



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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Pend Oreille PUD Installs Community Wi-Fi Hotspots

Lending help during COVID-19 crisis

Newport, WA – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) has installed several free community Wi-Fi hotspots. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the PUD launched this effort to help those in the community gain internet access. With businesses, restaurants, and public facilities closed, the options for customers to connect are currently limited. The PUD hopes to help bring connectivity to students and those community members that otherwise don't have access.

The following locations currently have free Wi-Fi available using the Wi-Fi name: "POPUD_FREE WIFI INTERNET ACCESS".

- **Newport** at the park across from the Post Office at 100 N. Washington
- **Ione** across from the PUD Warehouse at the corner of Central St. & Millyard Rd.
- **Metaline Falls** outside the Cutter Theater at 302 Park Street
- **Cusick** at the park near City Hall at 1st Ave & Monumental Way

"Our doors may be closed, but we are still finding creative ways to serve our communities during this uncertain and difficult time," said Colin Willenbrock, the PUD's General Manager. "We hope these free hotspots help everyone stay connected, stay positive, and stay safe."

If you have questions regarding the Wi-Fi hotspots, please call PUD Customer Service 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.

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>.

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