

# Retirement Has Arrived

Klickitat PUD's  
Jim Moss retires  
after 36 years

**By Beth Schroder**

What defines a successful career? Length of time? Projects? Accomplishments? Perhaps it's co-workers who are sad to see you go?

If any one of these things defines a successful career, achieving all of them must mean an outstanding one.

Such is the case for Klickitat PUD's Jim Moss. After 36 years, Jim is saying goodbye to official work days.

Jim began his career at Klickitat PUD in 1984 as an accountant. By the late 1980s, he was chief accountant. Jim became KPUD auditor in the early 1990s.

Although he began in the accounting department, Jim didn't spend his entire career there. In 2009, he took on the position of product and services analyst in the power management department.

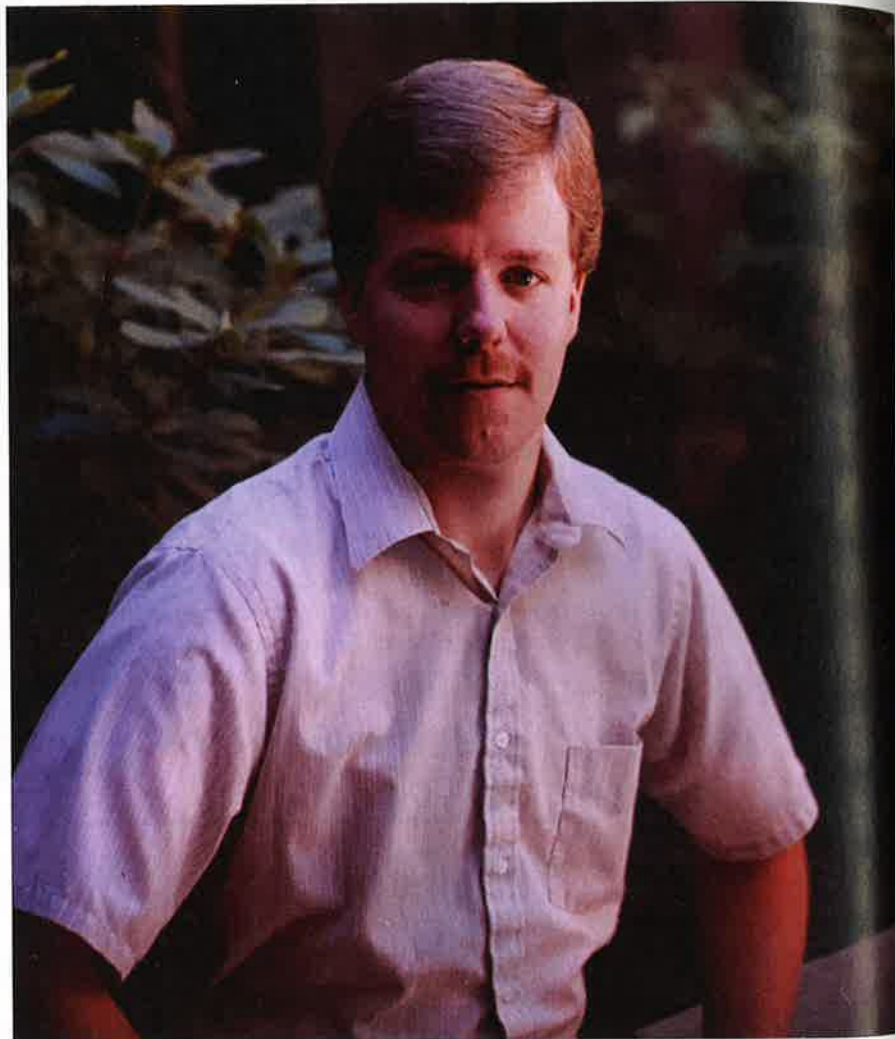
Jim continued in that role until 2017, when the accounting department came calling once again. He resumed the title of auditor, temporarily. In 2018, it was decided that "auditor" fit just right, and Jim moved fully back into the accounting department.

He spent the past two years helping to guide and serve as KPUD historian to his accounting co-workers.

Jim says he will most miss the people at Klickitat PUD.

"The people you work with are like family," Jim says. "You work anywhere long enough—36 plus years for me—and you form bonds that definitely will be missed."

