

Osprey Flock to Platforms on KPUD Poles



A pair of osprey make themselves at home on a nesting platform built on top of a Klickitat PUD utility pole.

KPUD photo

By Lori Froehlich

It's the time of year, again, when the osprey of the Columbia and Klickitat rivers make their summer homes. This happens every year from late March through September.

Protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the fish-eating osprey also is known as a "seahawk," which is where the inspiration for the Seattle football mascot came from.

Osprey pairs mate for life. They usually return to the same nest every year to hatch and raise their young before their annual southern migration in the fall. If there is an abundant supply of fish nearby, they will build their nest on any tall structure suitable enough for that purpose. This includes PUD power poles, channel markers or cell towers in proximity to the water.

Quite often, these large nests fashioned with sticks are built on top of the double

cross-armed PUD power poles. This can pose a fire hazard or a potential outage when the nest interferes with the electrical equipment. Rain and snow compound the risk when the nests become wet.

A danger exists for the osprey as well, since their nearly 5-foot wingspan increase the potential for electrocution if a wing completes either the circuit between closely spaced energized equipment or between one energized wire and one neutral or ground wire.

Klickitat PUD has seen an increase in ospreys building their nests on the poles, especially near communities along the water, such as Bingen, Lyle and Klickitat.

In 2007, it was necessary for Klickitat PUD crews to remove part of an osprey's large stick-built nest to restore power, while leaving enough for the birds to use for the remainder of the nesting season. After the migratory birds left the area in September, plans were made for PUD crews to install a new nesting platform.

Working with students at Goldendale High School and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Klickitat PUD's construction crew installed a nesting platform several feet above the power lines, offering protection to the birds and the town's power supply.

The students built two more platforms to replace osprey nests on other power poles in the area that were both a fire and a reliability hazard, and to prevent future interactions between the birds and power equipment.

The displaced ospreys have readily accepted their new nesting platforms. Each spring, all of the platforms are occupied.

Keep a close watch for osprey in your travels through the Columbia River Gorge, as they often can be seen throughout the spring and summer diving for fish in the Columbia River.

Klickitat PUD appreciates all those who were involved in the cooperative efforts to provide safe, reliable power, while at the same time preventing hazardous bird interactions with power equipment. This helps us to maintain a successful coexistence between people and wildlife. ■

Rick Adams is IT 'Go-To Guy'

Klickitat PUD welcomed Rick Adams to the ranks on August 8, 2011. He filled the position of PC technician and supports the information technology (IT) team in its goal to provide the highest level of technical leadership, while delivering efficient, effective and reliable technology solutions in a cost-effective and secure manner.

Rick is the primary contact for PUD employees who have technical support issues. He is referred to as the "go-to guy," and also is responsible for maintenance of desktops and laptops.

Employees can't escape interaction with Rick without a chuckle or two. He enjoys making them smile and goes out of his way to brighten his coworkers' day.

Rick's previous employer was Allied Waste, where he was a transfer station attendant for 22 years and a familiar face to most residents of Klickitat County.

He graduated from Goldendale High School



Rick Adams

and has raised his four daughters there with his wife, Diana.

"I just really enjoy my job," Rick said, when asked about his career change. "I go home at night and my face hurts from smiling all day."

He has a real passion for learning new things

and working with people.

When he's not working or helping with homework, Rick enjoys collecting vinyl records. It's a hobby he started in junior high. He estimates his collection includes upwards of 1,000 records. He also enjoys outdoor activities, such as fishing and taking care of his 2-acre yard.

Congratulations and welcome to the KPUD team, Rick! ■

April

7—KPUD Customer Meeting with Ponderosa Park Owners Association, 9 a.m., KPUD Meeting Room.

10—KPUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale.

10—KPUD Customer Meeting, 7 p.m., Roosevelt School, Roosevelt.

13-15—Gorge Artists Open Studios Tour, www.gorgeartistsopenstudios.blogspot.com.

13-15—Annual Portland Swap Meet, Expo Center, Portland.

14—Smash for Cash Demo Derby, TRAC Center, Pasco.

14-15—Apple Valley Blossom Festival Dessert Party & BBQ, Apple Valley Country Store, www.applevalleystore.com.

14-29—Hood River Valley Blossom Festival www.hoodriver.org/events-festivals/chamber-events.

20—Dierks Bentley concert, Yakima SunDome, www.yakimasundome.com.

20-22—Goldendale Home & Garden Show, Klickitat County Fairgrounds.

21—Portland's Largest Garage Sale, Expo Center, Portland.

21—Trout Lake Run 5K, 10K & half-Marathon www.troutlakerun.blogspot.com.

21—Andrew Skurka presentation: "Circling Alaska & Yukon," www.columbiaarts.org.

21-22—Blossom Craft Show, Hood River, www.hoodriverfair.com/events.htm.

24—KPUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale.

24—KPUD Customer Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Klickitat School Library, Klickitat.

May

5—X-TREME Rough Stock Rodeo, TRAC Center, Pasco.

8—KPUD Commission Meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale.



Klickitat PUD Holds Annual Customer Meetings



During the next few months, Klickitat PUD staff and PUD Commissioners will visit several community and city councils, and other community action groups throughout Klickitat County.

Current Schedule:

April 07 - Ponderosa Park Owners Assoc, 9 a.m., Klickitat PUD Meeting Rm, Goldendale

April 10 - Roosevelt Community Council, 7 p.m., Roosevelt School

April 24 - Klickitat Community Council, 6:30 p.m., High School Library, Klickitat

