



**Improving Quality Of Life  
In Our Communities Since 1937**

Electricity and Telecommunication Services



## PSREC eNewsletter

**April 2018**

### Contents:

Manager's Message  
Electric News  
Energy Services News

Telecommunications Info  
Quote of the Month  
Upcoming Events

## Manager's Message

### Dear Members:

As April arrives, it brings the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that springs into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst: co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect lineworkers from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, PSREC lineworkers are responsible for keeping more than 1,300 miles of lines across four counties working, to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools lineworkers use have changed through the years—namely, the use of technology—the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During storms or wildfires, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. Throughout the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

### Communications

Have you visited PSREC's Facebook page lately? If you are curious about outages or want the most up-to-date information about your cooperative, please find us on Facebook under Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative and “like” our page.

We post systemwide power outage notifications and other useful information, such as cooperative updates and energy-saving tips. If you are not on Facebook, no worries! Check out [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop), and stay informed. You can also receive major, systemwide outage updates via text message. To sign up for text notifications, text PSREC to 95577.

Another method of member communication is through your smartphone with our SmartHub app, available for Apple and Android devices.

You can pay your bill, view your energy-use history and contact us from the convenience of your smartphone.

### Telecommunications

PST's coax and wireless broadband services offer download speeds of up to 20Mbps and upload speeds of up to 10Mbps. Our fiber optic services can go up to 1-gigabyte per second, with even faster speeds available, if needed. With these speeds, you can stream videos on multiple devices at the same time without slowing down. You could even

eliminate your TV bill with streaming services. For more information and to sign up for service, call us at (800) 221-3474 or visit [www.pst.coop](http://www.pst.coop).

## Rates

We have reviewed our 2018 budget with the latest hydropower information and are not planning for a rate increase for PSREC at this time. We are planning a revision of our rates in the next several years to put our rates in line with the true cost of service for each rate class. This means that in the medium-term, generally fixed charges will go up and the cost per kWh will decline.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please call me at (800) 555-2207 ext. 6076, or email me at [bmarshall@psrec.coop](mailto:bmarshall@psrec.coop).

Sincerely,

Bob Marshall  
General Manager

## Electric News

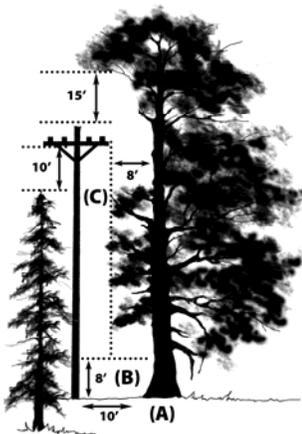
### Vegetation Management

PSREC has an operational and management responsibility—and is required by state and federal agencies—to maintain the right of way under and around its power lines.

Good management of vegetation reduces the co-op's liability of fire and safety hazard due to live, dead or leaning trees, and helps to prevent power outages from trees and limbs falling into lines.

In an ongoing effort, PSREC crews remove any problem trees or brush directly under the power line.

Trees or vegetation outside the power line—but encroaching inside the right of way—are trimmed or removed, as needed.



The illustration below shows the right of way the cooperative tries to achieve through this program.

PSREC is required by state and federal agencies to remove all vegetation within a 10-foot radius of power poles that have a switch, fuse, transformer, arrestor, line junction or are dead end or corner poles.

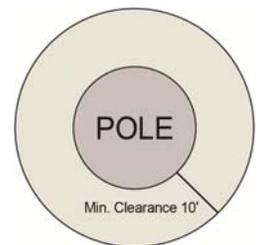
PSREC appreciates your support as it performs this required vegetation work. Together, we can maintain and improve our electrical system to provide reliable, economical and safe electricity for years to come.

Please call our office at (800) 555-2207, or stop by, if you have questions or concerns about our vegetation management program.

**A. Ground Level:** Remove flammable materials for a minimum distance of 10 feet.

**B. Ground Level to 8 Feet Above:** Remove flammable trash, debris or other materials; grass, herbaceous and brush vegetation; limbs and foliage of living trees up to a height of 8 feet.

**C. From 10 Feet to Horizontal Plane of Lowest Point of Conductor Attachment:** Remove dead, diseased or dying limbs and foliage from living, sound trees and remove dead, diseased or dying trees.



## Attention Shutterbugs:

### Get your photo on the cover of Plumas-Sierra REC's edition of Ruralite magazine!



PSREC distributes more than 6,000 copies of Ruralite each month to members in Plumas, Sierra, Lassen and Washoe counties! Wouldn't *you* like to see *your* photo on the cover? Enter the 2018 photo contest!

#### Here's the scoop:

- Up to six (6) amazing photos will be chosen by an unbiased team of judges at Ruralite magazine.
- Winning photos will be featured on one cover of the PSREC Ruralite magazine following the Annual Member Meeting in September 2018, where winners will be announced.
- Winners will receive a \$100 credit on their bill.
- By entering the contest, you agree to give PSREC rights to publish your photo on the

Ruralite cover and to use it in various communication tools including print and web with photo credit.

