

HIGHLIGHTS

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Look for us online @ www.bighornrea.com

NOVEMBER 2023

Apply Now for Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp!



For nearly three decades, the electric cooperatives of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming have conducted an outstanding educational seminar known as the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Every July, nearly 100 high school students travel to Clark, Colorado (north of Steamboat Springs) after applying to their local cooperative.



of the co-op by seeking election to the board or by serving on one of the camp activity committees.

Several special presentations are highlighted at the camp including electricity safety, leadership skills, avian protection, and a simulation to help students understand the legislative process. The group will visit the Craig Station Power Plant and the Trapper Coal Mine which supplies Craig with coal for generation.

The primary objective of the camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. The seminar strives to help develop leadership skills that will assist students with the challenges they will face in the future.

The best way to learn about cooperatives is to form one, and that is what the participants do. When students arrive the first day, they form a cooperative and elect a board of directors. Each member of the cooperative is expected to take part in the workings

Of course, there is plenty of time for recreation. Glen Eden Resort has a volleyball court, swimming pool, hot tubs, and tennis courts. There will be a dance, pizza parties, banquet, a trip to the top of Mt. Warner, time to explore Steamboat Springs, and a raft trip down the Colorado River.

If you are interested in attending the camp, please contact Jazmin Jara at Big Horn REA, 1-800-564-2419 or visit our website www.bighornrea.com.



INSIDE

- Mountain Outage 2**
- Cabin Onwers! 2**
- Project Planning 2024..... 3**
- Big Horn Offers**
- Scholarships 3**
- Manager's Message 4**

CLOSED

Veteran's Day is November 11.

THANK YOU VETERANS! In observance our office will be closed November 10.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING.

Our office will be closed November 23-24. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.



Mountain Outage!!!

Snow load, wind and wet conditions made for complicated working and long periods of outages

for cabin owners and lodge owners in the Shell to Burgess Junction area.

Big Horn would like to remind members to provide current contact information so if unforeseen circumstances come up like these, we can contact you quickly about your service. Big Horn would also like to remind members if you are using a generator for backup power you must have a bypass switch installed and let us know you have that



capability.

Pictured are a few of the locations that made for slow and difficult clean up and repair.



Cabin Owners! We're powerless to improve communication without your help!

Please make sure to clip and return the bottom half of this page to us and give us your updated home phone number, cell phone number, and your email address so that we can contact you! As you know there are more threats to your area than in the residential areas. During the hot summer days and the cold winter days. You can never be too sure what mother nature is cooking up.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____



Project Planning 2024

Over the next couple of months, your Board of Directors and staff will be planning for 2024! You have an opportunity to be involved with your cooperative. Big Horn wants to know if you have potential for new or additional service load requirements such as a bin dryer, irrigation motor, or home upgrade within the next year or even several years for future planning.

It is important for Big Horn to gather this information because Big Horn is continuing to see supply chain issues in hardware, transformers, meters, and poles. We have worked diligently at ordering to meet the needs of our members but the more information we have from members in advance the better off we all are.

You can access the Project Planning Sheet on our website at www.bighornrea.com or stop by the office and fill one out. The information needs to be submitted by December 14, 2023.



Big Horn Rural Electric Offers Scholarships

Big Horn Rural Electric Company will be awarding scholarships to recognize and encourage the continuing education of the cooperative's member-students.

In addition, the Mike Lowe Memorial Scholarship is being offered to an applicant who plans to attend an approved regional electrical line-worker training program. Applicants must be current members or dependents of current members receiving electricity at their primary residence from Big Horn Rural Electric.

Wyoming Rural Electric Association is also offering a \$3,000 electrical line-worker scholarship to encourage, promote, and educate line-workers for careers with Wyoming's electric cooperatives. This scholarship is available to high school graduates and older "non-traditional" students interested in a career in the electric industry. Applicants do not have to be members of Big Horn Rural Electric to qualify.

Applications for all scholarships are available at the

office of Big Horn Rural Electric, 415 South St. in Basin, on the website at www.bighornrea.com, and at each of the area high schools. **All applications are due by February 2, 2024, by the end of the business day.** Offering scholarships is just another way that Big Horn REA practices the cooperative principle of Concern for Community.





Manager's Message

Big Horn's power supplier, Tri-State Generation & Transmission approved an increase to their wholesale power rates. The rate was developed by Tri-State's Rate Design Committee which began its work in February 2022, holding 14 meetings through April 2023. The rate was filed to be effective January 1, 2024. This is the first rate increase from Tri-State since 2017. The projected increase to Big Horn is 7.1%.

The last rate increase that Big Horn passed to the membership was the wholesale power cost increase in 2017, which was a flow-through of power cost only. Big Horn has not had an increase on behalf of its own costs since 2015. The increase in 2015 was 4.93%.

Big Horn, very similarly to Tri-State has attempted to remain productive and efficient. As we know nearly all costs of products and commodities for all of us have increased. Since 2015, Big Horn has seen the cost of a pole increase from \$350 to \$950. The price of wire has more than doubled and a residential transformer has increased from \$700 to over \$3,000. Big Horn generally increases its electrical infrastructure by approximately \$1,500,000 per

year. The ability to pay for the plant is through rates and borrowing. The cost of borrowing to Big Horn has increased from 3.78% at December 2021 to the current rate of 6.5%.

Information has been provided to our rate consultant to review our current rates and current operating and wholesale power costs. The consultant will provide the information for your board members to review and determine the necessary rate change. At this time, Big Horn is estimating the necessary rate increase will be nearly 10% effective January 1, 2024. Big Horn will provide more information on the proposed rate increase after the November 29th board meeting.

Big Horn provided information to our members several months ago that a consolidation study with Big Horn and three other electric cooperatives was going to be performed. All involved cooperatives have been busy providing necessary data. The consultant is on schedule to provide to the board members of the cooperatives the study in December 2023. Big Horn will plan on updating the membership regarding the study during the first quarter of 2024.

Thanks for your patronage and BE SAFE!

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Make sure to check out our QR Code to reach our website quicker, and make sure to follow us on Facebook for any outage updates!

www.facebook.com/BigHornRuralElectric



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For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).



Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.