November 2026

PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.

MPE Secures $8.3 Million for Wildfire Mitigation and Reliability Upgrades

Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. (MPE) has been awarded more than $8.3 million in federal wildfire mitigation funding to strengthen portions of its electric system, reduce wildfire risk, and improve reliability for members.

The award, totaling $8,361,702, was provided through Colorado's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) 4498 and supports multiple wildfire mitigation projects across MPE's service territory.

"As a member-owned cooperative, we are always looking for opportunities to improve our system in the most cost-effective way possible," said Virginia Harman, CEO of Mountain Parks Electric. "Our team has worked to obtain this grant for five years because it helps us invest in wildfire mitigation and infrastructure upgrades that benefit our members while reducing costs that otherwise would have been borne by the cooperative and, ultimately, our membership."

Phase 1, awarded in 2024, provided funding for planning and project development. That work was completed in 2025.

Phase 2, awarded in September 2026, provides the remaining federal funding for wildfire mitigation construction upgrades in the following areas: two projects near Kremmling, one near Fraser, one near Lake Granby, and one near Walden.

The current federal project deadline is February 1, 2027. MPE is working diligently with contractors from Stanley Consultants and Colorado Powerline, Inc. (CPI) to be able to complete the three projects. Work includes upgrading the overhead power lines and equipment in two areas near Kremmling and one in northern Jackson County.

The two remaining projects, near Fraser and near Lake Granby, involve converting overhead lines into underground service and will require additional time to complete. Because of the region's limited construction season, MPE has requested a grant extension for those projects.



"THIS GRANT HELPS US INVEST IN WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES THAT BENEFIT OUR MEMBERS WHILE REDUCING COSTS"

VIRGINIA HARMAN, MPE CEO

MPE LINEMAN PARTICIPATES IN

'Life Changing' Electrification Project



Quintin Bradford, MPE troubleman lineman in Walden, isn't one to shy away from anything, particularly a new experience. When Adam Paulson, MPE Vice President of Operations, shared with MPE linemen an opportunity to participate in an electrification project in Guatemala, Quintin was the first to volunteer.

"They said it would be life changing, and it really is," Quintin said in an update on September 22, around the halfway point of the service trip. By the project's end, he and 17 other volunteer linemen from Colorado, Oklahoma, and Iowa constructed around 7.5 miles of power lines and connected 90 homes to electricity in the villages of Montenegro and El Estocal near Guastatoya, Guatemala.

> ***"It was an extremely rewarding experience and amazing to see how grateful the locals were to have power," he said. "I'm extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of something so special."***

Whether restoring power after a storm in Colorado or helping bring electricity to a remote village in Guatemala, Quintin said the appreciation shown by the people served is similar. In Guatemala, however, the work was far more hands-on. Without the modern equipment commonly used in the United States, dozens of local residents helped with the project.

The villagers often helped the linemen to hand-pull wire through rugged terrain. When branches and vegetation obstructed the line route, a translator would ask for assistance.

"There would be four guys climbing up in the trees with their machetes going after it," Quintin explained.

Working alongside the local communities was one of the most rewarding parts of the experience.

"They're all really happy...and the kids there are amazing. They're hilarious," he said, recalling how quickly they picked up English words and how much they loved running around with soccer balls given to them by the linemen group.

Adam Paulson joined other delegates for the final week to participate in additional service projects, including renovating a schoolhouse and upgrading its kitchen. His group was also on hand for the lighting ceremony, celebrating the moment electricity reached the villages for the first time.

Quintin in Guatemala







Annual Meeting and Director Elections
Scheduled for May 1, 2027

- The 2027 Annual Meeting date has been set for May 1 at Middle Park High School (795 North 2nd Street in Granby).
- Director elections for District 1 and District 3 will take place at the Annual Meeting. In-person voting will be available during the business portion of the Annual Meeting for members who have not voted electronically or by mail. Voting will close no earlier than 10 minutes past the time the meeting is called to order.
- Directors serve a 4-year term and are elected from specific geographic areas (districts) within MPE's service territory. District 1 includes the east side of Highway 40 in the Fraser/Winter Park area. District 3 is the Jackson County area.
- Visit **www.MPEI.com/2026-Director-Elections** for a link to the Director Districts Map and for updates on the 2027 director elections. If you're unsure of what district you're in, feel free to call our Member Service Representatives at 970-887-3378.

