

RM

Rural Montana

National Winner; Award of Excellence

2005 Best Statewide Magazine, Spotlight on Excellence contest, NRECA Council of Rural Electric Communicators.

Vol. 54, No. 10, October 07 (ISSN0199-6401)

Rural Montana is an official publication of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association and is published monthly by Montana's rural electric and telephone cooperatives in the interest of better rural and urban understanding of the benefits and the problems of rural utilities.

Managing Editor: David Wheelihan

Communications Director, Editor: James V. Smith, Jr.

Offices: 501 Bay Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404

Telephone: (406) 761-8333 — Fax: 761-8339

Website: www.mtco-ops.com E-mail: rural@mtco-ops.com

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association State Board Officers

Robert Evans, Jr. Pres.	Fergus
Marvin Kimmet, Vice Pres.	Glacier
Leonard Sivumaki, Sec.-Treas.	Sun River
Karl Ratzburg, NW Dir.	Marias River
Gary Sethre, NE Dir.	Northern
Ray Cebulski, SW Dir.	Missoula
Jim Mullin, SE Dir.	Tongue River

Cooperative Directors

Art DeVries	Beartooth
Gerald Keller	Big Flat
Ron Fernelius	Fall River
Doug Grob	Flathead
Charles Miske	Goldenwest
Stuart Smith	Hill County
George Elam	Lincoln
John Redman	Lower Yellowstone REA
Ken Buechler	McCone
Larry Williams	Mid-Yellowstone
Judith Simonson	Northern Lights
Mike Warren	Park
Robert Bailey	Ravalli County
Robert Rust	Sheridan
Francis Kornemann	Southeast
Rick Molvig	Valley
Don Jones	Vigilante
Larry Kaufman	Yellowstone Valley

Design/Layout: Sherri Carl, MECA.

Printer: River's Edge Printing
Great Falls, Montana

Change of Address: Mail change of address to your local rural electric cooperative or the Rural Montana office, P.O. Box 3469, Great Falls, MT 59403. Please include the mailing label from your most recent issue of Rural Montana.

Subscriptions: \$6.75 per year.

Postmaster: Published monthly by Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, 501 Bay Drive, Great Falls, Montana. Periodicals postage paid at Great Falls, Montana. Postmaster send address corrections to P.O. Box 3469, Great Falls, MT 59403.

Copyright©2007 Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association. No advertising or editorial content of Rural Montana magazine may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcomed. RM assumes no responsibility for their safekeeping or for their return.

VIEWPOINT

Dave Wheelihan



Dave Wheelihan

The climate of change: Powering the future

This month in Rural Montana we'll take a look at the state's fire season, pay tribute to October being co-op month and have the first of a series of articles written by electric cooperative trustees that give their outlook on some of the issues we face. As usual, we hope you enjoy this month's issue of Rural Montana.

As we mentioned, October is co-op month and we will be busy with electric co-op issues. In addition to many local distribution cooperative annual meetings, the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association will be holding its annual meeting in Great Falls. This year's theme is *The Climate of Change: Powering the Future*. We felt it was only a fitting theme for the opportunity to talk about the implications of legislation aimed

at global warming, its potential impact on electric cooperative consumers and rates and America's economy in general. We'll also be hearing perspectives on Montana issues for 2008 and getting information on what's happening with electric cooperatives in other states.

We view these annual meetings as a great opportunity to receive information on a variety of issues and hear many different points of view. Digesting the information and using it to develop policy is an important tool in representing the consumers of electric cooperatives. Our directors take their responsibilities seriously, and the information they get helps them make decisions on your behalf.

Obviously, cooperatives are different from other business models

because the policy direction we take is driven from the ground up.

We face a critical time in the history of electric cooperatives. The number of issues at the state and national level that can impact our ability to deliver low-cost electricity on a not-for-profit basis is as great as we have seen in many years. Educating our directors, managers, employees and consumers on the impact of these issues will be of critical importance.

Next month we will begin sifting through these issues to give you the information you need to help your cooperative make decisions that are in your best interests. In spite of the challenges, we are confident that electric cooperatives will continue to thrive, grow and do what's best for the members who own us.

Dave Wheelihan is CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

Keep in touch with Rural Montana

If you are not receiving Rural Montana from your local cooperative and would like to receive the magazine, or you want to give a subscription as a gift, you may purchase one for a yearly fee of \$6.75.

Yes! I'd like to subscribe to Rural Montana (12 issues a year at \$6.75).

Check Money Order Cash Credit Card



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Area Code + Phone # _____

Payment must accompany your order.

Credit Card Info. Card Type _____ Exp. Date _____

Card Number _____

Mail to: Rural Montana, P.O. Box 3469, Great Falls, MT 59403