



# ➔ It's a new season and new café at Rocky Reach Visitor Center

Where can you stand in the shadow of a hydro turbine, look for a Geocache, hug 42 kinds of trees, enjoy Mama D's peanut brittle, visit a museum and get eye-to-eye with a sockeye? Rocky Reach Dam, of course.

The Visitor Center is open for 2015 and welcoming you for another great season of fun, exploration and education. There are free tours of the powerhouse along with the Museum of the Columbia, plus art displays, a theater and fish viewing.

Guests can take the award-winning D3 Tour — a GPS-assisted scavenger hunt — to find the hidden treasures of hydropower on the Columbia River. Find all the geocaches at Rocky Reach and get a stamp on a D3 passport and a prize. To complete the challenge and receive a unique coin, "cachers" must fill their passport by finishing the geocache courses at all three dams, including Chief Joseph Dam, near Bridgeport, and



*Plant foreman wireman Cindy Bowen-Lorraine leads a powerhouse tour.*

Grand Coulee Dam, near Coulee Dam, on the upper Columbia River in Washington state.

In mid-March, our new café operator, local foodie and baker-extraordinaire, Gina Dugger, will open Mama D's Kitchen at Rocky Reach to welcome guests starting at 9 a.m. on weekdays. Weekend hours will be added in April. Dugger will offer breakfast, lunch and a variety of local canned and baked goods, including gluten-free items.

Check Facebook/VisitRockyReach for details.

## Visitor Center 2015 events:

- March 16 through May 22 – Chelan PUD employee art show
- May 16 – River Ramble – A hands-on program for all ages offering a full range of events to experience Native American culture
- June 20 and July 25 – Hard-hat tours at Rock Island Dam – reservations required by calling (509) 663-7522
- June 24 through Aug. 5 (Wednesdays) – Summer Science classes for K-3rd graders
- Oct. 10 – Senior Damboree – A fun day of competition and information, focused on senior adults
- Oct. 25 – Harvest Roundup



➔ **The results are in!** Chelan PUD commissioners are putting the finishing touches on our strategic plan for 2015-2019 and beyond.

Thank you for your help in developing the plan. More than 5,400 people sent in ideas for how the PUD can provide "the best for the most for the longest period of time."

You can read the draft plan at [ourpublicpower.org](http://ourpublicpower.org) and comment through March 23.

After hearing from the District's Strategy Partners and customers-owners, and responding to input, board members aim to approve the PUD's next strategic plan in early April.



## So many good ideas

Congratulations to Bernie Kopfer of Wenatchee who won the iPad in a random drawing for customers who returned Owners Guide comments by the deadline. All customers who sent in ideas received an LED bulb.

## I ♥ Helping Hand

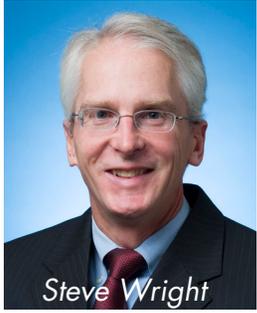
### Give yourself a hand:

Chelan PUD customers opened their hearts to neighbors in need by giving nearly \$20,300 last year to help keep lights and heat on when money is scarce. The Helping Hand donations stretch funds managed by Chelan-Douglas Community Action to help low-income families pay their electric bills.

Donations are always welcome. Sign up at [chelanpud.org](http://chelanpud.org) or call us at 663-8121.

Over

# GM Steve Wright: Ideas into actions



Steve Wright

What an amazing response you, our customer-owners, gave us when we asked for your ideas on how Chelan PUD might help improve the quality of life in the county.

The results are wrapped into our new draft strategic plan. Read it at [ourpublicpower.org](http://ourpublicpower.org). Commissioners set a final vote for April 6.

We heard you loud and clear: "Before you spend a dime on any **extras**, take care of the basics." That means keep rates low; pay down debt; invest in our critical assets to catch up on maintenance; and make sure we have a "rainy day" fund for "what if" situations.

As we do that, and if our bottom line stays positive, the plan outlines a new "public power benefit" for cautious spending based on your responses to options for: parks and recreation; water and wastewater; fiber; electrification; economic development and reinvestment in the PUD.

PUD commissioners agreed the best way to provide public power benefits to all customer-owners is through low rates and high reliability.

Deciding how to provide **the best for the most for the longest period of time** inspired great conversations. We hope you will stay engaged with us.

Thank you.



**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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## Tree huggers, this is for you

Save the dates for three programs on tree horticulture sponsored by Chelan County PUD and WSU Chelan County Extension:

- May 12 - New Tree Essentials. This program will cover species selection, quality nursery stock, proper planting and early formative pruning.
- July 14 - Common Tree Problems will cover problems from insects and disease to environmental damage.
- October 13 - Mature Tree Care will focus on pruning and best management practices.

The Wenatchee classes are geared to arborists and landscapers, but open to the public, too. Details on registration are coming soon. Send questions in the meantime to Paula Dinius, urban horticulturist, at [pdinius@wsu.edu](mailto:pdinius@wsu.edu)

## Needed tune-up also brings faster Internet

Maintenance to replace aging equipment in Chelan PUD's fiber network is making the system more reliable and providing faster Internet connections.



PUD crews are doing the work in phases. The project started last fall in downtown Wenatchee, home to some of the network's original electronics. With that area complete, crews are now working in west Wenatchee and scheduling future areas about 90 days out.

Service providers will let fiber customers know when work is set for their neighborhood. Plans are to finish the network maintenance by early 2017.