More Than a Customer, An Electric Cooperative Member-Owner

What's the difference between being a customer of a big utility and a member of MPE? MPE is an electric cooperative, which means you are not just a customer; you are a member of an organization owned by you and your community. That means that at the very foundation of MPE's business model is a dedication to members' needs rather than to generating profits for outside shareholders.

As a member-owner, you work alongside the board of directors, staff, and leadership to build MPE's long-term resilience. By staying informed, voting in cooperative elections, and showing up to community events like Coffee with MPE to chat with staff, you can take an active role in building and maintaining this essential community asset.

At MPE, you have a voice in how the future of energy in your community is shaped. You vote for your board representatives, who make crucial decisions for the organization based on your best interests. Plus, as a not-for-profit utility, the money from your MPE bills doesn't line the pockets of outside shareholders, it funds operations and maintenance, covers expenses, and invests in improvements that support reliable service for decades to come. When revenue exceeds expenses, the remaining amount is allocated to members as capital credits.

One of the greatest benefits of being an MPE member is access to staff. When you have a question, whether it be about your service, bill, or setting up notifications in your SmartHub account, when you call us, a member of your community will help you navigate your needs. We are just down the street working for you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 11

Becoming a Local Lineman (B.A.L.L.) High School Recruiting Event

This new career exploration event is designed for young men and women in local high schools who may be interested in pursuing a rewarding future as an MPE lineman. It also serves as an interest meeting for a potential Electrical Explorer Post to be sponsored by MPE. Student enrollment is being facilitated in partnership with area high schools. Recent local high school graduates are welcome to attend, as well. The deadline to RSVP is Nov. 2. See **www.MPEI.com/BALL** for more information.

Monday, November 16

Coffee with MPE in Granby

Join us for the final Coffee with MPE event of the season in Granby on November 16 at Rollin' Street Bakery, 420 E. Agate Ave., from 8-10 a.m.



5th Quarter event for MPHS Football







Coffee with MPE in Kremmling

MPE TIME MACHINE

As we continue celebrating our 80th year, these articles give a glimpse of what life was like as an MPE member in the 1950s and 60s.

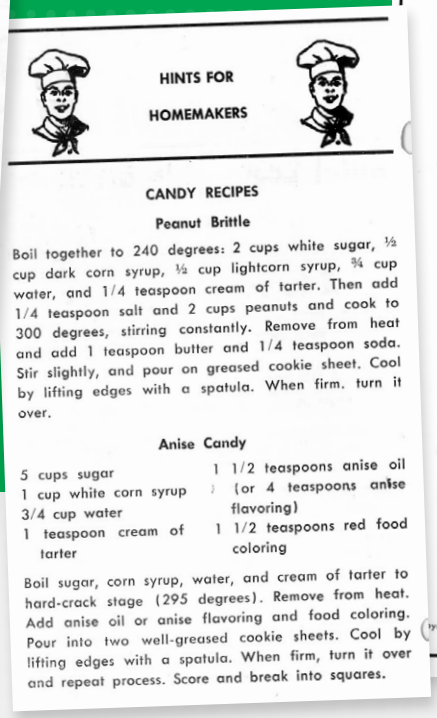


Your Cooperative Neighbor

Me, in a successful private enterprise? Sure I am! So's every other rural electric member-consumer. All across the country hundreds of rural electric systems like our own are dedicated to bringing electric service *at cost* to each and every member on their lines. No hidden charges here! We pay our taxes, own and operate our own business in the real American democratic tradition.

Private enterprise? Of course it is. Our rural electric is locally-owned and locally-controlled right in its own area. How private can you get? And that means a lot too! After all, who can best understand our local needs? Why, the folks living here, of course! And who can best make plans for the future? There again, the folks who get their electric service from the rural electric. We each have one vote at election time every year, and we each have the same right to hold office on the board.

