

# FALL RIVER FLASHES

AUGUST 2026

*Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.*



**SAVE ON PROPANE:  
PRICES ARE NOW  
LOWER THAN LAST  
YEAR**

If you use propane to heat with, cook with, or keep your water hot, now is the time to order propane for the winter season during Fall River Propane's "Summer Fill" promotion, offering a price per gallon that is actually LOWER than last year!

It's true! Fall River Propane's prices are even lower than last year. Even though propane is a byproduct of natural gas processing and crude oil refining and the global oil supply is currently experiencing disruptions because of the Iran conflict.

For the hottest burning, best price for bulk delivery of propane, call Fall River Propane at 800.682.5726 or visit [fallriverpropane.com](http://fallriverpropane.com).

## Fall River To Partner In Development Of a New Power Plant

Fall River Electric Cooperative is partnering with twenty-three other electric cooperatives in the Northwest for a new power project being developed in Northern Idaho through PNGC Power to help provide reliable, affordable electricity for homes, businesses, farms, and communities across Fall River's service territory.

The new plant is expected to be among the most efficient and lowest-emitting gas-fired power plants in the region. By using advanced technology, it is expected to generate more electricity with less fuel than older plants, helping provide the reliable power Co-op members need, while keeping costs as affordable as possible. The selected technology also offers a pathway to hydrogen blending over time, including the potential for up to a 50 percent hydrogen blend as the technology, fuel supply, and supporting infrastructure evolve.

For Fall River Electric, the project is part of the Co-op's strategic direction identified more than three years ago to meet the future needs of both owner-members and the communities it serves. "The hydropower capacity of the Northwest has been fully allocated so there is not plenty of hydropower left to meet the growing elec-

tricity demand," says Fall River CEO Bryan Case. "We need to have power generation in reserve to meet the threat of extreme weather events and load growth, which is referred to as a Resource Adequacy Requirement. Typically, that represents about 25 percent of power reserve for unexpected needs."



The project will provide a dependable source of electricity that can perform when power demand is high, renewable generation is lower, or the grid is under stress. In doing so, it is expected to reduce exposure to increasingly volatile wholesale market prices and support a more balanced, resilient, and affordable power supply for Fall River Electric's owner-members.

## Save the Date! Member Appreciation September 11th in West Yellowstone

Owner-members of Fall River Electric Cooperative in the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas are invited to the Co-op's Member Appreciation luncheon set for Friday, September 11, in West Yellowstone. Members will enjoy free hamburgers and hot dogs, along with all the fix in's, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fall River's offices at 436 Madison Avenue.

Owner-members will receive a FREE ThermoCube\*, which automatically turns power on AND off according to outside temperatures. It prevents freeze-ups by turning on power at 35 degrees and turns off the power when temperatures reach above 45 degrees. This is an ideal gift for members

in the West Yellowstone and Island Park areas.

Members will also receive a FREE backpack\*\* while supplies last.

Everyone is invited to attend as we celebrate a successful summer season in the West Yellowstone area!



\* One ThermoCube per membership, not per person.

\*\* Backpacks are one per membership, NOT one per person.



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## Bonneville POWER ADMINISTRATION



## BPA Rates To Increase In October

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has finalized the planned wholesale power rate increase and associated transmission rate increase to Northwest utilities for fiscal years 2026 through 2028. BPA has announced an 8.9 percent increase in wholesale power and a 19.9 percent increase in transmission rates.

The rates were developed through a series of settlements among rate case parties including Fall River Electric and BPA staff, resulting in lower rate increases than BPA initially proposed, while continuing to support investments in the federal power and transmission systems.

"This increase from BPA is no surprise as we know costs are going up and we have planned ahead financially, but we will have some rate increases," stated Bryan Case, Fall River Electric CEO. "Our goal is to make those rate increases as manageable as possible, but we will probably have a four to eight percent rate increase each year for the foreseeable future." The Cooperative's board will make the final decision regarding rates for 2027 within the next few months.

BPA is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells electricity produced at 31 federal dams and one nuclear plant to 140 Northwest utilities, including Fall River Electric.

## CEO Case Honored For His NRECA Service

Bryan Case, CEO/General Manager of Fall River Electric Cooperative, was honored recently for his ten years of service on the board of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents more than nine hundred electric cooperatives across America. Board members are nominated by their peers to represent the state from which they reside. CEO Case was selected by the electric co-ops of Idaho for his tenure on the board.

Case served as the Chairman of the Insurance and Financial Services committee for

six years and two years on the Business and Technology committee. "Northwest issues were not previously being engaged by NRECA, such as the critical importance of the lower Snake River dams (LSRD), which NRECA now has become engaged at the legal level in protecting that resource," according to Case. Additionally, NRECA has influence at the federal government level. Many different government agencies come to NRECA for solutions to issues affecting rural communities.



Fall River Electric CEO Bryan Case is NRECA Board President Mike Parton (left) and Jim Matheson, CEO of NRECA (right).

