



Avista Wildfire Resiliency Plan

Idaho Association of Commissioners & Clerks

2023



Guarding against growing risks

The risk of wildfires is increasing in our region. Above-normal fire seasons have repeated since 2000. Residential development is also quickly expanding into forested areas and other higher fire-risk locations.

A scenic landscape featuring a calm river in the foreground, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees and a small house on the left, all under a dramatic sky with soft, golden light from a low sun, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

**We are
doing more
to help
prevent
wildfires.**

A person wearing a purple long-sleeved shirt, camouflage pants, and black gloves is using an orange and black chainsaw to cut a tree trunk. The tree is bare, and several cut branches are visible. The person is standing on a yellow ladder or platform. The background is a light, overcast sky.

A wise investment in preparedness

Avista is committed to keeping people and property safe. In 2020, we released our 10-year Wildfire Resiliency Plan for preventing, mitigating and reducing the impact of wildfires.

Our four-part plan includes:

1. Grid Hardening

Replace and/or strengthen electric infrastructure, especially in fire-prone areas, to protect it from possible damage and reduce the likelihood of spark-ignition sources.



Grid Hardening

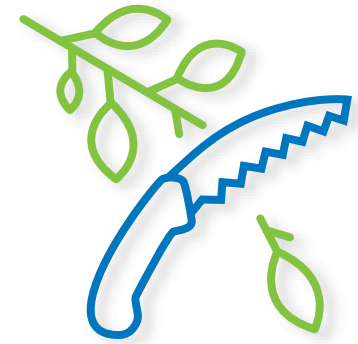


Grid Hardening



2. Vegetation Management

Inspect 100% of the electric system annually to identify and remove dead, dying and diseased trees. And incorporate remote sensing technologies like LiDAR and Satellite images to assist with inspections.





Ground Patrol

An overview of the plan:

3. Situational awareness

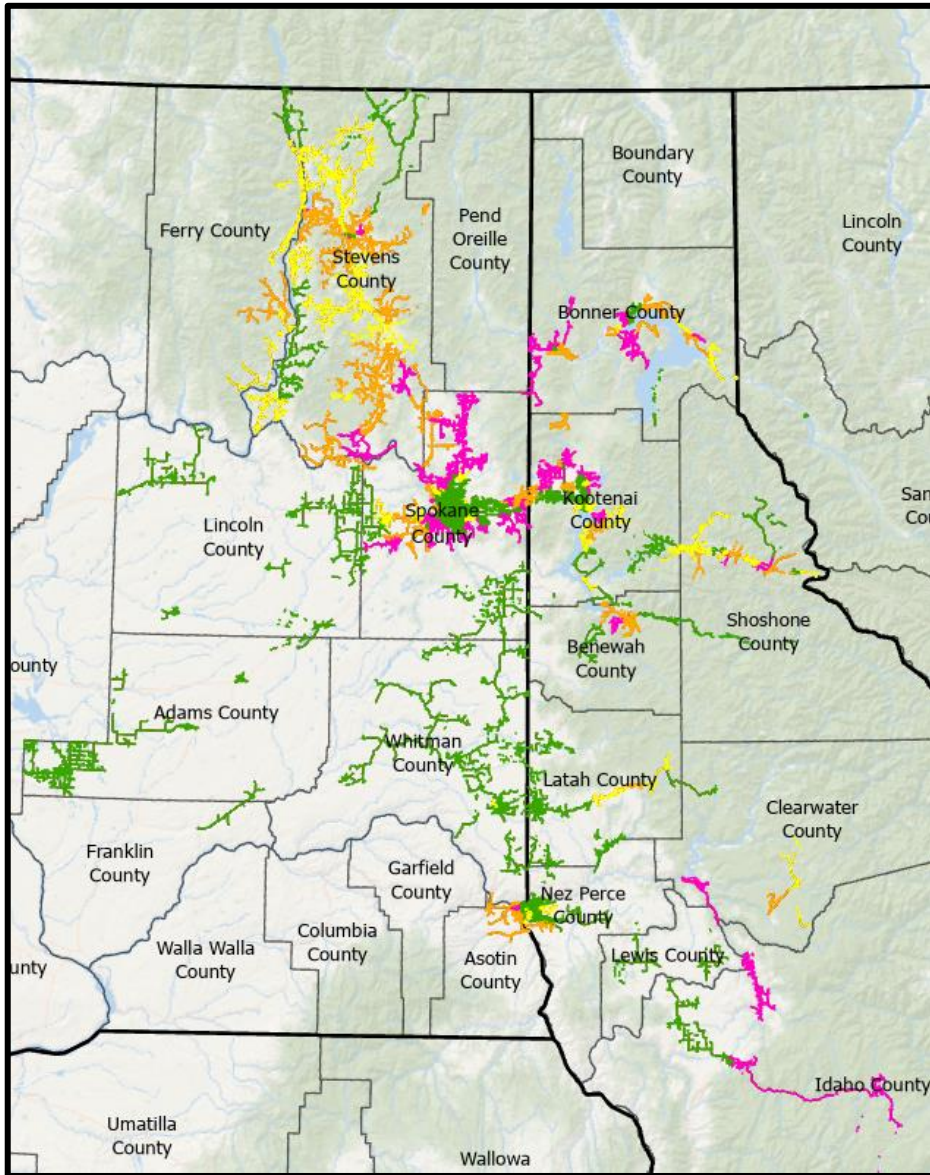
Active monitoring of potential fire risk and aligning system protection with that risk.



