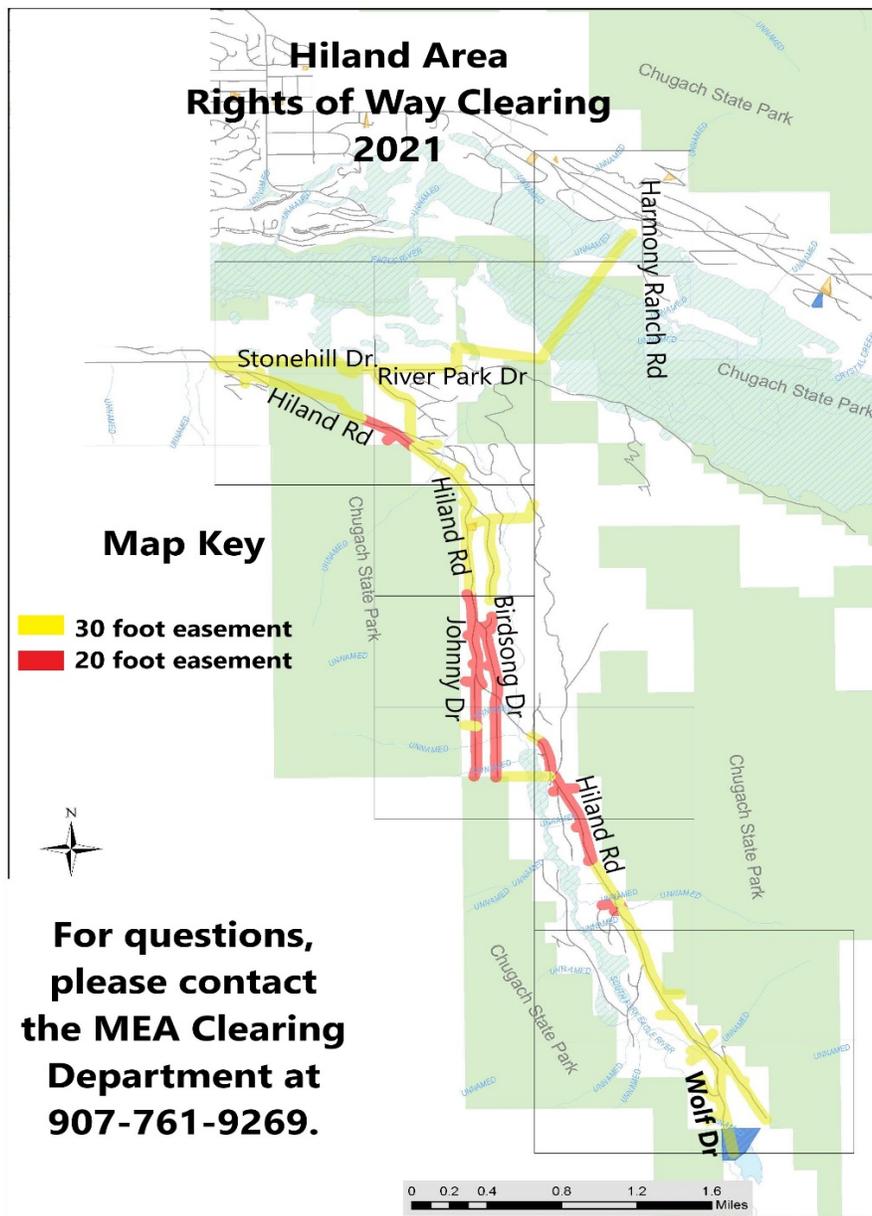


MEA Rights of Way Clearing Plans for 2021



Hiland Road Area Clearing in Eagle River

MEA's in-house clearing crew will be clearing power line easements in the Hiland Road area starting this Spring through the Summer. Most of the rights of way are 30-foot easements (highlighted in yellow) with some smaller easements at 20 feet (highlighted in red). Members will receive an auto-call ahead of clearing activity in their neighborhood and a doorhanger at least four days prior of clearing activity near their property. Our goal is to cause the least amount of disruption in your area and we appreciate you keeping easements clear of debris, fences, and animals. If you have a Danger Tree located on your private property that you believe could fall into the power lines or electric equipment, please complete a Danger Tree Report at www.mea.coop and the Clearing Department will contact you for an assessment and free take down of the tree.





MEA Rights of Way Clearing Plans for 2021

Spruce Bark Beetle Danger Tree Removal

MEA is proactively working to clear danger Spruce Bark Beetle killed trees throughout our service territory. In 2020, clearing efforts included the take down of infested spruce bark beetle killed trees in the highly infested areas throughout Willow and along Willow Fishhook Road. Members can have their Spruce Bark Beetle killed trees that are threatening power lines and equipment taken down by MEA free of charge by filling out a Danger Tree Report which is available on our website.

Report a Danger Tree on Your Property

MEA defines Danger Trees as structurally unsound trees, located on or off the right-of-way, that could come into contact with power lines by growing, falling or swaying into energized lines. To report a Danger Tree on your property, please complete the Danger Tree Report form found on our website at www.mea.coop For assistance with the Danger Tree Report form, please call the MEA Clearing Department at 907-761-9269 or email clearingdepartment@mea.coop

Why Clearing?

Clearing provides safe and reliable power not only for our members, but also for our employees. A clear right-of-way allows for our line crews to quickly and safely access power lines, identify outage causes and make repairs. In 2019, MEA accomplished zero power outages caused by in-easement trees due to successful completion of our 7-year vegetation management plan.

Common Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q: What trees and vegetation are removed?

A: MEA clears the full width of the utility easement which typically ranges from 20 to 40 feet (feet are split in half from each side of the pole). During the process, crews safely clear the following:

- Trees located in the immediate easement,
- Trees blocking access to overhead or underground right of way,
- Trees that have contact with lines,
- Trees and vegetation that could come in contact with lines (both overhead and underground) and electrical equipment.

Q: How do I know what trees and vegetation are being cleared?

A: Before clearing operations begin, MEA clearing crews conduct an inspection of the area and mark trees, vegetation and easement boundaries. Also called "flagging", crews use different colored tape markings (biodegradable) to indicate future actions within the easement. Please refer to the graphic on the right for the meanings of the flagging colors.

Flagging Tape Indicators

- Pink tape  indicates the edge of MEA's right of ways.
- Orange tape  indicates further discussion and input with MEA and the member impacted before clearing.
- Blue tape  indicates the tree or vegetation will not be cut.
- Red tape  indicates the tree or vegetation will be cut.

Q: How are members notified about clearing that may impact them?

A: MEA provides notification to members and property owners who may be directly impacted by clearing operations with a postcard notification, auto-call and doorhangers well in advance of clearing activities. Please refer to the graphic on the right for clearing notification timelines for members.

Member Notification Process



Postcard Notification
(minimum 2 weeks in advance)



Auto-Call
(made prior to doorhangers)



Doorhanger
(minimum 96 hours before clearing work begins)