

## GM Steve Wright: Investing for the long run



Steve Wright

You know how important it is to be able to invest in your home and your family when you have the ability to do so — like a buffer or a cushion for you and your family when finances get a little tight. That’s what we’re doing at the PUD these days.

Last newsletter I talked to you about the importance of paying down debt. This time, I want to touch on some of the investments we are making in our critical physical infrastructure — our hydroelectric dams — along with the investments we are making in our people.

In both instances, equipment upgrades and technology are driving much of the increased effort. Our dams are a

24/7–365 days-per-year operation generating power for you and others throughout the Northwest. Some equipment is showing its age and signs of wear.

Yes, there was a time during this past decade when maintenance was delayed or deferred — it’s back to what I mentioned earlier — financial times were lean. Now we are making the needed investments — some \$265 million for turbines and generators at our Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams — to ensure their continued operation for the next 50 years. After all, they are what produce the revenue that keeps your rates low and the quality of life high here in Chelan County.



CHELAN COUNTY

**Let’s talk:** We want to hear from you. Talk to us on Facebook.com/ChelanPUD  
Find us on Twitter @ChelanPUD • Email us at [contactus@chelanpud.org](mailto:contactus@chelanpud.org)  
Give us a ring at (509) 663-8121 or toll-free, (888) 663-8121.



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## ➔ Rebates help you build savings



We’ve helped 100 customers purchase super-efficient heat pumps this year, and we’d like to help you, too. Change out your furnace for a super-efficient heat pump and receive a \$1,400 rebate. Upgrade your existing heat pump and receive \$500.

Find a local contractor and all the details on our website: [chelanpud.org/heat-pumps](http://chelanpud.org/heat-pumps).

If you’re looking for something a little easier on the budget, consider adding insulation. It’s one of the most cost-effective measures a homeowner can take to save energy and improve comfort. We have rebates for that too: [chelanpud.org/insulation](http://chelanpud.org/insulation).

**Questions? Call our Conservation experts: (509) 661-8008.**

## ➔ ¡Hola!

Nuestro sitio web está disponible en Español. Visita [www.chelanpud.org](http://www.chelanpud.org) y haz clic en el botón azul que dice “Español” en la parte superior de la página.

## In your neighborhood

PUD crews are in your area working on:

- **Chiwawa Loop Road** – Moving power poles and equipment from Wending to Sumac lanes for the county’s road widening project
- **Manson Boulevard** – fiber network Public Power Benefit expansion to about 200 locations next to existing fiber lines



## Ready, set, prep

Cooler mornings and shorter days — yup, fall's on the way. Before storms arrive, make sure you're ready if weather causes a power outage.

- Build or restock your emergency kit
- Check to make sure flashlights work and you have extra batteries
- Get surge protectors for electronics and replace them every few years
- Know the safety steps needed to use a back-up generator – plug appliances directly into the generator or have a licensed electrician install a transfer switch
- See details at [chelanpud.org](http://chelanpud.org), under the blue "Outages" button at the top of the home page.



## It's public power's party of the year and you're invited

Play with us! Stay safe with us! Save money and energy with us! Get fast fiber with us!

Connect with your Chelan PUD during the annual celebration of public power, Oct. 2-8, and join us for a week of fun.

Activities kick off Monday with unveiling of five electric vehicle charging stations installed as a Public Power Benefit. Join us for cider and doughnuts on Friday at our offices in Chelan, Leavenworth and Wenatchee.

We'll be at Pybus Market in Wenatchee on Saturday where you can climb on a line truck, chat up our Parks folks and Conservation experts, sign up for a free pass to PUD parks run by the state and enter prize drawings.

We've got a lot to celebrate: From the fiber network's conversion to 1 GB service to managing the level of Lake Chelan even as runoff was higher and earlier than any time in the last 60-plus years.

Watch [Facebook.com/ChelanPUD](https://www.facebook.com/ChelanPUD) for event details and Let's Connect!



## No age limit on fun at Visitor Center events

Fall means fun for all at these free events:

**Senior Damboree** — Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Good-natured competition, exhibits, vendors and activities at Rocky Reach celebrating adults 55 and older. Free LINK shuttle from Wenatchee.

**Wenatchee River Salmon Festival** — Sept. 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. All things salmon at this celebration of the return of these mighty fish to their native waters to spawn.

**Lake Chelan Powerhouse Tours** — Oct. 22 & 29: Behind-the-scene tours of the historic powerhouse and innovative salmon and steelhead habitat at Chelan Falls. Reserve your spot at (509) 663-7522.

**Fall Roundup** — Oct. 30, 1-4 p.m.: Wear your costume, trick-or-treat and enjoy hands-on learning about public power in Chelan County at this finale of the Visitor Center's season.

Details on all the events at [Facebook/VisitRockyReach](https://www.facebook.com/VisitRockyReach) or at (509) 663-7522.

## PUD profile: Ron Gibbs

He's super at getting great coverage

**Ron Gibbs** doesn't wear an "S" on his chest, but his job is to make sure your PUD is well protected. As Insurance and Claims manager, he is focused on helping carriers understand that the District is a quality operation worth insuring.

"The more companies that compete for our insurance business, the easier it is for me to negotiate favorable premiums and policy terms," he said.

Ron helps other PUD departments reduce the risk of losses from threats like fire and supports public safety at PUD facilities. He and a coworker also oversee PUD claims if there is damage to District property and manage claims made against the utility.

**"I appreciate the quality of people working at Chelan PUD and their focus on what is important."**

Ron grew up in Chelan and joined the PUD in 1999, after working in the insurance industry. He's managed the department since 2007.

He credits his coworkers for helping him succeed. "I have found so many genuine people here who are willing to take folks under their wing," Gibbs said. "I appreciate the quality of people working at Chelan PUD and their focus on what is important."

Away from work, Gibbs enjoys his family including his two young children and spending time on the lake, in the hills or on the golf course.

