



PRECorp News

APRIL 2021

SmartHub better than third party

Members have a number of safe, free and easy-to-use options when it's time to pay your PRECorp utility bill.

Third-party payment processing websites exist and while they may sound great in helping track your monthly expenses, there are many hidden downfalls to using them. While the website may contain the PRECorp logo, contact information and email link, they are not affiliated with PRECorp. These third-party payers can charge you processing fees to process your payment. In addition, even if you make your payment to the third-party payer in a timely manner, PRECorp may not receive your payment by the due date. Late payment may then result in late fees and the risk of disconnection for non-payment.

PRECorp.coop contains a useful link to SmartHub, which is affiliated with PRECorp and integrates with our billing system. By downloading the SmartHub App on your mobile device or accessing SmartHub through the online portal on our website, you have instant access to your account and any payments received through SmartHub are instantly received by PRECorp.

In addition to SmartHub, PRECorp also offers all payment type drop offs at the Sundance and Gillette offices during and after business hours; drive-up kiosk at the

Gillette office that accepts credit/debit cards and cash; check and payment stubs mailed to the Sundance office; and finally the most convenient payment method of all: auto pay.

Please call a PRECorp Member Service Representative at 1-800-442-3630 today to discuss payment solutions that best meet your needs.

smart hub

PAYMENTS

Avoid service interruptions. Eliminate late fees. Save time. With SmartHub, you'll be notified when your bill is due and can pay securely online in the app, anytime, anywhere. Sign up for autopayments, set up your payment method, and go into autopilot.

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MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

My Grandpa was someone who had a lot of sayings that he used quite a bit to help make sense of the world for himself and others. He would not have called himself an educated man as he quit school after 8th grade to work in order to help his family, but I think he was one of the smartest people I have known. From time to time, I would share my frustrations about life events,

and he would tell me: "Sonny boy, there is nothing new under the sun." I would tell him that my problem was something different and unique. And he would tell me: "There is nothing new under the sun."

Over the past year I have thought about him and what he might have said about the COVID-19 pandemic. My Grandpa was born in 1918 which was the first year of the Spanish Flu pandemic which lasted two years. He would have been too young to remember what was happening then, but his worldview was shaped by a post pandemic world. He had a very healthy respect for the flu, and he was someone who always received a flu shot. He served in the Navy and civil service and had both a healthy respect for and skepticism of government and large bureaucracies.

As I think about our world today, I can't help but wish he was around so I could get some real down-to-earth advice. I think you would agree that the past year has been a real struggle for so many reasons. You might be like me hoping we are seeing the beginning of the end of all the COVID-19 restrictions. You also might be reflecting upon the past year. I hope there are some good things that are mixed into the fabric of a crazy year.

Our brains are wired to focus more on the negative, so it is important that we consciously spend time and effort to think about the positive. If we don't, our brains can become "hard wired" towards negativity, and we can lose the ability to see that the glass is half full.

We have been working on this at PRECorp. The past year was tough, but at the same time we were able to learn some things that were helpful. While we all may have a

bit of Zoom fatigue, I think we now understand first-hand that technology can continue to help us be more efficient and save money on travel and other expenses. By the same token, we also learned how important face-to-face conversations are to keeping us connected. We should be able to balance each and perhaps reduce some expenses but continue to stay connected. We continue to use technology to enhance our efficiencies along with many other ways to help manage costs.

The PRECorp Team transitioned easily into the various COVID-19 protocols as we treated them like any other of our work-related safety protocols. Everyone at PRECorp looks out for each other and this never changed throughout the past year. I think PRECorp's culture of safety is a great asset to the team and our membership.

Our experience with COVID-19 in Wyoming was completely different than other areas of the country and, good or bad, the rest of the country sees rural lifestyles much differently now than just a year ago. This is translating into increased development activity in our area with home sales and construction on the rise.

One of biggest takeaways through all this may very well be how important our friends, family, and communities are to each of us. We have always valued friends, family, and community, but I think the past year helped us to see both the value and the fragile nature of our relationships.

My Grandpa was one to always go out of his way to help others. It might have been from his experience growing up in the Great Depression; it might have been his experience of service in the Navy; or like many of us, it might just be who he was.

