

Fuel Removal for Wildfire Management: Performance Measurement

- Know your company's performance relative to your wildfire mitigation plan using EPRI's robust framework
- Track performance through metrics and communicate progress to stakeholders
- Evaluate new options and manage outcomes

Wildfires have a wide-reaching effect on the environment, utility assets, and surrounding communities. In the U.S., the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and added fuel in wildland-urban interfaces is expected to increase large wildland fires for decades to come.

Utilities have been refining wildfire management plans to address these increasing fire risks and meet wildfire management priorities of regulatory stakeholders. What's missing is a systematic approach for measuring performance in relation to management plans.

EPRI's Wildfire Performance Measurement project, part of its Fuel Removal for Wildfire Management offerings, can help to address this gap by providing your company a framework to evaluate, measure, and communicate your operational performance.

Benefits

This work enables your company to measure and communicate the actions you are taking to support

corporate and regulatory wildfire mitigation priorities. It also enables you to measure the impacts of continued improvements or enhancements in your management practices.

A robust framework to evaluate, modify, and pursue innovative wildfire management options can allow your company flexibility in addressing the environmental impacts of wildfires, reporting outcomes internally and externally, and engaging with stakeholders to demonstrate progress.

Findings can proactively identify real opportunities for wildfire mitigation. For example, recent EPRI results suggested that a Southwestern utility could invest \$30 million upfront on wildfire management and offset a potential \$293 million in damages from a catastrophic wildfire in the watershed.¹

Furthermore, the potential public benefits of this work are myriad: improved public safety; decreased damage to wildland-urban interfaces, including community

¹ EPRI. 2018. [Watershed Management and Economic Considerations: Case Studies](#).

structures, residences, and forestry lands; and reduced customer utility rates by decreasing damage to utility hard infrastructure and assets.

Approach

This work applies findings from over a decade of EPRI's research to your company's unique circumstances, bringing to bear a team of experts with a deep understanding of environmental impacts and the electric power industry. You can rely on the team to provide strategic and tactical, real-time technical information useful for communicating with your stakeholders.

Specific tasks include:

- Identifying existing methods for evaluating and reporting on fuel removal and vegetation management performance
- Developing a custom framework that can be used to evaluate your company's technical performance with respect to fuel and vegetation management
- Developing relevant, practical, scientifically defensible metrics to track performance
- Applying the framework and criteria to measure your company's performance, evaluate potential new projects and methodologies under consideration, and demonstrate how the metrics can be used to track results going forward
- Throughout the project, providing overall scientific background and collaboration to inform long-term strategic planning for wildfire prevention

Deliverables

- A report detailing key results and how they can be applied to your wildfire management plans.
- An annotated slide deck summarizing findings intended for key internal and external stakeholders.
- Updates webcasts throughout the project and a final turnover meeting to share results and deliver final documentation.

Price

\$75,000 to start dependent on specific scope. This project qualifies for use of Tailored Collaboration (TC) or Self-Directed Funds (SDF).

Schedule

The project duration is expected to be approximately six months, but the schedule will be developed and finalized based on your specific project scope.

Who Should Participate?

Companies seeking to measure and ultimately improve the performance of their fuel removal practices and broader wildfire management plans, as well as those seeking to communicate such results to external stakeholders.

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