



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Administrative Offices - P.O. Box 190 • Newport, WA 99156 • (509) 447-3137 • FAX (509) 447-5824
Box Canyon Hydro Project - P.O. Box 547 • Ione, WA 99139 • (509) 446-3137 • FAX (509) 447-6790

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2020

Media Contact: Amber Gifford
agifford@popud.org / 509-447-9328

Pend Oreille PUD Installs Additional Community Wi-Fi Hotspots

Lending help during the COVID-19 pandemic

Newport, WA – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) installed several free community Wi-Fi hotspots back in March when the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting the way we live, work, play, communicate, and educate. With the school year underway and many students still receiving some form of virtual learning, the PUD understands the importance of internet connectivity. To help those in the community that otherwise don't have internet access, numerous new hotspot locations have recently been installed and activated. The PUD now offers a total of ten (10) hotspots locations covering the county - the below outlines all hotspot locations from South to North.

South County:

- Diamond Lake: Near Bushels Bakery & the Diamond Lake Boat Launch, Green Rd & Hwy 2.
- Newport: TJ Kelly Park across from the Post Office, 100 N. Washington.
- Newport: Newport City Park, 1st St & Calispel Ave.
- Usk*: At the Crossroads where Hwy 20 meets Hwy 211, 421341 Hwy 20.
- Cusick: At the Park near City Hall, 1st Ave & Monumental Way.

North County:

- Tiger*: At the Tiger Historical Center, corner of Hwy 20 & Hwy 31.
- Ione: Waterfront Park, 410 Main St.
- Ione: Across from the PUD Warehouse, corner of Central & Millyard Rd.
- Metaline: Between the Mini Mart & Visitor's Center, 116 Hwy 31.
- Metaline Falls: Outside the Cutter Theater, 302 Park St.

*Please note, the Tiger and Usk hotspots were installed in collaboration with NoaNet & the WA State Broadband Office and are under WiFi Name: HomeworkHub. All other Hotspots listed were installed by the PUD and are under the WiFi Name: POPUD_FREE WIFI. These locations compliment those of several local businesses and the school districts.

“The goal is to continue to extend broadband access to students and community members without internet at home as classes continue online, people need to file applications or are depending on websites and social media for vital information during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Colin Willenbrock, the PUD's General Manager. “We must help everyone stay connected, stay positive, and stay safe.”

If you have questions regarding the Wi-Fi hotspots, please call the PUD Customer Service Team at 509-447-3137. Speeds are dependent on the number of users utilizing the service per site, each site is dedicated and will not disrupt regular broadband customers. This service will remain

in place temporarily and will be removed when it becomes no longer necessary. For the latest information on available hotspots, please visit the “News” section of the PUD website.

About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Pend Oreille PUD was established in 1936 and began operations in 1948. The PUD is governed by three locally elected Commissioners. A General Manager and staff operate the utility within policies set by the Board of Commissioners. The PUD has four operating systems: The electric system distributes electricity to the county, the production system produces power from the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the water system consists of nine individual water distribution subdivisions, and the community network system provides wholesale broadband communication services. For more information visit: <http://popud.org>.

#