



**Nevada
Irrigation
District**

Keeping a remote transmission line clear of vegetation

Keeping vegetation and hazard trees away from a primary power line is of utmost importance, and our hydroelectric team has literally been walking the line for years to manage vegetation and provide a safe clearing. Now, efforts have increased to maximize protection against wildfire.

NID's nine-mile long, 60,000-volt Bowman Transmission Line transmits power from our Bowman powerhouse to the transmission grid controlled by the California ISO, which provides open access to the bulk of the state's wholesale transmission grid.

"We've always had a program of falling and managing hazard trees, but we've dramatically increased that over these past couple of years as requirements have evolved and as the mortality in the area has really picked up," said NID's Hydroelectric Manager Keane Sommers.

This year about 7,000 linear feet (1.33 miles) under the line have been treated as of June 28, with about 8,000 linear feet (about 1.52 miles) planned to be treated by the end of the year. In addition, in July we identified hazard trees that will be removed by year's end.

In 2020 work will continue with routine removal of emergent vegetation and hazard trees on the entire line, with work under 12 poles (about 3,400 linear feet or 0.64 miles) identified as a high priority.

"We are working with our watershed colleagues, so as we do this we are implementing the best approach and practices to make sure we are accomplishing all our goals," Sommers said.

Typically the annual budget for vegetation clearing around the transmission line is \$20,000 - \$30,000. This year, NID has tripled that amount to nearly \$100,000 to complete this important work.

The commitment will continue as climate change impacts the Sierra. Treating vegetation along the nine-mile length of the transmission line takes about five years. So, once crews reach the end of the line, they will start again at the other end: "This is basically a Golden Gate Bridge painting scenario," Sommers said.



NID's line before (above) and after (below) treatment.



NID Hydroelectric Fast Facts

As water flows to customers, it also generates clean hydroelectric energy. The District's seven power plants generate enough electricity to supply about 82,000 homes. Learn more about NID Hydro, click [HERE](#).