

Western Electricity Coordinating Council
Western Governors' Association
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Council of Western State Foresters



Promoting *Effective* Collaborations

*Between Electric Utilities and
Land Management Agencies*

October 11–13, 2005
Salt Lake City, Utah

Detailed agenda and registration material will be available soon.
For more information, contact Mike Wells, (mike@wecc.biz) or (801) 582–0353.

The August 14, 2003 Blackout in the northeastern United States and Canada reminded us all of the critical nature of the electrical system to the economies of countries, national security and the safety of everyday citizens. A partial cause of the Blackout was high-voltage transmission lines contacting vegetation. This event has refocused the electric industry, land management agencies, and federal, state, and provincial regulators on the critical need to prevent vegetation caused outages of the transmission system. Additionally, the significant increase in the size and number of wildfires in the West has increased awareness and concern for enhancing the fire survivability aspects of critical transmission system facilities.

This workshop is intended to explore responsibilities, expectations, and issues so that we can move toward more effective collaborations between the various land management agencies and with utilities to benefit the public lands while maintaining the reliability of the electrical transmission system.

A workshop addressing Public Lands, Healthy Forests, Fire Management and Electric System Reliability

Workshop Topics Will Include:

Discussion of multiple land uses and responsibilities of the land managers including vegetation and fuels management, habitat, visual, control of noxious weeds, etc. on or adjacent to utility corridors

Panel discussion on ways to strengthen collaboration efforts among the land management agencies and utilities

Examples of successful collaboration in the West

Policies and laws that affect public land management

National Environmental Policy Act
Healthy Forest Restoration Act
National Fire Plan
Endangered Species Act

Administrative access and travel management

Enhance fire survivability of electrical transmission facilities; reducing smoke induced outages and reducing the risk of physical damage to critical power lines

Community wildfire protection planning

How the interconnected power grid operates
How and why an outage affects the entire grid.

Crucial differences between high voltage transmission lines and distribution lines feeding customers.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission report to the U.S. Congress on Utility Vegetation Management

North American Electric Reliability Council Vegetation Management Standard

Edison Electric Institute Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service

Save the Dates

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Workshop Objectives

Develop a collaborative process between land management agencies and electric utilities through increased understanding of each others needs and challenges.

Specific objectives include:

- Create an understanding of the electric grid and reliability issues
- Determine how land management agencies and utilities can work together to assure electric reliability
- Shape understanding of the federal planning and land management processes and potential involvement of utilities in those processes
- Fashion consensus between land management agencies and utilities on the issues and solution opportunities
- Consider examples of agency/utility collaboration success.
- Discussion of how to make utility corridors an asset to land management goals (e.g. wildlife habitat management, promoting healthy forests and rangelands, fire and fuel management, etc.)

Who Should Attend?

Persons from federal and state agencies empowered to set and implement policy in support of multiple resource needs including management of vegetation on energy corridors, such as:

- Regional Foresters and BLM State Directors
- Forest Supervisors
- Field level managers and planners
- Realty Specialists
- Fire Planners and Managers
- Fuels Specialists
- NEPA Specialists
- Landscape Architects
- Wildlife Biologists
- Other staff specialists with similar responsibilities

Persons with utility vegetation management responsibilities for the bulk electric transmission system in the West such as,

- Utility vegetation management directors/managers/supervisors
- Others with similar responsibilities

Other interested persons, including:

- State, Federal and Provincial regulators
- Governmental agencies with interest in the workshop

Workshop Schedule

Tuesday, October 11th — 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 12th — 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Networking Social 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 13th — 8:00 a.m. to Noon