

CYCLE OF PERSONAL OWNERSHIP

JULY 2025 WINNERS



CHELAN COUNTY

TRENT GRIGSBY, HARDY THAYER & MARC POTHIER

Innovating for Safety and Reliability

In 2021, the District launched a fire mitigation relay scheme aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires caused by electrical arcing. While this safety enhancement was a critical step forward, it came with an unintended tradeoff—reduced reliability for customers in high-risk areas during summer months.

Driven by the desire to improve both safety and service, our engineering team asked a key question: How can we maintain fire prevention while minimizing disruptions to our customers? To find the answer, we partnered with a material science expert and discovered that wildfire ignition risk varies across three distinct environmental conditions, each influenced by real-time weather factors. This led to the development of three customized relay setting schemes tailored to those conditions.

Working together, our control systems and technical teams developed an innovative solution that uses our SCADA system to automatically switch between the three schemes based on live weather data. As of June 20, nine devices in the field are now dynamically adjusting relay settings every hour—delivering both fire mitigation and improved reliability. Four more devices will be installed shortly, and we are working to accelerate this program and expand it to all applicable areas.

This innovation reflects the power of curiosity and collaboration. There were lots of folks that contributed but special thanks go to Trent Grigsby (Control Systems), Hardy Thayer (Engineering), and Marc Pothier (System Operations) for their outstanding contribution