Why, our business is as American as grits or apple pie—always has been, and we're going to keep it that way.



HINTS FOR HOMEMAKERS

CANDY RECIPES

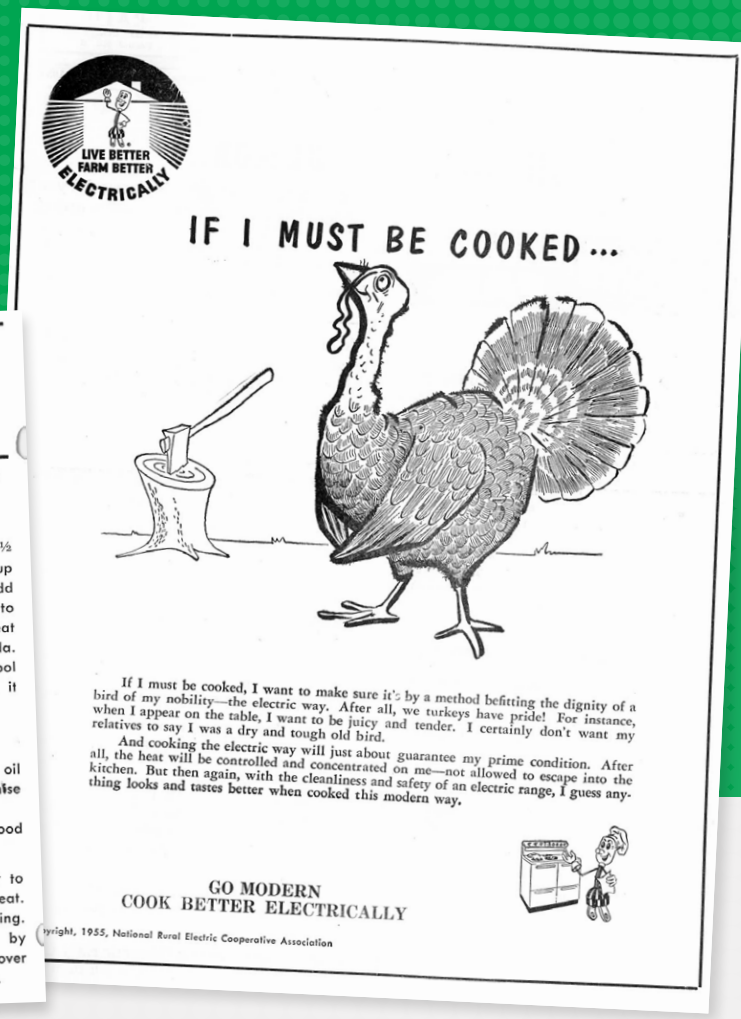
Peanut Brittle

Boil together to 240 degrees: 2 cups white sugar, ½ cup dark corn syrup, ½ cup lightcorn syrup, ¾ cup water, and 1/4 teaspoon cream of tarter. Then add 1/4 teaspoon salt and 2 cups peanuts and cook to 300 degrees, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add 1 teaspoon butter and 1/4 teaspoon soda. Stir slightly, and pour on greased cookie sheet. Cool by lifting edges with a spatula. When firm. turn it over.

Anise Candy

- 5 cups sugar
- 1 cup white corn syrup
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 teaspoon cream of tarter
- 1 1/2 teaspoons anise oil (or 4 teaspoons anise flavoring)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons red food coloring

Boil sugar, corn syrup, water, and cream of tarter to hard-crack stage (295 degrees). Remove from heat. Add anise oil or anise flavoring and food coloring. Pour into two well-greased cookie sheets. Cool by lifting edges with a spatula. When firm, turn it over and repeat process. Score and break into squares.



IF I MUST BE COOKED...