#### Gotta play (by the rules) to win!

- Photographers must be members of, or own a business that receives service from, PSREC or its subsidiary.
- Photos must be within PSREC service area, and may include people, places or things; photos from all seasons will be considered.
- Only vertical format photos will be considered.
- Only digital JPEG photos will be accepted. Photos must be at least 300 dpi at 9 inches wide by 11 inches tall. Emails larger than 10 megabytes will not be accepted.
- Each photo submission must include photographer's name, address, member number, email address, phone number, location of photo and a short description of the photo.
- Maximum three (3) photos submitted per contestant.
- Photos will be accepted until July 31, 2018.
- Submissions should be sent to [marketing@psrec.coop](mailto:marketing@psrec.coop) along with supporting information. Please put the words "2018 Cover Photo Contest" in the subject line.
- Contact Emily Compton at 530.832.6032 or 800.555.2207, ext. 6032 or [ecompton@psrec.coop](mailto:ecompton@psrec.coop) with questions.

## Energy Services News

### *Energy and Money Saving Rebates From Your Cooperative*

PSREC offers programs to help you save money by making your home or business more energy efficient.

#### ENERGY STAR® Rebates

When shopping for appliances, purchase ENERGY STAR labeled models. Make sure to obtain proof of ENERGY STAR compliance, often denoted on the yellow Energy Guide label on appliances.

For a product to carry the ENERGY STAR symbol, it must meet or exceed federal energy efficiency and quality guidelines. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) for more information.

An application for PSREC's Appliance Rebates is available on our website at [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop). Rebates include purchase of ENERGY STAR® refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, dishwashers, water heaters and Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs. A rebate is also available for the disposal of a secondary refrigerator or freezer (without replacement).

Energy Efficiency Appliance and Lighting Rebates	Credit
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator	\$125
ENERGY STAR Freezer	\$75
ENERGY STAR Washing Machine	\$35
ENERGY STAR Dishwasher	\$35
ENERGY STAR Light Emitting Diode (LED) Bulbs	\$5
Water Heater with energy factor of .93 or more, includes Heat Pump Water Heaters	\$150
Permanent Removal of Secondary Refrigerator or Freezer	\$50

### Weatherization Rebates

By retrofitting a home to R-values below, and upgrading windows to double-pane high-performance windows, members will not only realize the added comfort, but also gain increased home values and curb-side appeal.

Weatherization Measure	Minimum Standards	Rebate Amount
ENERGY STAR® Windows*	U-Factor 0.30 or lower and SHGC 0.40 or lower	\$3.00/Sq. Ft.
Ceiling/Attic Insulation*	R-0 to Minimum R-49	\$0.35/Sq. Ft.
Ceiling/Attic Insulation*	Some Insulation to Minimum R-49	\$0.25/Sq. Ft.
Wall Insulation*	R-0 to Minimum R-13	\$0.25/Sq. Ft.
Floor Insulation*	R-0 to Minimum R-19	\$0.25/Sq. Ft.

\*Maximum rebate per measure \$500, not to exceed 50% of installed cost.

### HVAC Rebates

Upgrading to an energy-efficient heating and cooling system will contribute to increased comfort in your home or business while helping to reduce overall energy use.

Type of HVAC System	Minimum Requirements	Rebate Per Ton
Air-Source Heat Pump	14.0 SEER/8.0 HSPF	\$100
Air-Source Heat Pump	16.0 SEER/8.4 HSPF	\$250
Air-Source Heat Pump	18.0 SEER/9.5 HSPF	\$350
Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP)	Energy Star Rated	\$600
Central Air Conditioner	Minimum 15 SEER and 12.5 EER	\$25
Central Air Conditioner	Minimum 17 SEER and 13 EER	\$50
Central Air Conditioner	Minimum 19 SEER and 14 EER	\$75
Room Air Conditioner	Energy Star Rated	\$75 per unit

### Irrigation-Efficiency Rebates

This program provides an opportunity for PSREC irrigation members to receive financial incentives to invest in energy-efficiency upgrades for their irrigation systems.

### Commercial Energy-Efficiency Rebates

PSREC offers custom incentives to its commercial members for energy-efficiency building retrofits.

### Marathon Water Heater Instant Rebate

PSREC offers members a \$150 instant rebate on Marathon water heaters of 50 gallons and smaller purchased at PSREC's headquarters and installed at your home or business within Plumas-Sierra's service territory.

For more information on Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs, visit our website at [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop) or call (530) 832-4261.

PSREC also offers energy-efficient items at discounted prices through our online efficiency store.



### PSREC Energy Efficiency Online Store

PSREC is pleased to offer members best-quality energy efficiency products at discounted prices for home, business and personal use.

[Click here to shop and save today.](#)

### FREE SHIPPING

Buy Your Filters Online Now!  
or click here to

[FilterChange.coop](http://FilterChange.coop)



Many of our members want to save energy and money but are not sure of the best products to purchase. We are pleased to offer access to 20% off best-quality energy efficient products through Service Concepts. You can easily

access energy saving products for your home, business and personal use through our main website at [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop). You can find special savings on items like LEDs and other lighting products, weatherization products for your home, water conservation items, and other tested energy saving devices. This new service is just another way that we are looking out for you. Little Changes = Big Savings. Together We Save!

