

# STEWARDSHIP

## Creative solutions are part of Avian Protection Plan

As part of PRECorp's ongoing corporate citizenship and environmental stewardship, the cooperative installs safety features for native and migratory birds that encounter substations or other infrastructure. This is part of the culture that is ingrained in the cooperative's Avian Protection Plan (APP).

The implementation of the APP has statistically proven to have reduced bird-related mortalities over time and improved the reliability of the PRECorp system by reducing outages related to wildlife. PRECorp annually updates its APP with a status report and voluntarily shares its strategies to continuously improve performance with regulators.

### Four-pronged approach

PRECorp Engineering and Operations teams work together to complete avian protection projects for safely discouraging birds at high traffic substations and power lines. There are four objectives to the APP that help make it successful:

- Employee training and member awareness
- Improving the program with innovations and new ideas
- Reduce the risk of avian contact with cooperative infrastructure
- Ensure compliance with regulations to protect employees, the public, and wildlife

PRECorp personnel study wildlife-caused outages over the years and create strategies to mitigate those risks with special devices. PRECorp VP of Engineering and Technical Services Quentin Rogers says birds themselves are not always the cause of all the issues within these areas, but they also are a food source for prey animals, which has resulted in outages.

PRECorp's Engineering team evaluates the effectiveness of various test projects - ranging from scented deterrents, lasers, and cameras - before making a recommendation on whether to adopt these technologies as approved avian mitigation options to be used as needed in the electrical system.

PRECorp's electrical distribution system features thousands of miles of overhead power lines and power poles spread across northeast Wyoming. The poles and their adjoining cross-arms, switches, and insulators offer an inviting perch or nesting area for many species of birds. Lines can also pose collision hazards for some birds in flight.

The APP has been a part of PRECorp's operating procedures since 2005. PRECorp has updated the plan multiple times to ensure it aligns with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and PRECorp's power delivery technology and systems.

Continued on Page 7...

## In This Issue:

CEO Straight Talk

PRECorp Foundation  
Annual Giving Report

Lineman Scholarship  
fundraising raffle

Calendar



**BRIAN MILLS,**  
CEO

*PRECorp Strategy is focused on delivering on three areas for our member-owners: A+ Member Service; Great Rates; and Trusted Energy Partner. We are making strides toward these with a recent notification from the Rural Utilities Service under the USDA, that PRECorp has been selected to receive funding assistance on a large project. I have asked Joe Roth, VP of Member Service, to share you with in this month's column about the project and how it aligns with our strategy.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Roth".

PRECorp wants to share some exciting news with you about PRECorp taking some courageous steps toward a more innovative future for your cooperative. PRECorp, along with other electric cooperatives, is adapting to the changes that are transforming the electrical industry to create a more resilient and sustainable future.

For many, including PRECorp, a key component of this movement is the strategic investment in energy storage projects, which will be a pivotal step toward a very different operational model in how we distribute and utilize electricity.

So, why would PRECorp be willing to invest in energy storage? It is about having control over our energy usage, and specifically, the cooperative's peak demand. By implementing energy storage solutions, we can store excess energy during low-demand periods and use it during peak times.

Okay, so what exactly is peak demand? It refers to the timeframe when the cooperative experiences the highest electricity usage, usually during the busiest parts of the day or in extreme weather. This is when energy consumption reaches its maximum on our distribution system, which significantly impacts the cost of electricity.

With storage projects in the mix, PRECorp can effectively manage the cooperative's needs by adjusting energy use in real-time and avoid costly peak usage charges. This flexibility allows us to optimize energy consumption patterns, leading to significant cost savings overall.

There is a diverse range of federal grants and loan programs designated for electric reliability projects. PRECorp is working to capitalize on these opportunities to capture financial incentives, thereby enhancing the economic viability of integrating this new technology into our distribution system.

One specific initiative that PRECorp has chosen to advance involves the deployment of 1.2MW of solar generation paired with 5MW of battery storage. This strategic move marks the initial step in our journey towards implementing a comprehensive solution that empowers us to effectively defray the higher cost of peak usage by dispatching stored energy from the batteries.

