



CANAL COMFORT FUND 2016 DONATIONS

	Total
Jefferson County	\$473.45
Mason County	\$3,952.99
2016 Year End Total	\$4,426.44
2015 Year End Total	\$5,252.14

With the cold season comes our annual request to help our neighbors who are in need of assistance on their utility bills. The Canal Comfort Fund has only taken in about 84% of the amount of donations that we had at the end of 2015. Jefferson County has the lowest amount of donations, with just enough to assist three families as of the end of 2016. Donations are allocated to either the Mason or Jefferson County Community Action Councils based on the residence of the donors, unless the donor specifies it to go to a specific county. All funds are used each year as the need is always greater than the resources.

The Canal Comfort Fund has been sustained entirely by the generosity of our PUD 1 customers. Donations are tax deductible and 100% goes toward families in need. Please consider rounding up the change on your monthly payment remittance (you can do this online through Smart Hub now too!) or setting up a monthly contribution to help our neighbors in need this winter. Thank you to all of you who have continuously supported the Fund throughout the years!

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the PUD 1 office in Potlatch. For more information on meetings, agendas and minutes, please visit www.mason-pud1.org.

MASON COUNTY PUD 1 COMMISSIONERS:

DISTRICT 1

Karl Denison(360) 898-2618

DISTRICT 2

Ron Gold(360) 426-9540

DISTRICT 3

Jack Janda(360) 490-1800

GENERAL MANAGER

Steven Taylor.....(360) 877-5249



Have you signed up for the Email Notification List yet? Be the first to know about scheduled outages and other important PUD information by emailing kristinm@mason-pud1.org to join.


THE
CONNECTOR
WINTER 2016-2017




Skokomish River



www.mason-pud1.org

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WINTER READINESS IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR PIPES

'Tis the time of year where many of our water customers experience high water usage on their bills due to outdoor and indoor leaks. PUD 1 encourages customers to make preparations this season to prevent water leaks and ice hazards. If you are unsure how to winterize your home or building, consult with a plumbing or winterization specialist or give us a call.

Water expands when it freezes and puts tremendous pressure metal or plastic pipes. No matter the strength of a pipe, expanding water can cause them to break. Pipes that freeze most frequently are those that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, water sprinkler lines, and water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets. Pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation are also subject to freezing.

IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE

If your pipes break due to freezing, contact us immediately to have your water shut off for repairs. The District cannot "unfreeze" or repair customer pipes that are broken, but we usually can be out the same day to shut off your service.

IF YOU NOTICE A POOL OF WATER THAT WASN'T THERE BEFORE

We highly recommend that customers install a shut off valve on their side of the meter so that way they can shut their own water off anytime they like. Customers are prohibited from shutting off or turning on the District's equipment. If you shut off the valve at your house and the meter is still spinning, you likely have a leak in your distribution line. If it's on your side of the meter, you will have to call a professional to repair it. If the leak is on our side of the meter, we can send out our crew to make repairs.

If you experience unusually high water bills in these cold months or suspect that you may have a leak, give us a call and we can help you troubleshoot the issue.



Insulate outside faucets, above ground pipes and hose bibs to prevent against leaks caused by freezing. Use rags covered in plastic, fiberglass, or preformed foam.



Remember to shut off irrigation. Yes, we actually see sprinklers going in the middle of our rainy season. It's a waste of money and it can cause slip hazards when it freezes on sidewalks and driveways.



Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing. Pipes can be relocated by a professional if the home is remodeled.



Add insulation to attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.



