FALL RIVER
FLASHES
NOVEMBER 2026
Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.



EXTENDED OFFICE CLOSURE SET FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Fall River Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Thursday AND Friday, November 26 and 27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The extra day will allow our staff to spend a little more time with their families.

In case of an unexpected power outage during this holiday weekend, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience an outage on the weekend or any time after normal business hours, call 800.632.5726.

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Where Service Matters

BPA Plans Rate Increase To Recover Revenue Lost Due To Salmon Protections

Bonneville
POWER ADMINISTRATION

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has announced an expedited sweeping 6.3% increase in wholesale power costs, PLUS a 19.9% jump in transmission costs to its customers in the Northwest, including Fall River Electric Cooperative. The increase in rates is to offset revenue lost from salmon protections issued by U.S. District Court Judge Michael Simon in February. The protections forced higher levels of water to be spilled over dams on the lower Snake River and the Columbia River. The higher spill resulted in lower amounts of power being produced by the dams as less water flowed through the turbines. The court's action was in response to a lawsuit filed by environmentalists, fishing groups, and the states of Oregon and Washington.

BPA stated that the reductions in power generation reduced August production by 890 megawatts and 550 average megawatts in September. The August loss of power generation is enough to power nearly 750 homes in Fall River Electric's service territory. Bonneville said in its notice in the Federal Register that it expected to recover $250 million over the next two years with these new rates.

Fall River Electric's board will review the impact these new wholesale rates will have on the Co-op and its members.

Behrens Elected To ICUA Board



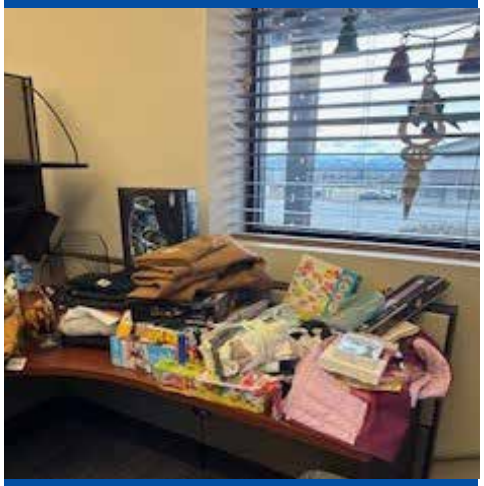
Fall River Electric board member Georg Behrens has been elected vice president of the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association (ICUA). The mission of the ICUA is to advocate for Idaho's public power interests through the collective action of its members at the state, regional, and federal levels. ICUA member utilities represent 140,000 power utility customers throughout Idaho.

Beautifying Our Service Territory

Fall River Electric staff from the Ashton and West Yellowstone offices collected trash along U.S. Highway 20 in Island Park on a crisp October morning as part of the Idaho Department of Transportation's Adopt A Highway program. Members of Fall River Electric and Fall River Propane collect roadside trash twice a year along a two-mile segment of highway from south of the Island Park Ranger station to the Phillips Loop turn off. We love Island Park!



Pictured (left to right): Jeremy, Leslee, Tim, Cache, John, & Cliff.



Donations were used to purchase Christmas gifts for kids and their family members that were distributed before the holidays.



Lineman Brek Warnke (right) presents a $2,000 check to the Island Park Community Fund



Helping Hands Helps Community Members

With the holiday season approaching, it is a wonderful time to provide a little extra wintertime help to those in need. Fall River's Helping Hands is a separate nonprofit 501 (c) 3 entity that provides funding in the winter months to Fall River Electric members who have difficulty paying their energy bill. That bill can be for electricity, propane, or even firewood.

To receive assistance, a member must apply for the funds. The Helping Hands Board of Directors, a separate board from Fall River Electric, then reviews the applications received and makes the final determination on who receives funding and in what amount.

Last year due to the generous contributions of Co-op members, Fall River Helping Hands was able to expand the program beyond paying for heating expenses. Members in Island Park contributed $2,000 to the Island Park Community Fund, a nonprofit that helps pay for funeral costs and other associated expenses. Jackie Jensen and Jamie Phillips received the check from Brek Warnke, a Fall River lineman. The West Yellowstone Food Bank received a cash donation of $3,000 to help buy needed food and other supplies for families in the West Yellowstone area.

