



La Plata Electric Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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NEWS

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LPEA Awarded a \$1.5 Million Federal Grant to Bolster Wildfire Mitigation and Grid Resiliency

DURANGO, Colo. – La Plata Electric Association, Inc. (LPEA) has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as part of the Wildfire Assessment and Resilience for Networks (WARN) project. This substantial grant, funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law under the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program, is a significant step towards delivering affordable, clean electricity to LPEA members while also helping to strengthen the grid.

LPEA will use the grant for enhanced satellite imaging to prioritize vegetation management along power lines and to convert overhead lines to underground in high wildfire potential areas that create the biggest threats to life and property. The cooperative has one of the most rigorous tree-trimming programs in the state, having already completed approximately 300 miles of line clearing in 2023, resulting in only 34 tree-caused outages.

Jessica Matlock, LPEA’s CEO, emphasized, “Fire mitigation is a priority for LPEA, and we’re excited to leverage technology to better prepare for the prevention of outages and the risk of wildfires.”

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About LPEA

LPEA is a member-owned electric distribution cooperative serving La Plata, Archuleta, and segments of Hinsdale, Mineral, and San Juan counties. LPEA is the fifth largest cooperative of 22 in Colorado and aims to provide safe, reliable electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to more than 48,000 meters. For additional information, visit lpea.coop.