Jim says the decision as to when to retire was originally a tough one. But



**Jim Moss began his career at Klickitat PUD as an accountant in 1984. October 1, 2020, marks his first official day of retirement.** PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIM MOSS

in January, he received word that long-time friend and former co-worker Tom Svendsen had passed away.

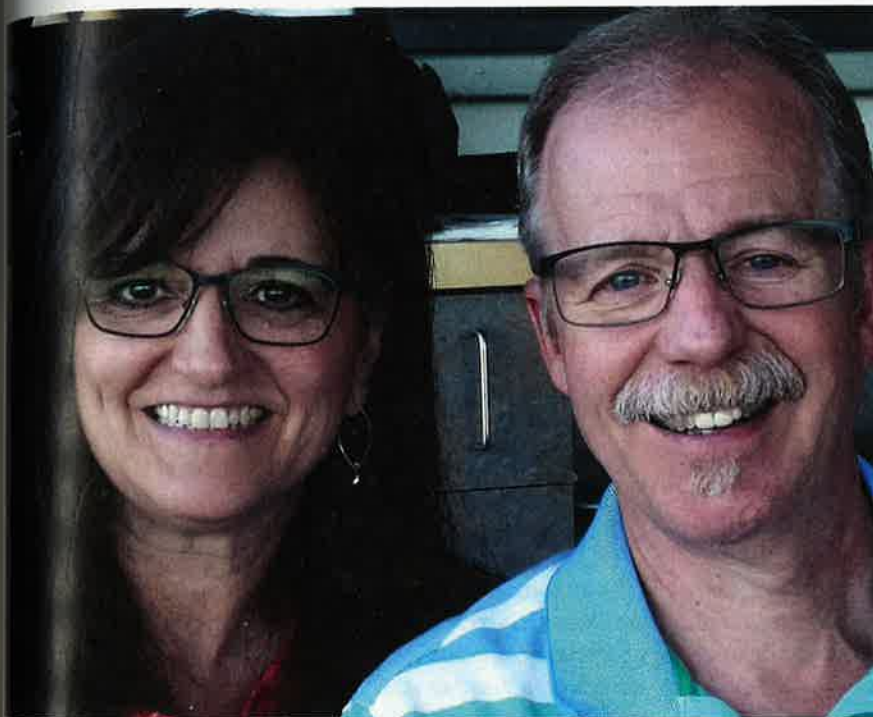
"I knew then, once and for all, that life is too short and it was time to retire," Jim says.

Looking back over the last 36 years, Jim recalls co-workers who particularly

inspired him.

He took the advice of Paul Enwards, who told him to "be at work every day early and don't be the first one out of the building at 5." It was a way to show good work ethic to management and a standard Jim says he always tried to live up to.

Tom showed Jim how to think and work



Jim looks forward to enjoying retirement with Leesa, his wife.

outside the box to find creative solutions.

"This was super troubling for an accountant—debits and credits have to balance," Jim says. "How do you look at situations like budgeting and financing without making it confined to the accounting mindset?"

Jim says his time at Klickitat PUD also taught him the value of teamwork: regardless of how tough or complex the task, with teamwork between departments, the end result was always better.

Jim and his wife, Leesa, plan to spend retirement being anything but idle. Traveling, camping trips and spending

time with family are all on the list of things to do.

Jim says if he still has free time, he will spend it on backyard projects.

With all he has experienced in the past 36 years working at Klickitat PUD, Jim has one last thing to share.

"I would like to thank all the employees and commissioners for working with me over the years," Jim says, "and for sharing our working lives together."

We return the thanks, Jim, and wish you well in a much-deserved new chapter of your life. ■

## Perspective From the General Manager

When I started in 1997, I thought Jim was one of the old guys.

Back then, most people were old. He didn't look any older than me, but with his knowledge and demeanor, it seemed to me that he must have been at the PUD forever.

Turns out, he wasn't much older than me. He was just much more mature than me! Now, almost 25 years later, Jim seems timeless. He has even more experience and maturity, but he still looks the same.

I appreciate Jim's dedication and loyalty to the employees here at the PUD. He is always smiling and offering help and guidance. The PUD won't be the same without him.

- Jim Smith

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Klickitat PUD is not able to hold an official retirement celebration for Jim Moss.

Klickitat PUD staff has organized a celebratory "drive-by" retirement parade Friday, October 2.

Participants will meet in the parking lot at Klickitat PUD's Goldendale office at 5 p.m.