In Teton Valley, members provided donations to the Community Resource Center of Teton Valley that resulted in holiday gifts being purchased for families who live in the valley.

Consider making a Helping Hands contribution this holiday season. Here is what one member who received assistance had to say about the program: "We greatly appreciate the financial assistance you have given us. I am a single mother struggling to make ends meet, and this assistance makes a huge difference in our lives. Thank you for your compassion and generosity."

Helping Hands donations can easily be made, just call a friendly Member Services representative, Monday through Friday, at 800.632.5726.

Tips To Manage Demand In The Wintertime

Your monthly demand charge is based on your peak usage. To reduce this amount during the winter, avoid running major appliances at the same time. Try spacing out activities like laundry, cooking, and heating. Minor changes in timing can make a significant difference in your monthly bill.

To better understand demand and see the amount of demand each electric item typically uses, see our calculator on our website at *fallriverelectric.com/demand-resources*.

Need Help Paying Your Winter Energy Bill?

Winter weather is approaching and with it comes higher energy bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has begun processing applications for 2026. Participants may now apply.

To receive further information, call these numbers for the state you reside in:

IDAHO – 208.522.5391
MONTANA – 406.587.4486
WYOMING – 800.246.4221

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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
Board President


Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor
Secretary/Treasurer


Georg Behrens
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Doug Schmier
District 9
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Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager

Members To Receive Over $1.8M Cash Back In December

The distribution of over $1.8M dollars in patronage capital funds to owner-members who were members of the Co-operative in 2007, and a portion of 2008, is set for next month, December, pending final approval by the Co-op's board. This is one of the most significant benefits of being an owner-member (customer) of Fall River Electric.

Patronage capital is a program that pays customers cash back over time. Whenever Fall River Electric collects more money than it needs for operating expenses, those extra revenues, which are called "margins," become patronage capital and are disbursed to the owner-members of the Co-op on an approximate twenty-year cycle. Unlike for-profit utilities that pay profits to shareholders, Fall River Electric belongs to you and the communities it serves and uses patronage capital to invest in the Co-operative's infrastructure.

The proposed amount of patronage capital paid out to members this year is based on how much electricity each member used during the years mentioned above. The Cooperative's board retires or pays out patronage capital only when the financial condition of the Co-op allows.

You can learn more about patronage capital by clicking the video on the homepage of our website, *www.fallriverelectric.com*. Members who receive a patronage capital payback next month should carefully review the letter that will be enclosed with their check. If you have further questions, please call a friendly Member Service representative during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, at 800.632.5726.



Wildfire Mitigation In Action

As part of Fall River Electric Cooperative's on-going efforts to mitigate wildfires in our service territory, crews completed work to move overhead power lines underground in the Coffee Pot area of Island Park.



Stuff The Trailer and High School Food Drive For Neighbors In Need



Members of South Fremont High School's senior class hold the trophy and accept the $1,000 check for collecting more non-perishable food than any of the other local high schools in our service area.

Last holiday season, Fall River owner-members and local high school students and their families contributed more than 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food, as well as cash donations, to local area food banks. This December, our trailer will be at the following grocery store locations for members to join in:

- **Broulim's Fresh Foods, Rexburg:** Friday, December 11, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- **Food Roundup Supermarket AND the Market Place, West Yellowstone:** Friday, December 18, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Broulim's Fresh Foods, Driggs:** Wednesday, December 23, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Additionally, high school students from several local schools will be competing to collect the most food for their school and capture the $1,000 cash prize, as well as placing their names on the traveling trophy. Last year, the senior class of South Fremont High School in St. Anthony took home the top prize!

Donated food will be delivered in January to the North Fremont Food Pantry, West Yellowstone Food Bank, Rexburg Food Pantry, and the Teton Valley Food Pantry to provide food for families in need. Let's set a record for donations this year and more importantly, let's set a goal to feed more families than ever before!













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