



Big Horn Rural Electric Company

HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR US ONLINE AT WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM



PHOTO BY RANDY THEASMEYER

ELK FIRE >>>

Pictured above from left to right are Clint Getzfreid, Rusty Burden, Tony Nelson, Tristen Snyder, Wade Koehn, Greg Tharp, and Bill Phillips, not pictured Randy Theasmeyer.



**Big Horn REA will be closed:
November 11 in observance of
Veteran's Day
November 28-29 in observance of
Thanksgiving**



On October 4th, our linemen went up the mountain to wrap our 3 phase line with pole wrap. At this point in time the Elk Fire was 51,115 acres and it was 0% contained and moving towards our powerline.

We were in close contact with the Forest Service and personnel that were in charge of fire management during the time of the fire.

The fire ended up getting a mile away from our power poles and we didn't lose any of them!

INSIDE

- Elk Fire
- Capital Credit Retirement
- Energy tip
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- Job shadow

If you have a photo that you would like to submit for the newsletter, please email it to us at jazmin@bighornrea.com

BIG HORN REA BOARD AUTHORIZES A \$514,000 CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

Each year, your democratically elected Board of Directors reviews the Co-op's financial condition to determine if money can be returned to the members - YOU!



You own this cooperative.

Did you realize you are a member of a not-for-profit electric utility? When you signed up to receive electricity from Big Horn REA, you became a member-owner of your Co-op. Member-owned utilities are very different from investor-owned utilities. Investor-owned utilities return profits to their investors, not to the customers they serve. Member-owned utilities exist only to provide low-cost, reliable electricity to members - not to make money for investors.

What is a capital credit?

One benefit of being a co-op member is that you share in excess revenue (not profits, because cooperatives are not-for-profits). This excess is allocated back to members as "capital credits." Each year, the Board of Directors meets to review the financial condition of the Cooperative. If they determine that it is financially sound, the Board of Directors discuss the general retirement of capital credits. This year, the Board determined that your Co-op is financially sound and elected to retire the capital credits allocated to member accounts for the years 2004 through 2010. That means that about \$514,759.00 from unretired capital credit balance will be returned to members in December 2024. The retirement includes a percentage of our power supplier's (Tri-State Generation & Transmission) allocations.

How are capital credits returned to me?

Most capital credits are returned to members via check through the mail. Members with large capital credit refunds, along with inactive members, will still receive a check.

Why are these capital credits from 2004 through 2010? Why aren't they from last year?

Capital credits are not typically returned the year they are earned so that they can be used to fund future needs, such as electric lines, bucket trucks, and other needed equipment. This reduces the Co-op's need to borrow money and helps keep rates low for members.

Do you have unclaimed capital credits?

Because capital credits typically aren't retired for several years, it's important that you keep the Co-op informed of your current address - even if you move out of the area.

Our office will be closed
December 25th and
January 1st for the
Holidays.
Please call
1-800-564-2419 in case
of outage or emergency.



»»» ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.

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.

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 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.

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.



Apply now for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP):
The state of Wyoming has a Low Income Energy Assistance and Weatherization Program to provide help with energy costs:
-Heating Assistance for the months of November through May.
-Crisis Assistance to eligible clients who are facing emergency situation in paying utility bills.
Please find the current application at <https://www.lieapwyo.org/forms-and-application.html>.

PROJECT PLANNING 2025

Over the next couple of months, your Board of Directors and staff will be planning for 2025! 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 12, 2024.

JOB SHADOW

Big Horn recently had a lineman job shadow - Avery Clifford.

During his day with our crew he was able to operate the bucket and digger trucks, climb a pole, review the Greybull Substation and touched on several aspects he will be learning during lineman school.

Avery is planning on attending lineman school in Rock Springs, Wyoming in the Fall of 2025.



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FOR OUTAGE OR TROUBLE

Call the office number: ANYTIME
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After 5 p.m., weekend and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s)



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