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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 5, 2015**

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**Beartooth Electric Co-op members urged to attend community meetings**

*Red Lodge, MT* – New management and other developing changes for the Red Lodge-based rural electric cooperative will be discussed at important member meetings scheduled for March 30, 31 and April 1 and 2.

“We need our members to participate in the decisions that affect them,” said Roxie Melton of Roberts, president of the Beartooth Board of Trustees.

As of April 1, management of Beartooth Electric Cooperative will be provided by Lower Valley Energy, a gas and electric distribution co-op based in Afton, Wyoming. Jim Webb, the CEO of Lower Valley Energy, will take over the duties of Beartooth’s interim general manager Dick Peck, who leaves May 1. The upcoming meetings will provide an opportunity for co-op members to learn more about the managerial changes and ask questions about the Lower Valley Energy management team.

Members who attend the meetings will have the opportunity to get acquainted with Jim Webb in his new role as the manager of Beartooth Electric Co-op.

The goals for Beartooth will also be discussed, including the priority goal of rate reduction. The management agreement will reduce costs, which will help achieve lower rates for electric power. Lower Valley Energy is also widely known for energy innovation and leadership in energy efficiency and sustainability. The management agreement between the two co-ops, which was signed in December, allows an option at the end of two years for extension of the contract or a merger.

“For the past year or more, the Beartooth board has been applying due diligence for a realistic view of the future of the co-op, including an exit from Southern Montana Electric,” said Arleen Boyd, trustee for Beartooth’s Fishtail district and representative to the board of Southern Montana Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative.

“This has included planning for stable continuation of electric service for our members when our current power supply contract ends in 2017,” Boyd added.

These and other issues will be discussed in the member meetings. For more information call 406-446-2310 or visit [www.beartoothelectric.com](http://www.beartoothelectric.com).

**SIDEBAR/BOX**

**BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC CO-OP MEMBER MEETINGS**

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

March 30 - Roberts Firehall

March 31 - Fishtail Community Center

April 1 - Rec Center in Clark, Wyoming

April 2 - Columbus City Hall

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