standards or procedures for de-energization requested by fire agencies or for planned work that are included in an electric corporation's Standard Operating Procedures.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that WMPs must explain how an electric corporation's line design methods reduce the potential for wildfire ignition, including a cost evaluation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, before filing a mid-year amendment to an approved WMP, electric corporations must consult with Staff to discuss the proposed amendment and coordinate a filing date that supports efficient review of all plans.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all electric corporations must include a cost-benefit analysis in their proposed WMPs that justifies the expenditures for risk mitigation described within.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Staff shall hold two workshops to determine the required content of compliance reports. Topics covered in these workshops should include fire reporting, monthly compliance targets, expenditures, filing timelines, and establishing consistency in language and formatting of all WMPs. Following the workshops, interested parties may submit joint proposed standards by December 31, 2025, or individual proposals if consensus is not reached.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Staff's proposed WMP guidelines reflected in Staff's Exhibit No. 1 attached to its reply comments are accepted and approved guidelines for each electric corporation's WMP filing. A copy of Staff's Exhibit 1 is attached to this Order as Exhibit B.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Unregulated Entities shall submit a completed copy of Staff's proposed "Need to Know" document with their initial WMP filings to aid Staff in its review of the plan. A copy of Staff's "Need to Know" document is attached to this Order as Exhibit C.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that annual meetings to update the Commission on wildfire conditions in Idaho and the IOUs mitigation efforts shall occur annually during the third week in May, or as close thereto as reasonably possible. Unregulated Entities may participate in these meetings.

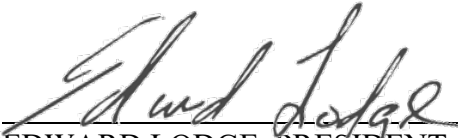
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Staff shall issue quarterly invoices to each Unregulated Entity based on time and expense principles pursuant to *Idaho Code* § 61-1004 to review its WMP unless the Unregulated Entity has no outstanding balance for such costs.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the notice to interested parties required under *Idaho Code* § 61-1804(2) shall include a copy of the notice to the Commission of the filing of the WMP, the case number for the case in which the WMP will be reviewed, and information about how to participate in the proceeding.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date upon this Order regarding any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* § 61-626.

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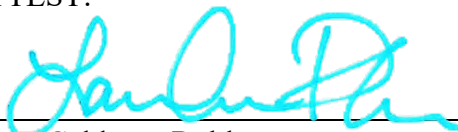
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 30th day of September 2025.


EDWARD LODGE, PRESIDENT


JOHN R. HAMMOND JR., COMMISSIONER


DAYN HARDIE, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Laura Calderon Robles
Interim Commission Secretary

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Exhibit A – WMP Filing Schedule

Electric Corporation Permitted To File			
Month	Large Utility	Medium Utility	Small Utility
No earlier than October 1	Idaho Power	Kootenai Electric	Raft River
No earlier than November 1	Avista	Northern Lights	Idaho County Light and Power
No earlier than December 1	PacifiCorp	City of Idaho Falls	United Electric
No earlier than January 1	Atlanta Power	Clearwater Power	Lost River Electric
No earlier than February 1	Lower Valley Energy	Fall River	City of Bonners Ferry
No earlier than March 1	Any other electric corporation that wishes to file		

EXHIBIT NO. 1

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines

Intention of the Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines

The intention of this document is to serve as guidelines for creating a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (“WMP”) for approval by the Commission.

As required by I.C. § 61-1803(3), a WMP at a minimum must include the elements outlined in I.C. § 61-1803(3)(a)-(g). Staff recommends the Commission consider the areas detailed in each section below to be included in the utilities WMP filing as written. Staff will review this information in each WMP filing for approval by the Commission.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(a) - Geographical Risk Assessments

“Identifying geographical areas where an electric corporation has infrastructure or equipment that the electric corporation considers may be subject to a heightened risk of wildfire at the time the wildfire mitigation plan is finalized by the electric corporation”

The electric corporation must include a description of the wildfire risk assessment or model used to guide wildfire mitigation activities. The assessment should identify geographic areas with elevated fire risk, considering factors such as vegetation, weather, topography, historical fire occurrence, structure density, and asset location.

The electric corporation should provide a map of the identified risk areas within its service territory within this section of its WMP. The identified risk areas should be defined with different level of fire risks to the utility. There must be an explanation of what determines each level of risk and risk assessments of each service territory should be updated annually in the WMP.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(b) - Preventative Actions and Programs

“Preventative actions and programs that the electric corporation will carry out to reduce the risk of wildfire.”