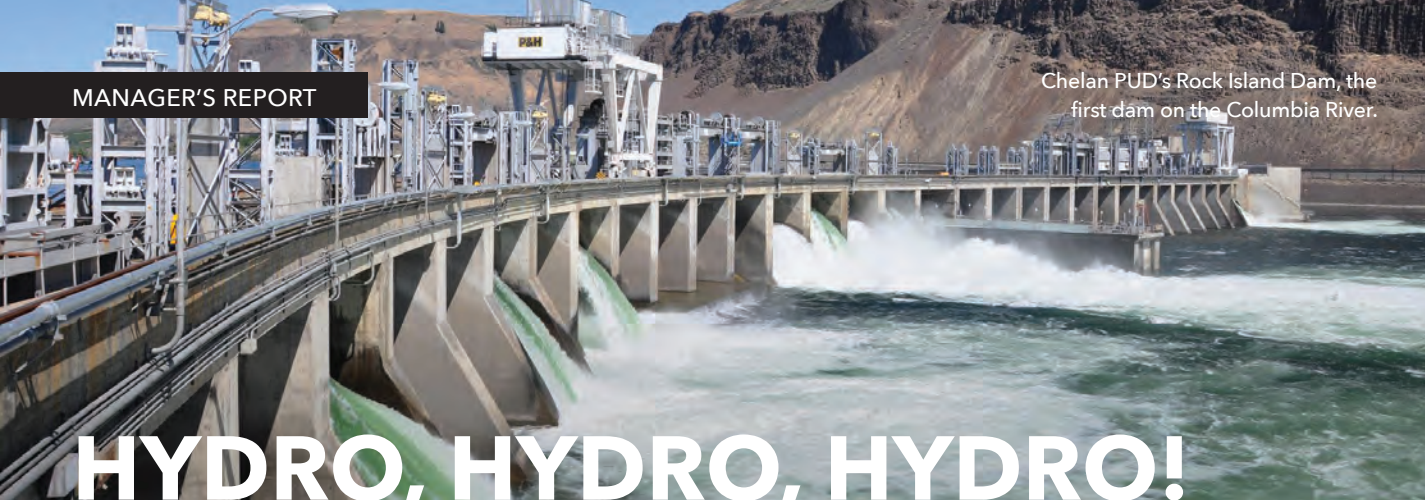
If you are going away during the winter, leave the heat on in your home no lower than 55 degrees and open kitchen and bathroom cabinets so warm air from the room circulates around pipes. Designate a person to check your house regularly; show them where the main water shut-off valve is located.



Turn on a faucet to let water dribble in the plumbing where pipes run through cold spaces since running water doesn't freeze as quickly as still water.

Thank you
to all who attended our
Customer Appreciation Event
this fall! See you next year!





MANAGER’S REPORT

Chelan PUD’s Rock Island Dam, the first dam on the Columbia River.

HYDRO, HYDRO, HYDRO!

It may seem like hydro is all we talk about lately in our newsletters but there’s a specific reason for that. In order to have our voices heard regarding a federal environmental impact study that will conclude in 2020, we have to have our comments in now, three years ahead of time, to ensure that our dams and hydroelectric power are adequately considered in the study. The anti-dam movement has gained momentum in recent years. Public power providers have to weigh both the benefits of fish and wildlife habitat protection and stewardship along with the benefits of the federal hydro systems for our region. We simply request that our federal agencies do the same. We don’t have to choose one or the other. They can both co-exist and thrive. In fact they have been for many years now. Fish returns are at record highs and almost a billion dollars a year is spent to support that.

PUD 1 is a member of Northwest River Partners, which is a consortium of “more than 40,000 farmers, 4 million electric utility customers, thousands of port jobs, 7,000 small businesses, and hundreds of large businesses that rely on the economic and environmental benefits of the Columbia and Snake rivers” as explained on their website www.cleanhydro.com. In the Pacific Northwest, many of us realize just how powerful the rivers are and the benefits we receive from them. In other parts of the nation, hydro isn’t as abundant and its power isn’t as recognized. Local polling from Northwest River Partners has also shown that our younger generations that weren’t around when the dams were being constructed don’t realize the huge economic and environmental benefits they are receiving from the dams. The Clean Hydro campaign is working to change that.

In our service territory here on the Hood Canal, we actually have three small hydroelectric projects that generate power onto our electric system. Walking the Lilliwaup Falls hydro project last year, we marveled at the enormous undertaking to reconstruct that project to generate clean carbon free power, we toured the engine room that was generating the power, and then walked below the engine room and witnessed the salmon swimming and spawning in the river bed right beneath the falls. Engineers from Washington, D.C. don’t get to see that. They won’t easily recall the coexistence of wildlife and dams unless we remind them. As in many federal and state issues, Mason PUD 1 may be small in customer size but we are large in stature when teamed with our industry partners and customers that are passionate about maintaining our way of life while still being good stewards of our environment.

