



# PRECorp News

JUNE 2025

# STEWARDSHIP

## Deterrents are part of PRECorp's Avian Protection Plan

When a bird interacts with a transformer or line, what does that cost the PRECorp membership? According to statistics from 2024, avian contacts with PRECorp power lines, substations, and transformers resulted in about two hours of outages and \$8,500 per bird.

In 2024, bird deaths linked to PRECorp facilities continued a downward trend. Although the total of a few dozen birds has an impact, it is miniscule compared to other types of mortalities. For example, cats kill about 6.5 million birds every day in the United States, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Another 13,000 birds die every day from collisions with windows.

Despite the disproportional effects of power lines and substations on avian species, PRECorp has significantly reduced the number of bird-related incidents in the past decade because of the ongoing efforts to shield the fliers from the wires. From 2015 to 2017, PRECorp linked more than 90 bird mortalities per year to electrocutions. Since then, the annual average has dropped to less than 35 bird deaths.

Most birds killed in the PRECorp service territory in 2024 were raptors: Owls, Eagles, Hawks, and Ospreys. Another large segment of birds killed were non-raptors such as sparrows. The smaller birds, however, caused three of the top five outages in 2024, by getting inside substation transformers. They knocked out power for more than 63,000 minutes and affected more than 1,400 meters.

PRECorp devotes time and resources to three primary areas to ensure the impacts of bird encounters are properly addressed and mitigated. These are: employee training, regulatory compliance, and retrofit work on infrastructure.

Employees, particularly those who could be first on scene of an incident, are updated annually on new regulations, reporting processes, and the overall workings of the PRECorp Avian Protection Plan (APP).

PRECorp also works with state and federal agencies to review annual reports, regulatory compliance and keep all permits updated.

Continued on Page 7...

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 • Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

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

## In This Issue:

CEO Straight Talk

PRECorp Foundation  
Annual Giving Report

Lineman Scholarship  
fundraising raffle

Calendar



BRIAN MILLS,  
CEO

In the previous article, I provided an overview of the current challenges faced by the electrical utility industry in terms of management and operations. I further posited that the cooperative model is well suited to handle challenges. Why would I see it that way? Well, this month I will try to provide some tenets for why the cooperative model is well equipped to navigate the winds of change. In the end, I hope to convey a sense of confidence to you as member owners that PRECorp is well positioned to navigate the changes. It comes down to how the “machine is wired or built” for success. Let me explain. I will speak to three different tenets.

### Local Ownership and Control

First, **Local Ownership and Control:** Cooperatives are owned and governed by their members — typically local consumers — which ensures that decisions are made in the cooperative community’s best interest. This local focus enables more tailored responses to energy challenges.

### Long-Term Sustainability over Profit

Second, **Focus on Long-Term Sustainability over Profit:** Unlike investor-owned utilities, cooperatives prioritize service reliability, affordability, and sustainability undistracted from providing for shareholder returns. Having a stewardship mentality with the revenue the membership provides becomes the focus...how can we turn expenses into investments that in the long-term relieve further rate pressure.

### Democratic Decision- Making

Last, **Democratic Decision-Making:** Cooperative governance allows all members to have a voice in major decisions. This inclusive approach encourages transparency and membership engagement. This allows for informed membership buy-in as the cooperative transforms and adapts to emerging technologies and operational approaches to meet challenges.

In closing, I think history has been quite informative to this point. Cooperatives have historically filled service gaps where private companies saw little profit. Rural America and certainly northeast Wyoming are proof of the vitality of the cooperative model to meet industry demands when the nation turned to the Powder River Basin to be the Energy Capital. Tri-County and Sheridan-Johnson County Rural Electric Associations (now merged as Powder River Energy Corporation) delivered. The cooperative utility machine is “wired for success” and its strength is in the diversity of the membership that share a common purpose.

This year marks our 80th year and collectively we have weathered many storms together. It feels like, “here we are again,” and I am confident if we rose to the challenge before, we can do it again. I know I speak for the entire PRECorp Team when I say “Thank you” for allowing us to serve you; we take great pride in doing so.

Power River Let ‘er Buck.

# Concern For COMMUNITY

## 2024 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 more than \$2.7 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 2025, the Foundation is moving ahead with its vision for the next decade. Part of that includes renewal of its direct support for programs focused on food distribution, workforce development, families in crisis, Veterans' support, and student scholarships.

This process is opening new avenues 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 engaged our communities with record numbers of participants and funds raised. Please inquire about opportunities available.

Each of our five counties is fully represented with two directors serving on the Foundation Board.

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 50 cents per month per account to the Foundation.

