

# SUMMER OUTLOOK—2023



## Summer Outlook—2023

Virtual  
April 26 & 27, 2023

WECC’s Summer Outlook—2023 offers a preview of summertime conditions, preparations, and operations in the Western Interconnection. The two-part webinar series will be held April 26 and 27.

Day 1—Summer Overview and Briefing  
[Wednesday, April 26](#)

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT

**2023 Summer Conditions.....**

*Overview of expected trends in weather, temperature, drought, aridification, and wildfires.*

- Sunny Wescott, Lead Meteorologist, Cyber & Infrastructure Security Agency

**Colorado River System Overview.....**

*A hydro forecast for the Colorado River basin.*

- Clayton Palmer, Environmental Specialist, Western Area Power Administration

**Columbia River System Overview .....**

*A hydro forecast for the Columbia River basin.*

- Geoffrey Walters PE, Senior Hydrologist, Northwest River Forecast Center

**Resource Adequacy—Summer 2023 .....**

*An introduction to WECC’s [Resource Adequacy Discussion Series: Summer Outlook—2023](#) taking place May 4, 2023.*

- Saad Malik, Director, Reliability Planning, WECC

**Summer Utility Roundtable .....**

*An industry roundtable with seasonal updates, lessons learned, and current preparations for summer in the West.*

- Chris Hofmann, Director Transmission & Generation Operations, Salt River Project
- John Phipps, Executive Director, Grid Operations, California ISO
- Ehson Syed, System Control Manager, BC Hydro

Day 2—Summer Grid Operations

[Thursday, April 27](#)

10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MT

**Microgrid Spotlight.....**

*WECC explores the benefits of microgrids and how they address gaps during heatwaves and periods of peak demand.*

- Jana Ganion, Sustainability and Government Affairs Director, Blue Lake Rancheria  
Department of Energy and Technologies

**Wildfire Preparation Discussion .....**

*A moderated wildfire discussion with utility representatives will review the importance of preparation, system hardening, vegetation management, and advances in forecasting technology.*

- Ray Fugere, Director Wildfire Safety, Southern California Edison
- James Hillegas-Elting, Asset Management Specialist / Project Manager, Bonneville Power Administration
- Vic Howell, Director Reliability Risk Management, WECC
- Cameron McPherson, Principal Manager PSPS Operations, Southern California Edison
- Riaz Mohammed, Director of Resiliency and Environmental Policy, Edison Electric Institute
- Chris Potter, ACC Real Time Manager, AltaLink
- Chris Sanford, Senior System Operator, Bonneville Power Administration

**Summer Operations.....**

*Address challenges specific to summer operations.*

- Ryan Adelman, Vice President Power Supply, Idaho Power
- Steve Ashbaker, Reliability Initiatives Director, WECC
- Tim McJunkin, Distinguished Researcher, Idaho National Laboratory
- Mike Pfiester, TGO Manager, Grid Operations Support, Salt River Project