By integrating storage into our distribution system alongside the necessary control system to forecast peak demand, PRECorp stands to gain numerous benefits. Primarily, this calculated approach enables us to optimize energy use and reduce overall energy costs for you, the members. Moreover, this initiation positions PRECorp as an early adopter of proven technology in the energy sector, demonstrating our commitment to reliability in the face of evolving energy challenges. Furthermore, by taking this proactive step, we pave the way for future advancements and foster a more stable and efficient energy system for the membership.

Moving toward the capability to dispatch energy resources offers PRECorp numerous advantages. By transitioning from a cooperative that solely delivers power to one that actively manages energy resources, we will gain increased flexibility in how we respond to changes in demand, grid conditions, and potential market dynamics in the future. This flexibility enables more efficient utilization of energy resources and meeting your future energy needs.

Advancements such as the one just described are reshaping the operational landscape of electric power systems. Specifically, PRECorp has noticed a growing inclination among our members toward integrating generation resources with our distribution system, prompting a shift in our distribution system management approach.

The member-side demand for electricity is projected to increase over the next decade. Members in turn are seeking alternatives to the traditional bulk generation-distribution model. PRECorp is taking the stance of being a trusted partner with our members to develop these solutions by reassessment of our strategies and operations to adeptly accommodate these changing dynamics.

These investments are poised to position PRECorp strategically, enabling us to anticipate and respond effectively to emerging technologies and changes in distribution system management. With storage projects at our disposal, we gain enhanced control over energy usage, allowing us to efficiently manage peak demand and deliver financial savings to our members amidst rising energy prices. This proactive investment lays the groundwork for PRECorp's future, empowering us to steer the distribution and utilization of electricity in a manner that aligns with our cooperative's goals and priorities.

*- Joe Roth, VP of Member Service*

# CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

## 2023 Foundation Annual Report

A core principle of Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) is Concern for Community. PRECorp established the Powder River Energy Foundation in 2007 to become a robust giving arm of the cooperative. Since then, the Foundation has driven back nearly \$2.5 million to strengthen and enhance the communities in northeast Wyoming.

In the past few years, the PRECorp Foundation has moved toward long-term financial planning to create a sustainable funding source, while leveraging its successes with fundraisers, cooperative partnerships, and generous donors right here in northeast Wyoming.

In 2024, the Foundation will solidify its vision for the next decade. Part of that planning includes renewal of its direct support for programs focused on food distribution, workforce development, families in crisis, Veterans' support, and student scholarships.

This planning process could lead to new avenues we can explore to give even greater support to developing areas of need in northeast Wyoming.

The Foundation Board of Directors is grateful to each and every person, business partner, and sponsor organization who helps the Foundation deliver on its mission.

In 2024, the Foundation fundraising events of the Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede, Lineman Scholarship Raffle, and the annual Foundation Golf Scramble are ready to engage our communities as sponsors and participants. Please inquire about opportunities available.

In 2023, the Foundation welcomed Joe Roth as Executive Director to pair with his role as PRECorp VP of Member Service. We also welcomed new Board Member Laci Schiffer of Johnson County. For the

first time, the Foundation Board is fully represented with two directors from each of our five counties.

Our community is resilient to challenges because we pull together in times of need. Now is an important time to participate in small-giving opportunities such as Operation RoundUp®. This program has been the bedrock revenue stream for the Foundation since 2007.

The program is a voluntary option available only to PRECorp consumer-members of any size. You simply round up your monthly bill to the nearest whole dollar, and you automatically send an average of only 50 cents per month per account to the Foundation.

So far, 15 percent of PRECorp members participate in the program. The Foundation has multiple drawings where new and existing Operation RoundUp® members are eligible to win a prize of 25 pounds of bison, beef and pork. We invite more members to sign up, help the cause, and have a chance to win locally-grown food.

Please take a moment to review this report or go to our website at [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org) and see how your donation funds are distributed across the PRECorp service territory.