So far, 16 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**



# 2024 Giving by Category

## Health & Human Services:

Pine Haven EMS  
 CHAPS Equine Assisted Services  
 Compass Center for Families  
 Volunteers of America Northern Rockies  
 Food Bank of Wyoming  
 Wright Community Assistance -  
     Food Pantry  
 Silver Sage Senior Center  
 Wright Community Assistance  
 Y.E.S. Foundation  
 Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends  
 Gillette Abuse Refuge Foundation, Inc.  
     (G.A.R.F.)  
 Wright Blessings  
 Rooted in Wyoming  
 Devils Tower VFW Post 4311  
 Hunting with Heroes, Inc.  
 Heartfelt Quilts of Valor  
 Moorcroft Interfaith Community  
 Corner Market FBO Holiday Baskets  
 Crook County Council of County Services  
     FBO Sundance Food Pantry  
 Campbell County Council  
     of Community Services  
 The Mercantile at Rawhide Elementary  
 Campbell County Senior Center FBO  
     Home Delivered Meals Program  
 Johnson County Friends Feeding Friends  
 All Souls Episcopal Church -  
     Kaycee food pantry  
 Bread of Life Food Pantry - Buffalo  
 Compass Center for Families - Parent  
     Liaison Program in Johnson County  
 The Food Group, Inc.  
 Salvation Army  
 Sheridan Police Department -  
     Cops for Kids  
 Sheridan Foster Parent Exchange  
 Newcastle Ministerial Association  
 Helping Hands Foundation  
     of Weston County  
 Weston County Peace Officers -  
     Shop with a Cop  
 B.R.E.A.D. - food pantry  
 Blessings in a Backpack - Sundance  
 Street Sweep Ministries  
 Alliance for Hope  
 Cruising For A Cure  
 Johnson County  
     Suicide Prevention Coalition  
 Ron Materi Road Trip Foundation -  
     Golf Fundraiser  
 The Legacy (Gillette)  
     Living Center holiday meal  
 Vitalant Guns 'n Hoses Blood Drive  
 Weston County Health Lifeline

## Civic and Community Betterment:

Greater Hulett Community Center -  
     Old West Invitational Turkey Shoot  
 Crook County Library Foundation  
 Cody's Puzzle Piece Foundation, Inc.  
 Powder River Fire District (Kaycee)  
 Imagination Library of Campbell County  
 Habitat for Humanity  
     of the Eastern Bighorns  
 Weston County Senior Services  
 Edible Prairie Project  
 Crook County Volunteer Fire  
 Campbell County Fire Department  
 Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department  
 Johnson County Fire District 1  
 Powder River Fire District  
 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  
 Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department  
 Upton Volunteer Fire Department  
 Weston County Fire Protection District  
 A.B.A.T.E. of N.E. Wyoming  
 Johnson County Family YMCA  
 American Legion Post 45  
 Crook Co Medical Services District -  
     Employee Relations Committee  
 Gillette Festival of Trees  
 Gillette Wrestling  
 Girl Scouts of MT & WY Troop 1989  
 Kiwanis of Gillette  
 Moorcroft Baseball  
 Moorcroft Wrestling Club/HS  
 Newcastle Soccer League  
 Newcastle Wrestling  
 Sheridan Sharks Swim Team  
 Texas Trail Cruisers Car Club  
 Wicked 307 Fastpitch Softball

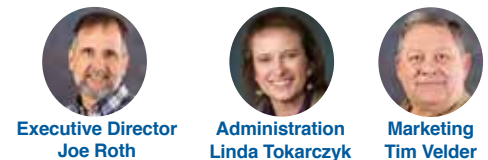
## Education:

307 Teen Challenge  
 Wyoming Sportsmans Group -  
     Hulett Youth Field Day  
 Hulett Recreation Board -  
     Hulett Swimming Lessons  
 Climb Wyoming - Gillette  
 Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom  
 Learning Tree Christian School  
 Special Olympics Wyoming  
 AC After Prom (Arvada-Clearmont)  
 Academics for All