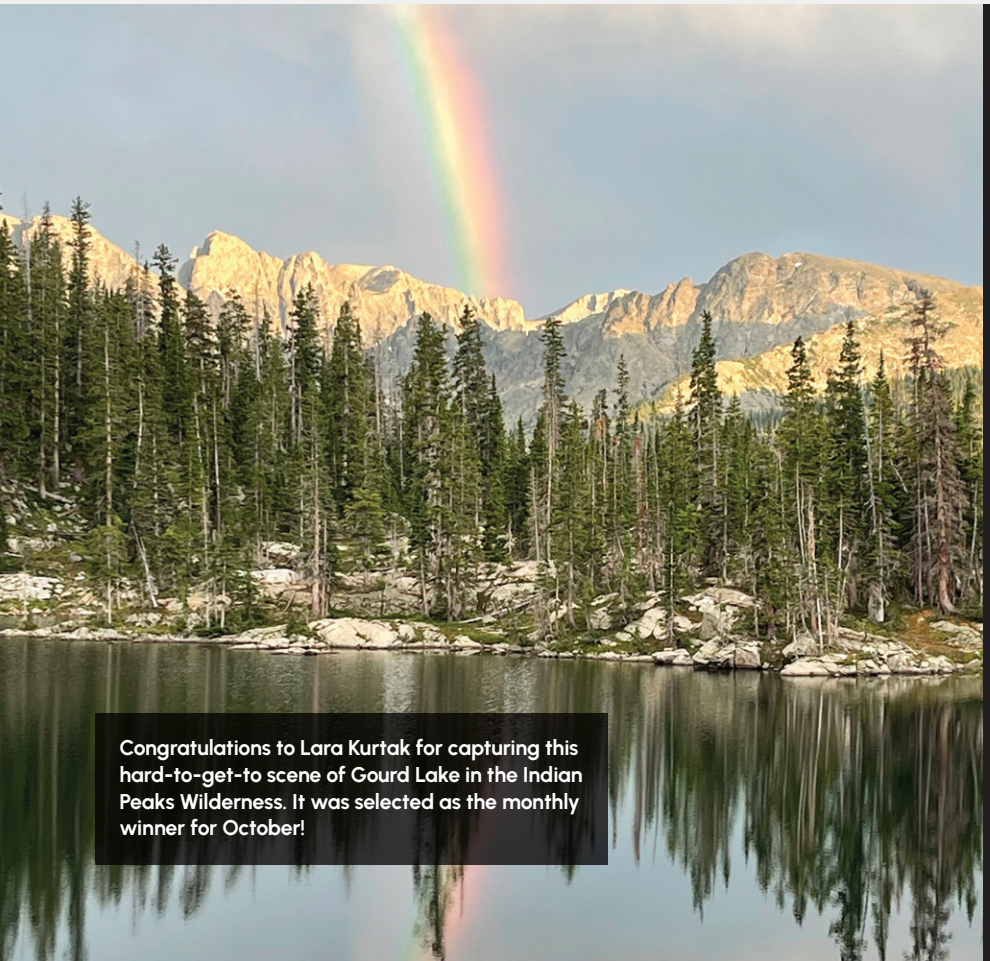
If I must be cooked, I want to make sure it's by a method befitting the dignity of a bird of my nobility—the electric way. After all, we turkeys have pride! For instance, when I appear on the table, I want to be juicy and tender. I certainly don't want my relatives to say I was a dry and tough old bird.

And cooking the electric way will just about guarantee my prime condition. After all, the heat will be controlled and concentrated on me—not allowed to escape into the kitchen. But then again, with the cleanliness and safety of an electric range, I guess anything looks and tastes better when cooked this modern way.

GO MODERN
COOK BETTER ELECTRICALLY

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80TH ANNIVERSARY 1946 2026



Congratulations to Lara Kurtak for capturing this hard-to-get-to scene of Gourd Lake in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. It was selected as the monthly winner for October!

Enter Our Outdoor Photo Contest, Win Prizes!

Send us your best seasonal outdoor shots for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, on social media, and possibly in a future MPE photo calendar.

Winners will be selected monthly. In addition to social media tags and promotion, winners will be entered to win a $500 gift certificate to B&H Photo.

Visit tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest or scan the QR code to submit your photos!

Photos must be received by the 20th of each month.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO