

Water Ways



Wise use of water is goal of new plan

Chelan County PUD commissioners have approved a plan outlining conservation goals and establishing measures needed to achieve them.

The plan covers the PUD water system in rural Wenatchee including Sunnyslope, west Wenatchee and Squilchuck. It is part of the new state Water Use Efficiency Rule, which requires water purveyors to document existing conservation efforts and develop plans for future programs.

Two goals were established for the PUD's Wenatchee water system. The first is to reduce water distribution system leakage from 15.2 percent to 12.5 percent by 2013. This will be accomplished by correcting problems with large meter installations that were discovered when automated meter reading (AMR) equipment was installed in 2006. The water department also plans to test and/or calibrate water meters. During the AMR project, a random sample of older meters found some registered only 30 percent of actual water flow. By establishing a testing program, malfunctioning meters can be found and repaired or replaced.

A second goal is to reduce third-tier water consumption by 5 percent by 2013. Residential water rates are designed to encourage conservation; the less you use, the less you pay. Customers who use over 10,000 gallons a month are in the third tier, the District's highest cost category.

Most of the third-tier use occurs in the summer months, when customers water lawns and landscaping. Cutting back on this use can help customers lower their bills, and help the PUD defer costly updates to infrastructure and equipment.

The PUD already has several successful conservation programs in place. But the new requirement serves as an additional impetus to look at ways to most efficiently provide safe, clean drinking water, and to help customers conserve.

The Wenatchee area water use efficiency plan will be submitted to the state Department of Health in October as part of a six-year comprehensive plan that assesses

water supplies and anticipates demand and service needs.

Water use efficiency plans for water systems at Dryden, Chelan Ridge and Ollala Canyon will be developed in 2008.

Simple savings with Xeriscape

More and more customers are discovering the beauty, simplicity and savings of Xeriscape low-water landscaping. Now is a great time to evaluate your yard for Xeriscape opportunities, and begin making plans for converting to water-wise plantings.

Xeriscape can mean moving a few plants around, watering according to need, or designing a whole new landscape. Changes can result in 20 percent to 80 percent savings in landscape water use.

Detailed information on "The Seven Principles of Xeriscape" is available on our Web site: www.chelanpud.org. Click on "Water Conservation," then "Xeriscape."

Xeriscape flower of the month

Trumpet vine

Campsis radicans

This yellow-orange climber blooms in the summer and can grow up to 40' tall. Trumpet

vine is hardy to minus 30 degrees and enjoys partial shade to full sun. Trumpet vine was added to the Riverfront Park Demonstration Garden this year.



Summer 2007

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Don't keep up with the Joneses

Ever wonder how your water use stacks up against your neighbors? High, low, or average? Average daily use per household among Chelan County PUD water systems is 250 gallons. During the peak irrigation season, that jumps to 500 gallons.

Customers interested in calculating their water use can borrow a Water Meter Monitor from the PUD. The PUD can loan monitors to customers for up to two weeks. The monitors can also be purchased at \$100 each.

The monitor, placed within your home, captures signals from a transmitter installed on the water meter. The monitor shows the current reading on the water meter and can display water use during intervals defined by the customer, such as for one day, or for when a lawn is being watered.

To borrow or buy a monitor, call the PUD at (509) 661-8008.

Did you know?

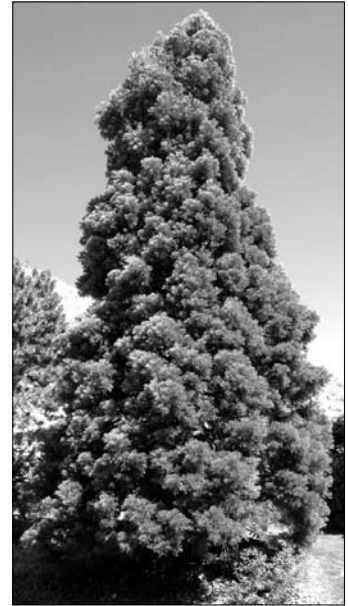
A new water conservation tip is posted on our Web site once a week. You'll find it at www.chelanpud.org. Click on "Water Conservation."



Worth noting

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- Learn proven steps you can take to reduce your property's vulnerability in a wildfire at a free Fire Wise workshop at 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, in the Chelan County PUD Auditorium, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave. The workshop is hosted by the Cascadia Conservation District, area fire departments, Chelan County commissioners, the state Department of Natural Resources and WSU Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit www.cascadiacd.org or www.firewise.org



This sequoia redwood is one of the tallest trees in Rocky Reach Park.

- WSU Chelan County Master Gardeners lead tours of the Rocky Reach Park Arboretum the third Saturday of every month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. From flowering magnolias to towering pines, the park is home to a wide variety of trees. WSU Urban Horticulturist Paula Dinius, volunteer master gardeners and PUD staff worked together this past year to catalog and map this diversity. If you can't participate in a Saturday tour, brochures available at the Rocky Reach Visitor Center lead visitors on a self-guided tour. More information on the arboretum is available at www.chelanpud.org/visitor-center.html.

How to reach us

Energy Services/Conservation:..... 661-8008
Water Department:..... 661-4254
Web site: www.chelanpud.org/water-conservation