Configuring the DAI system to remotely enable wildfire system protections decreases wildfire risk

The PUD's ability to remotely reconfigure protection systems that help prevent wildfires will reduce risks to critical energy infrastructure, homes, businesses, and, most importantly, lives.

Reducing wildfire risk in our service territory directly decreases environmental exposure and burdens for all communities within the reach of a fire and/or smoke.

Reclosers help the PUD to restore power quickly (Figure 1)







Reclosers help restore power quickly in situations where a short circuit has occurred, but the damage isn't permanent (such as a limb falling through the line). Many short circuits that occur happen like this. Customers may notice a 5-second outage when this type of short circuit occurs.

However, reclosers can increase fire risk during times of high fire danger (Figure 2)







In a situation where a tree remains in the line or a wire fall to the ground, the energized line could cause fires.

Currently, to mitigate the potential for fires, the PUD strategically disables reclosers during fire season. This requires a crew to manually disable the reclosing and, instead of a short outage like in Figure 1, customers could experience a much longer outage because crews have to inspect the line whether a repair is needed or not.

The solution (Figure 3)







The SnoSMART system will allow grid operators to selectively disable reclosing during times of high fire danger (high winds and high temperatures). When there is not high fire danger, reclosing can be remotely activated. This allows the PUD to provide improved reliability during summer months (such as in Figure 1) while still mitigating wildfire danger (such as in Figure 2).