

Form **990**
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047
2019
Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2019 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2019, and ending 12-31-2019

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization
BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC

Doing business as

Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
PO BOX 1110

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
RED LODGE, MT 590681110

D Employer identification number
81-0109712

E Telephone number
(406) 446-2310

G Gross receipts \$ 9,034,426

F Name and address of principal officer:
DANIEL DUTTON
1306 NORTH BROADWAY
RED LODGE, MT 58068

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
 If "No," attach a list. (see instructions)
H(c) Group exemption number ▶

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c)(12) ◀ (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: ▶ N/A

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other ▶

L Year of formation: 1941 **M** State of legal domicile: MT

Part I Summary

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities:
BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. OPERATES AS A RURAL ELECTRIC UTILITY ON A NON PROFIT BASIS BY PROVIDING ELECTRICAL POWER AND UTILITY SERVICES TO ITS MEMBERS AND PATRONS LOCATED IN CENTRAL PORTION OF MONTANA AND NORTHERN WYOMING. THE COOPERATIVE IS EXEMPT UNDER SECTION 501 (C) (12).

2 Check this box if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.

3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	7
4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	7
5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2019 (Part V, line 2a)	5	21
6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	0
7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 39	7b	0

	Prior Year	Current Year
8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	0	0
9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	8,565,227	8,835,325
10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	132,512	117,384
11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	59,044	81,717
12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	8,756,783	9,034,426
13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	0	0
14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	406,714	494,016
15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	541,758	539,035
16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶ 0		
17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	7,513,055	8,021,895
18 Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	8,461,527	9,054,946
19 Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	295,256	-20,520

	Beginning of Current Year	End of Year
20 Total assets (Part X, line 16)	21,475,672	20,677,477
21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	12,551,772	11,774,097
22 Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	8,923,900	8,903,380

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer: _____ Date: 2020-05-13

DANIEL DUTTON PRESIDENT
Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's signature	Date	Check <input type="checkbox"/> if self-employed	PTIN
Firm's name ▶ SUMMERS MCNEA & CO PC		2020-05-11		P00481262
Firm's address ▶ 80 25TH STREET WEST BILLINGS, MT 591024662			Firm's EIN ▶ 81-0386935	Phone no. (406) 652-2320

Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission:

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE ELECTRICAL POWER AND SERVICES TO ITS MEMBERS LOCATED IN CENTRAL MONTANA AND NORTHERN WYOMING.

2 Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? Yes No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O.

3 Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? Yes No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O.

4 Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported.

4a (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)
See Additional Data

4b (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4c (Code:) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4d Other program services (Describe in Schedule O.)
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e Total program service expenses ▶

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules

		Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A		No
2	Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?		No
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I		No
4	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II		
5	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III		No
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I		No
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II		No
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III		No
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability; serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X; or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV		No
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V		No
11	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
11a	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI	Yes	
11b	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities—in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII		No
11c	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related—in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII		No
11d	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX		No
11e	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	Yes	
11f	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X	Yes	
12a	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII	Yes	
12b	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional		No
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E		No
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		No
14b	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV		No
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV		No
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV		No
17	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I(see instructions)		No
18	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II		No
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III		No
20a	Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? If "Yes," complete Schedule H		No
20b	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II		No

Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

Table with 3 main columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows 22-38 covering various organizational requirements and reporting obligations.

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V []

Table with 3 main columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows 1a-1c regarding Form 1096, Forms W-2G, and backup withholding rules.

Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions. Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI



Section A. Governing Body and Management

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 1a (7), 1b (7), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7a, 7b, 8a, 8b, 9.

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Yes, No. Rows include: 10a, 10b, 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 12c, 13, 14, 15a, 15b, 16a, 16b.

Section C. Disclosure

- 17 List the states with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed
18 Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024-A if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.
19 Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.
20 State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records:

Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

See instructions for the order in which to list the persons above.

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee.

