



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

by Marlene Morss



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Labor Day— September 7th

Back to school! Slow down, watch for kids, watch for busses, stop at crosswalks and be safe in school zones!

COST OF SERVICE STUDY

We are nearing the completion of a cost of service study. This study is conducted by an outside contractor who specializes in cost of service studies. The primary objective of the analysis is to identify the cost of providing service to each rate class as a function of load and service characteristics. As with any successful business, you must charge the appropriate rate to cover your costs. There are five rate classifications - residential, irrigation, security lights, small 3-phase and large industrial. All costs are unbundled and identified in the analysis to make certain each rate class is paying the appropriate amount to cover the costs to serve them. This is especially important for cooperatives as we are not for profit, but we do need to make sure each member is paying their share to serve them. This study will function as an important tool to help us meet our financial objectives and goals to help serve

the needs of our members.

2021 Budget

It is hard to believe that it is already that time of year to start preparing the 2021 budget. This budget preparation will be interesting as COVID-19 has left uncertainties for the remainder of 2020 and how that will affect 2021's financial planning. We must remain diligent and flexible as we prepare for 2021. Tri-State, our whole-sale power provider, has taken preliminary steps to prepare their next year's budget and should finalize those numbers in September. Since about 83% of our spending goes to Tri-State, their rate has a huge impact on our budget process. Currently, Tri-State does not anticipate any wholesale rate increase for 2021. Depending on the results of the cost of service study, High Plains should be able to continue to hold our rates stable for 2021 as well. We will present the High Plains proposed budget to the Board of Directors at the November board

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High Plains Power would like to say thank you to all the Frontline Heroes! We appreciate everything you do!

NOXIOUS WEEDS



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

August 24, 2020

Re: Right-of-Way Clearance

Dear Member,

I would like to thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and accessible right-of-way. We spend approximately \$500,000 per year in right-of-way maintenance. To assist us in curtailing these costs for the future, we will be removing any growth of vegetation that falls under the Noxious Weed definition as declared by the State of Wyoming. Accompanying this letter is a listing of these Noxious Weeds. One of the most common weed in our rights-of-way is the Russian Olive. Therefore, if there are any of these in the rights-of-way, we will be cutting them at ground level and applying an herbicide to prevent future growth.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Marlene Morss
Marlene Morss
Chief Executive Officer

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WYOMING WEED & PEST CONTROL ACT
STATE DESIGNATED WEEDS AND PESTS



NOTE: W.S. 11-5-105(a)(i) - "The district board shall Implement and pursue an effective program for the control of designated weeds and pests."

Designated Noxious Weeds W.S. 11-5-102 (a)(xi)

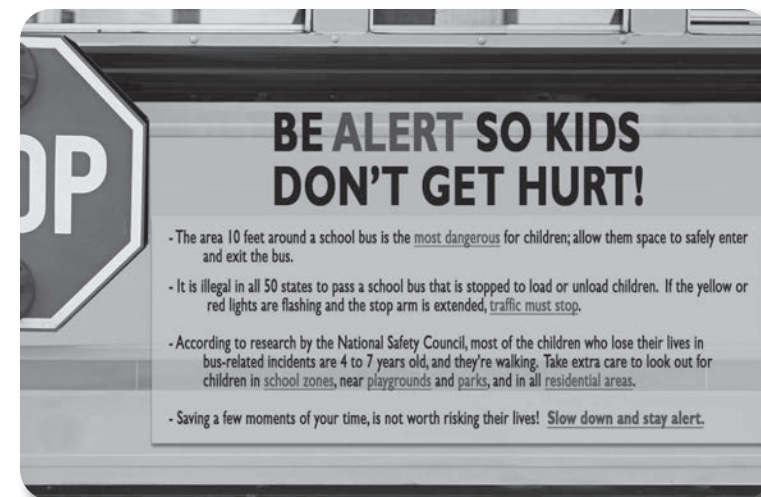
- (1) Field bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis L.)
- (2) Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense L.)
- (3) Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula L.)
- (4) Perennial sowthistle (Sonchus arvensis L.)
- (5) Quackgrass (Agropyron repens (L.) Beauv.)
- (6) Hoary cress (whitetop) (Cardaria draba and Cardaria pubescens (L.) Desv.)
- (7) Perennial pepperweed (giant whitetop) (Lepidium latifolium L.)
- (8) Ox-eye daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum L.)
- (9) Skeletonleaf bursage (Franseria discolor Nutt.)
- (10) Russian knapweed (Centaurea repens L.)
- (11) Yellow toadflax (Linaria vulgaris L.)
- (12) Dalmatian toadflax (Linaria dalmatica (L.) Mili.)
- (13) Scotch thistle (Onopordum acanthium L.)
- (14) Musk thistle (Carduus nutans L.)
- (15) Common burdock (Arctium minus (Hill) Bernh.)
- (16) Plumless thistle (Carduus acanthoides L.)
- (17) Dyers wood (Isatis tinctoria L.)
- (18) Houndstongue (Cynoglossum officinale L.)
- (19) Spotted knapweed (Centaurea maculosa Lam.)
- (20) Diffuse knapweed (Centaurea diffusa Lam.)
- (21) Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria L.)
- (22) Saltcedar (Tamarix spp.)
- (23) Common St. Johnswort (Hypericum perforatum)
- (24) Common Tansy (Tanacetum vulgare)
- (25) Russian olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia)
- (26) Black Henbane (Hyoscyamus niger)

