



A GRID FORWARD SYMPOSIUM

# Standing Up to Wildfire

## Practical Tech and Tactics for Utilities

Utilities play a central role in mitigating the risks and impacts of wildfires, working alongside regulators, policymakers, technology providers and other organizations. Join the Grid Forward community to explore the evolving tools, strategies, and policies making a tangible difference for power providers and the communities they serve.

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**June 4, 2025 | 9:30AM - 4:00PM**  
**Amaterra | Portland, OR**

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### Lead Sponsors:



# Agenda

**Register Today**



# A 360° View of Grid-Focused Wildfire Strategy

Protecting the grid from wildfire risk involves a dedicated set of experts across many organizations: utilities working closely with local, state and federal offices as well as innovative tech solution providers. This event will give all attendees insight into how to work together to make grid infrastructure and communities safer and more resilient.

## The Key Players Working Together

This symposium addresses the critical needs and responsibilities of keeping the power on safely in today's wildfire reality. It will be a unique opportunity for the whole energy ecosystem to build knowledge and connections.

- **State regulators** - NARUC attendees encouraged
- **Utility teams** working on wildfire planning, mitigation, management, communications and follow-up
- **Policy makers** working to help utilities adapt quickly
- **Technology solution providers**
- **Community first responders and organizers**

## Multiple Ways to Engage and Share

With several types of sessions, this symposium will give each attendee the chance to receive and share practical information to advance wildfire initiatives.

- **Panels** on wildfire mitigation, utility planning, regulatory policies and more
- **Small-group huddle discussions** on new technology and approaches
- **Case studies** of applied solutions and practices working today in the field
- **Networking** with experts at the front lines of wildfire risk mitigation



“ Wildfire is a societal issue that demands societal solutions. Grid Forward’s gatherings are opportunities to build relationships, form partnerships, learn and advance important work.”

**Maria Pope**, President & CEO, Portland General Electric



# Wildfire Symposium Agenda WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025

9:00 AM	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>
9:30 AM	<b>OPENING PLENARY: Standing Up a Coordinated Front to Reduce Wildfire Risk and Losses</b> <i>Dave Winnacker</i> , Fire Chief (ret) Policy Advisor, Western Fire Chiefs Association <i>Bryan Hannegan</i> , President and CEO, Holy Cross Energy
10:15 AM	<b>PANEL: Utility Planning and Implementation of Wildfire Plans</b> <i>Dave Danner</i> , former commissioner, Washington UTC <i>Kellie Cloud</i> , Senior Director, Wildfire & Operational Compliance, PGE <i>Jay Leyno</i> , Director, Wildfire Mitigation PMO, PG&E <i>David Bayard</i> , Manager, Wildfire Risk Management, Puget Sound Energy <i>Andrew Trombley</i> , Community Wildfire Safety Plan-Program Mgr., PG&E
10:15 AM	<b>CASE STUDY: Data-Driven Resilience: How Inland Power Reduced Wildfire Risk</b> <i>Phil Chen</i> , Solutions Consultant, Overstory <i>Patrick Larsen</i> , Vegetation and Utility Inspection Manager, Inland Power
10:15 AM	<b>CASE STUDY: Don't Get Burned: Know your Risk to Build a Better Plan</b> <i>Jeannine Parisi</i> , Resiliency Program Manager, EWEB <i>Chris Moran</i> , Director, Fire Science, Pyrologix
11:00 AM	<b>SMALL-GROUP HUDDLE DISCUSSIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sensing and Early Detection</b>  <i>Stephen Maisonet</i>, Sales Director-US, OroraTech,  <i>Ben Hanson</i>, Vice President, North America Sales, Pano</li> <li>• <b>Quantifying Value of Resilience Investments</b>  <i>Kyra Howe</i>, Utility Analyst, Hawaii PUC, <i>Mishal Thadani</i>, CEO, Rhizome</li> <li>• <b>Efficient Capital Expenditure for Response and Rebuilding</b>  <i>Bret Simon</i>, Utilities Vertical Leader, Exodigo, <i>Edward Lodge</i>, Commissioner, Idaho PUC</li> <li>• <b>Bridging Community and Utility Wildfire Efforts</b>  <i>Kim Kosmas</i>, Senior Public Education Officer, Portland Fire &amp; Rescue  <i>Alan Fitzpatrick</i>, Wildland Coordinator, Portland Fire &amp; Rescue  <i>Nick Russell</i>, VP of Operations, Watch Duty</li> <li>• <b>Insurance and Alternative Risk Financing</b>  <i>Matthew Dwyer</i>, Director, Corporate Risk Management, Edison International  <i>David Heller</i>, VP, Enterprise Risk Management and General Auditor, Edison International</li> </ul>
11:45 AM	<b>Lunch + Networking + Demos</b>
1:00 PM	<b>PANEL: Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for Wildfire Resilience</b> <i>Melissa Semcer</i> , Chief Strategist & Principal Consultant, Climate, Wildfire and Energy Strategies, LLC, <i>Riaz Mohammed</i> , Wildfire Regulatory Policy Specialist, Xcel Energy, <i>Ann Rendahl</i> , Commissioner, Washington UTC, <i>Caroline Thomas Jacobs</i> , Director, California Office of Energy Infrastructure and Safety



