



JULY-AUG. 2016



CHELAN COUNTY

PUBLIC POWER BENEFIT



Fiber expansion, parking pass to continue in 2017

PUD commissioners have selected and approved funding for projects to enhance the quality of life in Chelan County into 2017.

Projects include continuing broadband fiber network expansion, extending through 2017 the day use parking pass pilot and starting an overnight camping pass pilot study at Beebe Bridge Park under the Public Power Benefit program. Up to \$4 million was made available for 2017.

Locations for fiber expansion will be decided as part of 2017 budgeting and announced later this year. Camping pass details are in the works: stay tuned for more

information in the coming months.

PUD commissioners also allocated \$1.36 million to specific projects from the reserved 2016 program funds including:

- A technical feasibility study on installing a "splash pad" water feature in a PUD park
- Collaborating on a study to pursue local hydropower and electrification research

The Public Power Benefit program was identified as a priority during strategic planning as a way for your utility to provide *the best for the most people for*



Get a FREE parking pass online or at PUD offices

Chelan County residents can get their free parking pass at chelanpud.org/parks-and-recreation



(click on "Day Use Parking Pass") or apply at PUD offices in Chelan, Leavenworth or Wenatchee.

the longest period of time. So long as the PUD has available revenues and after all PUD financial measurements are met, we will continue to look at ways to provide Public Power Benefits.

Check for details and the full list of projects at [chelanpud.org/Learning Center](http://chelanpud.org/Learning-Center) under "Public Power Benefit/Projects."



PUD profile: Rigo Mendoza



He's got the answers

Rigo Mendoza loves to answer questions about Rocky Reach Dam. He also loves to ask them.

As a Visitor Center tour guide, he shares his passion for hydropower with thousands of people each year

who stop by to stroll the grounds, marvel at the fish bypass and ogle the big units in the powerhouse.

And, during the occasional times when the stream of visitors slows, he peppers coworkers with questions to improve his understanding of what it takes to generate power, protect fish and supply electricity to homes and businesses across the Northwest.

In his third season at the dam, he's still surprised by "how we take care of our facilities and the extreme amount of care that is put into protecting wildlife, the river and fish. It says a lot about the people who work here and how they care about the place."

Rocky Reach is a destination for the

"I want Rocky Reach to be as beautiful as it was for me growing up"

community as well as for visitors from across the country and around the globe. The diverse audience benefits from Mendoza's ability to talk hydropower in English and Spanish.

He also works as a utility person at the dam and is studying industrial electronics at Wenatchee Valley College. Married, and the dad of a 6-year-old, he takes classes full time during the winter break from his seasonal PUD position.

Mendoza's goal is to finish his degree and land an apprenticeship at the PUD. He wants to protect what he loved about visiting the dam as a child.

"I want Rocky Reach to be as beautiful as it was for me growing up – for my kids and for generations to come."

GM Steve Wright: Managing the PUD's finances



Steve Wright

You have heard me talk about the importance of repaying our debt on a number of occasions. I don't want to sound like a broken record, because managing the PUD's debt is important to you as a customer-owner.

We all know what a killer interest payments can be – especially if the economy isn't good. It wasn't all that long ago – 2009 – the PUD faced \$1.1 billion in debt.

We have paid down net debt by almost \$460 million since then and are planning for about \$225 million more net reductions through 2019. And, we're on pace to reach a debt ratio of under 35 percent, a year sooner than originally planned.

We also have been able to pay for our capital expenses with reserves, meaning we haven't

had to issue bonds for financing.

Yet there may come a time when it makes sense for us to go back out into the bond market – for instance, for modernization or expansion of facilities or for long-term sustainability of our operations – not temporary challenges.

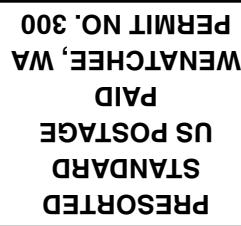
The good news about your PUD's financial position is that we are in an enviable position of having time to make prudent decisions because of our stability.

I welcome your comments.



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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ADDRESS LINE 2
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CHELAN COUNTY PUD



Help us make Connected even better

We're looking for your help to know if the Connected newsletter is doing its job. Keeping customers in the know about PUD services, projects and issues is vital

in making sure you're satisfied with your public utility.



Visit www.chelanpud.org/ConnectedSurvey to take a short survey online. To respond in writing, visit your local PUD office or call or email us and we'll send you a survey to mail in. Responses from Chelan PUD customers (18 or older) will be entered in a drawing for a Kindle Fire HD 8. The winner will be announced in August.

For mail-in surveys in English and Spanish call (509) 661-4244 or send a note to contactus@chelanpud.org.

Safety tip

Pokémon craze can be dangerous and a security risk

Have fun finding Snorlaxes and Jigglypuffs, but watch out for hazards and follow the rules at PUD parks, dams and substations.

