

## **Wildfire Mitigation Plan 2026-2028 Data Response**

BVES Data Request No.	OEIS-P-WMP 2025-BVES-003
Request Date:	April 29, 2025
Due Date:	May 2, 2025
Requester:	Blythe Denton, Senior Wildfire Safety Analyst

### **SUBJECT(S):**

- Q01. Regarding Vegetation Management Trainings
- Q02. Regarding Oil Filled Aerial Recloser Replacement Activity
- Q03. Regarding Current link for BVES AFN Plan
- Q04. Regarding Response to ACI BVES-25U-05
- Q05. Regarding Response to ACI BVES-25U-01

Total Attachments:

## **BVES RESPONSE**

### **Q01. Regarding Vegetation Management Trainings:**

A column in Table 9-9 titled “References to Electrical Corporation Training / Qualification Programs” contains “N/A” in each cell. On page 227, BVES states that “Specific training requirements are provided in Table 9[-]9 Vegetation Management Qualifications and Training.”

- a. Clarify the meaning of “N/A” in the column titled “References to Electrical Corporation Training / Qualification Programs” in Table 9-9.
- b. Clarify in which column of Table 9-9 Energy Safety can locate the “Specific training requirements.”

#### **RESPONSE:**

- a) N/A means that BVES does not have any References to Electrical Corporation Training / Qualification Programs.
- b) Specific training requirements are listed in the “Minimum Qualifications for Target Role” column.

### **Q02. Regarding Oil Filled Aerial Recloser Replacement Activity:**

In its 2026-2028 Base WMP, BVES’s Switch and Field Device Automation (GD\_8) activity provides targets for switches connected to SCADA. Additionally on page 154, under the same tracking ID, BVES states that in 2023 it started to automate switch and field devices, and it plans to replace the remaining oil filled Aerial Reclosers with Vacuum Interrupter Pulse Closing switches by the end of 2026.

- a. Provide the estimated number of remaining oil filled Aerial Reclosers at the end of 2025 that BVES is targeting to replace in 2026.

**RESPONSE:** BVES plans to change out the remaining last (4) four oil filled Aerial Reclosers with Vacuum Interrupter Pulse Closing switches by end of 2025. BVES will not have any oil filled Aerial Reclosers to be replace in 2026.

### **Q03. Regarding Current link for BVES AFN Plan:**

Starting on page 285 of its 2026-2028 Base WMP in section 11, the BVES mentions its AFN Plan but the link provided is broken.

- a. Provide an updated link as well as the BVES AFN Plan document itself for reference.

**RESPONSE:** Link for BVES AFN Plan filed on February 20, 2025 is provided below:

**Q04. Regarding Response to ACI BVES-25U-05:**

On page D-393 of the 2026-2028 Base WMP, BVES discusses advantages and disadvantages of satellite-based inspections. In the table ranking “Satellite-based inspections with ground-based inspections” as the third most effective method of four methods, BVES states satellite “Lacks the thoroughness and accuracy of LiDAR. Satellite inspection is somewhat blocked by the canopy that exists above distribution circuits.” In the conclusory paragraph, BVES states “Bear Valley’s entire service area is in the HFTD in a heavily treed mountainous area. The canopy above distribution lines poses a challenge to inspection from above.”

Given the statements above:

- a. Expand on the discussion within BVES’s response to BVES-25U-05 to explain how satellite-based inspection add efficiency, effectiveness, and risk-reduction to LiDAR and ground inspections. In this explanation, account for the tree cover of BVES’s territory, and the lower thoroughness and accuracy of satellite-based inspection.
- b. Explain how BVES’s inspection strategy and inspection priorities are informed by satellite-based inspection results.
- c. Provide documentation showing a decision about inspection strategy and/or priorities that was informed by satellite-based inspection results.

**RESPONSE:**

A. Satellite-based inspections offer a faster turnaround time compared to LiDAR, enabling more frequent updates and delivering valuable interim insights that complement LiDAR analysis. Satellite imagery can be used to efficiently verify the continued validity of LiDAR results months after a survey or to identify significant changes that may have occurred since. Although limitations such as tree cover, lower resolution, and reduced accuracy prevent satellite imagery from fully replacing LiDAR, its higher-frequency analyses provide added value by supporting more timely, near-real-time risk assessments.

B. Satellite imaging can be used to rapidly assess power lines following major events, such as wildfires. By leveraging up-to-date imagery, subject matter experts (SMEs) can quickly revisit and adjust previous prioritizations to reflect recent changes that may not have been captured during the last annual update.

C. BVES is still working to incorporate satellite imagery into its strategic planning protocols, and does not have documentation of specific instances of satellite-based risk prioritization at this time.

Q05. Regarding Response to ACI BVES-25U-01:

On pages D-379 to D-380 of its 2026-2028 Base WMP, BVES provides a description of WMP Joint IOU Monthly Meetings relating to various WMP topics in which BVES collaborates with other IOUs.

- a. Specify who hosts these meetings.
- b. Provide a list of meetings held from January 2024 to February 2025 that BVES attended, including:
  - i. The date the meeting was held
  - ii. The topic(s) covered during each meeting
- c. BVES also discusses how “utilities also collaborate by participating in various industry related events.” (p. D-379). Provide a list of the industry related events BVES attended or participated in from January 2024 to February 2025, including:
  - i. The date the event was held
  - ii. The name of the event
  - iii. The topic(s) covered at the event
- d. Provide a list of the lessons learned BVES has had from discussions and collaboration with other IOUs and provide an explanation of how these lessons learned impacted its 2026- 2028 Base WMP.
- e. Provide a description of how BVES has collaborated with other IOUs for each of the following, outside of any Energy Safety-led meetings:
  - i. Climate change
  - ii. Community Vulnerability
  - iii. Vegetation management

## RESPONSE:



A,B,C) Please see attached document “ Data Request OEIS-P-WMP\_2025-BVES-003 RESPONSE Q5”.

D) As part of the WMP Joint IOU Monthly Meetings and various industry-related events, BVES has identified key lessons learned in areas such as Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS), PSPS response, customer impact mitigation, communication/notification improvements, operational coordination standardization, and situational awareness. These insights will be incorporated into the development of the 2026-2028 BVES Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP).

E) BVES has been actively participating in the Statewide Access and Functional Needs/Joint IOU Meeting and the Access and Functional Needs/Joint IOU Collaborative Council Meeting on a quarterly basis. These forums have focused on PSPS-related topics, particularly community vulnerability, where procedures and lessons learned during PSPS events are shared. Additionally, BVES has engaged in other industry events, such as the EUCI Wildfire Mitigation Conference, CEATI Transmission & Distribution Conference, and the IEEE PES T&D Conference and Exposition. These events have provided valuable collaboration on issues related to climate change and vegetation management, further informing BVES's approach to wildfire mitigation.