

**McKenzie Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Wildfire Mitigation Plan**  
**Compliance Checklist & Annual Report**

**General Requirements**

A Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) must be prepared and submitted to McKenzie Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors. The plan must be updated and resubmitted at least every 2 years.

Recent Approval Date: 10/29/2025

Previous Approval Date(s): MEC Policy 414 - Approved 8/27/25

**Wildfire Mitigation Plan Approval & Review Process**

Conduct a public comment period that is not to exceed 45-days (Montana only).

Dates of Public Comment Period: September 15, 2025 - October 15, 2025

Hold a public meeting within 60 days of comment period close (Montana only).

Date of Public Meeting: Friday, October 17, 2025

Location of Public Meeting: Virtual - 11:00 am to Noon Central Time

**Reporting Requirements**

An annual report must be submitted to McKenzie Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors by June 1st each year that summarizes the Cooperative's mitigation and compliance efforts.

Reporting Period: January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025

Date of Submittal: March 26, 2026

**Plan Content Requirements**

1. Describe the inspection, maintenance, and repair activities conducted by McKenzie Electric Cooperative in the reporting period. Provide detail on where these records are saved.

Crews performed inspections on approximately 22,818 structures in our system; this includes poles, underground transformers, junction boxes, etc. These inspections occurred along 310.18 miles of distribution line (approximately 23% of system) and 332.86 miles of transmission line (75% of system). Of these inspections, 1,976 of them were marked as needing attention and promptly corrected. These records reside in our Partner Distribution Inspection platform.

Crews inspected hardware on approximately 65 miles of transmission line, repairing or replacing components as needed. Additionally, structure assessments of the 140 existing steel structures (including base plates, anchor rods, and concrete foundations where applicable) for the entire transmission system were conducted. Existing steel poles consist of both Galvanized Steel Structures as well as Weathered Steel (Corten) and both were inspected. All action items were prioritized appropriately with some repairs completed in 2025 while other non-critical items will be scheduled for future work in 2026 or 2027. These records reside in our Partner Distribution Inspection platform.

2. Describe the vegetation management practices conducted by McKenzie Electric Cooperative in the reporting period. Provide detail on where these records are saved.

Effective vegetation management is essential for safety and system reliability. Nearly 800 miles of right-of-way were inspected in 2025, with encroaching vegetation properly trimmed to reduce outage risk. These records reside in our Partner Distribution Inspection platform.

3. Describe any facility upgrades, modifications, and prevention strategies to reduce ignition risk completed by McKenzie Electric Cooperative in the reporting period.

Pole Testing: A total of 7,230 wood poles were thoroughly tested in 2025, representing approximately 11% of our total pole population.

Line Rebuild: We continued the replacement of aging copper conductor lines with new poles and ACSR conductor in 2025. Over 50 miles were completed in 2025 bring our total to over 400 miles replaced since the project began in 2020. Furthermore, we installed over six miles of underground cable replacement and upgraded many miles of overhead power lines continuing to improve the reliability of the electric system.

4. Provide details of any events where de-energization protocols were necessary. (i.e. areas impacted, dates, times, restoration practices, etc.)

None were implemented in 2025.

5. Describe additional wildfire risk mitigation efforts taken by McKenzie Electric Cooperative during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, McKenzie Electric Cooperative implemented several additional wildfire risk mitigation measures beyond standard system maintenance. These included enhancing SCADA visibility to improve system monitoring and increasing wildfire risk discussions during daily job briefings when fire danger levels were elevated. Crews discussed steps to reduce the risk of ignition and actions to limit fire spread if an ignition occurred. Work schedules were also modified when feasible during periods of high fire danger, such as avoiding off-road travel on Red Flag warning days. In addition, inspection activities were increased during periods of elevated fire danger to help identify and address potential risks.

McKenzie Electric Cooperative also updated our Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Line Inspection to require that at least 20% of our distribution system be inspected annually vs. the previous requirement of 10%. As mentioned previously, we exceeded this requirement in 2025. Employees were properly trained on the updated SOP as well.

6. Provide information on any community outreach and public awareness efforts conducted by McKenzie Electric Cooperative during the reporting period.

During the reporting period, McKenzie Electric Cooperative conducted community outreach and public awareness efforts focused on safety and emergency response. A First Responders event was held on September 25, where education was provided on the dangers associated with electric infrastructure and cooperative staff collaborated with local officials on effective response to fire and other emergency situations. In addition, safety information and resources were shared with the public through the cooperative's website and social media channels.

7. Provide a summary of the costs incurred by McKenzie Electric Cooperative to perform the activities required in the Wildfire Mitigation Plan during the reporting period.

BKI software (plan creation and maintenance) - \$2,500  
Line rebuilds and improvements - \$4.7 Million  
Pole Testing - \$71,400  
Tree Trimming - \$103,000  
SCADA Improvements - \$320,000

8. Are there any items in the Wildfire Mitigation Plan that are not planned to be completed in the following year, hindering the Cooperative's ability to remain compliant with the Wildfire Mitigation Plan?

No

I, Chris Link, President of McKenzie Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
(Print Name)

acknowledge that the Board of Directors has reviewed and approved the annual Wildfire Mitigation Plan annual report.

McKenzie Electric Cooperative President: Chris Link  
(Signature)

Date: 3/26/24