

# GM Steve Wright: Staying on track



Steve Wright

Everyone likes to step back and take a deep breath after finishing a big job. Customer-owners, PUD commissioners and staff all worked hard to achieve approval last month of our new 2015 – 2019 strategic plan.

Still, there is no time to waste in putting the priorities of the plan into place.

Commissioners have updated financial policies for water, wastewater and fiber and updated this year's budget to add funds for study and pilot projects on the priorities you

helped set. Please stay in touch at [ourpublicpower.org](http://ourpublicpower.org) to see how we are doing.

And meanwhile just like you, our regular "to do" list is long this time of year. Crews are in your neighborhood making sure utility service is reliable, and catching up on maintenance at the dams and other facilities.

No matter how long the list, we focus every day on improving your satisfaction with service from Chelan PUD. In this issue, we introduce Von Pope of our Fish & Wildlife group. Von is chief "Critter & Endangered Plant Specialist" at the District. I think you'll find his work fascinating.



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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**Captain's orders:**  
Be safe.  
Have fun!



In PUD parks, and when you're on the Apple Capital Loop Trail, remember:

- No alcohol or drugs
- Keep pets on a leash
- Trail speed limit is 10 mph
- Stay to the right
- Walk your wheels in crowded areas

## Saving energy is a slam dunk

Get a full court press of rebates to help you save energy, save money and improve the comfort of your home.

Visit [ConservationMakesCents.org](http://ConservationMakesCents.org) to view our "Saving Energy is a Slam Dunk" video. And, watch for our roster of rebates on refrigerators, heat pumps and more – plus free programs and services – coming to your mailbox this month.

## Here come the fish

It's the time of year when young salmon and steelhead head down the Columbia River and adult fish start upstream to spawn in tributaries.

The little fish headed downstream get an



assist past Rocky Reach Dam through the nearly mile-long bypass pipe. At Rock Island Dam, water sent through spill gates speeds the juveniles on their way.

By early June, adult spring Chinook salmon will be passing the two dams on the up-river trip. You can get eye-to-eye with the adults in the fish viewing room at the Rocky Reach Visitor Center.

## In Your Neighborhood

PUD crews are in neighborhoods working on: South Lakeshore Road, near Chelan – Maintaining poles and lines in third phase of a 10-year effort

Cashmere Substation – Building a higher-capacity substation as final step to convert system to PUD standard voltage



MAY/JUNE 2015

# Connected

CHELAN COUNTY P.U.D.

## Coming attractions

### Fish, to forkballs to fireworks:

Learn and have fun with your PUD Hydropower not only keeps the lights on, it generates some serious summer fun. Join us for fun facts and hands-on learning at these events.

#### Summer Science at Rocky Reach

Wednesdays mornings, June 24-Aug. 5

**Free** weekly programs at Rocky Reach Visitor Center, taught by Visitor Center staff and tailored for the grade-school scientist (kindergarten to third grade). Call 663-7522 to register.

#### PUD Night at the AppleSox

June 25

Join your hometown AppleSox power hitters at the WVC ballpark in Wenatchee. Watch for details online, in local papers and on the radio about how to receive tickets and have some extra fun – including a prize drawing for a basket of Conservation goodies – planned for Chelan PUD Power Hitter Night at the Park.

### Have a blast on the Fourth of July

Chelan PUD's Walla Walla Point Park is hosting Wenatchee's Independence Day Celebration again this year after a one-year hiatus. Come for daytime festivities and stay for the fireworks. We will have information about firework safety and protecting your home from wildfires. Details on Facebook/Wenatchee Valley Independence Day Celebration.

### Celebrate being a senior

Senior Damboree  
Oct. 10

It's not too early to get this event on your calendar. During Public Power Week come to Rocky Reach Visitor Center for a day of fun competition and great information focused on senior adults. Watch our website at [chelanpud.org](http://chelanpud.org) and Facebook.com/VisitRockyReach for more information.



### PUD profile: Von Pope

PUD biologist roams the county to care for wildlife



Von Pope builds a base to entice osprey to nest away from power lines.

In the winter, look for Wildlife Program Manager Von Pope bundled up and in a boat watching for eagles on the Columbia River or mountain goats along Lake Chelan. Come warmer weather, he's in a canoe checking backwater channels for waterfowl nests.

In between, he might be hiking through the hills looking for noxious weeds or delving deep into survey numbers to make sure Chelan PUD meets its responsibility to care for animals and habitat impacted by our utility operations.

"Really, the variety of the job is the most interesting," said Pope. "It's all about making sure habitat supports wildlife to the fullest extent."

He works with agencies and outdoor groups, and manages the PUD's 960-acre

wildlife preserve west of Wenatchee, that is crossed by the popular Sage Hills Trail.

Pope's even got his eye on tiny beetles, more than 50,000 of the "biological," released since 2012 from Knapps Hill Tunnel to Burch Mountain to serve as a safe and effective control for noxious weeds.

As a member of the PUD's Natural Resources team, he seeks out many points of view before decisions are made. "The public is sometimes surprised by that," said Pope. "There is a lot thought and consideration and discussion before we decide to do something."

"The public appreciates that we ask for their opinion, and we appreciate hearing from them. As an example, we had about 200 people come to our Mule Deer Summit earlier this year."