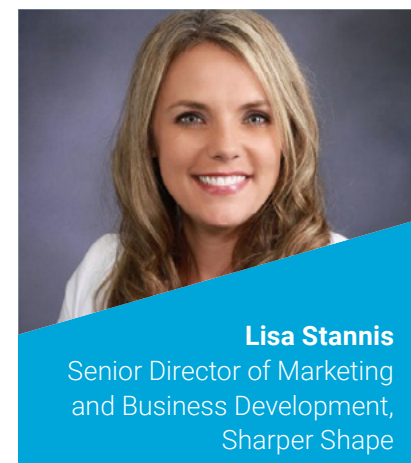
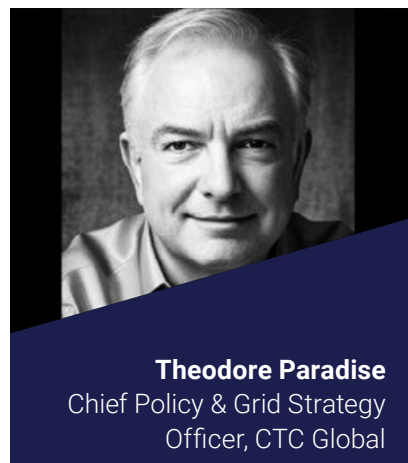
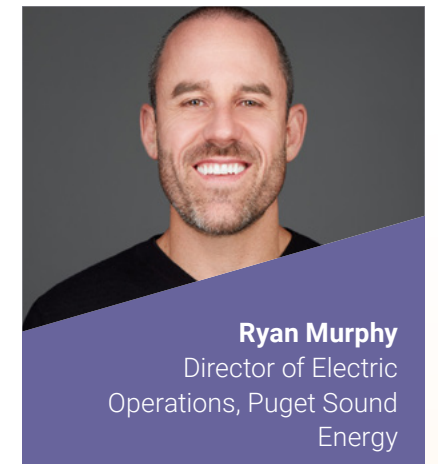
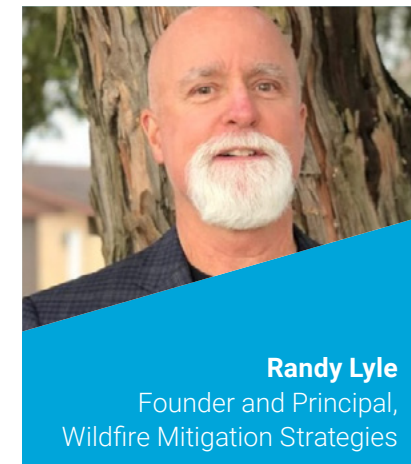
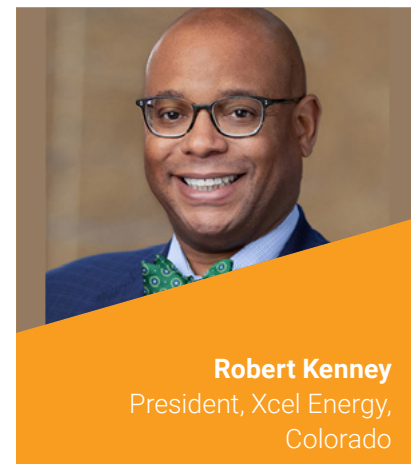
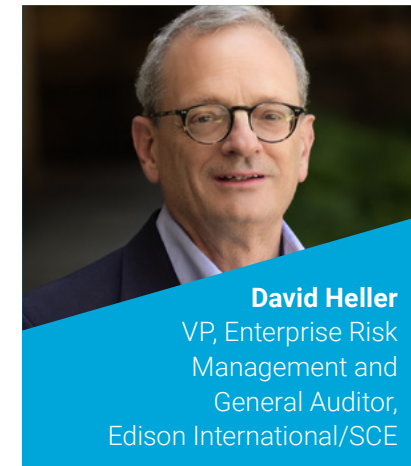
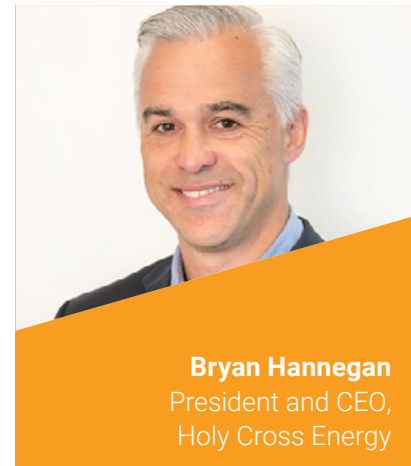
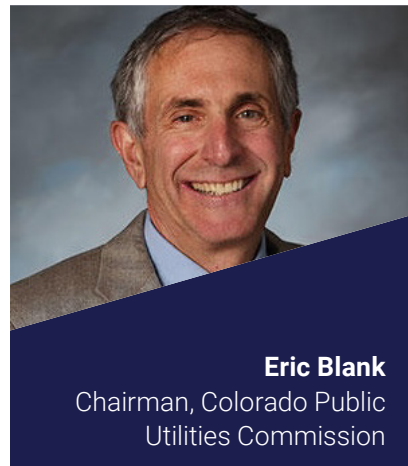
## JOIN GRID FORWARD SOCIAL JUNE 3