Max	Area_Office	Feeder	Setting	DLM	O/C	04-23	04-24	04-25	04-26	04-27	04-28	04-29	04-30
4.9	Colville	KET12F2	OFF	YES		0.1	0.1	2.3	2.8	4.9	2.4	2.6	2.5
4.9	Colville	ORI12F3	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	1.9	2.3	4.9	4.4	4.0	4.0
4.9	Colville	VAL12F1	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	2.0	2.6	4.9	3.3	4.7	4.4
5.0	CDA	SPL361	OFF	YES		0.1	0.1	2.3	2.9	2.9	5.0	4.7	4.5
4.7	CDA	BLU322	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	0.1	2.4	2.5	4.7	4.3	2.5
4.6	CDA	IDR253	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	0.1	2.1	2.5	4.6	4.1	2.3
4.8	Davenport	FOR12F1	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	2.1	2.3	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.2
4.7	Davenport	LTF34F1	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	2.1	2.4	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.2
4.4	Davenport	ODS12F1	OFF	NO		0.1	1.7	2.0	3.1	3.8	4.4	4.2	3.8
4.9	Deer Park	DEP12F1	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	2.3	2.5	2.9	4.9	4.5	2.7
4.8	Deer Park	MLN12F1	OFF	YES		0.1	0.1	1.9	2.4	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.4
4.7	Deer Park	COB12F2	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	1.8	2.0	2.6	4.7	4.2	2.4
4.7	Grangeville	ORO1281	OFF	YES		0.1	0.1	1.0	2.1	2.7	4.7	4.1	2.6
4.5	Grangeville	KAM1293	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	0.4	1.7	2.7	4.5	4.2	2.5
4.3	Grangeville	ORO1280	OFF	ADV		0.1	0.1	0.7	1.8	2.3	4.3	3.8	2.1

Fire Weather Dashboard

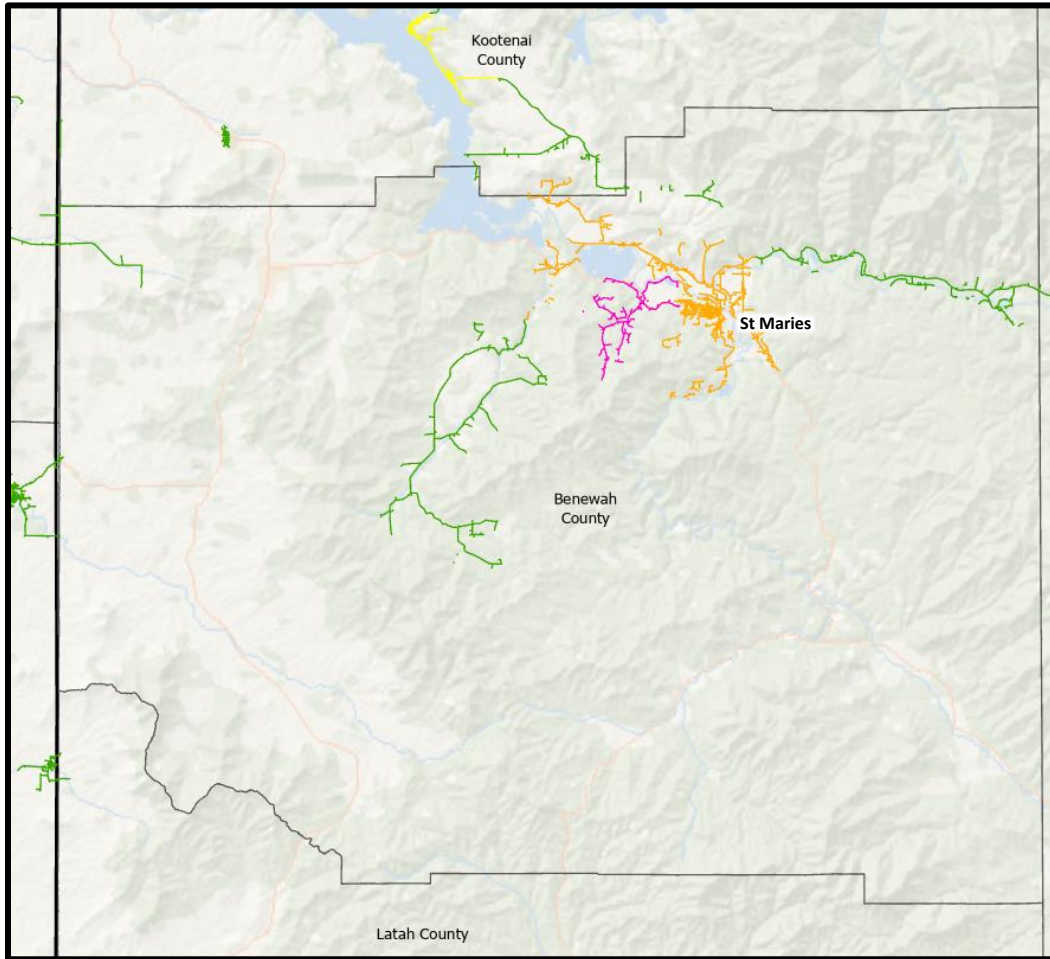
Wildland Urban Interface Mapping System Overview







ID Electric Customers	WA Electric Customers	Total
133,243	205,433	338,676
ID Service Area Pop.	WA Service Area Pop.	Total
351,586	903,982	1,255,568

Wildfire Risk	ID (miles)	WA (miles)	Total
Tier 0	1,180.8	2,669.5	3,852.7
Tier 1	349.3	779.5	1,128.9
Tier 2	418.2	1,056.3	1,474.5
Tier 3	619.4	651.9	1,271.3
Totals	2,567.7	5,157.1	7,727.3