I hope that you’ll tune in if you see the news coverage of the impact study on the local news stations. I hope that if you watch the anti-dam videos and read the articles that you’ll remember to equally consider both sides. I also hope that if you have any questions or want more information on the benefits of the federal hydro systems and Columbia and Snake river dams, that you’ll visit the Clean Hydro and Northwest River Partners websites or give us a call.



Steven Taylor,
General Manager



Turbine at Chelan PUD’s Rocky Reach Dam.

2015 FUEL MIX SUMMARY		
	HYDRO	88.6%
	NUCLEAR	10.2%
	COAL	2%
	NATURAL GAS	0.9%
	BIOMASS	0.2%
	OTHER	.01%

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT TO PROTECT OUR HYDROPOWER

In May, a U.S. District Court ruled that the river management plan for the Federal Columbia River Power System (the Biological Opinion) was inadequate and requested federal agencies to review the operations of the hydro system. The Court indicated that a proper analysis under federal law “may well require” considering breaching, bypassing or removing one or more of the four Lower Snake River dams.

Your PUD1 commission recently sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their comment process on the National Environmental Protection Act’s (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement in consideration of the Snake River dams. You have heard us repeatedly tout the benefits of the federal

Since 1978, nearly **\$16 billion** has been contributed by ratepayers to mitigate the impacts of the Columbia river system, including the Snake river dams.

hydroelectric system for the Pacific Northwest. We keep addressing these issues both at the federal level and also with you, our ratepayers, because these process decisions ultimately impact you and your power bills. If we don’t continuously fight to protect our abundant resource of carbon free hydropower, it will fall to the wayside in light of the anti-dam movements that have been pecking away at the reputation and functionality of the dams.

The issue is complex and convoluted. It is also emotional as we balance the protection of fish and wildlife with the benefits that the state and federal dams provide to our region. As public power customers, you have a federal preference to low cost, carbon free power from the dam systems. As we’ve stated many times, almost 25-33 percent of the

cost of power we purchase from Bonneville Power Administration goes toward fish and wildlife habitat mitigation, to the tune of about \$900 million per year. These comment processes are very important to you as ratepayers, as us as public power providers. If we are not careful to ensure that the benefits of the dams are considered in these impact studies, they will not be evenly weighed against the arguments to remove the dams. While we know that you all have busy lives and cannot all be subject matter experts on all issues impacting the power you buy and use in your daily lives, we want you to be assured that as your elected body that governs your utility, we fight on your behalf to protect this resource and your rights to this preference power.

Since 1978, nearly \$16 billion has been contributed by ratepayers to mitigate the impacts of the Columbia river system including the Snake river dams. The Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) provides firm power

to approximately half of the 13 million people in the Pacific Northwest and sells non-firm carbon free power to meet part of the electrical needs of the 39 million people in California and the rest of the western United States.

Hydroelectric power is the single biggest energy resource in the Northwest. It’s amazing to us that such an abundant and renewable natural resources is even in discussion to reduce or eliminate. The Snake dams alone provide enough energy to power a city the size of Seattle each year. Hydro is also the reliable backup source for other renewable energies like wind and solar.

Other valuable aspects of the dams are the transportation, irrigation, and recreational benefits. Moving approximately \$3 billion of cargo regionally

every year along the rivers not only supports commerce and affordable transportation, but reduces the amount of carbon that would otherwise be polluting our air through trucking. Irrigation supports our farms, that are a huge economic engine for our state and contributor to our nation’s food supply.

We feel strongly that dam removal options are NOT reasonable alternatives and should not be considered as part of the NEPA process. Salmon and dams are currently co-existing and thriving and the technologies at the dams are ever increasing the salmon populations. Added to the estimated billions of dollars in costs for dam removal, the restoration cost of re-establishing a river ecosystem prior to dam construction would be enormous and devastating for our region’s ratepayers.

PUD 1 commissioners and staff have been working hard with our fellow PUDs and Northwest River Partners to ensure that your interests are protected by submitting comments, testifying at hearings and attending federal scoping meetings at the dams. If anyone would like to submit their own public input to help influence the scope of the agencies’ review of the hydro system through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), comments may be submitted online at: comment@crso.info or mail to: CRSO EIS, P.O. Box 2870, Portland, OR 97208-2870. Comments are accepted through January 17, 2017 and we are happy to be a resource for you to help draft comments.



Sincerely,
Jack Janda, District 3