Sincerely,



**Chairman**  
**John Flocchini**



**Executive Director**  
**Joe Roth**

# Giving by Category

## Health & Human Services:

Food Bank of Wyoming  
 Moorcroft Interfaith Community  
 Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends  
 Kaycee Senior Housing, Inc.  
 Rooted in Wyoming  
 Sundance Senior Citizens Center, Inc.  
 Blessings in a Backpack - Sundance  
 Y.E.S. Foundation  
 Blessings in a Backpack - Hulett  
 The Right Road  
 Blessings in a Backpack -Wright  
 Bread of Life Food Pantry - Buffalo  
 Compass Center for Families FBO Parent Liaison Program in Johnson County  
 Volunteers of America Northern Rockies  
 Campbell Co. Council of Community Services  
 Salvation Army  
 B.R.E.A.D. - food pantry  
 Cooperative Family Fund  
 Helping Hands Foundation of Weston County  
 Newcastle Ministerial Association  
 Sheridan Foster Parent Exchange  
 The Food Group, Inc.  
 The Hub on Smith  
 Crook Co. Medical Services Dist. Foundation - Long Term Care & Palliative Care  
 Kid Prints, Inc.  
 Campbell County Senior Center - Home Delivered Meals Program  
 Kaycee food pantry  
 Corner Market - Hulett Holiday Baskets  
 Crook County Council of County Services - Sundance Food Pantry  
 Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends  
 Upton Food Bank  
 Wright Community Assistance - Food Pantry  
 Silver Sage Senior Center  
 Clearmont Community Food Pantry

## Civic & Community Betterment:

Oshoto Volunteer Fire Department  
 Greater Hulett Community Center - 2023 Old West Invitational Turkey Shoot  
 Edible Prairie Project  
 Johnson County Family YMCA  
 Weston County Friends of Fair  
 Campbell County Fire Department  
 Crook County Volunteer Fire  
 Sheridan Community Land Trust

A.B.A.T.E. of N.E. Wyoming  
 Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department  
 Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns  
 Johnson County Fire District 1  
 Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department  
 Powder River Fire District  
 Sheridan Police Department - Cops for Kids  
 Upton Volunteer Fire Department  
 Weston County Fire Protection District  
 Weston Co. Peace Officers - Shop with a Cop  
 The Mercantile at Rawhide Elementary  
 Wright Centennial Museum  
 Clearmont Community Center Foundation  
 Arvada-Clearmont High School  
 Big Horn Fire District  
 Clearmont Fire District  
 Dayton Fire Protection District  
 Sheridan Area Rural Fire Protection District  
 Story Fire District  
 Tongue River Fire Protection District  
 Farrall Fire Zone #13  
 Havoc Fastpitch  
 Wicked 307 Fast Pitch  
 Arvada-Clearmont After Prom Party  
 Newcastle Post Prom  
 Wright After Prom  
 Johnson Co. SD1 - After Prom Party Committee  
 Gillette Senior Send Off  
 4th Annual Carl Mirich Poker Tournament  
 Sundance Post Prom  
 Sheridan Swim Team  
 Hulett Booster Club  
 Sundance Volunteer Fire Department  
 Powder River Volleyball Club  
 Big Horn High School - Project Graduation  
 Upton After Prom Committee  
 Crook County Natural Resource District  
 Madness on Main  
 Moorcroft Baseball  
 Sundance Chain Gang Mtn Bike Association  
 Sundance Pickleball Club  
 Devils Tower Post 4311  
 Wright JR-HS High School - Panther Booster Club