## Wildfire Safety Starts With All Of Us

Wildfire season is here, and even a small spark can have devastating consequences. Nearly 90 percent of wildfires are caused by human activity, making prevention one of the most effective ways to protect our communities, our neighbors, and our beautiful forests.

You can help reduce the risk by avoiding outdoor burning, properly extinguishing campfires, never parking vehicles on dry grass, and making sure trailer safety chains do not drag on the roadway. Keep trees and vegetation trimmed away from buildings on your property, create defensible space, and always follow local fire restrictions.

If you see a downed power line, stay far away and report it immediately. Always assume the line is energized. During NOAA

issued Red Flag Warnings, Fall River Electric will take additional precautions to help reduce wildfire risk to protect public safety, which will result in power outages taking more time to restore as crews are required to visually inspect power lines and facilities in the area of the outage before reenergizing power.

For more information on the steps both you and Fall River Electric can take to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire, visit [fallriverelectric.com/wildfire-plan](http://fallriverelectric.com/wildfire-plan) and watch our new videos.

Wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility. By staying alert and taking a few simple precautions, we can all help keep our families, neighbors, and communities safe throughout fire season.





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*Where Service Matters.*

800-632-5726

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Bryan Case  
Fall River Electric  
CEO/General Manager

## Forest Service Says Island Park Is a High-Risk Fireshed

The USFS has identified the Island Park area as a high-risk fireshed under the Forest Service's Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Firesheds are a way to delineate where fires can ignite and are likely to spread to communities and exposed buildings.

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service announced the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. This strategy provided a science-based roadmap for creating safer and more fire-resilient landscapes and communities, reducing wildfire risk to critical infrastructure and natural resources, and fostering strong collaboration across all lands. Using the down payments Congress invested through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, their focus has been on twenty-one landscapes spanning 48 million acres across 10 Western States, including the approximately 25,000 acres comprising Island Park. The communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources contained within these landscapes represent some of those at the highest risk to catastrophic wildfires.

The focus of the USFS encompasses several key watersheds, including the Henry's Fork Headwaters, Buffalo River, and others.

The core values they aim to protect are the communities, infrastructure, and access routes. The blueprint specifically includes strategies for areas adjacent to communities like Mack's Inn and Stonegate, critical infrastructure, like powerlines and substations, and essential escape routes such as Highway 20 and the Yale Kilgore Road.

To achieve the objectives that the USFS has outlined to reduce risks, they are considering establishing a "toolkit" for resilience. The toolkit may contain the following actions:

- **Creating defensible spaces** around homes and infrastructure.
- **Clearing hazardous fuels** along powerlines and substations.
- **Creating fuel breaks along major roads** to facilitate safe evacuation.
- **Strengthening landscape features**, like roads, to slow fire progression.
- **Creating a healthier, more diverse forest** by utilizing timber harvest, hand thinning, pile burning, and several other options.

The Forest Service is collaborating with the Island Park Sustainable Fire Community and other local groups to ensure this framework aligns with community goals, but environmental analysis and public involvement will be required in advance of any final decisions. If you are interested in receiving information on future public meetings and the formal comment period (which is not open yet) copy and paste this link into your browser <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r04/caribou-targhee/contact-us>.



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### OFFICES TO BE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

Fall River Electric offices will be closed on September 7, 2026, to allow our staff to celebrate Labor Day weekend with their families and friends. In case of an unexpected power outage, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience a power outage on the weekend, holiday, or any time after normal business hours, call 1.800.632.5726.



## It's Time To Lower Your Winter Heating Bills

A smart thermostat, such as the Google Nest thermostat, is one of the easiest ways to improve home comfort while reducing energy use. Unlike a traditional thermostat, a Nest thermostat automatically adjusts the temperature based on your schedule and can even detect when you are away from home, helping avoid unnecessary heating costs.

Because heating and cooling account for the largest portion of most home energy bills, making small temperature adjustments can lead to noticeable savings over time. The Nest thermostat also allows you to control your home's temperature from your smartphone, so you can make changes whether you are at work, on vacation, or simply relaxing at home.

### FALL RIVER ELECTRIC SPECIAL OFFER – WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Get a Google Nest thermostat for FREE if your primary heat source is forced air electric (after \$100 rebate). Visit [fallriverelectric.com/home-improvement-rebates](http://fallriverelectric.com/home-improvement-rebates) for rebate information.

If you heat with another source other than electric, such as with propane, you can buy a Nest thermostat for just \$50. These units sell for upwards of \$249 at Amazon, Best Buy, Walmart, and Home Depot. For details, call a friendly Member Services representative during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, at 800.632.5726.

In addition to helping lower energy costs, a Nest thermostat provides features such as energy reports, maintenance reminders, and personalized recommendations to help you use energy more efficiently without sacrificing comfort.

If you are looking for a simple upgrade that can reduce your energy use over time, a smart thermostat is a smart investment for both your home and your wallet.



Fall River's FLASHES newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

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Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fallriverrec](http://www.facebook.com/fallriverrec).