



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **WREC Sends Crews to Support Georgia Cooperatives Ahead of Winter Storm Fern**

**January 23, 2026** – Winter Storm Fern, expected to be a widespread, historic, and long-lasting system, is getting underway and is forecasted to impact millions across the South with destructive ice and heavy snowfall. This storm is expected to create dangerous travel conditions for several days, while catastrophic ice accumulations could lead to extensive power outages and significant tree damage throughout the region. In response, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) is once again demonstrating its commitment to *Cooperation Among Cooperatives* by mobilizing mutual aid crews to support Greystone Power Corporation and Carroll Electric Membership Cooperative (EMC) ahead of the storm.

Forecasts indicate that destructive ice accumulation and heavy snowfall could impact the region, likely leaving millions without power or travel capability for days. The areas of North Georgia where WREC crews are being deployed are directly in the projected path of the storm.

In total, WREC is sending **43 dedicated team members**, including:

- 16 bucket trucks
- 2 digger trucks
- 2 mechanics
- 3 crew chiefs
- 2 superintendents

These crews are traveling north to help prepare for and respond to storm-related outages, ensuring reliable electric service for cooperative members during challenging winter conditions.

“At WREC, cooperation isn’t just a principle—it’s who we are,” said David Lambert, WREC’s General Manager. “When our fellow cooperatives need help, we don’t hesitate. We are incredibly proud to stand alongside Greystone Power and Carroll EMC and support their teams and members during this storm.”

Mutual aid is a cornerstone of the electric cooperative model, allowing cooperatives nationwide to unite in times of emergency. Through this cooperative spirit, utilities can respond faster, work safer, and restore power more efficiently for the communities they serve.

WREC is proud of its crews for stepping up with compassion and courage. Their willingness to leave home and support fellow cooperatives reflects the values that define the cooperative network—service, teamwork, and commitment to others.

“We thank these men for representing WREC” said David Lambert. “Their dedication ensures that cooperative families across Georgia receive the support they need when it matters most.”

**About Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WREC):**

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving over 280,000 homes and businesses in Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Polk, and Sumter counties since 1947. WREC is dedicated to providing safe and resilient energy and services at the best possible value to its members while actively contributing to the communities it serves.

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*WREC's General Manager David Lambert along side the 43 employees being sent to Georgia.*