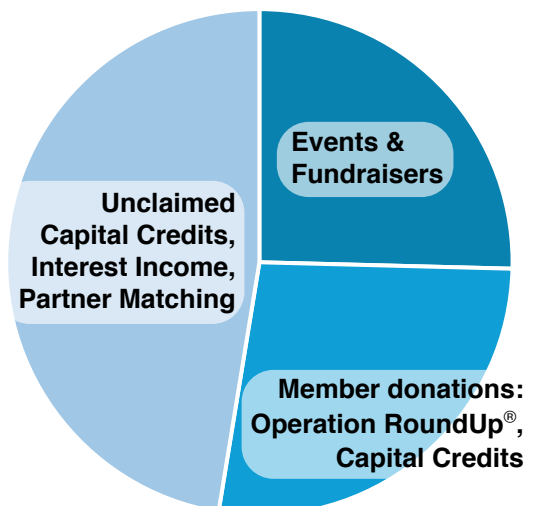
## Board of



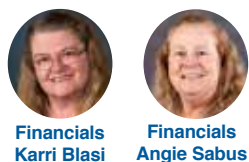
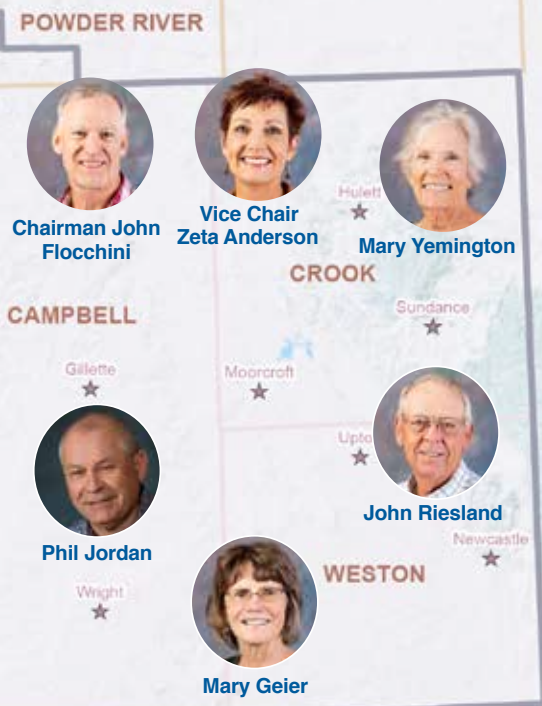
## Support staff:



## 2024 Sources of Funding



# Directors:



## Giving by Category, cont'd

Campbell Co Fair Board - Youth Awards  
Campbell Co Resource Coalition  
Campbell Co Eat Read Grow  
Crook County 4-H  
Holy Name Catholic School STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics lab program)  
Hulett Post Prom Committee - Hulett School Booster Club  
Johnson County 4H Council  
Kaycee Destination Imagination  
Moorcroft HS Post Prom Committee  
Moorcroft Secondary (High School) Moorcroft Secondary Music Program  
Powder Basin Classic  
Gillette Senior Send Off  
Sundance HS Golf Team  
Sundance Post Prom Committee  
Upton After Prom Committee/ Upton Booster Club  
Weston Co 4-H  
Wright After Prom Committee  
Wright Jr-Sr High School District

Weston County Arts Council, Inc.  
Crook Co Rodeo Royalty Committee  
Little Levi Rodeo  
Naja Shrine Circus Fund  
Upton Arena  
Upton Chamber of Commerce - Fun Days  
Weston Co Junior Rodeo Committee  
Weston Co Mini Roughstock Rodeo Association  
Weston County Library Foundation

### Meat Donations:

Clearmont Community Church - Community Food Pantry  
Wright Centennial Museum  
Crook County Council of County Services  
Arvada Clearmont High School  
Wright Community Assistance - Food Pantry  
Moorcroft Interfaith Community  
Bread of Life Food Pantry  
Upton Food Pantry  
Gillette Abuse Refuge Foundation, Inc. (G.A.R.F.)  
Story-Banner Community Food Pantry

### Culture and Arts:

Rockpile Museum Association  
Wright Centennial Museum

Total value given since 2007:

\$2,767,698

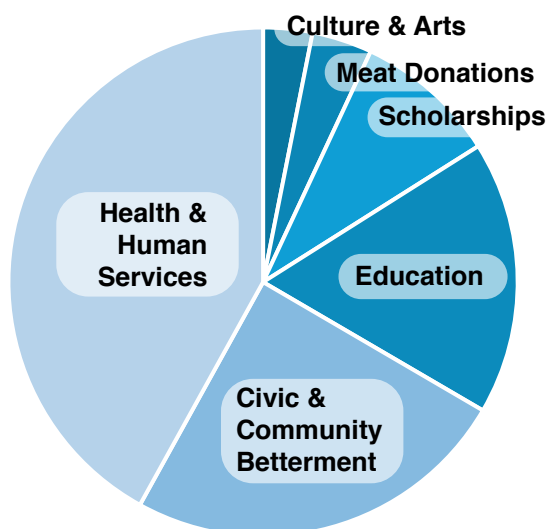
Total given in 2024:

\$378,073

Number of organizations supported in 2024:

126

## 2024 Focus of Giving



## 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.

# 2025 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Fundraiser

**FOUR  
SPECIAL  
DRAWINGS  
on Nov. 20!**



**TICKETS: \$100 each**  
PRECorp Member Service  
at 1-800-442-3630; or  
Call Rick at 307-283-4930.

## Why donate?

Your donation supports the Apprentice Lineman Scholarship fund - an employee-based initiative to keep our best and brightest apprentices in our communities where they can be hard-working linemen, active citizens, and leaders. PRECorp develops people who deliver A+ member service, great rates, and trusted energy partnerships to rural northeast Wyoming.