**Vice Chair**  
**Zeta Anderson**



**Chairman**  
**John Flocchini**



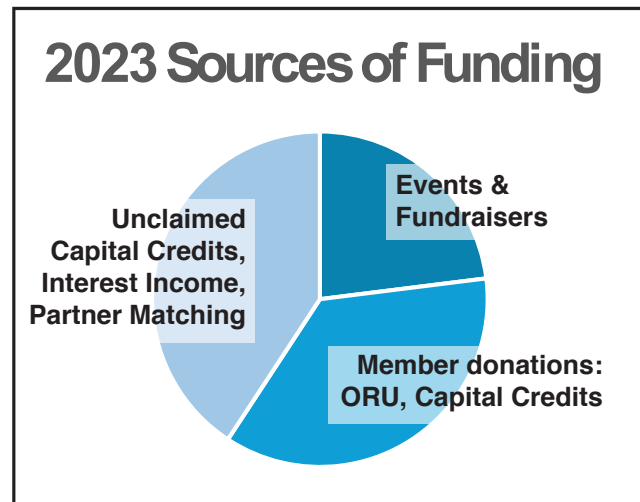
**Phil Jordan**



**Susan Berry**



**Laci Schiffer**



## Support staff:



**Executive Director**  
**Joe Roth**



**Administration**  
**Linda Tokarczyk**



**Financials**  
**Karri Blasi**



**Financials**  
**Angie Sabus**

# Directors



**Secretary**  
**Michelle Edwards**



**John Riesland**



**Mary Geier**



**Mary Yemington**



**Joanie Kiser**



Northeast Wyoming

## Giving by Category, cont'd

Alliance for Hope  
Moorcroft Area Chamber of Commerce  
Moorcroft Parent Action Committee  
Pine Haven Beautification Alliance  
Vitalant Guns 'n Hoses Blood Drive  
Sagebrush Shooters  
Recluse Community Trust  
Town of Clearmont

### Education:

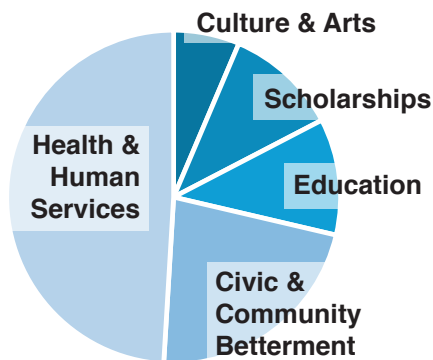
Climb Wyoming - Gillette  
Special Olympics Wyoming  
Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom  
Learning Tree Christian School  
Wyoming Sportsmans Group  
- Hulett Youth Field Day  
307 Teen Challenge  
Hulett Recreation Board  
- Hulett Swimming Lessons  
Crook County Library Foundation  
The Ambassador Company  
Academics for All  
Campbell Co. Community Resource Coalition  
- Campbell Co. Eat Read Grow  
Black Hills State University Foundation  
- Women in Science  
Western Welding Academy  
Kaycee PTO  
Upton FBLA Chapter  
Buffalo High School - Cheer Program

Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) (Wright Chapter)  
Kaycee Elementary School  
Kaycee School

### Culture and Arts:

Wright Centennial Museum  
Weston County Arts Council  
Clearmont Historical Group  
Jim Gatchell Memorial Museum  
Weston County Historical Society  
- Stampede Street Historical Preservation  
Johnson County 4H Council  
Crook County 4H  
Sheridan Recreation District  
Weston Co. Mini Roughstock Rodeo Assn.  
Weston County Junior Rodeo  
Little Levi Rodeo  
Cruising For A Cure  
Kaycee Friday Night Rodeo  
Gillette High School Rodeo Club  
Crook County Rodeo Royalty  
Campbell County Fair  
Texas Trail Cruiser Car Club  
Adon Ranch Productions (formerly known as Twisted Sister Money Run)  
Powder Basin Classic  
Gillette Festival of Trees  
MJ Productions Rodeo

## 2023 Focus of Giving



Total value given since 2007:

**\$2,389,625**

Total given in 2023:

**\$365,895**

Number of organizations supported in 2023:

**136**



**Marketing**  
**Tim Velder**

## Powder River Energy Foundation Mission:

The Mission of the Powder River Energy Foundation (PRECorp Foundation) is to demonstrate our commitment to people and non-profit or charitable organizations in northeast Wyoming by lending a helping hand that will improve their quality of life or serve their community.