As things get busier over the next few weeks and months and we begin to regain parts of our lives that have been put on hold, it might be worth remembering one of the sayings Grandpa used to say: "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

We have a good thing going here in northeast Wyoming. We care about each other, and we don't mind helping and pitching in to make our communities stronger and even more resilient. The PRECorp Team is here to serve and to help make northeast Wyoming an even better place to be.

Mike

Events Calendar

The list of 2021 PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates and telephone town hall meetings with CEO Mike Easley. PRECorp Board meetings have tentatively returned to the Sundance-Gillette-Sheridan rotation. The Annual Meeting and Foundation fundraisers are planned as in-person events, unless COVID-19 pandemic restrictions return.

- **Tuesday, April 20** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- **Monday, April 26** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, Gillette
- **Tuesday, May 18** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Wednesday, May 19** - PRECorp telephone town hall with CEO Mike Easley, 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, May 21:** Deadline for PRECorp nominating committees to post their list of Board of Directors candidates.
- **Monday, May 24** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, Gillette
- **Tuesday, June 1** - Special Operation RoundUp meat drawing. All members enrolled in Operation RoundUp are eligible. Sign up today!
- **Saturday, June 5** - Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K Foundation fundraiser, 7 a.m.
- **Friday, June 11:** Deadline for PRECorp Board candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.

2021 Nominating Committee appointed

PRECorp members serve on nominating committees (**contact information below**) that put forth qualified candidates for the Board of Directors. Incumbents up for election this year are Paul Baker of Crook County; Mike Lohse of Johnson County; and Jim Baumgartner of Sheridan County.

The following are ways to get on the ballot:

- Be nominated by the committee appointed by the PRECorp Board of Directors.
- Return a nominating petition, signed by at least 25 PRECorp members, by June 11, 2021.

Any PRECorp member from the aforementioned director districts can run for a three-year term on the Board, providing the member meets the following qualifications:

- Must reside within the service territory of the county from which he/she is elected.
- However, members taking service outside the counties of Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan or Weston 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 the Corporation;
- 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 the Corporation.

Election process dates:

Friday, May 21: Deadline for nominating committees to post their list of candidates.

Friday, June 11: Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.

Friday, July 16: Publication of director candidates, notice of Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.

If you have specific questions regarding eligibility, contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

2021 Nominating Committee Members:

CROOK COUNTY:

Rick Good
PO Box 381
Moorcroft, WY 82721
307-756-9724

Dave Reed
445 Goldie Divide Rd.
Hulett, WY, 82720
307-467-5389

JOHNSON COUNTY:

Thad Stoltz
1334 Upper Powder River Rd.
Arvada, WY 82831
307-736-2602

Ben Schiffer
34 Mountain View
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-217-2032

SHERIDAN COUNTY:

Mike Latham
PO Box 215
Clearmont, WY 82835
307-737-2219

Jim Fennema
PO Box 173
Leiter, WY 82837
307-758-4555

PRECorp updates avian protection program

Powder River Energy Corporation is updating its migratory and predatory bird protection program for 2021.

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 Avian Protection Plan (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) and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) guidelines, as well as changes to PRECorp's power delivery technology and systems.

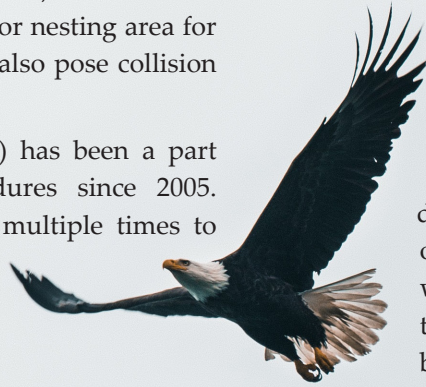
Over the past 8 years, PRECorp has undertaken specific measures to reduce avian injury and deaths,

as well as associated power outages. Incidents in 2020 covered all five counties in PRECorp's service territory, with the majority in Campbell County.

Greater clearances between conductors and the installation of protective devices on transformers, lines, and other equipment has helped the cooperative reduce bird mortalities in recent years. Outage minutes due to wildlife has also been reduced by as much as 80% due to these efforts. Although PRECorp goes to great lengths to avoid occasions of bird deaths, electrocutions and collisions still occur. While some eagles and hawks have wingspans that stretch greater than 6 feet that put them in danger of electrocution by touching energized lines, the majority of avian mortalities on PRECorp's system occur with owls and non-raptor species.

