

FLASHES

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



EXTENDED OFFICE CLOSURE FOR THANKSGIVING

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Thursday AND Friday, November 28 and 29, 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.



Fall River Electric Cooperative earns this award based on data modeled by ACSI in 2023. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customer rating their satisfaction with Fall River Electric in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit www.theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index.

Cash Back Payments Coming To Members In December

More than \$2.2 million dollars of patronage capital funds is set to be distributed next month to owner-members who were members of the Cooperative in 2006 and a portion of 2007. This is one of the most significant benefits of being a customer of Fall River Electric. Patronage capital is a program that pays owner-members cash back over time. Whenever Fall River Electric Cooperative 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!

The amount of patronage capital paid out to

you this year is based on how much electricity you used during the years mentioned. 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 Patronage Capital tab on the drop-down menu under the heading "My Cooperative" on the Co-op's website at www.fallriverelectric.com. Please carefully review the letter that will be enclosed with your check. If you have further questions, please call a friendly Member Service representative during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, at 800.632.5726.



Salmon Returns Break Records: Proving Dams & Salmon Can Coexist



The greatest number of Sockeye salmon to pass the Bonneville Dam since counting began in 1938 occurred this year. Additionally, the number of Sockeye

salmon trapped at Redfish Lake exceeded two hundred, with more entering Valley Creek and the Salmon River that were not trapped, according to Eric Johnson of the Idaho Fish & Game's Eagle Fish Health Laboratory. Fish returns in 2024 are a far cry from "Lonesome Larry," the only Sockeye salmon to return to Redfish Lake in 1992.

The Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS), including the Lower Snake River Dams, can support robust salmon returns when conditions allow. With improving ocean conditions and smolt survival approaching 100 percent at all eight Columbia and Snake River dams, re-

turns of adult salmon remain highly variable year-to-year.

Sockeye Salmon returns were record-breaking in 2024. The 2024 return was the largest on record, totaling 75,909 adults at Bonneville Dam, 229 percent of the recent 10-year average.

The 2024 count at Ice Harbor (the first dam on the Lower Snake that salmon reach going upstream) was 5,501, which is more than four times (428 percent) the 10-year average; that includes the then-record 2022 run. This represents the largest return since Ice Harbor was built in 1962 and more than doubles the next closest returns of 2014 and 2020.

The counts at Lower Granite, the last dam on the Lower Snake, were also record breaking at 305 percent of the 10-year average. These record-setting runs have occurred a little more than 30 years after the Endangered Species Act listing (1991) where the 10-year average count at Ice Harbor Dam was only 59 Sockeye, with single digit returns between 1989 and 1991.

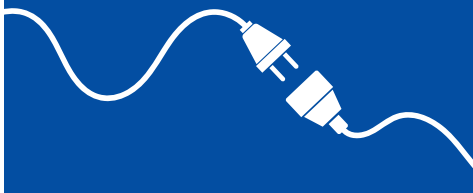
DID YOU KNOW? Power Blinks

What causes those annoying power blinks that result in resetting your digital clocks? Lightning, animal activity (such as birds dropping branches on a line), trees falling into the lines, snow or ice loading on the lines, vehicles colliding into poles, construction equipment encountering overhead lines, or digging up buried lines can all cause power outages. Additionally, equipment failures, faulty insulators, and underground cable faults are a few of the reasons for momentary interruptions or trips in service.



Our system utilizes reclosers, which is a circuit breaker equipped with a mechanism that can automatically close the breaker and restore power when a breaker is opened due to a fault. Reclosers are set up to open and close for three cycles and then lock open, which will result in a full power outage. Power blinks actually mean your Co-op's power system is working properly and is preventing a long-term power outage.

To learn more about power blinks, watch this YouTube video: <https://fallriverelectric.com/power-blink>.



Department of Energy Launches Dam Replacement Study

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, with funds allocated from the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office, will begin an 18-month analysis of the Northwest regional energy infrastructure needed to meet future demand for electricity. The project will include alternatives to allow removal of the Lower Snake River dams (LSRD).

The study is one of numerous commitments the U.S. government made last December that led to a five-to 10-year stay in lawsuits over the Columbia River System Operations.

Meanwhile, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents hundreds of customer-owned electric cooperatives, including Fall River Electric Cooperative, is fighting the govern-

ment's move toward breaching the Lower Snake River dams.

"It is difficult to imagine why anyone would want to breach the four dams on the Lower Snake River—3,000 megawatts of always available, carbon-free power," NRECA CEO Jim Matheson said at the NRECA's recent region meeting.

Last January, Matheson testified before a House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee warning that to breach the dams would threaten the region's power supply, hurt farmers, and economically disadvantaged rural communities in Idaho and Washington. A recent Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) study says that our region will experience rapidly escalating power deficits in just three years as demand for electricity grows.

Co-Op Family Fund Receives Donation

When you work for a co-op, you are a part of an extended family. Fall River Electric Cooperative recently donated funds to the Cooperative Family Fund. As a family, we support each other in times of need.

The purpose of the Cooperative Family Fund is to provide support for children of electric cooperative employees when they experience the loss of a parent while actively employed at a cooperative. This support actively demonstrates the value our cooperative network places on cooperative families at the time of their greatest need: Setting children up for success in the face of loss.

Pictured, right: Fall River Electric CEO Bryan Case delivers a check to Tony Anderson, current President of NRECA's Board of Directors.





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

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Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager

Learning More About Small Hydroelectric Facilities

Several representatives from the offices of Idaho U.S. Senator Crapo and Risch and Congressman Simpson, as well as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, took time out of their busy schedules to learn more about small hydroelectric facilities operated by Fall River Electric Cooperative.

Ben Hulse (pictured below and lower right) from Congressman Mike Simpson's office in Washington D.C. took a tour of the Co-op's hydroelectric facilities at Felt and Chester. Hulse is one of Simpson's legislative assistants focused on energy.

We also welcomed guests on a tour of our Island Park hydro facility.



Above, pictured left to right, just outside the power plant at Island Park are Nate Clayville, Northwest Power and Conservation Council staff; Fall River Electric Engineering Manager Dave Peterson; Jeff Allen, Idaho Council Member; Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Darren Parker; Office of U.S. Senator Jim Risch, Casey Attebery; Office of U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, Ed Schriver; Idaho Council Member; Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Samantha Hendricks; Office of U.S. Senator Jim Risch; and Windy Schoby, Northwest Power and Conservation Council staff. Will Hart (not pictured) from the Idaho Consumer Owned Utilities Association in Boise also attended.



6th Annual Stuff The Trailer Food Drive In December

Last holiday season Fall River owner-members and others in the communities participated in Fall River Electric's annual "Stuff the Trailer" event and contributed over four tons of non-perishable food, as well as cash donations. This year our truck will be at the following locations:

- **Dave's Jubilee, Ashton:** Friday, December 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Broulim's Fresh Foods, Rexburg:** Friday, December 13 from 4-6 p.m.
- **Food Roundup Supermarket AND the Market Place, West Yellowstone:** Thursday, December 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Broulim's Fresh Foods, Driggs:** Friday, December 20 from 4-6 p.m.

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 new record for donations this year and, more importantly, let's set a goal to feed more families than ever before!



www.fallriverelectric.com



Summer Youth Tour Highlights

By Angela Haws, Fall River Electric Executive Assistant

Youth Rally is a leadership camp and scholarship program held each summer. Its mission is to inspire, pique curiosity, and help young high school students develop the leadership qualities they possess. Youth from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah utilities participated this past summer. Fall River Electric Cooperative sponsors up to five sophomore or junior high school students each year. Parents of these students must be members of Fall River Electric to be eligible to apply for Youth Rally. Applications are available on the Fall River Electric website each year beginning in January. If selected, each student is awarded a \$500 scholarship from Fall River and all expenses paid for the weeklong ICUA Youth Rally camp held in July. Students will have the opportunity to earn additional scholarships awarded by ICUA while attending the Youth Rally. Highlights of the rally included:

- Renewable energy and electric generation;
- Electrical safety (Live Line Demonstration) and more; and
- Students were given leadership opportunities in team building and attended life skills seminars in finance, resume writing, and coping with stress.

The week also included tons of fun, like an obstacle course, a dance, talent show, trip to Roaring Springs water park, and a seminar on texting and driving, as well as

the opportunity to make lasting friendships with others throughout the region.



The 2024 Youth Rally Scholarship recipients sponsored by Fall River were (left to right) Hailee Stegelmeier, North Fremont HS; Avery Washburn, South Fremont HS; and Alma Clark, West Yellowstone HS.

- Students toured the State Capital building in Boise and participated in a Q&A session with state representatives and industry leaders.

Students attend seminars to learn about:

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR 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 2024. Participants may now apply via regular mail, email, phone, or in-person.

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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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.