Attendees are encouraged to join the Grid Forward members at a social reception on June 3 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM at the same location, Amaterra Winery.

1:00 PM	<b>CASE STUDY: Mitigating Wildfire with Transmission: Reducing Risk with Carbon Core Conductors</b> <i>Randy Pinocci</i> , Commissioner, Montana PSC <i>Theodore Paradise</i> , Chief Policy & Grid Strategy Officer, CTC Global
1:00 PM	<b>CASE STUDY: Did the Short Cause the Wildfire or Did the Wildfire Cause the Short?</b> <i>Joshua Lantto</i> , Senior SCADA Engineer, System Operations, Great River Energy <i>Tiffany Menhorn</i> , Head of Utilities, North America, Prisma Photonics
1:45 PM	<b>SMALL-GROUP HUDDLE DISCUSSIONS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Empowering Communities in Wildfire Mitigation Planning</b>  <i>Elizabeth "Eli" King</i>, Energy Resilience &amp; Emergency Management Director, Washington DOC, <i>Gilberto DeSalvo</i>, Founder and CEO, Delphire</li> <li>• <b>A Holistic Approach to Vegetation Management</b>  <i>Vince Mikulanis</i>, Director of Western Operations, Davey Resource Group  <i>Lisa Stannis</i>, Senior Director of Marketing and Business Development, Sharper Shape</li> <li>• <b>Grid Hardening: Where, When and How Much</b>  <i>Davoud Zamani</i>, CEO &amp; Co-Founder, GridWrap, <i>Rafael Fernandez</i>, Account Manager, Esri</li> <li>• <b>Tech and Tactics for Small/Medium Utilities</b>  <i>Laura Manz</i>, Consultant to NV Energy  <i>Ryan Murphy</i>, Director of Electric Operations, Puget Sound Energy</li> <li>• <b>Insurance and Alternative Risk Financing</b>  <i>Matthew Dwyer</i>, Director, Corporate Risk Management, Edison International  <i>David Heller</i>, VP, Enterprise Risk Management and General Auditor, Edison International</li> </ul>
2:30 PM	<b>Break + Networking + Demos</b>
2:50 PM	<b>CASE STUDY: Grid Hardening for Fire Mitigation: Role of Composite Pole Structures</b> <i>Clinton Char</i> , Director of Engineering and Compliance, VAF Industries <i>Scott Holmes</i> , CTO, Resilient Structures
2:50 PM	<b>FIRESIDE CHAT: AI, Automation, and Predictive Analytics for Wildfire Mitigation</b> <i>Randy Lyle</i> , Founder and Principal, Wildfire Mitigation Strategies <i>Lisa Stannis</i> , Senior Director of Marketing and Business Development, Sharper Shape <i>Ben Hanson</i> , Vice President, North America Sales, Pano
3:10 PM	<b>PANEL: Prioritization and Moving Forward with Wildfire Mitigation</b> <i>Eric Blank</i> , Chairman, Colorado PUC, <i>Robert Kenney</i> , President, Xcel Energy, <i>Allen Berreth</i> , Vice President of Power Delivery Operations, PacifiCorp, <i>Lena McMillin</i> , Wildfire Mitigation Programs Manager, SDG&E
3:50 PM	<b>Closing Plenary</b> <i>Bryce Yonker</i> , Executive Director and CEO, Grid Forward, <i>and guests</i>



