

FALL RIVER FLASHES

FEBRUARY 2026

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

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 13,
2026

For Fall River
Electric's Energy
EXPO and
Annual Business
Meeting

@ Teton
High School
8am



Member kids enjoy a STEM activity at the Expo

FALL RIVER
RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Where Service Matters

Fall River Members To Receive \$1.5M Instant Owner Rebate

Owner-members of Fall River Electric Cooperative will receive a credit on their March monthly statement as the Cooperative collected more money in 2025 than what the business needed to operate.

This instant-owner rebate came about because of the near record growth in new services, lower power costs than projected, and a colder winter season in 2024-2025, which resulted in higher kilowatt hour sales.

"While we have forecast an increase in wholesale power costs and may have a rate increase in the future, as an owner of the Cooperative these excess funds collected are your dollars," says Fall River Electric's CEO/General Manager Bryan Case. "When we collect more money than needed to operate the business, the board and management feels strongly that we give those monies back to our owners."



Although this instant-owner rebate will slightly reduce the Co-op's equity ratio, which currently stands at the highest in Co-op history, the on-going equity will be used to help defer or minimize rate increases in the future.

Carefully review your March statement to see the amount of your instant-owner rebate that is based on the amount of electricity you used in 2025. If you have questions about your rebate, reach out to our friendly Member Services representatives at 800.632.5726.

Members To Elect Directors In Three Districts

This year, three of nine seats are set for election to the Cooperative's board of directors. The seats up for election this year are District 2, West Victor; District 3, East Victor; and District 8, the northern portion of Island Park.

Because Fall River Electric is a cooperative, owned by the customers it serves, you have a vital role in determining how the Co-op is governed. Your ability to provide direction comes through the Co-op's elected board. One of the seven guiding principles of Fall River Electric Cooperative is democratic member control where the board members you elect actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives of Fall River's board are accountable to the members and all members vote for their candidates of choice no matter what district they reside in.

In March, the nominating committee will make candidate selections for each of the three districts and a notice as to the eligible candidates for each district will be posted in mid-April at each of the

Co-op's offices. A ballot will be mailed on May 14 to all active members of the Cooperative, allowing each to vote online, by mail, or in-person at the Co-op's annual business meeting on Saturday, June 13, in Driggs at Teton High School. Results of the board election will be announced at the conclusion of the business meeting.

If you are interested in being considered as a board candidate, you may submit a nomination by petition to CEO Bryan Case by Sunday, April 19, 2026, at bryan.case@fallriverelectric.com. Petitions must be signed by at least fifteen (15) active members of the Co-op. Qualifications and expectations for board members can be found in our bylaws, which are located on our website: www.fallriverelectric/bylaws. Petitions may also be mailed to Fall River Electric Cooperative, 1150 N 3400 E, Ashton, Idaho, 83420, but must be postmarked on or before April 19, 2026, to qualify. Interested candidates may also drop off their petition at the Ashton office of the Cooperative on or before April 19.



www.fallriverelectric.com



Reminder: Scholarship Applications Due March 20

As announced in the January issue of *FLASHES*, applications for scholarships are now being accepted but the deadline to apply is March 20, 2026.

Scholarship applications and details are available at Fall River's website, www.fallriverelectric.com/scholarships. Students who have previously received a scholarship from Fall River Electric are reminded that they need to apply each year to continue to re-

ceive scholarship assistance.

Scholarships are funded from unclaimed Patronage Capital that has previously been allocated to Co-op members, but the money was never claimed. State statutes in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming allow for unclaimed patronage capital to be used for the benefit of members rather than revert to the state, or is specify that it may be used for community or educational purposes.



Jeff Pedersen, a retired firefighter, donated food with the help of linemen Riley and Traven.



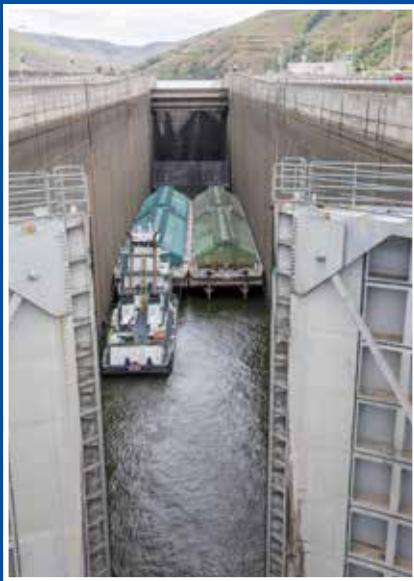
Food Drives Result In More Than Two Tons Of Food

During the holiday season, Fall River Electric's staff conducted three food drives at area grocery stores in support of several local food banks. A total of 5,415 pounds of non-perishable food was delivered to four regional food banks, including Teton Valley Food Pantry in Driggs, North Fremont Food Pantry in Ashton, the social services office in West

Yellowstone, and the food bank in Rexburg operated by Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership.

In addition to the food donated, the food pantries received more than \$7,000 in cash donations from individuals and contributed by Fall River Electric. A generous donation of \$5,000 was made to the Teton Valley Food Pantry by Ninety-Eight Electric, an electrical contractor based in Teton Valley and Jackson Hole.