# 2024 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Fundraiser

**Buy a ticket and get a chance to win a side-by-side; a Mule Deer hunt; engraved gun; or a designer purse!!**

**FOUR SPECIAL DRAWINGS!**

**\$100 per ticket with only 350 tickets sold!**

**Special limited-entry drawings for a WINNER'S CHOICE:**

**2024 Polaris Ranger 1000 Side-By-Side**

**- OR -**

**A Mule Deer hunt at D-Ranch/or \$2,500**

**- OR -**

**PRECorp 80th Anniversary Henry rifle**

**- OR -**

**Pure Dixie designer purse with pistol.**

**TICKETS:**

**\$100 each**

**PRECorp Member Service**

**at 1-800-442-3630; or**

**Call Rick at 307-283-4930.**



## Why donate?

Help us maintain a scholarship fund for future generations. Help us provide funds for scholarships for locally-grown apprentices who live, work, and contribute to our northeast Wyoming communities.

Keep our best and brightest in our communities where they can be active citizens and leaders. Train quality and hard-working linemen that provide safe and affordable electricity to rural northeast Wyoming.

This program is an employee-based initiative that supports the cooperative's mission and vision of being an employer of choice throughout the region and enhancing service to our member/owners.

The Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Program is administered through the Powder River Energy Foundation, the charitable arm of Powder River Energy Corporation.



# Avian Protection Plan...

from page 1.

The cooperative began collecting and reporting on avian incidents prior to the adoption of PRECorp’s first APP, almost 20 years ago. By analyzing the data collected, PRECorp has learned which structure types pose the greatest risk to our avian friends, which has allowed PRECorp to focus our efforts on retrofitting select structure types in an attempt to make them avian safe.

In 2023, the overall avian and eagle mortalities were 25 percent below average, but higher than the record PRECorp low of 15 in 2022. This long-term success is occurring when federal agencies are reporting high levels of eagle populations, Rogers said. PRECorp reported 36 bird-related outage incidents in 2023 averaging about 2 hours and 21 minutes each. These are major reductions compared to the ten-year running average of 47 incidents per year with outages averaging about two hours each.

Over the years, PRECorp has undertaken specific measures to reduce bird injury and deaths, as well as associated power outages.

Incidents are not just birds landing on or colliding with energized equipment. Some of the outages are nest fires, with no bird mortalities at all. Instead, the empty nests touched energized equipment starting the nest on fire, destroying the nest and the power equipment on the pole.

Installation of protective covers, and increasing the distances between transformers, lines, and other energized device areas has helped the cooperative bring down bird mortalities and outage minutes by as much as 80 percent. Although PRECorp goes to great lengths to avoid occasions of bird deaths, electrocutions still occur. The majority of incidents involve owls and non-raptor birds. Some eagles and hawks have wingspans that stretch over six feet, putting them in danger of electrocution by touching energized lines. About one-third of the incidents involve hawks or eagles.

### What you can do

Although PRECorp employees have the greatest probability of noticing bird threats, PRECorp members, wildlife officials, and partner agencies also play a large role in reporting general hazards.

People who discover a bird carcass, injured bird(s), or nests atop PRECorp power lines, should call 1-800-442-3630. Please do your best to have a location and any identifying numbers from a nearby pole. Callers will also be asked for their contact information and any photos of the scene would also assist in the response.

Reporting is the most important part of the APP. The quick-

## Some species you might see

The following is a list of bird species in northeast Wyoming that PRECorp works to protect from power delivery infrastructure:

### Predatory birds:

- Bald Eagle
- Golden Eagle
- Turkey Vulture
- Osprey
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Swainson’s Hawk
- Barn Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Red Tailed Hawk

### Peregrine Falcon

- Prairie Falcon
- Northern Harrier
- Cooper’s Hawk
- American Kestrel

### Migratory birds:

- Common Raven
- American Crow
- Pelican
- Great Blue Heron
- Sandhill Crane



Courtesy Audubon Society  
Ferruginous Hawk

er PRECorp is notified, the quicker the cooperative and its partner agencies can respond and assess the situation. This reduces mortalities and lessens the chances for outages and potential fires.

