



FALL RIVER FLASHES

January 2025

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



OFFICE CLOSURE FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Monday, February 17, in celebration of the federal holiday Presidents' Day.

Historically, Americans began celebrating George Washington's birthday just months after his death, long before Congress declared it a federal holiday. It was not until 1879, under President Rutherford B. Hayes, that Washington's Birthday became a legal holiday, to be observed on his birthday, February 22. In 1968, Congress passed the Monday Holiday Law to "provide uniform annual observances of certain legal public holidays on Mondays." Washington's Birthday was moved to the third Monday of February and has since become known as Presidents' Day.

During this holiday, if you experience an unexpected power outage, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience an outage on a holiday, weekend, or any time after normal business hours, call 1.800.632.5726.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILL?

Winter has officially arrived, and colder weather is here, which usually means higher monthly energy bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) continues to accept applications for 2025.

To receive further information, call the number below for the state you reside in:

IDAHO – 208.522.5391

MONTANA – 406.587.4486

WYOMING – 800.246.4221

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors, alongside the Co-op's staff and management team, would like to extend a Happy New Year wish to you and your family!

BPA Announces Planned Rate Increases

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), which is Fall River Electric Cooperative's primary wholesale power provider, has kicked off their formal rate case toward increasing rates effective October 2025. Power rates are proposed to increase 10.8% with transmission rates going up 24%.

"The proposed rate increases come from a combination of inflationary pressure along with greater investments in maintaining and upgrading our power, transmission, and other infrastructure," according to Jeff Cook, chief operating officer for BPA. These investments are critically needed to position BPA to meet the growing needs of the Pacific Northwest region." The proposed rates will be reviewed in a formal hearing that continues until July 2025.

BPA is a self-financing power marketer and is legally required to recover all of its costs through the rates it charges. According to the Portland Oregon-based Public Power Council, the federal hydro and transmission systems are completely funded by customer rates with no federal subsidies. For information on BP-26, visit <https://www.bpa.gov/energy-and-services/rate-and-tariff-proceedings/bp-26-rate-case>.

Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION



How Much Will Be Your Share Of \$500,000?

Fall River Electric has more than \$500,000 in energy conservation rebates waiting to be claimed in 2025. Members can make energy improvements at home, at work, or on the farm with the wide variety of available rebates.

Mark Mickelsen of Mickelsen Farms has received rebates totaling over \$60,000 for pump and irrigation projects being done on his 3,500-acre operation growing grain and potatoes above the Teton River. The improvements have resulted in thousands of dollars in reduced energy expenses and greater efficiency. This multi-year project involved reducing pump horsepower by nearly 1,000 on the 500-plus feet lift out of the Teton, replacing some mainline, and pivot enhancements on the 25 pivots used during the growing season. "Paying attention to water efficiency is so important and probably has been one of the biggest reasons for our success," Mickelsen says.

Mark Mickelsen began farming with his father in 1988 on 1,200 acres in the Osgood area outside of Idaho Falls. Today, he now operates

30,000 acres with his wife Stephanie, an Idaho Legislator, and their two sons. "Because we pay attention to efficiency, we've been able to grow," he says.

Take some time during the winter season to review what Fall River Electric Cooperative offers you in rebates and then plan your projects for home or business for the 2025 season. Visit fallriverelectric.com and click on the tab "My Energy Savings" for details and applications.



SAVE THE DATE: 2025 Energy EXPO

Mark your calendar for Fall River Electric's 2025 Energy Expo and annual business meeting that will be held Saturday, June 14, at North Fremont High School in Ashton. More details to come in future issues of FLASHES.



Where Service Matters

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Husk Crowther
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby
Vice President



Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor
President



Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia



Dede Draper
District 6
Ashton



Jodi Stiehl
District 7
South Island Park
Secretary/Treasurer



Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park



Doug Schmier
District 9, West Yellowstone



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



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.

Want your Fall River *FLASHES* faster? Click www.fallriverelectric.com and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

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

Let Fall River Help You Advance Your Education

More than \$70,000 in scholarships are available to current high school seniors planning to attend college or receive technical training this fall. A total of thirty scholarships worth \$600 each for the first year and up to \$2,400 over four years are available through Fall River Electric's college and continuing education scholarship program. All applicants (students) must have parents or guardians who are owner-members (customers) of Fall River Electric, have a high school GPA of 2.0 or greater, and submit an essay to be eligible.



Students who have previously received a scholarship from Fall River Electric are reminded that they need to re-apply each year to continue to receive scholarship assistance.

Scholarship applications are available at Fall River's website at fallriverelectric.com/scholarships. The deadline to apply is March 21, 2025. Scholarships will be presented at Fall River Electric's annual business meeting this June in Ashton and are funded by unclaimed Patronage Capital.

Fall River Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors is also offering a \$2,400 yearly scholarship to

a member or a child of a member that is interested in a utility career as a lineman. This scholarship will be awarded to ONE person who plans to enroll in a lineman college. The applicant or their parents or guardians must be members of Fall River Electric to qualify. The lineman scholarship information can also be found on Fall River Electric's website.

REMINDER: The Montana Cooperative Association scholarship application deadline is quickly approaching on January 24. Details and the application are on our website.

TAKE SAFETY HOME: Identity Protection



Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal or financial information without your permission. Here are a few warning signs:

1. Bills come for items you did not buy.
2. Debt collection calls or emails for accounts you did not open.
3. Information on your credit report for accounts you did not open.
4. Mail stops coming or some mail is missing from your mailbox.
5. Denial of credit or loan applications.

So, how can you protect yourself from identity theft? Do not answer phone calls, emails, text messages, or social media inquiries from people you do not know. Carefully review your credit card and bank statements each month and never share your social security number, or date of birth, or bank account numbers. Store your personal information in a secure place, not in your wallet or purse.

If you become a victim of identity theft, report your situation to identitytheft.gov or call 1.877.238.4338.

Use the APP for Fast Service



It has never been easier to be an owner-member of Fall River Electric with our smart phone app. Now, you never have to mail a payment, call our office to make a payment, or spend time at home or work logging onto your computer. With the MY FR app, you can pay your bill, check your balance, see your previous payment history, and even report a power outage—plus you can even view your kilowatt usage!

Download MY FR app at Google Play or from the Apple App Store today for the quick way to manage your transactions at Fall River Electric.