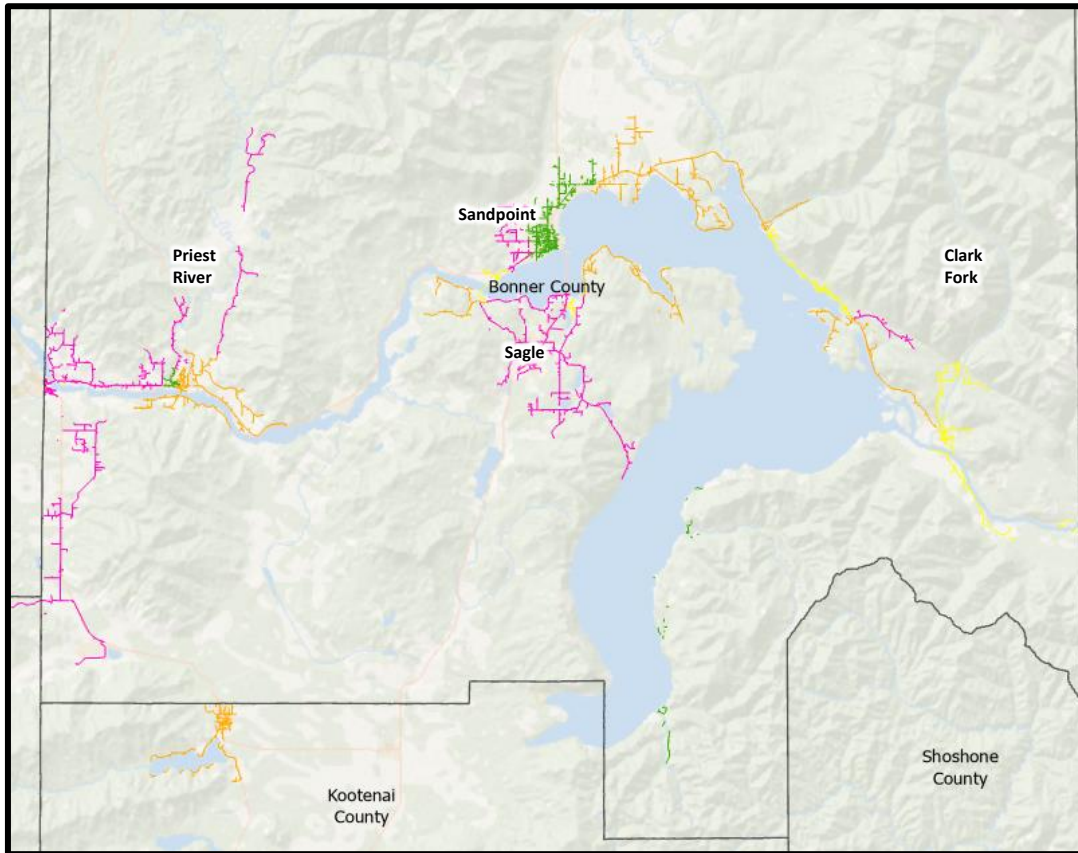
Benewah County







County Population: 9,530
County Size: 784 (sq mi)

Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)	AVA Elec Cust	
Tier 0 	62.8	Residential	3,034
Tier 1 	0.0	Commercial	601
Tier 2 	73.6	Industrial	2
Tier 3 	17.9	Life Support	5
Total	154.3		

Bonner County

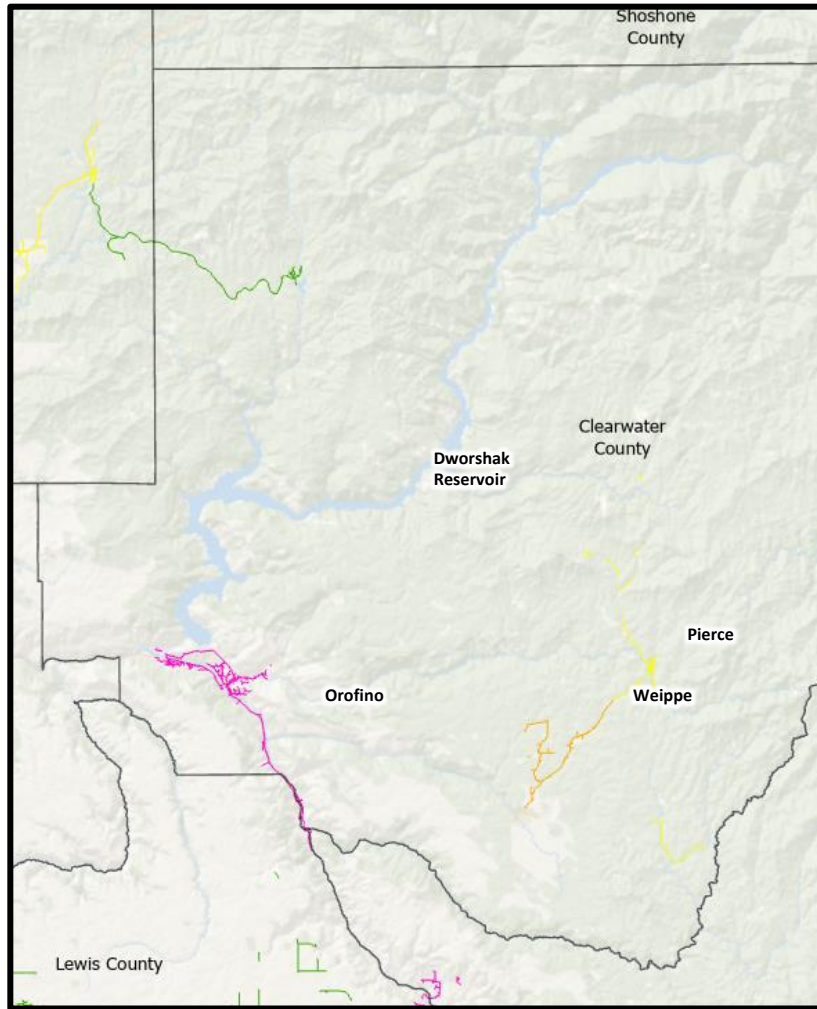


County Population:
47,110
County Size: 1918.1 (sq
mi)

Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	66.8
Tier 1 	50.7
Tier 2 	133.3
Tier 3 	178.5
Total	429.4





AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	13,741
Commercial	3,149
Industrial	23
Life Support	14





