

## NEWS FROM WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Feb. 5, 2010

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### 2010 BIG SKY REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL SET FOR FEB. 20

BILLINGS, Mont.—With the nation's focus on energy independence and sustainability, it's important to promote the benefits of science and math among high school youth. Western Area Power Administration is doing just that by hosting the 18th Annual [Big Sky Regional Science Bowl](#)—a math and science competition for high school students, Feb. 20, at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, 1223 Muldowney Lane, in Billings, Mont., starting at 8 a.m.

Twenty-five teams of high school students from throughout Montana, representing 16 different schools, will test their knowledge of science and vie for the coveted first place prize and a free trip to the [National Science Bowl](#) in Washington, DC, April 29 through May 4. The regional and national events encourage student involvement in math and science, improve awareness of career options in science and technology and provide an avenue of enrichment, reward and recognition for academic science achievement.

Helena High School, winner of the 2009 Big Sky Science Bowl, will be defending its title among other participating schools, including:

- Absarokee High School
- Belt Valley High School
- Billings Central Catholic High School
- Billings Skyview High School
- Billings West High School
- Bridger Public School
- C. M. Russell High School
- Conrad High School
- Custer County District High School
- Fergus High School
- Florence-Carlton High School
- Havre High School
- Helena High School
- Libby High School
- Plentywood High School
- Yellowstone Home Educators

This is the 18th year for the Big Sky Regional Science Bowl, sponsored by Western, Electrical Consultants, Inc., IBEW Local 532, PPL Montana, Society of Petroleum Engineers (Billings), St. Mary Land and Exploration Company and several other business partners in Montana. The public is invited to watch the competition and support the teams. Admission is free.

### Montana Middle School competition Feb. 19

Just a day before the high school students compete, middle school teams from across Montana will

challenge each other in the Montana Middle School Science Bowl competition at Billings Hotel and Convention Center, starting at 9 a.m. Following the Jeopardy-style contest, middle school participants will come back the next day, Feb. 20, to race solar-powered model cars they designed and built. The Solar-powered Car Competition challenges students' creative engineering skills, while giving them hands-on experience in the automotive design process and with solar technology.

As with the Big Sky Regional Science Bowl for high school students, the winning middle school team will advance to the National Science Bowl, in Washington DC. The Middle School Science Bowl is coordinated by [Rick Jones](#) of the Billings Senior Freshman Academy.

### **About Science Bowl**

Science Bowl is a fast-paced, verbal competition where students answer questions at random from the following subject areas: astronomy, biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, as well as earth and general sciences. Teams range from those that practice rigorously for this year's event to those fine-tuning their skills for next year. Science Bowl is a proven tool that encourages high school students to excel in math and science and to pursue careers in those fields. By raising the visibility of academic achievement in the sciences, the program has been successful in placing these young people on a par with their peers who excel in athletics.

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### **MEDIA ADVISORY:**

Competition begins at 8 a.m., in a round-robin format, followed by a double-elimination tournament at 1 p.m., with the championship round set for about 4 p.m. The awards ceremony will follow immediately. Interviews with competing teams and their coaches will be available throughout the day. Media representatives are asked to check in at the registration desk.

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Western Area Power Administration annually markets and transmits more than 10,000 megawatts of clean, renewable power from hydroelectric powerplants owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 15 western and central states. It is part of the Department of Energy.

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