## Telecommunications Info

PST's coax and wireless broadband services offer download speeds of up to 20Mbps and upload speeds of up to 10Mbps. Our fiber optic services can go up to 1-gigabyte per second, with even faster speeds available, if needed. With these speeds, you can stream videos on multiple devices at the same time without slowing down. You could even eliminate your TV bill with streaming services. For more information and to sign up for service, call us at (800) 221-3474 or visit [www.pst.coop](http://www.pst.coop).



## Quote of the Month

There is no luck except where there is discipline.

- Irish Proverb

## Upcoming Events

**April 5 - 7**, Ballroom Dance Class. Mohawk Community Resource Center, Corner of Highway 89 and Highway 70, Graeagle. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Learn Beginning Waltz with Julie Lewis. \$30 per couple and \$20 for singles for the three-day class. For more information and to register for the classes, call (530) 836-0446, or email [jpolson@plumasruralservices.org](mailto:jpolson@plumasruralservices.org)

**April 7,** Intro to Pine Needle Basket Making. Mohawk Community Resource Center, Corner of Highway 89 and Highway 70, Graeagle. Noon to 4 p.m. As spring begins, connect with the season and awaken your own inspiration creating a long leaf pine needle basket. You will be guided step by step, learning basic techniques, all the way through to a finished basket to take home. Join us as we connect with nature and community in this unique way. No experience needed. Guided by Michelle Haselton. Class size limit is 10 participants. Cost \$55 Includes all Pine Needle Making supplies, small snacks and beverages. For more information and to sign up, call (530) 927-7036, or visit [www.lakesbasincreations.com](http://www.lakesbasincreations.com).

**April 12,** Words & Music Quincy. [Patti's Thunder Café, 557 Lawrence St.](#) 7 to 9 p.m. A monthly series of acoustic music and the spoken word. Sign up for Open Mic at the door. \$3. For more information, call (530) 283-3402.

**April 14,** Taste of Plumas. [Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairgrounds Rd, Quincy.](#) 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Take a tour of many of the best culinary establishments in Plumas County and great wines available locally in a single location. Meet the chefs, owners and staff that would love to entice you for a more extensive dining experience. The event also features a silent auction. Pre-sale tickets \$30 for Plumas Arts members available only through Plumas Arts, or \$35 for nonmembers. Includes a souvenir wine glass. All tickets at the door, if available, are \$40. If you are not a member you could use this event as an opportunity to join Plumas Arts with your ticket purchase and commence your membership support and savings with this initial investment. (530) 283-3402.

**April 18,** High School Jazz Night. [Town Hall Theatre, 469 Main St, Quincy.](#) 7 to 9 p.m. Join talented young musicians from Plumas County's high schools for a night of jazz and more. Celebrate the successes of our local school music programs. Admission donation of \$5 each is suggested.

**April 21,** Earth Day Celebration. Calpine Community Center, 131 County Road, Calpine. Noon to 4:30 p.m. Branch weaving with Michelle Haselton. For more information, call (530) 927-7036, or email [info@lakesbasincreations.com](mailto:info@lakesbasincreations.com).

**April 21,** Family Connections Conference. Veteran's Memorial Hall, 1205 Main St., Susanville. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Raising children is the hardest and most important job there is! This day is designed for participants to walk away feeling refreshed, inspired and with some new tools to add to their parenting toolbox. A free, fun event in honor of parents and caregivers. Parents can expect food, conversation and great information! For more information, email [bedholm@headstart4u.org](mailto:bedholm@headstart4u.org), or register at <http://familyconnectionsconference.eventbrite.com>.

**April 21,** Earth Day Orchards Class. Every Bloomin' Thing, 705-670 US 395, Susanville. 10 to 11 a.m. Learn about selecting, transplanting, pollination, fertilizing, thinning and pruning your home orchard. The class is free to the public. For more information, call (530) 251-2330, or visit [www.everybloomin.com/new-events](http://www.everybloomin.com/new-events).

**April 26,** Wild Words: Legacy. [Town Hall Theatre, 469 Main St, Quincy.](#) 7 to 9:30 p.m. Free admission. Wild & Scenic Rivers: 50 Years Flowing. Presented by Tim Palmer: author, photographer and river expert. Includes Earth Day Activities: Community sustainability awards and Ansel Adams photo contest auction. Sponsored by Friends of Plumas Wilderness, Plumas Earth Days Committee and the FRC Sustainability Action Team. For more information, call (530) 283-0202, ext. 262.

**April 27 & 28,** Quincy Star Follies. [Plumas Sierra County Fairgrounds, 204 Fairgrounds Rd, Quincy.](#) 6 to 10 p.m. The Quincy Star Follies includes a cast of 120 from all over Plumas County, featuring a contingent of 60 students from K12 through College. This giant cast works together, hand in glove (literally) to entertain audiences with dancing and lip syncing to tunes of all genres. A wonderful event for the whole family and definitely a laugh a minute! Adults \$15; Children under 12, \$10. For more information call (530) 283-9900.

**See a full list of events at our website, [www.psrec.coop](http://www.psrec.coop).**