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Steve Lachowicz - December 1, 2012

Important PUD Planning Meeting Dec 11th in Wenatchee

From a PUD press release:



CHELAN COUNTY

PUD Updating Land Management Plans for Columbia River Shorelines

Chelan County PUD is updating plans for managing the lands along the Columbia River shoreline and other locations that are connected with the Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hydro Projects.

A community meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2012, in the PUD's Wenatchee Auditorium at 327 N. Wenatchee Ave., to kick off development of the plans. Owners of land along the Rocky Reach and Rock Island reservoirs, agency representatives and all others with an interest are invited.

The goal for updating the plans is to provide a comprehensive and public framework for how the District manages, reviews and coordinates shoreline and land-use requests within the boundaries of the hydro projects, said Michelle Smith, PUD license and compliance manager. The PUD is responsible for managing multiple resources and uses of land inside project boundaries as outlined in its federal licenses to operate the two hydroelectric dams.

"While the PUD's land management responsibilities are not new, we believe updating the plans with public input will improve the way Chelan PUD communicates and responds to requests for land use permits," Smith said.

The effort will also outline how the utility works with other permitting agencies, she added. Establishing and enhancing relationships with customers, the community and other interested parties is one of the four objectives in the District's Strategic Plan.

At the Dec. 11 meeting, PUD staff will outline the steps involved in writing the plans, explain how the utility collaborates with other agencies involved in federal, state and local permits, share maps showing how land is classified along the reservoirs and answer questions about how neighboring property owners may be affected.