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

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

**Special limited-entry drawings for a WINNER'S CHOICE:**  
**2025 Polaris Ranger 1000 Side-By-Side**  
**with winch and roof**

**- OR -**

**Processed Half Beef (Two Prizes) from D Ranch,**  
**Philip & Jeanne Habeck**

**- OR -**

**CC purse with Kimber Micro 9 Rose Gold Pistol**





# Avian Protection Plan...

from page 1.

The physical work on the infrastructure includes scheduled construction and maintenance, incident response, and nest management. Nest Management actions may include trimming nest material, removing nests, or relocating nests to platforms installed on or near utility structures. In 2024, outside of the nesting season, PRECorp crews removed 11 raptor nests created by Red-tailed Hawks and Ospreys.

Experimental and creative attempts in substations with scare tactics such as flashing lights, or scented sprays, proved inconsequential or outright failures. Since these were test projects with vendors, the cost was negligible to the budget.

However, tried and true methods of plastic shields and pole replacements continue to offer the best long-term solutions. In all, PRECorp retrofitted 50 structures that were directly threatening raptor safety.

Part of the success of the APP is outreach to regulators and other Wyoming-based groups that work on conservation and habitat protection. PRECorp is a member of working groups dedicated to Sage Grouse and Golden Eagles who study populations, migrations, and ways industry can co-exist with various species of wildlife.

Federal and private grant funds have also supported the APP over the years to offset the cost of retrofitting projects. In 2024, grants and other shared work covered 60 structure retrofits, and another 60 are in line for 2025.

## 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 quicker 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.

## 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  
Osprey

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.

- **Friday, June 13** - Deadline for PRECorp Director candidates to file nominating petitions
- **Tuesday, June 17** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **Tuesday, June 24** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m., Gillette
- **MEETING CHANGE: Thursday, July 17** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- **Tuesday, July 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m., teleconference
- **Wednesday, August 6** - PRECorp Walking Taco Booth Fundraiser, downtown Sundance
- **Tuesday, August 19** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Saturday, August 23** - 80<sup>th</sup> PRECorp Annual Membership Meeting, Gillette Cam-Plex
- **Tuesday, August 26** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m., Gillette
- **Monday, September 8** - PRECorp Foundation Golf Scramble, Golf Club at Devils Tower

# What to expect from PRECorp on Red Flag weather days

Red Flag weather days are likely during the summer and fall months in northeast Wyoming. These occur on days when weather conditions create a recipe for rapid spread of wildfire on prairies or in forested areas.

Critical fire conditions include very dry grass, leaves, or other fuels on the ground; low humidity below 25 percent; and sustained winds of more than 15 miles per hour.

When these conditions are present, the National Weather Service will declare a Red Flag weather warning. Counties and other governing bodies will institute burn bans, travel restrictions, or other measures to reduce the risk of a human-caused fire.

In response, PRECorp removes some of the automated outage restoration features from its system. In regular weather, PRECorp has automatic reclosers that attempt to restore power without dispatching a crew. But on Red Flag weather days, these automated settings are turned off. Crews will be dispatched to outage locations to ensure that recharging the lines will not create another ignition source, such as sparks falling to the ground.

Members may notice longer restoration times during the Red Flag days, particularly during severe thunderstorms when more detailed equipment inspections will be required before running power back to the affected lines.

In areas where the fire danger is consistent, landowners may be asked to trim trees and other vegetation back further to create a wider buffer within the right-of-way.

Anyone with questions about the Red Flag response and PRECorp's Wildfire Risk Mitigation Plan, call our office at 1-800-442-3630.

# Member discounts in Medora, ND

Through a Touchstone Energy member benefit, PRECorp members are eligible for ticket discounts at the following Medora, ND, venues:

- Gospel Brunch tickets
  - Old Town Theater shows
  - Lodging at all Roosevelt Medora Foundation properties.
- Call 1-800-MEDORA-1 or go to [www.Medora.com](http://www.Medora.com) and use discount code **TOUCH2025** for a 15% discount.
- Medora Musical tickets
  - Pitch Fork Steak Fondue
  - Bully Pulpit Golf Course



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.