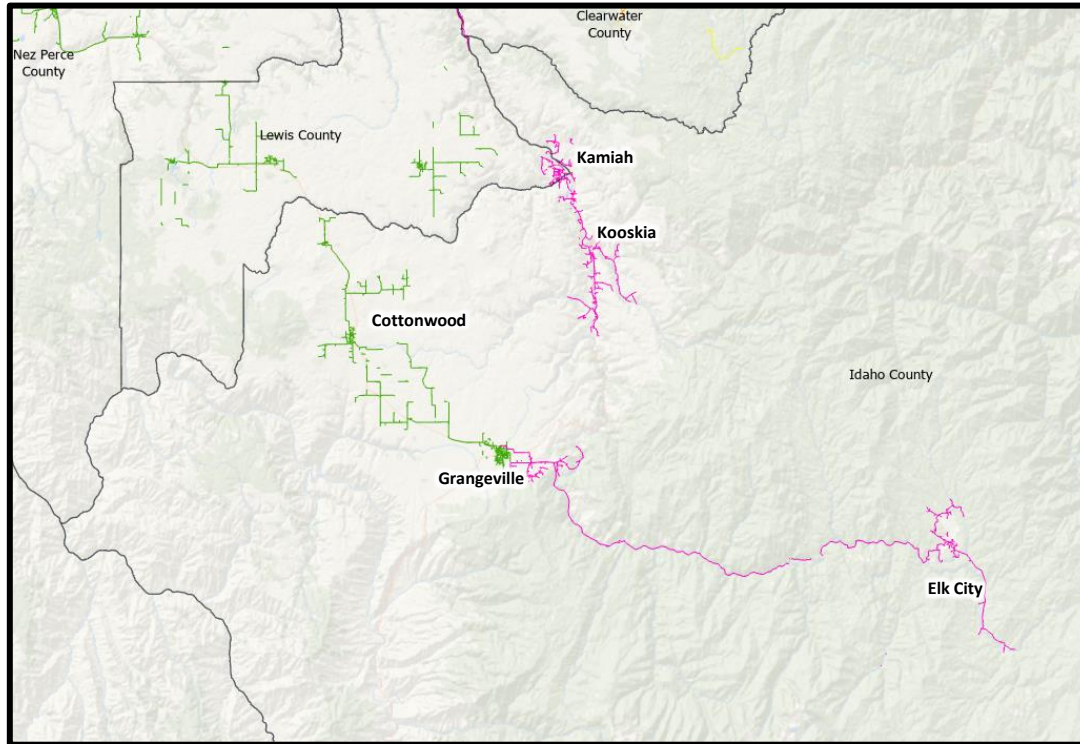
Clearwater County





County Population: 8,734
 County Size: 2488.1 (sq mi)

Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	14.2
Tier 1 	22.5
Tier 2 	20.2
Tier 3 	47.0
Total	104.0

AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	2,153
Commercial	731
Industrial	3
Life Support	3

Idaho County



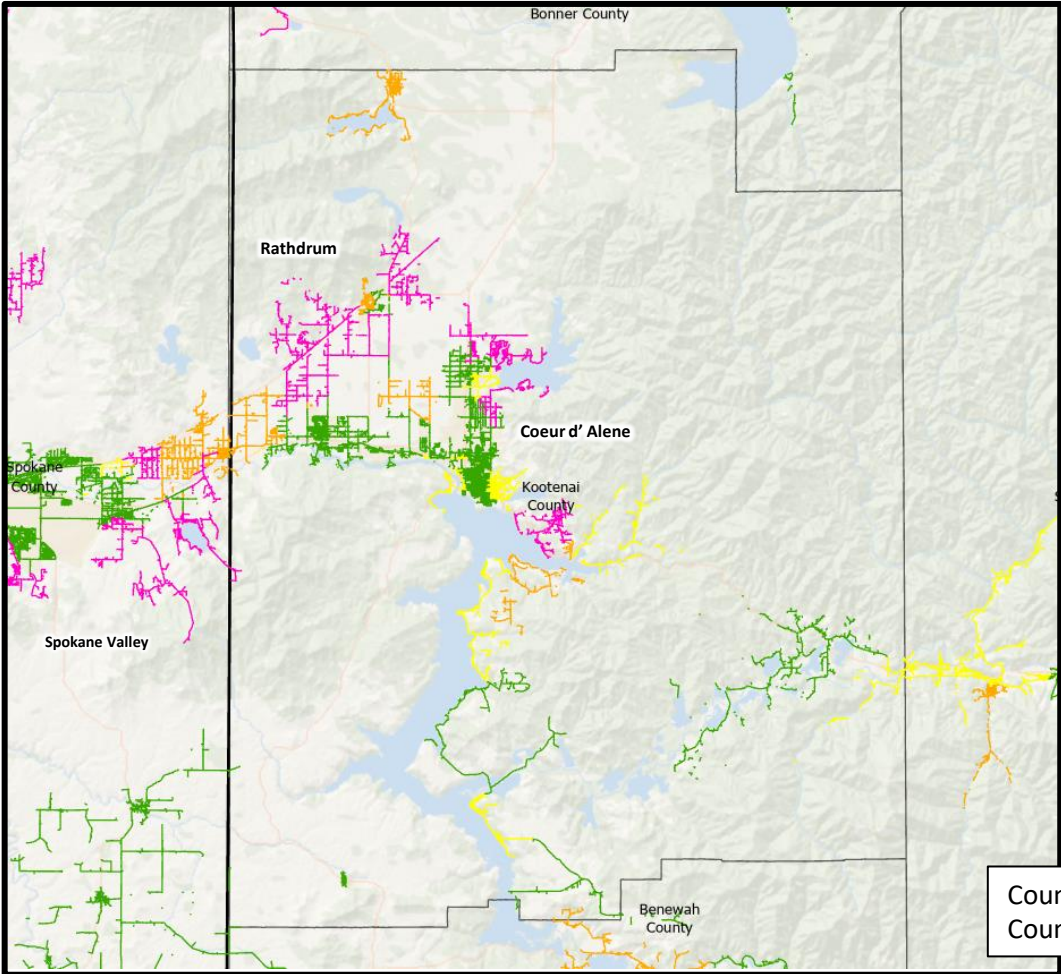
Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	117.5
Tier 1 	0.0
Tier 2 	0.0
Tier 3 	169.6
Total	287.1





AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	4,325
Commercial	1,117
Industrial	16
Life Support	6