(A) Name and title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) ARLEEN BOYD SECRETARY TREASURER	16.25	X		X			7,375	0	0	
(2) ROXIE MELTON DIRECTOR	3.18	X					6,500	0	0	
(3) DANIEL DUTTON DIRECTOR	3.93	X					5,750	0	0	
(4) RALPH LEWIS DIRECTOR	1.00	X					3,125	0	0	
(5) RICHARD NOLAN DIRECTOR	2.81	X					5,625	0	0	
(6) JULIE LINDGREN PRESIDENT	2.88	X		X			7,500	0	0	
(7) WILLIAM PASCOE VICE PRESIDENT	7.12	X		X			5,875	0	0	
(8) KEVIN P OWENS GENERAL MANAGER	40.00			X			175,525	0	45,962	
(9) BRAD PROPHET ACCOUNTANT	40.00			X			71,702	0	51,682	
(10) ERIC ELTON LINE SUPERINTENDENT	40.00					X	111,636	0	0	
(11) JAMES AVENT LINEMAN	40.00					X	103,316	0	0	
(12) GUY BEHRENT LINEMAN	40.00					X	106,307	0	0	
(13) WILLIAM COLGROVE LINEMAN	40.00					X	121,950	0	0	
(14) SAMUEL WALKOWIAK LINEMAN	40.00					X	103,871	0	0	

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

Table with 5 columns: (A) Total revenue, (B) Related or exempt function revenue, (C) Unrelated business revenue, (D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512 - 514. Rows include 1a-1g for Federated campaigns, membership dues, fundraising events, etc.

Table for Program Service Revenue with columns for Business Code, Total revenue, Related or exempt function revenue, Unrelated business revenue, and Revenue excluded from tax. Rows include 2a UTILITIES & SERVICE (Business Code 221000) and 2b-2f.

Table for Other Revenue with columns for Total revenue, Related or exempt function revenue, Unrelated business revenue, and Revenue excluded from tax. Rows include 3 Investment income, 4 Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds, 5 Royalties, 6a-6c Rental income, 7a-7c Gain or loss from sales of assets, 8a-8b Fundraising events, 9a-9b Gaming activities, 10a-10b Sales of inventory, and 11a-11d Miscellaneous Revenue.

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.				
1 Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
2 Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3 Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16.				
4 Benefits paid to or for members	494,016			
5 Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	386,621			
6 Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7 Other salaries and wages	74,008			
8 Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401 (k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9 Other employee benefits	78,406			
10 Payroll taxes				
11 Fees for services (non-employees):				
a Management				
b Legal	50,302			
c Accounting	12,920			
d Lobbying	892			
e Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f Investment management fees				
g Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O)	61,432			
12 Advertising and promotion				
13 Office expenses	59,244			
14 Information technology				
15 Royalties				
16 Occupancy				
17 Travel				
18 Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19 Conferences, conventions, and meetings	23,860			
20 Interest	597,381			
21 Payments to affiliates				
22 Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	1,096,707			
23 Insurance	16,439			
24 Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a COST OF POWER	3,378,434			
b DISTRIBUTIONS OPERATION	1,104,026			
c DISTRIBUTION MAINTENANC	691,279			
d CONSUMER ACCOUNTS EXPEN	323,609			
e All other expenses	605,370			
25 Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	9,054,946			
26 Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720).				

Part X Balance Sheet

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

		(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
Assets	1 Cash—non-interest-bearing	363,357	1	256,927
	2 Savings and temporary cash investments	1,356,514	2	473,299
	3 Pledges and grants receivable, net		3	
	4 Accounts receivable, net	925,909	4	869,292
	5 Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		5	
	6 Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)		6	
	7 Notes and loans receivable, net		7	
	8 Inventories for sale or use	423,987	8	270,192
	9 Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	120,021	9	106,167
	10a Land, buildings, and equipment: cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a 33,912,045		
	b Less: accumulated depreciation	10b 16,506,107	16,852,491	10c 17,405,938
	11 Investments—publicly traded securities		11	
	12 Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11		12	
	13 Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11	727,570	13	742,321
	14 Intangible assets		14	
	15 Other assets. See Part IV, line 11	705,823	15	553,341
16 Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)	21,475,672	16	20,677,477	
Liabilities	17 Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,001,006	17	1,150,563
	18 Grants payable		18	
	19 Deferred revenue		19	
	20 Tax-exempt bond liabilities		20	
	21 Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D		21	
	22 Loans and other payables to any current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, creator or founder, substantial contributor, or 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons		22	
	23 Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties	11,372,532	23	10,555,464
	24 Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties		24	
	25 Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17 - 24). Complete Part X of Schedule D	178,234	25	68,070
	26 Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25	12,551,772	26	11,774,097
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27, 28, 32, and 33.			
	27 Net assets without donor restrictions		27	
	28 Net assets with donor restrictions		28	
	Organizations that do not follow FASB ASC 958, check here <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 29 through 33.			
	29 Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds	0	29	0
	30 Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund	184,034	30	225,167
	31 Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds	8,739,866	31	8,678,213
32 Total net assets or fund balances	8,923,900	32	8,903,380	
33 Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances	21,475,672	33	20,677,477	

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	9,034,426
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	9,054,946
3	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	-20,520
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	8,923,900
5	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	5	
6	Donated services and use of facilities	6	
7	Investment expenses	7	
8	Prior period adjustments	8	
9	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	9	0
10	Net assets or fund balances at end of year. Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	10	8,903,380

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII

- 1** Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990: Cash Accrual Other _____
 If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O.
- 2a** Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?
 If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:
 Separate basis Consolidated basis Both consolidated and separate basis
- b** Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?
 If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both:
 Separate basis Consolidated basis Both consolidated and separate basis
- c** If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant?
 If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O.
- 3a** As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?
- b** If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits.