Although PRECorp employees have the greatest probability of noticing avian threats, PRECorp

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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

PREC Corp vehicles up for sale on eBay May 21-31

Retired PRECorp surplus vehicles will be up for auction on eBay on May 21, 2021. Beginning at 7 p.m., one unit will be listed every 15 minutes until all units are listed. This will allow for one closing every 15 minutes beginning at 7 p.m. on May 31, 2021, in the event an individual is bidding on more than one unit.

The items below will be listed in the vehicle auction May 21 through May 31:

All decals will be removed prior to sale; trucks will be cleaned.

- Unit 4002: 2013 Dodge Crew cab ½ ton; Short box; Some hail damage
- Unit 4010: 2013 Ford 1 ton; Service Body; Some hail damage
- Unit 4118: 2006 Ford 1 ton; Service body; Some body damage
- Unit 4119: 2006 Chevy ¾ ton; Fiberglass insert; Some hail damage; Some rust
- Unit 4170: 2009 Ford 1 ton Pickup; Transfer case damaged; Some hail damage
- Unit 4197: 2013 Ford 1 ton cab and chassis; Engine removed; Some hail damage

All units can be viewed at PRECorp Fleet office in Gillette if desired.



Unit 4002: 2013 Dodge Crew cab ½-ton; Short box; Some hail damage



Unit 4119: 2006 Chevy ¾-ton; Fiberglass insert; Some hail damage; Some rust



Unit 4170: 2009 Ford 1-ton Pickup; Transfer case damaged; Some hail damage



Unit 4010: 2013 Ford 1-ton; Service Body; Some hail damage



Unit 4118: 2006 Ford 1-ton; Service body; Some body damage



Unit 4197: 2013 Ford 1-ton cab and chassis; Engine removed; Some hail damage

How to access PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. On May 21, go to www.ebay.com
2. At top of page to the far right click on "Advanced"
3. On the "Advanced Search Page", scroll down the page to "Sellers"
4. Check the box titled "Only items show from:"
5. In the blank box, type in: *vehiclesinwyoming*
6. Click on "Search", or hit "Enter"

7. The PRECorp vehicles for auction will not appear on eBay until the start date and time of the sale.

Once the auction ends, eBay will send out a notification to the winning buyer and PRECorp. At that point, PRECorp will e-mail the buyer with information on how to make contact, payment, and where to pick up the unit.

Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on May 21, please obtain more information via e-mail at fleet@precop.coop. This is the only source of information on these items prior to the opening of the sale. Please do not inquire with our offices or outposts because they do not have information on these vehicles.

Details of each unit along with pictures will be on eBay at the start of sale.

May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. But at PRECorp, safety is a daily emphasis, throughout our system, all year long - at work and at home.

Because we are looking out for the best interests of our members, we raise awareness about safety and ways to avoid accidents, keep our employees safe, and provide reliable service for our members.

Although you don't see the actual electricity flowing through the line, you would certainly feel it if you had an encounter with electricity. Touching lines or equipment with high voltages can not only cause injury, it can take a life.

However, safety concerns stretch beyond the immediate tasks of climbing poles and restoring power. We must consider safety in all aspects of our day.

People have accidentally driven vehicles and large equipment into power poles. Sometimes drivers underestimate the height of their vehicle and become tangled in power lines. Diggers sometimes discover too late they have hit power cables buried underground.

Animals and even tiny insects are also in the picture. These creatures find ideal hangouts on our power lines, cross arms, insulators, and other attachments. Bugs hide in the tight spaces in the guards and insulators, and birds daringly try to root them out. The resulting electrocutions for the predators can knock out power or cause a fire.

Vines, trees, and bushes tend to grow quickly into our lines. Keeping vegetation trimmed and away from the poles, power lines, and other electrical equipment takes regular maintenance. Fires can start when lightning hits a pole, or wind slaps power lines together. It doesn't take much of a spark on dry grass or timber for high winds to push a fire several miles across open Wyoming countryside.

Are there some hazards around power services to your residence, ranch, or business that could result in a tragedy? If you notice potential hazards involving PRECorp facilities, call 1-800-442-3630, to report the facility location and nature of the problem.

