PROJECT DETAILS

Project: Advanced Solutions for Wildfire Mitigation
Applicant/Selectee: UMS Group
GRIP Program: Smart Grid Grants (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40107)
Federal cost share: $38,480,244
Recipient cost share: $38,480,244
Project Location: California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington
Project type: Monitoring and Control

HELPFUL LINKS

Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program
About the Grid Deployment Office

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

The proposed work will significantly enhance grid monitoring and control capabilities, enabling wildfire mitigation and the provision of a range of benefits to local communities, including:

- Accelerating the deployment of advanced wildfire risk mitigation technologies—particularly among smaller, publicly-owned utilities in the western U.S.—by demonstrating success and reducing technology risk perceptions.
- Reducing the probability and consequence of ignitions from utility equipment failures, or from contact between utility equipment and vegetation or other materials.
- Improving utility situational awareness, particularly in high fire-threat areas.
- Reducing outage frequencies and durations.
- Improving community awareness of the actions being taken within this project, and where they fit within the context of the full suite of fire mitigations deployed by utilities with at least 75% of outreach conducted within disadvantaged communities (DACs).
- Increasing wildfire awareness within communities through direct engagement and providing support for specific actions that can be taken to increase wildfire resilience.
- Decreasing environmental exposure and burdens by reducing direct impacts from fires (such as destruction of personal property, local business impacts, and human casualties) and improved air quality.
- Using existing collective bargaining agreements between project partner utilities and local labor unions, as well as apprenticeship programs, labor-management training partnerships, and quality pre-apprenticeship programs, which will be utilized in implementation.
- Developing and leveraging a workforce pipeline through local networks to ensure job quality and workforce continuity.
- Increasing energy resilience and offering reliability benefits to communities, including reduced outage frequency and duration, and better decision-making that may reduce both the scope and scale of public safety power shutoff events.
- Promoting the use of clean energy alternatives like solar and storage to support microgrids in high-risk, highly rural areas for energy autonomy and energy security.

Published October 2023. Fact sheet information is based on project applications at the time of publication and should not be considered final.