## Meet These Confirmed Speakers and Discussion Leaders





## More Wildfire Symposium Speakers and Discussion Leaders

**David Bayard**, Manager, Wildfire Risk Management, Puget Sound Energy

**Allen Bereth**, Vice President of Power Delivery Operations, PacifiCorp

**Clinton Char**, Director of Engineering and Compliance, VAF Industries, former SCE Transmission Engineering Manager

**Phil Chen**, Solutions Consultant, Overstory

**Kellie Cloud**, Senior Director, Wildfire & Operational Compliance, Portland General Electric (PGE)

**Dave Danner**, former commissioner, Washington UTC

**Gilberto DeSalvo**, Founder & CEO, Delphire

**Matthew Dwyer**, Director, Corporate Risk Management, Edison International

**Rafael Fernandez**, Account Manager, Esri

**Alan Fitzpatrick**, Wildland Coordinator, Portland Fire & Rescue

**Ben Hanson**, Vice President, North America Sales, Pano

**Kyra Howe**, Utility Analyst, Hawaii Public Utilities Commission

**Elizabeth “Eli” King**, Energy Resilience & Emergency Management Director, Washington Department of Commerce

**Kim Kosmas**, Senior Public Education Officer, Portland Fire & Rescue

**Joshua Lantto**, Senior SCADA Engineer, System Operations, Great River Energy

**Patrick Larsen**, Vegetation and Utility Inspection Manager, Inland Power

**Edward Lodge**, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission

**Stephen Maisonet**, Sales Director-US, Orora Tech

**Laura Manz**, Consultant to NV Energy, LJ Manz Consulting

**Lena McMillin**, Wildfire Mitigation Programs Manager, SDG&E

**Tiffany Menhorn**, Head of Utilities, North America, Prisma Photonics

**Vince Mikulanis**, Director of Western Operations, Davey Resource Group, Inc

**Riaz Mohammed**, Wildfire Regulatory Policy Specialist, Xcel Energy

**Chris Moran**, Director, Fire Science, Pyrologix

**Jeannine Parisi**, Resiliency Program Manager, EWEB

**Nick Russel**, VP of Operations, Watch Duty

**Melissa Semcer**, Chief Strategist & Principal Consultant, Climate, Wildfire and Energy Strategies, LLC

**Bret Simon**, Utilities Vertical Leader, Exodigo

**Mishal Thadani**, CEO, Rhizome

**Andrew Trombley**, Community Wildfire Safety Plan-Program Manager, PG&E

**Davoud Zamani**, CEO, GridWrap

## Thanks to These Supporters

Be sure to visit with them at their tables during lunch and breaks.

### LEAD SPONSORS



### CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS



“ Our nation is facing enormous challenges to the reliability and affordability of the electrical grid due to the impacts of wildfire. The risk of wildfires to the grid impacts a utility’s ability to deploy capital that improves its system, to maintain insurance, to understand risk and liability and more. This all creates added pressures on affordability and reliability that directly impact customers. The **Standing Up to Wildfire Symposium** will bring together the many stakeholders needed to advance solutions for reducing wildfire risks and costs to our utilities and communities.”

**Ann Rendahl**

Commissioner, Washington  
Utilities and Trade Commission



Grid Forward events regularly sell out.  
Register today to reserve your spot.

[Register Now](#)



SYMPOSIUM:

## Standing Up to Wildfire

June 4, 2025, 10AM - 5PM

Amaterra | Portland, OR



The Standing Up to Wildfire Symposium will take place at the Amaterra Winery in the west hills of Portland, just a 10-minute drive from downtown. This spacious facility provides inspiring views, comfortable meeting spaces and an ideal setting for collaboration on advancing wildfire issues.



### Get Special Rates at the Nearby AC Marriott

Through May 5, attendees can request discount rates at the AC Marriott in Beaverton, a short drive from Amaterra by [clicking this link](#).

### Adjacent to NARUC WCPSC and our 2025 Annual Members Meeting

- ▶ **NARUC Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners**  
June 1-4, 2025 | Hilton Downtown Portland
- ▶ **Grid Forward 2025 Annual Members Meeting**  
Evening of June 3, 2025 | Amaterra Winery

## Register Today for Standing Up to Wildfire

Register



Grid Forward is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, member-driven trade association dedicated to promoting and accelerating innovation on the regional electric system. We deliver community, expertise and resources for leaders who are working to modernize the grid. Learn more and become a member at [GridForward.org](https://GridForward.org).

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