MEA Clearing and Hazard Mitigation Plan
Overview

• Highlights of MEA’s clearing and vegetation plan
• Objectives for providing safe and reliable power
• Tree and vegetation hazards
• Clearing responsibilities
• Process for clearing and working with members
• Clearing Plan for Palmer area
• Questions and comments
MEA’s Mission

Provide safe, reliable power at reasonable rates with exceptional member service.
Providing Members with Reliable Power

- **Purpose of Clearing:** to provide **safe** and reliable power.
- Hazards to consider include injuries to personnel working on lines and equipment, fire hazards, and allowing for quick power recovery.
- Clearing to the full width of our easements and right of ways.
Problems
Trees and Vegetation can Cause for our Members

• Danger trees fall on lines (could energize the tree creating safety issues for residents and crews)

• Trees grow into lines

• Underground hazards

• Safety is our top priority
# Members Impacted by Tree Caused Outages in Easements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Members Impacted by Tree Caused Outages (in easements)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012 (before 7-year Cycle Clearing Plan)</td>
<td>26,954</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>412</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>2019 (June YTD)</td>
<td>0</td>
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MEA Vegetation and Clearing Plan

- Cover more than 4,500 miles of power line and serve 51,000+ members.
  - 2,333 miles overhead distribution lines
  - 2,067 miles underground distribution lines
  - 122 miles of Transmission lines

- MEA must clear over 340 miles of overhead line annually to maintain effective clearing on seven-year cycle. We work with in-house and contract clearing crews in order to accomplish this.

- We are currently on year seven of this seven-year plan.
MEA Vegetation and Clearing Plan

- Maintain clearing of vegetation and trees within our power line right of ways.

- Support TreeLine USA practices to ensure healthy trees.

- Effectively communicate with members regarding our vegetation management and work through member concerns and issues.

- Consider associated costs of clearing and the impact on MEA members.

- To balance the rights and responsibilities of both property owners and MEA, and ensure all members are treated equitably.

- Work with Fish & Wildlife recommendations for bird habitation.
Right Tree Right Place

Plant the right tree in the right place
Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

Tall trees, such as: Birch, Aspen, Spruce, Cottonwood
30'

Medium trees
30'

Small trees
15'

15' 15' 15' 15'
road
How will you know?

We provide notification to members/property owners who may be directly impacted by clearing operations by sending:

1) **Postcard notification** (minimum 2 weeks in advance)

2) **Auto-Call** (minimum 1 week in advance)

3) **Doorhangers** (minimum 96 hours before clearing starts)
Tape Colors for Vegetation Marking

**Pink** is the edge of our easement/right of way

**Orange** member discussion

**Blue** will not be cut

**Red** Will be cut
Focuses of Clearing

- Full-width of easement (standard 30 feet)
- Trees already in the line (planned outages)
- Types of Pruning
  - Side-pruning
- Crown reduction (topping) – no longer a practice at MEA
What Trees will be removed?

- Trees located in the immediate easement
- Trees blocking access to overhead or underground right of way
- Trees that have contact with lines
- Trees that could come in contact with lines and electrical equipment.
- Danger Trees - a structurally unsound tree, located on or off the right-of-way, that could come into contact with our power lines by growing, falling or swaying into energized lines.
After Clearing and Tree Removal

- 48-hours from cutting, the debris is cleaned up.
- Might not be immediate clean-up but the contractors will return to woodchip.
- Crews can leave cut logs behind per owner’s request.
- Anything over 6 inches we cut into movable pieces and leave on side of the right away for member use.
- MEA offers trade a tree program for members who have to have ornamental or valuable trees cut down.
Other MEA Clearing Efforts

- **Danger Trees** (members can fill out report online and provide to MEA or call for assistance to file a danger tree report).

- **Spruce Bark Beetle Tree Mitigation Program**
  - Removing spruce bark beetle kill trees posing a threat to our powerlines and operations throughout our service territory.
  - Since April MEA crews have removed more than 2,800+ hazardous spruce bark beetle kill trees.
  - Currently focusing on northern Trapper Creek area and Hollywood Road near KGB where most outages were identified from hazardous trees.
Eagle River Area Clearing Project
Questions?