

GM Steve Wright: Investing to improve service



Steve Wright

Welcome to 2016. 2015 was an excellent year for the PUD by any measure. We started work on the strategic plan, including 11 new projects underway as a result of the Public Power Benefit program. We paid down more debt and are on course to get below a 35 percent debt ratio by the end of 2018 – a

full year earlier than we predicted. And we are making important investments in our people and our facilities. You will hear more about these throughout the year. We are optimistic about the future, and we are investing now in our revenue-generating projects to ensure that the District's good fortune continues for years to come.

Yet, like many of you, we worry about the shutdown of Alcoa's Wenatchee Works plant. The PUD is actively engaged with other community partners to identify how best to respond in the short-term, while working on a plan should the situation turn into a permanent closure. We haven't given up on the potential for a re-start.

And, following up on one of the things we heard from you during strategic planning was a desire to expand our fiber services to more parts of the county. You will be pleased to know that work will begin in 2016 in areas of Leavenworth, Cashmere and Manson. You can find more information on our website www.chelanpud.org.

We also hope to hear from you as we launch our biannual customer satisfaction survey. You may be contacted by telephone or email to participate. Please do. We value your input to help guide us in providing even better customer service.



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
Give us a ring at (509) 663-8121 or toll-free, (888) 663-8121.



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PO BOX 1231
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Lighting the way

We're taking a look at all the street and area lights in Chelan County that are powered by the PUD as a first step toward consideration of installing LED lamps.

Contractor Tanko Lighting will spend about three months on the lighting inventory. The results will be used to evaluate potential energy savings and test cost effectiveness of converting to Light Emitting Diode (LED) lamps.

We also are working with manufacturers to evaluate LED lamps. Sample lights will be installed in two areas of Wenatchee in February - along Cashmere Street and in and around Washington Park.



This GE street light is similar to what will be tested in Wenatchee neighborhoods.

Benefits of LED lighting include lower energy use and costs, less maintenance, better visibility for safety and less stray lighting so areas are "Dark Sky" compliant. LEDs provide "white light" which makes it easier to see true color at night.

A big part of the project is asking customers for feedback on the sample lights. Send your comments to conservation@chelanpud.org.

Safety tip

Stay safe and away from downed lines

No matter where you see a line – on the ground, sagging or broken – assume all downed lines are dangerous. Be safe and stay away.

If you have information about a tree in a line or power problem, please call us at 1-877-PUD-8123 (1-877-783-8123).



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Website redo offers on-the-go access

We've built a new website to give you a better user experience.

With the new website, it should be easier

than ever to find energy conservation rebates, pay your bill, get information about a power outage, or apply for a job -- and you can do it all on your mobile phone, tablet or personal computer.

The official "live" date is late Jan. Until then, you can get a sneak peek from our current home page. No change in address -- still chelanpud.org.

Please visit and let us know what you think about your experience at the new chelanpud.org. Send comments to contactus@chelanpud.org.



PUD profile: **Kelly Cordell**

Caring for creatures and the community

If you're looking for wildlife biologist Kelly Cordell, just scan the horizon. She may be hiking the Sage Hills to check on mule deer in the PUD's Home Water Wildlife Preserve or cruising the Columbia to count eagles. She also keeps an eye on sensitive habitat. "I've always wanted to work outdoors and do things to better habitat for all kinds of wildlife," said Cordell.

She credits her Wenatchee upbringing for a deep love of the outdoors and for her career choice. She earned her wildlife management degree from Washington State University and joined Chelan PUD in 2004 after working for the Forest Service.

She enjoys sharing her passion for science and wildlife with students of all ages. She is involved with the Electric Toasters, a chapter of Toastmasters International that meets at Chelan PUD. And, she's active in the District's annual United Way campaign.

Away from the PUD, Cordell enjoys visiting her daughter, a college student in Spokane, helping with her family's business, and working on her skills as an equestrian.

"I've always wanted to work outdoors and do things to better habitat for all kinds of wildlife"



Not lions and tigers and bears -- but, Chelan PUD does care for a host of furry, feathered and finned creatures -- including Walt the Wolf.

Take a little walk on the wildlife — side with Chelan PUD at the Feb. 19 Wenatchee Wild hockey game. There will be pelts and antlers to touch, fish and game experts to quiz and insider tips on exploring PUD parks.

Visit us on the concourse before the game and between periods. Enter to win a gift basket with some "wild" items and get to know the folks who are dedicated to protecting the natural resources that support our clean, renewable hydro power. Check facebook.com/ChelanPUD for details.