The electric corporation must describe all preventative actions and programs that it will carry out to reduce the risk of wildfire, in addition to actions and programs specified in statute and by this Commission. For the three large investor-owned utilities,¹ Staff recommends that previous

¹ Avista Corp., Idaho Power, and Rocky Mountain Power.

areas of focus of each utility's WMPs continue to be included within its WMPs. A WMP's preventative actions and programs *must* include, but is not limited to:

- Situational Awareness efforts
 - Which may include use of technology to aid in weather monitoring, fire season outlook, daily, weekly, and monthly weather and fire modeling risk, etc.
 - Consistent with 61-1803(3)(f) and Staff's proposed requirements within.
- Asset Inspections
 - Which must include the frequency and standards of inspections for each type of electric infrastructure within areas of elevated wildfire risk.
 - Consistent with 61-1803(3)(g)(i) and Staff's proposed requirements within.
- Enhanced vegetation management practices in risk zones
 - Which may include shorter vegetation management cycles than routine cycles, risk tree programs, etc.
 - Consistent with 61-1803(3)(g)(iii) and Staff's proposed requirements within.
- Operation practices during heightened wildfire risk days or zones.
 - Which may include restrictions to workforce practices, potential use of proactive de-energization
 - Consistent with 61-1803(3)(g)(ii) and Staff's proposed requirements within.
- Community education
 - Which may include public service announcements to create awareness and provide education of wildfire risks, providing preventative measures, etc.
 - Consistent with 61-1803(3)(c) and 61-1803(3)(d)
- And any additional requirements ordered by the Commission.

A WMP's preventative actions and programs *may* include, but is not limited to:

- System hardening strategies
 - Which may include pole replacements, line rebuilding, or undergrounding if necessary, strategic fuse or reclosers installations, etc.
- Workforce Preparedness
 - Which may include workforce training, equipment provided to employees to reduce the risk of wildfire, etc.

- Pilot Programs
 - If applicable.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(c) - Public Outreach and Engagement

“Community outreach and public awareness efforts that the electric corporation will use before, during, and after wildfire season to identify and inform the public of relevant wildfire risks and notify the public of wildfire-related outages.”

This section should include discussion of how each utility maintains community outreach and public awareness before, during, and after wildfire season to support customer awareness and education of wildfire risks and notify the public of wildfire-related outages. This discussion should include, but is not limited, to the following:

- Description of customer communication efforts related to wildfire mitigation, including efforts to increase awareness and education of the utility’s plan, explanation of key mitigation activities, and efforts supporting public readiness.
- If the utility utilizes de-energization, a description of public education efforts and communication protocols for before, during, and after a de-energization event. The communication protocols should clearly identify which customers could and will be impacted if a de-energization event is pursued and identify any advanced notifications for critical infrastructure or customers, which may include but not limited to, hospitals and other medical facilities, schools, police, fire, emergency operation centers, any jails/prisons, other utilities, and vulnerable customers.
- Explanation of the communication methods the electric corporation intends to use, such as mail, flyers, emails, calls, texts, a notification system, its website, etc.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(d) - Government Outreach

“Outreach efforts to coordinate with federal, state, tribal, and local officials and agencies on wildfire preparedness and emergency response plans.”

The electric corporation must describe how it engages with and coordinates with federal, state, tribal, and local officials and agencies on wildfire preparedness and emergency response in the plan year. This discussion may include, but is not limited to:

- If applicable, Public Safety Power Shutoff (“PSPS”) tabletop exercises with interested parties and agencies
- Communication with the agencies and the ESF-12 coordinator within the PUC.
- If applicable, mitigation efforts with the agencies.

The WMP must detail all relationships (such as BLM and Forest Service) it has established that may benefit the wildfire mitigation program, contribute to program costs, or provide cost sharing opportunities in its WMP.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(e) - Method of Line Design

“Financially prudent and reasonably practicable methods of line design for new, planned, and existing lines to mitigate fire risk.”

The electric corporation must describe how its methods of line design for new lines and planned upgrades reduce wildfire ignition potential in heightened wildfire risk areas. This must include evaluation of costs to wildfire risk reductions. Additionally, this must include how the electric corporation clearly identifies, selects, and evaluates projects that reflect a balance of mitigation costs with resulting reduction in wildfire risk for the following, but is not limited to:

- Line rebuilding within the WMP.
- Undergrounding lines within the WMP.
- Installation of covered conductor.
- Installation of non-wooden cross arms.
- If any, describe any flexible infrastructure such as automatic reclosers and remote-controlled devices that support remote operations.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(f) - Situational Awareness and Monitoring

“Monitoring of forecasted and current weather data for the purpose of assessing and responding to current and anticipated fire risk.”

This section should include a description of how the electric corporation monitors forecasted and current weather conditions for the purpose of assessing and responding to current and anticipated wildfire risk. This description must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Identification of systems, tools, or external resources used to monitor weather, fire potential, or other situational awareness indicators.
- If applicable, a description of how the utility utilizes weather forecasting, fire potential modeling, or similar tools, to inform mitigation activities and operational decisions.
- Discussion of how situational awareness capabilities are integrated into daily or seasonal wildfire operations.
- Discussion of how the electric utility become aware of another electric corporation's de-energization (e.g., Bonneville Power Administration) and how that is integrated into operations.

