



# House Committee on Energy and Environment

## *PUC Role in Utility Planning and Response to Wildfire Season*

**Michael Grant**  
Executive Director  
[michael.grant@puc.oregon.gov](mailto:michael.grant@puc.oregon.gov)  
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# PUC Background



PUC regulates investor-owned utilities, including PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric and Idaho Power Company

## Serves as Economic Regulator

- Mission to ensure utilities provide safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates
- Expects the regulated utilities to proactively manage all safety and reliability risks
- Uses ratemaking authority to provide incentives, including performance-based recovery of costs

### Appropriate Regulatory Compact Balance

Regulators



# Wildfire Risk – Call to Action



Following California wildfires, PUC urgently began engaging our utilities and stakeholders on fire risk

- In 2019 and 2020, required utilities to present wildfire plans: enhanced vegetation clearing, system hardening, and PSPS criteria and protocols
- In July 2019, toured Dept. of Forestry's early detection center in Southern Oregon and invited dialogue among utilities, elected leaders, and emergency planners
- January 2021, entered MOU with Dept. of Forestry to formalize joint efforts to help prevent and mitigate fire risk

# EO 20-04 Climate Action



[Governor's EO 20-04](#) included two directives to the PUC regarding wildfire risk

- Convene workshops to help all operators of transmission and distribution systems to develop and share best practices for mitigating wildfire risk
- Evaluate regulated utilities risk-based wildfire protection plans and planned activities to protect public safety



# Oregon Wildfire Electric Collaborative (OWEC)



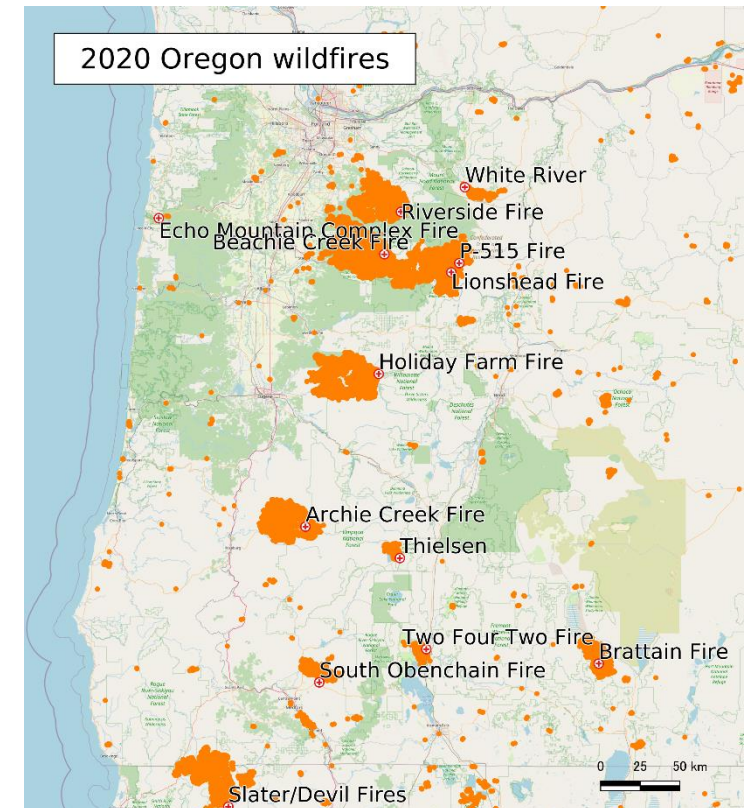
Four workshops to discuss technical wildfire mitigation issues and best practices

- IOUs and COUs, State and Fed agencies (ODF, ODOT, OSFM, ODFW, SHPO; BPA, USFS, BLM) local governments and out-of-state (CPUC, WUTC, CALFire)

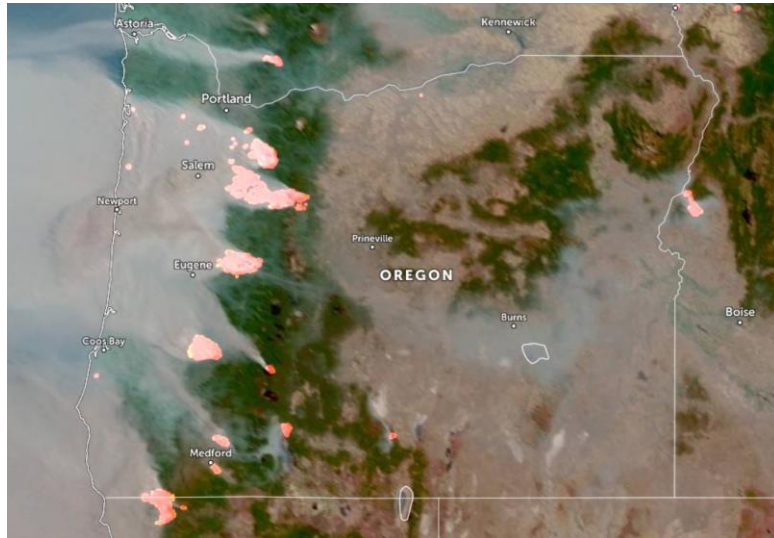
## Topics:

- Utility De-Energization and Public Safety Power Shutoffs
- Adapting Vegetation Management Programs
- 2021 Wildfire Season Forecast and Situational Awareness Tools and Modeling

For more information, go to <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/Pages/EO-20-04-Wildfire-Mitigation-Workshops.aspx>



# Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Plans



## Temporary Rules for 2021 Wildfire Season

- Focused on PSPS protocols and fire-related incident reporting
- Approved May 18

## Wildfire Mitigation Plan Rulemaking (AR 638)

- Vegetation management, wildfire risk analyses, community engagement, PSPS protocols, system hardening, cost-benefit analysis methodology
- Continuing to meet throughout the summer on key issues
- Proposed rules targeted for Jan 2022; final rules Q2 2022

<https://www.oregon.gov/puc/safety/Pages/Wildfire-Mitigation.aspx> and  
<https://apps.puc.state.or.us/edockets/DocketNoLayout.asp?DocketID=22341>

# Public Safety Power Shutoffs - PSPS



Utilities **will** need to de-energize power to reduce fire risk

PSPS links:

- <https://www.pacificpower.net/outages-safety/wildfire-safety/public-safety-power-shutoff.html>
- <https://portlandgeneral.com/outages-safety/safety/wildfire-safety>
- <https://www.idahopower.com/outages-safety/outages/>



ODOE's interactive map of service territories:

- <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/Find-Your-Utility.aspx>

Additional info on fire prevention and preparedness:

- [www.oregon.gov/puc/safety/Pages/PowerOutage-Prep.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/puc/safety/Pages/PowerOutage-Prep.aspx)