Fall River Electric line crew and food pantry workers joined with Scott Wusinich of Ninety-Eight Electric in handing over a check for more than \$6,000 to the Teton Valley Food Pantry.



Barges loaded with Idaho wheat sit in one of the locks on the lower Snake River.

Photo courtesy of Ryan Hall, *Rural Montana Magazine*.

Low-Cost, Clean, Renewable Hydropower Secured For The Next 40+ Years

Fall River Electric Cooperative has negotiated and signed a long-term agreement with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to secure low-cost, carbon free, renewable, and fast on-demand hydropower generated by the lower Snake River dams (LSRD) and the Columbia River System dams for the next forty-plus years. BPA's Provider of Choice contract provides hydropower to Fall River Electric members through the year 2044.

Did you know that, according to U.S. Wheat Associates, the lower Snake River dams in eastern Washington state also deliver 55 percent of U.S. wheat exports?

A barge of wheat will ship 3,500 tons or the equivalent of 122,000 bushels. It would take over 134 semi-trucks to equal the capacity of one barge. Plus, the LSRD provide flood control and irrigation for hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland. That is why preserving the lower Snake River dams and the Columbia dams are so valuable to the Northwest and to Fall River Electric owner-members.



RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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
Board President



Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor



Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Teton



Dede Draper
District 6
Ashton



Jodi Stiehl
District 7
South Island Park
Vice President



Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park
Secretary/Treasurer



Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager

Renewed Lawsuit Threatens To Increase Power Costs And Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Last November the state of Oregon and several conservation groups renewed their lawsuit against the federal government, claiming operation of the federal dams on the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers puts endangered salmon and steelhead at further risk of extinction. Those parties are asking a District Court Judge to order the government to spill more water at the dams and lower reservoir levels as emergency measures to help the fish while the case proceeds.

In December lawyers from the Department of Justice filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit on the grounds that the district court does not have jurisdiction and that the Northwest Power Act grants exclusive authority to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to hear cases that would impact operations of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

The Public Power Council (PPC), representing nearly 100 customer-owned electric utili-

ties in the Northwest serving 1.5 million electricity customers, including Fall River Electric, filed opposition to the request by the state of Oregon, saying increasing spill and lowering reservoirs will result in the loss of 2 million megawatt-hours of carbon-free hydropower production each year, which is equal to the amount of electricity to power over 100,000 homes annually, based on Fall River's average residential use. Additionally, it will cost Northwest utilities in 2026 alone from \$152 million to \$169 million to buy replacement energy, will decrease grid reliability that can result in power blackouts, and increase carbon emissions as the lost hydropower will be replaced primarily by natural gas electrical generation. Because public power utilities, like Fall River, are nonprofit, the increase in wholesale power costs would flow directly to our members and the customers of all other customer-owned utilities in the Northwest. BPA estimates rates would increase by an alarming 17 percent.

PPC's fisheries expert also notes that the state of Oregon and its conservation group partners' proposal lacks any meaningful showing of how the increase in spill will result in real fish benefits.

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) and the National Rural Electric Co-operation Association (NRECA) have joined in their opposition, as well.

Take Safety Home: Winter Driving Tips

Whether it's snow, sleet, or ice, winter weather can cause extremely dangerous road conditions. Make sure your vehicle is ready by ensuring these maintenance steps are taken:

- Have proper tires and tire pressure;
- Ensure headlights are bright and operating properly;
- Keep fuel tanks above half full;
- Replace windshield wipers that streak; and
- Keep an ice scraper handy in your vehicle.



Preparing yourself—and your vehicle—for winter weather is key in avoiding being stranded on the roadway.

**NEED HELP PAYING YOUR
WINTER ENERGY BILL?**

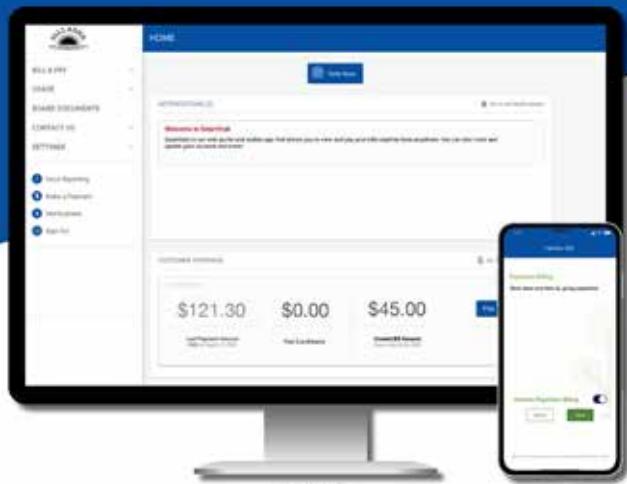
Need help with higher winter energy bills? The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) is available to qualifying Fall River Electric members, however, time is running out to apply. To inquire, call the office in your state:

IDAHO – 208.522.5391
MONTANA – 406.587.4486
WYOMING – 800.246.4221



PAPERLESS BILLING

**The eco-friendly way to
instantly access your bill.**



Visit fallriverelectric.com/smarthub for more information.



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/fallriverec.