Developing Standards, Procedure, and Schedules

Idaho Code 61-1803(3)(g) requires each electric corporation to “[develop] standards, procedures, and schedules, subject to timely approval of access to rights-of-way, if necessary...” for the 1) Infrastructure Inspection and Maintenance, 2) De-Energization, and 3) Vegetation Management.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(g)(i) - Infrastructure Inspection and Maintenance

“Inspection of the electric corporation's assets, infrastructure, and facilities within the areas that are identified as heightened fire risk areas in the wildfire mitigation plan, were financially prudent and reasonably practicable.”

This section should provide a summary of electric corporation's programs for the inspection of electric infrastructure, assets, and facilities within areas identified as heightened wildfire risk areas to identify and correct conditions that could contribute to wildfire ignition. This summary must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Description of inspection standards for each type of infrastructure, assets, and facilities.
- Description of schedules for inspections for each type of infrastructure, asset, and facility.
- Description of baseline routine inspection methods and enhanced inspection methods for higher fire risk areas, which may include the use of advanced or pilot technologies.
- Explanation of how identified defects are classified, prioritized, and corrected.

- Measurable targets/goals to be achieved within the WMP. E.g., miles of lines inspected, corrected identified defects, etc.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(g)(ii) - De-Energization

“De-energization of the electric corporation's power lines, if considered appropriate by the electric corporation.”

If an electric utility plans to use de-energization as part of its wildfire mitigation efforts, this section must address the standards, criteria, and operational protocols, for de-energization for encroachment of a wildfire, proactive de-energization (PSPS) to reduce fire risk, and de-energization from 3rd party energy providers. This discussion must include, but is not limited to the following:

- A summary of the conditions under which de-energization may be used, if applicable.
- The criteria or protocols for evaluating its appropriateness to engage.
- Summary of the electric corporation’s operational protocols for before, during, and after a de-energization event.
- Description of how the electric corporation will coordinate with local emergency managers, operators of critical facilities, and affected communities before, during, and after a de-energization event.
- Descriptions of other operations for limiting impact to affected communities; which may include community resource centers, emergency generators, backup batteries, etc.

I.C. § 61-1803(3)(g)(iii) - Vegetation Management

“Vegetation management within the areas that are identified as heightened fire risk areas in the wildfire mitigation plan and are within the electric corporation's rights-of-way or lands adjacent thereto and that threaten the power lines or other electric corporation infrastructure. If live marketable timber is identified for removal from timber company land adjacent to the rights-of-way, compensation at fair market value shall be made to the landowner for such timber.”

This section must provide an overview of the utility’s vegetation management program aimed at reducing the risk of vegetation-related contact with electric infrastructure in areas with

heightened wildfire risk within its rights-of-way or lands adjacent thereto. Elements of this vegetation management section overview should include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Identification, description, and citation of vegetation management standards for elevated wildfire risk areas.
- Explanation of how vegetation management standards, procedures, and schedules are different or the same as routine vegetation management.
- Description of the current and planned vegetation management practices used to mitigate wildfire risk, including any enhancements in designated wildfire areas.
- The electric corporation must explain how the electric utility considered vegetation management recommendations by other federal, state, and county agencies into its standards.
- Must include measurable targets/goals to be achieved within the WMP. E.g., miles of lines completed, risk trees removed, etc.
- Explanation of how identified risk trees are classified, prioritized, and corrected.

Other Items to Include in a WMP

- 1) An update of lessons learned from the previously approved WMP within the annual filings for WMP review and approval.
- 2) A breakdown of each program category's forecasted costs by year for both capital and O&M expenditures through the length of the WMP.
- 3) A section in which it describes how the electric corporation addresses each of the Commission's orders and Staff's recommendations.

EXHIBIT NO. 2

ELECTRIC MUNICIPALITIES AND COOPERATIVES “NEED TO KNOW” DOCUMENT

Electric Municipality and Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plan Need to Know Document

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 61-1803(3), a Wildfire Mitigation Plan (“WMP”) must be reflective and commensurate with the size and complexity of the electric corporation’s operations and of the nature of the fire risk. A WMP must also reflect a reasonable balancing of mitigation costs with the resulting reduction of wildfire risk.

The purpose of this document is to collect basic information that will aid in Staff’s review to process a WMP. Please provide the following information and provide the document along with each respective WMP filing.

1. Name of Utility
2. Location of Utility:
 - a. Located inside of the Wildland Urban Interface?
3. Please provide a map of the Company’s service territory. Please identify the Company assets and provide a PDF zoomable.
4. Total number of Customers:
 - a. Residential
 - b. Commercial
 - c. Other
5. How is energy supplied to the Company? i.e., BPA, utility-owned generation, etc.
 - a. What is the name plate capacity in Megawatts (“MW”) of utility-owned generation sources?
 - b. What is the capacity factor of utility-owned generation sources?
6. What is the annual amount of energy in Megawatt-hours that the utility serves?
7. What is the peak demand in MW and when does it occur?
8. Standard operating procedures (“SOP”) for infrastructure management and vegetation management?
 - a. Annual spend?
 - b. Annual incremental spend proposed in WMP from SOP?
9. Last 3 years of financial statements:
 - a. Income Statement
 - b. Cash Flow Statement
 - c. Balance Sheet