



Where Life is Sweet

Members of Committees and Boards
STAFF REPORT
For the Meeting of June 27, 2022

Title/Subject

Hermiston Energy Services Wildfire Mitigation Plan Approval

Summary and Background

As part of Senate Bill 762 passed during the 2021 legislative session, Municipal electric utilities, people's utility districts organized under ORS chapter 261 that sell electricity, and electric cooperatives organized under ORS chapter 62 must file with the Oregon Public Utility Commission a copy of its approved risk-based wildfire mitigation plan or plan update within 30 days of approval from its governing body.

It established standards for electric utility wildfire mitigation plans, including the information utilities must include in their plans such as identification of risk areas in the utility's service territory, actions to minimize those risks and protocols for implementing public safety power shutoffs.

This year, HES with assistance from Umatilla Electric Cooperative and BKI Engineering Services undertook a comprehensive effort to formalize its existing wildfire mitigation practices into a formal plan. The plan will undergo a biennial review and be updated as needed or required.

The plan takes an active and comprehensive approach tailored for HES's service territory with the ultimate objective to minimize HES's assets as the origin or contributing factor in a wildfire's ignition. Goals and metrics measure effectiveness while allowing for retooling and improving it as practices evolve to adopt new technologies when available and feasible.

We can anticipate, plan, and prepare for the unexpected. With safety as our highest priority, HES continues to take constructive steps toward mitigating the threat of wildfires in Hermiston and the surrounding areas of our community.

Tie-In to Council Goals

N/A

Fiscal Information

WMP adoption was included in HES's 2022-23 approved budget.

Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

Approve plan as presented

Disapprove and Direct Staff to make changes

Recommended Action/Motion

Approve plan as presented.

Submitted By: Nate Rivera