

FEC® POWER

Source

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FEC Youth Tour Delegation Returns From D. C.

Somehow it just isn't the same – reading about something in a book or actually seeing it first-hand, living it. This is the feeling our Government In Action Youth Tour delegates express when they return from their trips to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

This year was no different. Lucas Gauna representing Fort Sumner High School and McKenna Stone representing Logan High School recently returned from their Youth Tour trip sponsored by Farmers' Electric Co-op and other electric co-ops throughout the state. Both young people expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this year's tour and spoke fondly of the memories they will carry with them the rest of their lives.



While most average high school seniors-to-be spent their summer vacation sleeping late, watching entirely too much T.V., swimming, or maybe even working, Lucas and McKenna enjoyed a 7 day trip to Washington, D.C. with approximately 30 other of New Mexico's best and brightest.

While in Washington, the tour included numerous presidential and war memorials, the National Cathedral, Ford's Theater, Mount Vernon, Arlington

Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institution, meetings with the New Mexico Congressional delegation, and many other fun and exciting things. McKenna said, "I loved every bit of it! I mean, what's not to love? Being able to see all the memorials, and meet so many people and make long-lasting friendships was great!" McKenna explained that she came away with a new found respect of our country's history. "Powerful messages were given throughout the trip, helping me to gain a new way of thinking. History was explained to me on an entirely higher level, gaining my utmost respect and curiosity."



When asked if she would recommend others apply for the Youth Tour, McKenna said this, "I strongly encourage future participants to apply for this event. Personally, I would do it again and again if I were allowed." "Thank you Farmers' Electric for this remarkable opportunity."

Lucas had a similar story. When asked what meant most to him about the trip, Lucas explained, "being able to explore our nation's capital and learn about its long history and amazing legacy was definitely worth the trip." "Additionally, it was nice to be exposed to and have the opportunity to learn how our government operates and how those things

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Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM**

Lesser Prairie Chicken Removed From Threatened List... For Now

I was surprised and pleased to see that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has made the decision to remove the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) from the list of threatened species. Readers will recall a number of articles in this publication in recent years over USFWS efforts to make a determination on the LPC and whether the decline in the number of LPC across the species range warrant a listing as threatened or endangered under the

Endangered Species Act. In early September of last year, a District Court Judge in Texas ruled the decision to list the LPC as a threatened species by USFWS was unlawful, suspending the listing decision. This specific case was one of two suits, one filed in Texas, the other filed in Oklahoma, both seeking to overturn the listing decision. A third suit, filed in the District of Columbia, felt the listing decision did not go far enough and sought to have the LPC listed as an endangered species.

While I am unclear as to how the decision to remove the LPC from the list of threatened species will impact the other two suits, it would appear those cases no longer have merit. Press reports I have read indicate the USFWS will continue to evaluate the status of the LPC and continue to support conservation efforts. From a legal perspective, it is likely more expedient to take the LPC off the list for now and begin a new status review to determine if listing is warranted.

One of the key points in the Texas ruling was the USFWS failed to follow their own formal regulatory framework used to make a listing decision. While the USFWS publically endorsed the Range Wide Conservation Plan developed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), USFWS did not evaluate the likelihood of success the Plan could achieve when fully implemented.

For the many corporations, small businesses (including FEC), governmental agencies, and individuals who signed on in support of the Range Wide Plan for conservation of the LPC, those commitments to conservation will continue. After all, it was the likelihood of success of the conservation plan that was a key point in the judge's decision to set the listing aside. In addition, as the USFWS begins a new status review, progress in implementing the Range Wide Plan and the Plan's impact on increasing LPC numbers will be closely reviewed.

See LPC on PAGE 3



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I have not seen the hard data on LPC Lek survey results from this spring. Bird surveys over the past two years show the LPC population has increased in some portions of the range. No doubt, some of the increase in birds should be credited to conservation efforts. However, it is thought the most significant factor in their recent recovery is related to increased rainfall throughout the historic range of the bird.

Until Next Month,



Which would you rather do without - a burger and fries or electricity for a day?



For about the cost of a hamburger and fries, most of our members get all the convenience and comfort of electricity for a day. Which would you rather give up, a hamburger lunch, or your heating, cooling, hot water, entertainment, clean clothes, lights, and a home-cooked meal?

Electricity - it's still a great value!

Summer Sizzler!

Charbroil Patio Bistro Electric Grill

\$149

Save \$40!

***While supplies last**

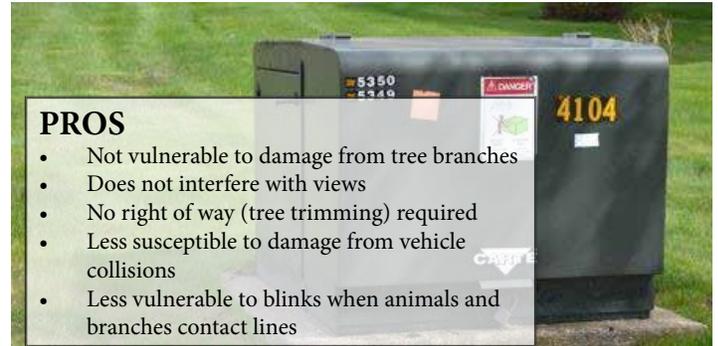


Ask The Energy Guys

Hey Energy Guys! Which is better, overhead or underground power lines?

Well, that's a great question! Acutally, they both have pros and cons. Here's just a few:

UNDERGROUND



PROS

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltage that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

OVERHEAD



PROS

- Lower cost
- Quicker Construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS

- Susceptible to wind, ice, and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

YOUTH TOUR *from* PAGE 1

affect our small New Mexico communities.”

Farmers’ Electric’s goal, through our association with the Government in Action Youth Tour, is to increase the students’ understanding of government, our nation’s history, and electric cooperatives. Based on what our participants have shared with us, we believe we have accomplished this goal.

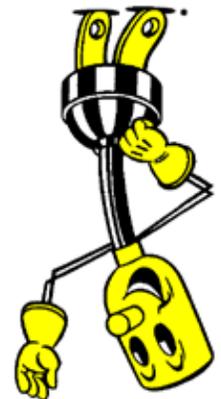
If you are a high school Junior this year, what are your plans for next summer? Don’t just lay around counting the days until school starts, take a trip of a lifetime! We promise, it will change you forever. Watch this publication for more information on the tour or ask your guidance counselor for more details. Contest forms are usually distributed in October.



“...making memories with those very special people was the best” - McKenna



“Owned By Those We Serve”



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