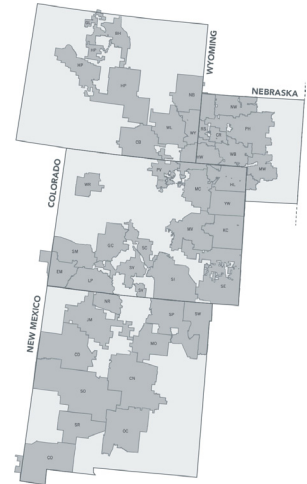


Tri-State and our members are all not-for-profits serving one million energy consumers across Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Nebraska covering nearly half of the land mass in these states. Our wildfire mitigation plans exist to safeguard our communities and protect our transmission system, ensuring the delivery of safe, reliable and affordable electricity.


STEWARDS OF THE LAND

We create site-specific wildfire mitigation plans to respect the natural vegetation and wildlife in each area including the 26,000 sq miles of forest and 900 sq miles of National Parks across our territory.

HARDENING OUR LINES

Tri-State protects nearly 6,000 miles of line, including 31,000 wooden structures, via drone monitoring and yearly visual in-person inspections to maintain their integrity and reduce the chance of them becoming an ignition source.

MANAGING VEGETATION

Our crews average 3,500+ man-hours each year performing vegetation management projects and tree removal across more than 200,000 sq miles of our service territory to enhance the safety for all of our communities.



Tri-State & Our Rural Co-op Members Are Helping to Combat Wildfire Risk

We're doing our part, but we need help

Tri-State spends 25% of our annual transmission maintenance budget on wildfire mitigation.

We are deeply committed to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve and are at the forefront of reducing the risk of wildfire by taking measures that ensure our utility infrastructure is not the origin or contributing factor for a wildfire.

However, no risk can be completely mitigated, and not-for-profit utilities are one spark away from bankruptcy. This is a severe threat to rural communities that are powered by electric cooperatives.

We are working with elected officials across our territory to modify the wildfire liability utilities face. Insurance agencies are no longer offering adequate wildfire insurance policies to cooperatives and the smaller policies they do offer have recently doubled in price for half of the coverage. This additional cost creates a burden on our members that is often passed along to end-consumers in the form of a rate increase.

To continue providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, rural electric cooperatives need protection from wildfire risks.



SCIENCE-BASED MONITORING AND ALERTS

To protect the people and ecosystems we serve, Tri-State has constructed and deployed multi-layered mitigation plans.

Preventative situational awareness is the first line of defense for fire mitigation and we're making data-driven decisions to ensure our resources are being used efficiently and effectively. Seasonally, we study wildfire risk drivers like fuels, topography and previous fire history at a landscape level to determine where fire is likely to occur. Daily, we monitor fire weather conditions including temperature, wind speed and relative humidity.

We also conduct detailed annual inspections and use satellite and drone technology to proactively identify maintenance needs. We adapt this program to keep pace with the ever-changing wildfire risk in the communities we serve because, not only do wildfire conditions fluctuate, but the population in these high-risk areas also undergo significant transformations.

RISK REDUCTION

Tri-State proactively reduces risk across our service territory based on the data generated in our situational awareness programs.

We have a robust vegetation management program to address shrubs, trees and fire fuels that risk encroaching, damaging or interfering with our system while also replacing wood structures with steel, wrapping the bottom of wood poles with fire-resistant material, and working with employees to limit the types of work done on red flag days.

These processes are time, labor and capital-intensive, therefore protecting our physical structures involves extensive planning and permitting in conjunction with federal, state and local communities. We dedicate heavy equipment such as helicopters, masticators and bucket trucks to perform this work in challenging topographical settings.

The wildfire risk in the areas we serve will continue to evolve, and Tri-State will rise to the challenge to provide the safe, reliable and affordable power our members require and deserve.



ELECTRICITY IS A BASIC NEED

Further collaboration on insurance, liability standards, permitting, early detection and funding is critical as utilities address fire mitigation and vegetation management. Together, we can better protect our communities while delivering safe, reliable and affordable power.



“We work in an industry that’s got a moral obligation to protect the environment and the people around it. Through wildfire mitigation, we’re protecting our people, their communities, livelihoods and the things they cherish, and I think that’s incredibly important.”

*Curtis Hartenstine
Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager
Tri-State G&T*



SCAN TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT TRI-STATE'S WILDFIRE
MITIGATION EFFORTS