	Yes	No
2a		No
2b	Yes	
2c	Yes	
3a		No
3b		

Additional Data

Software ID:

Software Version:

EIN: 81-0109712

Name: BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC

Form 990 (2019)

Form 990, Part III, Line 4a:

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SUPPLYING ELECTRICAL SERVICES TO 4,560 PATRONS AND MEMBERS LOCATED IN CENTRAL MONTANA AND NORTHERN WYOMING.

SCHEDULE D (Form 990) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

OMB No. 1545-0047 2019 Open to Public Inspection

Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b. Attach to Form 990. Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Name of the organization BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC

Employer identification number 81-0109712

Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

Table with 2 columns: (a) Donor advised funds, (b) Funds and other accounts. Rows 1-4: Total number at end of year, Aggregate value of contributions to (during year), Aggregate value of grants from (during year), Aggregate value at end of year.

5 Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?
6 Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?

Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1 Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply).
Preservation of land for public use (e.g., recreation or education)
Protection of natural habitat
Preservation of open space
Preservation of an historically important land area
Preservation of a certified historic structure

Table with 2 columns: Held at the End of the Year. Rows 2a-2d: Total number of conservation easements, Total acreage restricted by conservation easements, Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a), Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 7/25/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register.

3 Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year
4 Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located
5 Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?
6 Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year
7 Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year
8 Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?
9 In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements.

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items.
b If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items:
(ii) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1
Assets included in Form 990, Part X
2 If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items:
a Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1
b Assets included in Form 990, Part X

Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

- 3** Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply):
- a** Public exhibition
 - b** Scholarly research
 - c** Preservation for future generations
 - d** Loan or exchange programs
 - e** Other
- 4** Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII.
- 5** During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection? . . . **Yes** **No**

Part IV Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

- 1a** Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X? **Yes** **No**

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table:

- c** Beginning balance
- d** Additions during the year
- e** Distributions during the year
- f** Ending balance

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

- 2a** Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability? . . . **Yes** **No**

b If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII. Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

Part V Endowment Funds.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a) Current year	(b) Prior year	(c) Two years back	(d) Three years back	(e) Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2 Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as:

- a** Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶
- b** Permanent endowment ▶
- c** Temporarily restricted endowment ▶

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%.

3a Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by:

- (i)** unrelated organizations
- (ii)** related organizations

	Yes	No
3a(i)		
3a(ii)		
3b		

- b** If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?
- 4** Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds.

Part VI Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land		132,612		132,612
b Buildings		1,334,132	636,714	697,418
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		3,128,632	2,488,561	640,071
e Other		29,316,669	13,380,832	15,935,837
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e. (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).) . . . ▶				17,405,938

Part VII Investments—Other Securities.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b. See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives		
(2) Closely-held equity interests		
(3) Other _____		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col. (B) line 12.)		

Part VIII Investments—Program Related.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c. See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation: Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)		
(5)		
(6)		
(7)		
(8)		
(9)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 13.)		

Part IX Other Assets.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d. See Form 990, Part X, line 15.

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 15.)	

Part X Other Liabilities.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f. See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col.(B) line 25.)	68,070

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions. In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740). Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII

Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements		1	9,034,426
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12:			
a	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	2a		
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b		
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	9,034,426
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1 :			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b		
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	0
5	Total revenue. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12.)		5	9,034,426

Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements		1	8,560,929
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25:			
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a		
b	Prior year adjustments	2b		
c	Other losses	2c		
d	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	2d		
e	Add lines 2a through 2d		2e	0
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1		3	8,560,929
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1 :			
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a		
b	Other (Describe in Part XIII.)	4b	494,017	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b		4c	494,017
5	Total expenses. Add lines 3 and 4c . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18.)		5	9,054,946

Part XIII Supplemental Information

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9; Part III, lines 1a and 4; Part IV, lines 1b and 2b; Part V, line 4; Part X, line 2; Part XI, lines 2d and 4b; and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
See Additional Data Table	

Part XIII Supplemental Information *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation

Additional Data

Software ID:

Software Version:

EIN: 81-0109712

Name: BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC

Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART X, LINE 2:	THERE ARE NO UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS EXISTING AT DECEMBER 31, 2019.

Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART XII, LINE 4B - OTHER ADJUSTMENTS:	BENEFITS PAID TO MEMBERS- CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART VI LINE 1E - OTHER PROPERTY	PART VI-LINE 1E-OTHER PROPERTY- INCLUDES TRANSMISSION POLES, WIRE AND STATION EQUIPMENT TOTALLING \$398,501; DISTRIBUTION PLANT OF STATION EQUIPMENT, POLES, WIRE, METERS AND TRANSFORMERS TOTALLING \$28,827,463; AND CONSTRUCTION WORK IN PROGRESS TOTALLING \$90,705.

Schedule J
(Form 990)

Compensation Information

OMB No. 1545-0047

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees
 ▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.
 ▶ Attach to Form 990.
 ▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

2019

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Name of the organization
BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC

Employer identification number
81-0109712

Part I Questions Regarding Compensation

	Yes	No								
<p>1a Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Tax idemnification and gross-up payments</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use	<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Tax idemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees	<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)		
<input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use									
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions	<input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence									
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax idemnification and gross-up payments	<input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees									
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e.g., maid, chauffeur, chef)									
<p>b If any of the boxes on Line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain</p>	1b									
<p>2 Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked on Line 1a?</p>	2	Yes								
<p>3 Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study	<input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee				
<input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract									
<input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study									
<input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee									
<p>4 During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, with respect to the filing organization or a related organization:</p> <p>a Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?</p> <p>b Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?</p> <p>c Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?</p> <p>If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III.</p>	4a	No								
	4b	No								
	4c	No								
<p>Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.</p> <p>5 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of:</p> <p>a The organization?</p> <p>b Any related organization?</p> <p>If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III.</p>	5a									
	5b									
<p>6 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of:</p> <p>a The organization?</p> <p>b Any related organization?</p> <p>If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III.</p>	6a									
	6b									
<p>7 For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any nonfixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III.</p>	7									
<p>8 Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III.</p>	8									
<p>9 If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?</p>	9									

Part III **Supplemental Information**

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
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SCHEDULE O
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for the latest information.

OMB No. 1545-0047

2019**Open to Public Inspection**

Department of the Treasury

Name of the organization

BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC

Employer identification number

81-0109712

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 6	THE COOPERATIVE HAS 4,560 VOTING MEMBERS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7A	THE MEMBERS ELECT TWO OR THREE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO SERVE A THREE YEAR TERM AT THE COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN MAY OF EACH YEAR.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7B	ALL BYLAW CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE APPROVED AND RATIFIED BY THE MAJORITY OF MEMBERSHIP AT THE COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B	A COPY OF THE PREPARED FORM 990 IS PROVIDED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GENERAL MANAGER PRIOR TO ITS FILING. THE FORM 990 IS PREPARED JOINTLY WITH THE CO-OPERATIVE'S AUDITOR. MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL PRESENTS THE COMPLETED FORM 990 TO THE GOVERNING BOARD AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C	ALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUALLY DISCLOSE TO THE BOARD ANY SITUATION OR TRANSACTION IN WHICH THE DIRECTOR IS INVOLVED WHICH VIOLATES OR COULD APPEAR TO VIOLATE THE INTENT OF THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	MONTANA STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION- MONTANA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (MECA) AND THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION (NRECA) PERFORMS ANNUAL SALARY SURVEYS BY JOB CLASSIFICATION. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAKES USE OF THESE SALARY SURVEYS FROM MECA AND NRECA TO DETERMINE THE SALARY GUIDELINE FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER SALARY. THE GENERAL MANAGER USES THIS SALARY SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE RANGE OF SALARIES FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL. THE COOPERATIVE LINEMEN SALARIES ARE ESTABLISHED BY A SIGNED COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED IBEW UNION CONTRACT.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	ALL GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, POLICIES, FINANCIAL REPORTS - RUS FORM 7 - AND FORM 990 ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE COOPERATIVE HEADQUARTER OFFICE. IN ADDITION, EACH NEW MEMBER IS PROVIDED WITH A COPY OF BEARTOOTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S BYLAWS. ALSO THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION IS SENT OUT YEARLY TO ALL MEMBERS IN THE ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR.

990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART XII, LINE 2C	THIS PROCESS HAS NOT CHANGED FROM THE PRIOR YEAR.