County Population: 16,541
 County Size: 8,503.6 (sq mi)



Kootenai County

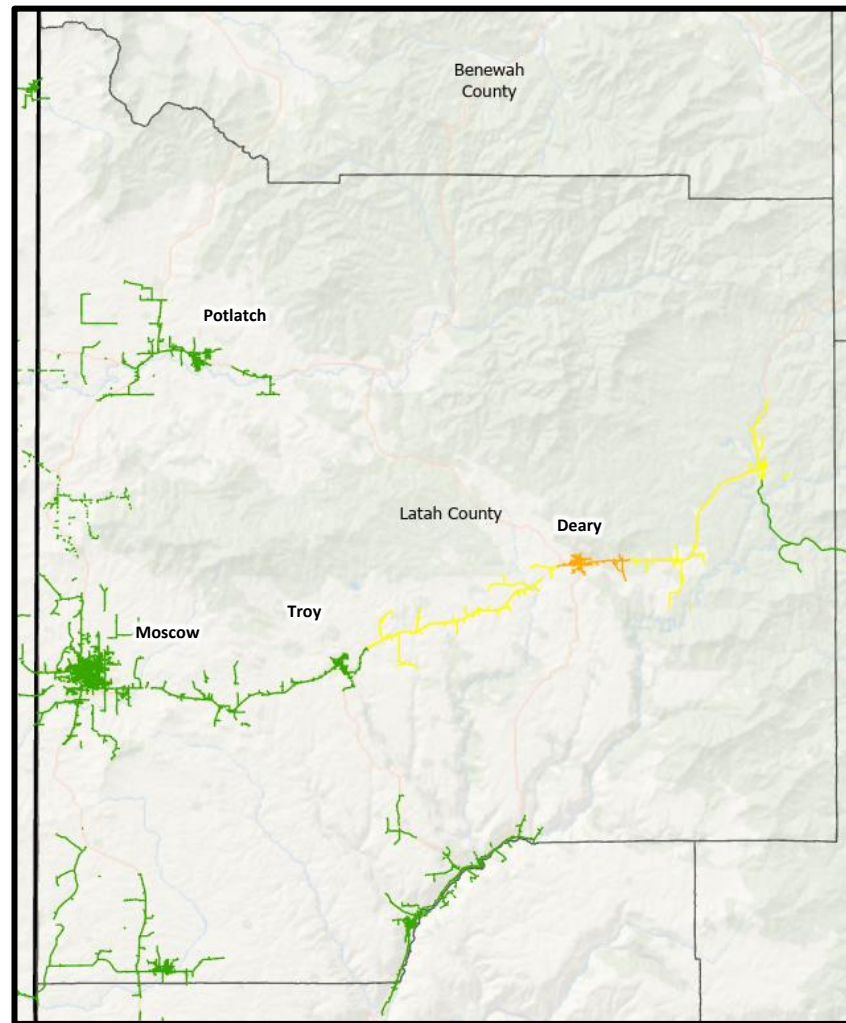


Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	308.3
Tier 1 	101.6
Tier 2 	98.0
Tier 3 	155.4
Total	663.3





AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	52,877
Commercial	10,596
Industrial	43
Life Support	35



Latah County

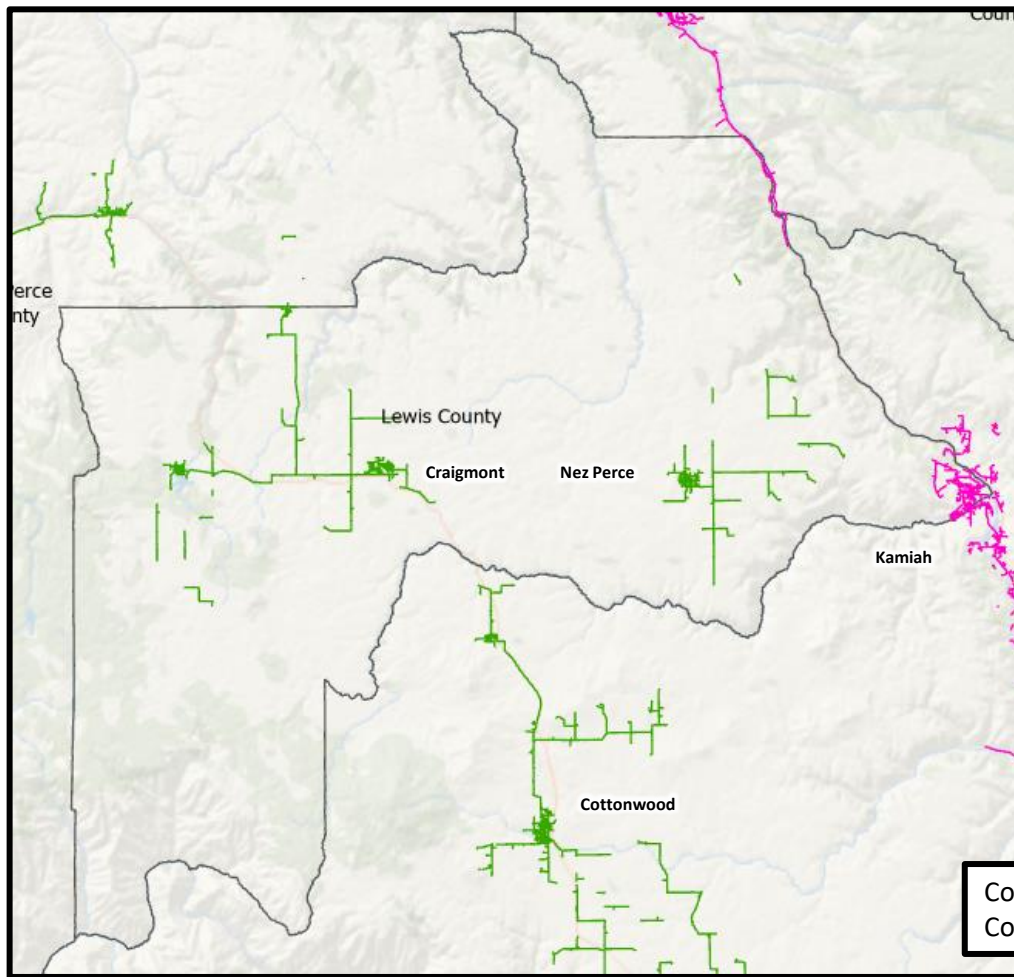


County Population: 39,517
 County Size: 1,076.8 (sq mi)

Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	251.3
Tier 1 	48.7
Tier 2 	10.5
Tier 3 	0.0
Total	310.4





AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	13,918
Commercial	3,134
Industrial	7
Life Support	8





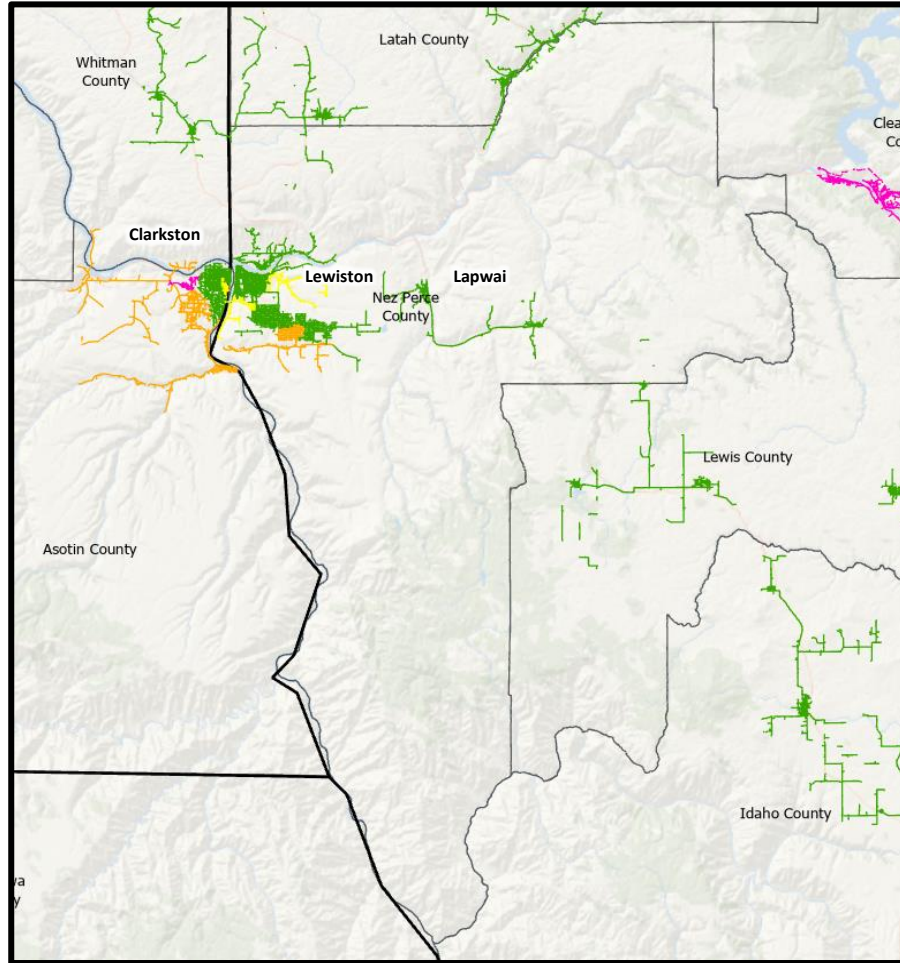
Lewis County

County Population: 3,533
 County Size: 479.7 (sq mi)

Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	78.5
Tier 1 	0.0
Tier 2 	0.0
Tier 3 	21.3
Total	99.7





AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	1,636
Commercial	478
Industrial	10
Life Support	4





Nez Perce County

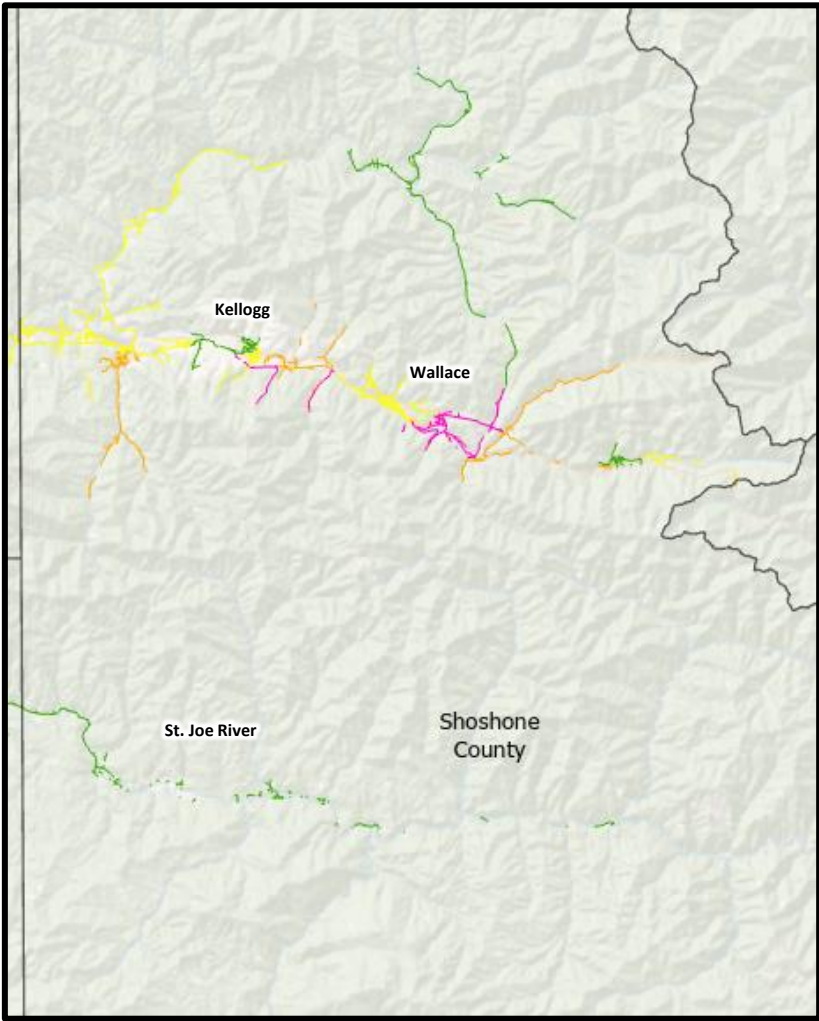
County Population: 42,090
 County Size: 856.5 (sq mi)

Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	206.3
Tier 1 	27.5
Tier 2 	31.8
Tier 3 	0.0
Total	265.6





AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	16,763
Commercial	3,027
Industrial	37
Life Support	7



Shoshone County



County Population: 13,169
 County Size: 2,642.8 (sq mi)

Fire Risk Tier	Pri OH (miles)
Tier 0 	75.6
Tier 1 	98.4
Tier 2 	50.8
Tier 3 	29.6
Total	253.9

AVA Elec Cust	
Residential	7,807
Commercial	1,844
Industrial	20
Life Support	4

An overview of the plan:

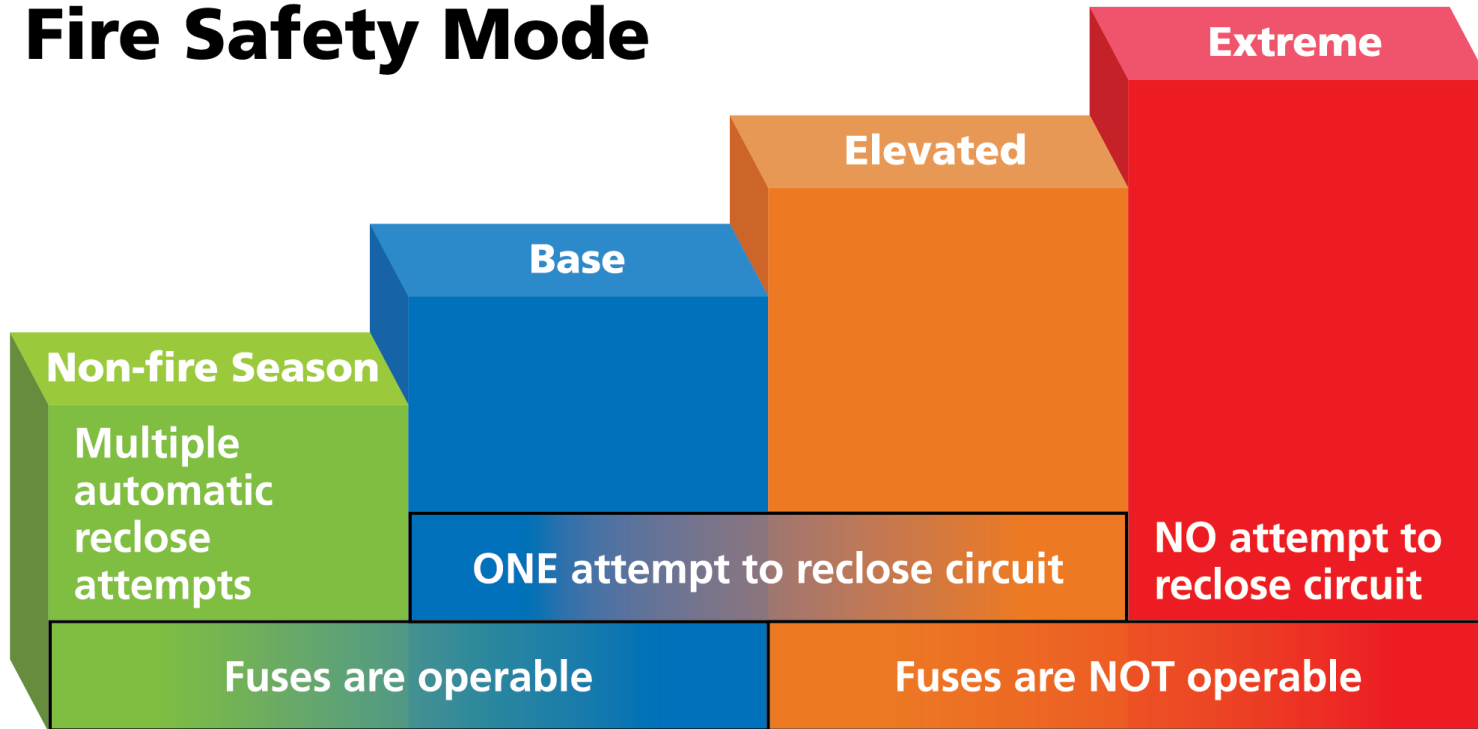
4. Operations and Emergency Response

Partnering with first responders to promote safety for workers and citizens.



Full Range of Protection Settings

Fire Safety Mode



A permanent fault (circuit that won't close automatically) requires thorough inspection before reclosing the circuit. This additional step may extend the duration of a outage.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)

- PSPS is preemptively turning off power to select locations prior to extreme weather impacts
- Avista is targeting to be ready to use PSPS by the 2024 wildfire season
- We are developing criteria and customer support necessary to implement PSPS
- Coordination with public safety partners, key stakeholders and customers is essential





Discussion

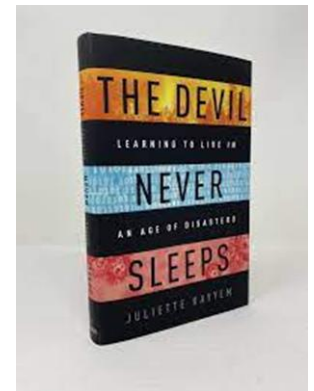
Emergency Response in Your County

- What should we be aware of?
 - Top safety priorities
 - Critical infrastructure
 - Concerns
- How is your community preparing for wildfire season?
- If you experienced an extended power outage, what support would your community need?
- Key contacts and notification process
- Languages for translation
- Partnership opportunities for public safety and community engagement
- Next steps...

