

Rocky Mountain Power Foundation grant helps bring free-to-the-public Oyster Ridge Music Festival to rural Wyoming

KEMMERER, Wyo. — The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation has awarded a \$3,000 grant to Original Oystergrass Inc. for the Oyster Ridge Music Festival, which has been bringing top-of-the-line professional musicians to southwest Wyoming for 17 years.

The Oyster Ridge Music Festival is the largest free music festival in Wyoming and generally brings in 3,000 to 5,000 participants from around the Rocky Mountain Region. This year's festival will be held July 29-31 in the famous historic Triangle Park in Kemmerer. Music lovers and professional musicians can gather and enjoy music, food, dancing and music workshops from some of the best musicians in the country. The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation grant will help bring national touring bands to southwest Wyoming.

“The Oyster Ridge Music Festival has had tremendous positive impact on the community,” said Craig Nelson, Rocky Mountain Power customer and community manager. “The musical contests and performances by nationally recognized musicians bring thousands of visitors to rural Wyoming, which is great for the local economy.”

“The music festival committee wishes to express gratitude for the support Rocky Mountain Power Foundation has provided and acknowledges how fortunate we are to live in a community where local industry, businesses and others support the arts and work to build an event that we can all be proud of,” said Heidi Lively, Oyster Ridge Music Festival chairperson.

The Oyster Ridge Music Festival is a nonprofit organization staffed and organized by service organizations and community volunteers. Funds for the festival come from grants, donations and funds raised by the committee. To the surprise of many, the Oyster Ridge Music Festival is very expensive to put on each year. Generally, the budget appropriated for bands is more than \$30,000 and the support of the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation will help alleviate some of this expense and will help pay for the main headliner band performing Saturday, July 30.

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Oyster Ridge Music Festival

The Oyster Ridge Music Festival started in 1993 and is held each year at Triangle Park in Kemmerer, Wyo. Its mission is to bring touring professional musicians into southwest rural Wyoming. The Oyster Ridge Music Festival increases the public value of the arts by bringing in top professional bands from all over the United States, presenting a quality artistic experience appropriate to the community. Most musicians, without this event, would not get a chance to get near the rural community of Kemmerer. This three-day event is free to the public, which makes it accessible to all. For people of the surrounding areas to see bands of this caliber and class, they normally would have to travel to other cities and states to enjoy this sort of entertainment. Many performers at the festival have been Grammy Award Winners, have many exceptional accolades, and have won countless other awards for their talents. The Oyster Ridge Music Festival committee is devoted to hiring full-time, professional touring bands. Because of this, the public value of the event has skyrocketed. Having great talent confirms that this festival is of extraordinary quality which people respect and choose to come back year after year. Performing bands are able to mingle with the fans throughout the three-day weekend and this creates an unforgettable bond between the bands, fans, and the festival. Overall ORMF benefits musicians and the community as a whole. For more information, visit <http://www.oysterridgemusicfestival.com/>.

About the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation

The Rocky Mountain Power Foundation is part of the PacifiCorp Foundation, one of the largest utility-endowed foundations in the United States. The foundation was created in 1988 by PacifiCorp, an electric utility serving 1.7 million customers in six Western states as Rocky Mountain Power (Utah, Wyoming and Idaho) and Pacific Power (Oregon, Washington and California). The foundation's mission, through charitable investments, is to support the growth and vitality of the communities served by Pacific Power and Rocky Mountain Power. For more information visit, www.rockymountainpower.net/rmpfoundation.