Designated Pests W.S. 11-5-102 (a)(xii)

- (1) Grasshoppers
- (2) Mormon crickets
- (3) Prairie dogs
- (4) Ground squirrels
- (5) Mountain pine beetle
- (6) Beet Leafhopper



2020 Fremont County Fair Parade



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY from the National Safety Council

WALKERS >>

Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.

- * Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic
- * Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- * Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections
- * Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

BIKE RIDERS >>

Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.

- * Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in single file
- * Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street
- * Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing

BUS RIDERS >>

Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them.

- * Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- * Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb

- * If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus, your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other

DRIVING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL >>

Stay alert and avoid distracted driving.

- * Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school's drop-off procedure
- * Make eye contact with children who are crossing the street
- * Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- * The are 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus

TEEN DRIVERS >>

Car crashes are the No. 1 cause of death for teens. Fortunately, there is something we can do.

- * Teens crash because they are inexperienced; practice with new drivers every week, before and after they get their license
- * Set a good example; drive the way you want your teen to drive
- * Sign the New Driver Deal, an agreement that helps define expectations for parents and teens

Casper Crew Working In The Iron Creek Area



Manager's Message

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meeting for their review and approval.

Labor Day

You know summer is coming to an end when we celebrate Labor Day. High Plains Power will be closed September 7th to observe this holiday. I am proud to serve the employees of High Plains Power and thank them for their dedication and hard work. It is through their contribution that they provide strength, prosperity and well-being for your cooperative.

Also, thank you members of High Plains Power for your hard work in all your various occupations. It is your achievements that makes this country so great!



MISSION STATEMENT: *Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom strives to develop an understanding of Wyoming's vast resources where students become informed citizens, capable of serving as stewards for Wyoming's future.*

What is the Wyoming Stewardship Project?

- 12 units exploring Agriculture, Minerals & Energy, Outdoor Recreation & Tourism
- Fully aligned to Wyoming Content and Performance Standards

- Units align horizontally across grade-level content, and vertically in grades 2-5
- Units can be used independently without loss of integrity
- Units provide cross-curricular lessons, and hands-on activities with content unique to Wyoming
- Thoughtfully written to highlight Higher Order Thinking Skills
- Accessible online: www.wyaitc.org
- Units are created in such a way that makes them easy to use, cross-curricular, and comprehensive. They have been developed to align vertically in second through fifth grades, and horizontally across all grade-level standards. The units build on each other throughout the grades, however, they can be used independently without loss of integrity.
- The hope for the Wyoming Stewardship Project is to empower students to become tomorrow's critical thinkers and problem solvers.

Cooperative Principle #5 — Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

High Plains Power



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General Manager
Marlene Morss

This is a monthly publication made available by High Plains Power, Inc., with the Wyoming Rural Electric News. Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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