*“The future may still be unpredictable, but nowadays, disasters are not. We live in a time of constant, consistent catastrophe, where things more often go wrong than they go right. **So why do we still fumble when disaster hits? Why are we always one step behind?”***

The Devil Never Sleeps – Learning to Live in an Age of Disasters

- Juliette Kayyem



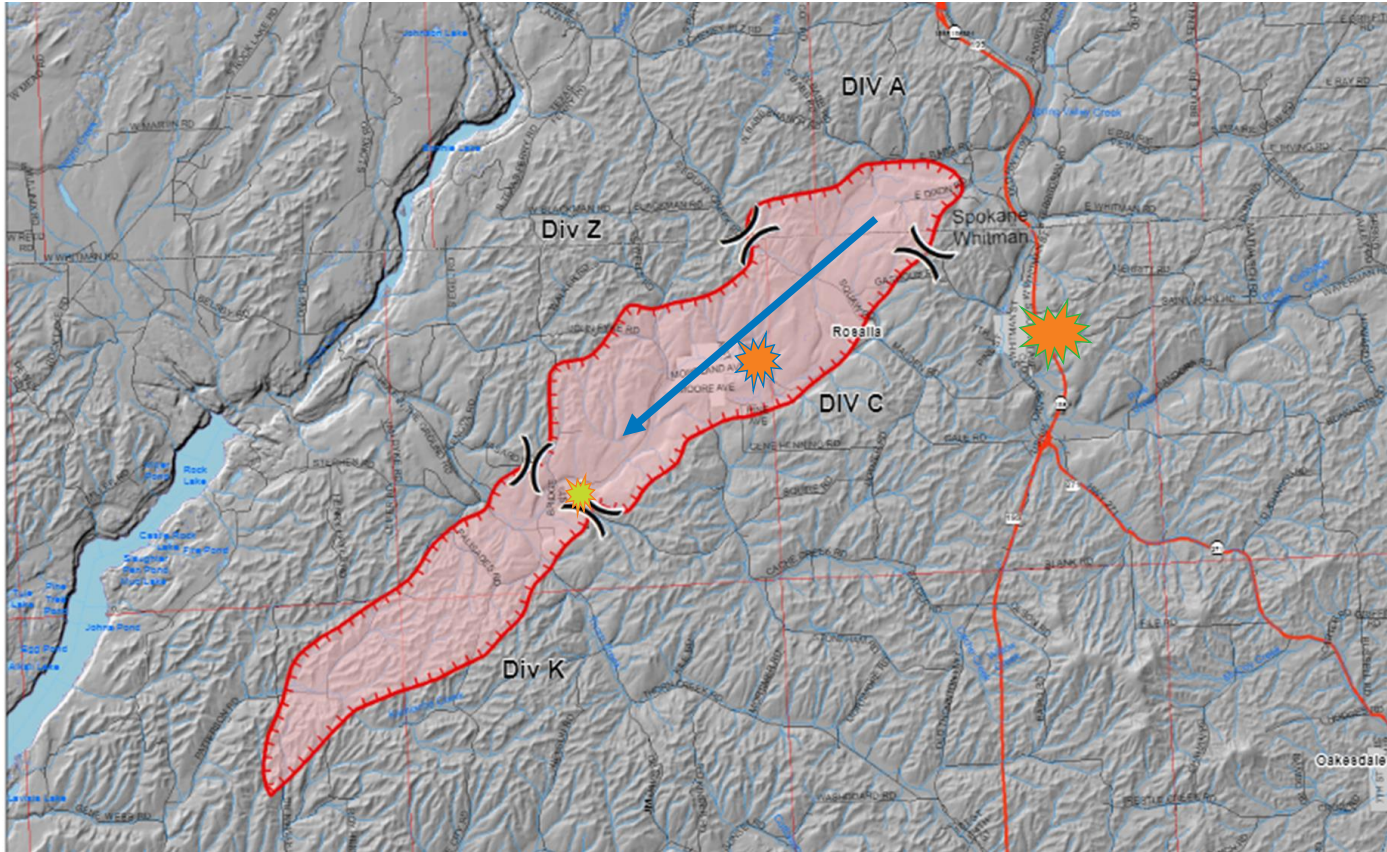


On September 7, 2020, three wildfires started in Whitman County alone, all within a two-hour period.

County emergency management officials confirmed that ***any one of these fires would have overwhelmed their available resources.***

Three out of control wildfires rapidly burning simultaneously in rural Whitman County created an unprecedented burden on the **limited local resources.**

Whitman County issued a state of emergency on September 8th due to the destructive and uncontrolled wildfires burning within the county.



RIEFING
Date: 9/14/2020
Map Created Date: 09/13/2020 @ 2000
Babb-Malden Fi

Fire consumed 15,000 acres+ in less than 3 hours













The Two Sides of a Disaster Framework



The Two Sides of a Disaster Framework

Left of boom

Focus on things we can do to stop it from happening



Right of boom

Focus on the things we can do to pick up the pieces

Success is viewed as keeping to the left of the boom

Failure as right of the boom



Despite our best efforts, the “boom” will arrive.

Disaster management is about being ready for any boom in any shape.

Important to focus on the key skills needed to manage the boom.

So we **MUST** focus on the **right-of-boom** activities – all those things we do to respond, recover and build more resilience.

“I am well aware that the ability to prepare for disaster management is often a luxury of those with time and capacity. When people can barely make their monthly rent, it seems a little precious to discuss building bandwidth.

The reason, however, why each of us should embrace the day before tomorrow is to relieve limited public safety and response resources for those who have less capacity to do so.

We must recognize that, in this era of catastrophes, our preparedness allows for more help to flow to those who can't.”

- Juliette Kayyem

“The devil never sleeps. But he only wins if we don’t do better next time.”

- Jane Cage, 2011 tornado survivor, Joplin, Missouri



Thank you