PRECorp partners with the USFWS, WGFD and other involved agencies to investigate certain bird mortalities. Some of our investigations are very lengthy and detailed to determine what the bird was trying to do at the time of the incident; to re-create where and how the contact was made; and, to learn how to better protect from future incidents happening.

Data is logged, mitigation devices are often installed, and a record is kept regarding the incidents. The data helps in determining the cause of the incidents which assists in driving improvements to the overall APP. All new power line construction is designed with adequate spacing to reduce the chances of incidents occurring.

PRECorp will continue to retrofit existing structures to reduce overall impact to wildlife in conjunction with its system maintenance plan. Specially designed structures may also be installed near prior incident sites where they are needed as a follow-up to special mortality cases. These structures can include nesting platforms located near problem poles. Under USFWS and WGFD guidance, PRECorp has successfully moved many nests to safe platforms since 2005.

Anyone with questions or comments regarding PRECorp’s Avian Protection Program should call 1-800-442-3630 or email [raptors@precorp.coop](mailto:raptors@precorp.coop) .

## Events calendar

The list of PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates, holidays, telephone town hall meetings, and more.

- **Tuesday, June 25** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 a.m., Gillette.
- **Thursday, July 4** - Independence Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Tuesday, July 16**: Publication of director candidates, notice of August 24 Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.
- **Tuesday, July 16** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance.
- **Tuesday, July 23** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors teleconference meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday, August 7** - PRECorp Walking Taco Fundraising booth, 11 a.m. to ???, downtown Sundance
- **Tuesday, August 20** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette.
- **Wednesday, August 21** - Telephone Town Hall meeting with CEO Brian Mills, 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, August 24** - PRECorp Annual Meeting, Upton Middle School.
- **Tuesday, August 27** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 a.m., Gillette.
- **Monday, September 2** - Labor Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.

## Board seeks to fill vacancy in Campbell County

A vacancy on the Powder River Energy Board of Directors has occurred with the resignation of Campbell County Director Dustin Martinson.

Martinson was elected director in August 2023. The term expires on September 1, 2026, and the PRECorp Board of Directors is seeking letters of interest from Campbell County members who would be willing to fill out that term from 2024 to 2026.

Interview dates will be determined based on the number of members showing interest. The PRECorp Board of Directors may make an appointment as soon as its regular meeting in Gillette, Tuesday, August 20. The new director may be officially seated at the September 17 meeting.

The qualifications for a seat on the PRECorp Board of Directors are as follows:

The applicant:

- Must reside within the service territory of the Campbell County. However, members taking service outside Campbell County shall be deemed to be a member of and within the area served by the county closest to the nearest meter serving the members' residence;
- Must be a member receiving electric energy from PRECorp;
- May not be in any way employed by or have a substantial financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to PRECorp.

The Board of Directors meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month. Directors are expected to attend all regular monthly board meetings.

Directors are also expected to attend all special board meetings, committee meetings, and PRECorp's Annual Meeting.

The Board establishes the basic business policies for Powder River Energy Corporation and represents all members. A director is expected to read and be familiar with information and financial reports from the Cooperative, or other state and national associations.

Additionally, a director will be expected to embrace continued learning about the electric cooperative industry. A director will work with other Board members and have the self-confidence and communication skills to express his or her opinion.

The deadline for submitting a letter of interest is 5 p.m., **Friday, August 2**. The letter should include the following information:

- Member number
- Physical address of member's primary residence
- Primary contact information: phone number, email address
- A statement indicating member's qualifications and interest in serving with the PRECorp Board of Directors

Mail a letter of interest to:

**PRECorp Board of Directors**  
**Attn: Corporate Administration**  
**PO Box 930**  
**Sundance, WY 82729**

The board position is an appointed interim position through August 2026, at which point the seat will be filled through the normal election process and a vote of the PRECorp membership.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630

Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

[www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop)

Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.