



Idaho Power Lemhi Crew

## The People Behind Your Power: Lemhi County Crew

We can't say for sure if there's a perfect place to live and work, but life as a small town lineman in Salmon, Idaho, may be a top contender.

Working in the picturesque Lemhi Valley is a dream come true for the crew of six, led by Foreman Ralph Wing. Together, they provide roughly 6,000 locals with safe, reliable, affordable energy, keeping the lights on 99.9% of the time through long winters, wildfire season, and perhaps most importantly, for hometown hockey games.

Idaho Power has served Lemhi County since 1928, and many of our customers are the crew's family, friends, high school teachers and kids' sports coaches.

"Sometimes, because of all the personal calls and texts I get, I know the power is out — and where — even before I get an official notification," Ralph said.

Because of their remote location, the crew — made up of Foreman Ralph, Lead Lineman Lloyd Neff, Troubleman Nate Schewe and Linemen Russ Criner, Brett Cole and Tyler Strohmeyer — has learned to be self-sufficient.

"We're the only crew out here, so when we get a call that the power is out, we can't just say, 'someone

else will handle it.' There's no one else — it has to be us," Ralph said.

Lloyd, known affectionately among the crew as Hulk Hoagie, said working on a small-town line crew is a true brotherhood made of teammates who depend on each other. He knows someone is always there to help him if he needs it, and vice versa.

When asked what keeps them running smoothly, the crew all had the same answer: "Jill." Service Specialist Jill Peterson is the face of the Salmon office, and she wears many hats. From welcoming customers who have questions about their bills, to coordinating maintenance and service work for the crew, Jill is Lemhi County's point-of-contact for whatever customers need, and the crew knows they couldn't do it without her or without the support of their customers.

"I really enjoy getting to know our customers. There are so many great, nice people who still say 'hi!' in the store and are appreciative of what we do," said Troubleman Nate Schewe. "Salmon is a great place to live, work and raise kids."

The crew knows their customers not only because they live and work in the community, but also because

the guys often donate their time and talents wherever they're needed.

"We are very fortunate to have the jobs we have here," said Lineman Russ Criner. "So, I feel it's important we give back and try to help where we can." Learn more about the Salmon office's dedication to their community on page 2.







# Powering Lives with a Diverse Skillset

Lineworkers and service specialists might be some of the more visible Idaho Power employees — you see them in your neighborhood fixing power lines or helping you at your regional office — but it takes a remarkably diverse set of employees to keep Idaho Power running smoothly.

Idaho Power employs more than 600 different positions among its 2,000 employees, including 100+ different trades positions. From accountants and biologists to welders and IT professionals, it's hard to find an area of employment that doesn't contribute to keeping the lights on. We have robust internship and apprenticeship programs to keep developing the talent pipeline that powers our communities, and we invest our time and resources into supporting STEM and trades education.

## Powering Our Community: Employees Play a Key Role in Rural Salmon

Idaho Power employees are a vital part of the communities where they live, work and play. In the close-knit town of Salmon, our crews support charitable organizations, volunteer at the local hockey rink, help conserve the abundant local wildlife, and much more!

"Working on the line crew in Salmon is rewarding," said Line Crew Foreman Ralph Wing, who was raised in Salmon. "Not only do we keep the lights on, but we also get to help the community in lots of different ways."

Idaho Power is a longtime supporter of the Mahoney House, which supports victims of domestic violence. On top of an annual company donation, employees deliver baked potatoes around town each fall during the Spud Fundraiser.

Every summer, Idaho Power employees come together for the Salmon River Days Parade, celebrating Independence Day

with a bucket truck-themed float. It's an annual favorite, especially for families.

In the winter, employees do their part to ensure their neighbors in need have a merry Christmas. Using funds donated through Idaho Power's Employee Community Fund, the Salmon crew shops to provide local families with warm winter clothes and other essential needs.

"I was raised in Salmon, so I know the benefits of growing up in a small town and the importance of giving back," said Lineman Brett Cole.

On any given day, giving back might mean hanging a banner in town to thank local healthcare workers, helping upkeep the local hockey rink, or rescuing a distressed bird of prey tangled in bailing twine. No matter the need, the Salmon crew is always ready with a helping hand.



### From the Energy-efficient Kitchen

November 2023  
Side Dish

## Pear Cranberry Sauce

- 4 pears, cored and diced
- 12 ounces fresh cranberries
- 1 cup water
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- 1 tsp grated fresh ginger
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp ground cinnamon



Combine pears, water, sugar, ginger and cinnamon in a medium saucepan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 5 minutes. Stir in cranberries and return to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for 8-10 minutes or until the cranberries have burst and the sauce is slightly thickened. Stir mixture, cool, cover and refrigerate. Makes eight servings.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.



Please recycle this newsletter.

idahopower.com

To see more of the people behind your power, visit [idahopower.com/people](https://idahopower.com/people). To learn more about our internships, apprenticeships and current career opportunities, head to [idahopower.com/careers](https://idahopower.com/careers).