

# Ice Cold

*Old Man Winter still has some kick left as KPUD crews battle the elements*

**By Luann Mata  
and Lori K. Froehlich**

During January, Klickitat County experienced some extreme weather.

This chill factor contributed to a month-long battle to keep the power on in various locations, especially in the east end of the county.

There were many days when wind battered trees and power poles in the White Salmon service territory, causing multiple outages during a two-week period.

When the wind finally stopped, the fog and cold temperatures set in, freezing power lines, which hit east-end customers hard.

Low-hanging lines were a common sight as frost and ice coated the lines and weighed them down.

Crews spent days and nights removing frost and ice from the lines to prevent damage that can occur if the lines are allowed to “unload” the heavy weight from the lines themselves.

All KPUD crews and personnel worked on a rotational basis to keep up with the winter storms. ■



*Above, weeks of freezing fog left this east county road sign encased in a “growth” of ice crystals. Left, Journeyman Lineman Lake Howard connects jumpers on the transmission line by the White Creek Substation and the Dot Switching Station on Dot Road. Photos by Jeff Thayer.*