



SMPA: Advocates for the Trails



Attention Leaf Peepers!



ABC's of a Power Outage

OCTOBER 2020

ENERGYWISE

YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office to reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

SPACE HEATER SAFETY TIPS:

- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Don't let pets or children play too close to a space heater.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Healing the Trails that Heal Us

To the volunteer who picked up trash along the Jud Wiebe trail in Telluride during 'Clean-up Weekend' last month, we thank you.

We weren't there when you donned a pair of rubber gloves and bent over to pick up a plastic water bottle, or a granola bar wrapper, but we are enriched by the unblemished trail you left behind. Originally named for a dedicated forest service employee who succumbed to cancer in '86, the Jud Wiebe trail is just one of the locally-beloved trails in the wilderness surrounding Telluride that has seen a dramatic uptick in traffic since the worldwide impact of COVID-19 outbreaks.

"The visitation impact on the San Juan Mountains and Telluride region has been enormous," says Ashley Smith, Programs and Development Coordinator for the Telluride Mountain Club (TMTc), which manages and cares for the Telluride-area trails. "Trash left around trailheads and on trails, heavy traffic on popular routes, issues with human waste and trail damage were on the rise."

2020 was supposed to be a significant milestone for TMTc in terms of trail projects and bridge construction, but with pandemic interruptions, TMTc has had to readjust its

priorities and timelines. The August 'Trail Clean-up Weekend' was an outcome of TMTc's renewed focus on trail work as well as outdoor recreationalist education on proper trail etiquette and stewardship.

In 2019, the TMTc received a SMPA / CoBank Sharing Success Grant for ambitious trail expansion projects. However, with many of their other potential contributors diverting funds to pandemic response projects, the club doubled down on existing trail maintenance and user education.

"We strongly believe that time spent outside recreating is critical to helping individuals manage their stress levels and stay healthy during the pandemic," says Smith. "Therefore, we see our projects as an essential service to the public."

As we gaze at the spectacular fall colors along the trail, we tend to agree. Although 2020 hasn't turned out the way anyone was hoping, we feel confident that the Telluride trails are in good hands.



SMPA and CoBank Announce the Sharing Success Economic Development grants for 2020!

Member organizations and businesses may apply for up to \$20,000 (rounded to the nearest \$500) in dollar-for-dollar matching funds depending on the costs of their initiatives. Initiatives may vary in size and scope but should aim to benefit the entire business community of a region, not just individual businesses.

APPLY ONLINE: www.smpa.com/content/sharing-success-matching-grants

Application Deadline: November 11, 2020



Hey Leaf Peepers, You Could WIN!

It's time for two things:

- 1) Fall colors in our beautiful Western Slope landscape, and...
- 2) National Cooperative Month, and SMPA Member Appreciation...so we've decided to combine them! Introducing the Fall Colors Photo Exhibition...

HOW TO ENTER:

Simply snap a photo of some beautiful fall colors or pull up one of your old favorites. Email that photo, in .jpg format, and [entry form](#) to EnergyWise@smpa.com before October 29, and you will be entered into the drawing. Learn more at www.smpa.com.

Alternate entry method: In 35 words or less, describe how the Western Slope fall colors affect you.

LOTS OF PRIZES TO CHOOSE FROM INCLUDING:



By the way... many of these items can replace a fossil-fuel-burning original. Learn more about Beneficial Electrification at www.smpa.com/content/beneficial-electrification

Note: Prizes will be ordered after winners select their choices. Please allow time for delivery. Prizes are subject to availability and may not match items shown above. Go to www.smpa.com/content/fall-colors-photo-exhibition to learn more.



The Lights Are Out: Now What?

If you've been affected by a power outage, you know it can be upsetting. You may ask:

- Is anyone else out of power? Where? How many?
- Is the power company aware of the outage? Are they working to resolve it?
- How long is the power going to be out?

...but being out of power doesn't mean you have to be out of communication. We offer several ways that you can get information during an unplanned outage:

- **Call** our Outage Reporting line at **1-877-864-7311**.
 - Report the outage.
 - Opt to receive automated phone updates on the outage status.
 - Sign up to receive text or email notifications in SmartHub.
- **Visit** our [Facebook](#) page for the most up-to-date information.
 - Major outage details and updates are posted at least every hour or as conditions change.

- During major outages, **visit our website** to see a scrolling update on the homepage.
 - See the outage map at www.smpa.com/Outage Information



- If you are in a County that uses the CodeRED Emergency Notification System, and you have opted to receive notices, you may receive outage updates on your SMS-enabled device.



Sign up at: <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BF7ED953CC69>

A Perfect Storm Can Lead to System Improvement

Recently, an unplanned power outage affected the Ridgway area. At the same time, our phone network was down due to unrelated equipment failure. This made it impossible for anyone outside of SMPA to reach our operators.

The event helped us identify vulnerabilities in our outage communication infrastructure. With a new perspective based on the event analysis, we are building in redundancy and extra protection, and will end up with a system that is better able to handle the unexpected.

Supply Chain Lead Times on Equipment Higher Than Normal

San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) is alerting contractors, builders and members that lead time on materials has recently become longer. This may impact line extension and service upgrade projects that are in progress and/or slated for 2021. SMPA is working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize the potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their project estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our planning department regarding any changes in your project timeline.



SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: NOTICE ON TOP A LIVE MARATHON

Hint: SMPA Member Appreciation happens during this special time.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

**EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432**



Have you changed your phone # or email?
Let us know at 1-877-864-7311.