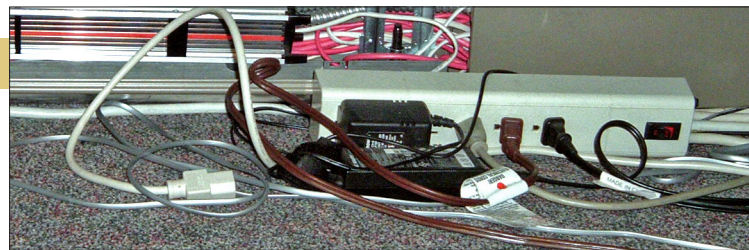
In the home:

Because of the higher loads of the newer electric devices, demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.

Some tips:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard. Heat can also be trapped and cause a fire.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes. This equipment has a limited life expectancy.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Keep all liquids away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.
- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Check refrigerator coils quarterly to eliminate dirt buildup. This can increase efficiency and remove fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink. GFCI outlets are required in kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoors.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.

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Electrical Safety Month...

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Outdoor hazards:

Here are a few things to keep in mind regarding hazards on your property:

- Do not attach anything to a power pole. Nails, tacks, staples, wires, satellite dishes, deer stands, basketball hoops, signs, and other items create immediate hazards for you and our crews if they need to respond to an outage.
- Be aware of clearances with your vehicles, equipment, or roof work. Look up. Look all around you to make sure you are at least 15-feet from a pole or overhead line. A few seconds to look can save you the aggravation of an accident or power outage.
- Do not pile or stack items beneath power lines.
- Look up. Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder. All ladders that touch power lines - even ladders made of wood - can shock or electrocute people touching them.
- Call 811 or 1-800-849-2476 (One-Call of Wyoming) at least two days before you dig. Make sure locates are completed. Large construction projects that dig deep into the ground are commonly thought of as the occasions when underground line locates are necessary. Because of landscaping or erosion, lines could be close enough to the surface that you could hit them with that first plunge of the shovel. The service is free. Repairs are not.
- Heed the warning signs posted on PRECorp electrical facilities.
- Check for weather damage around your home, ranch, or business.
- If you encounter a damaged power pole or line, always assume it is energized. Do not touch or try to move downed power lines. Stay in your vehicle if you hit a power pole or power line. If you must get out of the vehicle, keep both feet together and jump clear. Do not step onto the ground.
- If you happen upon an accident involving a pad-mount transformer (that green box), power pole, or line, call 911 immediately. Do not approach the scene because electricity from energized lines can kill you, even if you are a few yards away.



And remember fire safety:

- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.
- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced every six months, and be aware that smoke alarms have a limited life expectancy.
- Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.
- Clean your dryer filter with each use, and check the dryer vent periodically for lint buildup. It can be a fire hazard.
- Talk to your family - including small children - on planning an emergency escape route - they are more likely to remember a plan they help create.



The 500 tickets for the Mustang Raffle are sold!

The drawing for the winning ticket for the 1972 Mustang Mach 1 will be held during the PRECorp Annual Meeting Saturday, August 21, at Upton Middle School. Special thanks to vendors Upton Hardware, Wright NAPA Auto Parts, Paradise Foods in Pine Haven, and White's Canyon Ford in Spearfish (SD). BIG thanks also to all the buyers who helped make this raffle a success. The funds raised provide enough money for the PRECorp Foundation to provide the Shayna Ritthaler memorial preschool scholarship for years to come.

Avian protection program...

from page 4.

members, wildlife officials, and partner agencies also play a large role in reporting general hazards.

People who discover a bird carcass, or an injured bird, should call 1-800-442-3630. Please do your best to have a location and any identifying numbers attached to 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.

PRECorp immediately partners with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game & Fish Department and other involved agencies. Some of our investigations are very lengthy and detailed because many are not related to electrocution.

Data is logged and issues with individual structures


are addressed. The data helps in reducing future incidents. All new power line and infrastructure is designed and constructed with avian safe practices. Routing of new projects is considered for habitat and other environmental impacts, along with other pertinent and practical solutions.

In 2021, PRECorp will continue to retrofit poles and wire with avian protection devices as part of the ongoing system maintenance plan. Specially designed structures will also be installed where 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.



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