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DECEMBER 2026

Employee Spotlight: Meet the PUD's Natural Resources Manager

There's a lot more to managing a hydroelectric dam than generating electricity. Protecting fish and wildlife, monitoring water quality, restoring habitat and caring for the surrounding environment are all part of the job. At Pend Oreille PUD, Scott Jungblom helps lead those efforts as the PUD's Natural Resources Manager.

Scott's work covers a wide range of responsibilities, with about a dozen resource management plans that require ongoing monitoring, updates and reporting. That means no two days are quite the same.

A typical day might start with emails and project updates, followed by a trip to the fishway at Box Canyon Dam to help process the daily fish count. Working alongside the PUD's biologists, Scott helps examine, identify and track fish moving through the system. Some fish are fitted with radio tracking tags to help researchers better understand their movements. Once processed, fish are transported upstream or returned downstream, depending on their condition and the needs of the study.

The work also involves plenty of time in the field. Scott regularly conducts or oversees surveys involving bald eagles, aquatic vegetation, shoreline erosion, wetlands and other natural resources. Much of his remaining time is spent updating management plans and overseeing projects designed to protect and improve the environment around the PUD's hydroelectric facilities.

While much of this work happens behind the scenes, its benefits reach well beyond the PUD. The utility's erosion monitoring and control efforts have helped stabilize more than 30,000 feet of Pend Oreille River shoreline, reducing property loss and improving water quality. The PUD has also spent more than 20 years protecting and improving bald eagle habitat along the river corridor. During that time, annual chick production and the local bald eagle population have more than doubled.

For Scott, those results are a reminder that long-term conservation efforts can make a real difference for the community, the environment and future generations.

One of the most rewarding parts of his job, however, has nothing to do with reports or management plans. It's getting out of the office and sharing the work with local students.

Various school and educational groups visit Box Canyon each year, giving Scott an opportunity to explain the PUD's natural resource programs, teach a little ecology and show students the work happening to protect fish and wildlife.

"Those are the best days," Scott says. "I get to show off all the good work we are doing, teach a little ecology, and explain why we do what we do in the Natural Resource Department." He admits he usually leaves a little hoarse from all the talking.

Scott joined the PUD in December 2005, shortly after Box Canyon Dam received its new federal operating license. At the time, he was working for the county's Conservation District, where he had spent the previous five years working on stream habitat restoration and water quality projects. Much of that experience carried over directly into the PUD's new resource management requirements.

Nearly 21 years later, Scott says the work has turned out to be a great fit.

When he's not at work, Scott says he would rather be on the water. Whether boating, floating or diving, he enjoys spending time on the lake or river with his family.

Living near the Pend Oreille River has its advantages, especially on a hot summer day. Scott has a simple solution if the boat won't start: load everyone in upstream and float down to Ione.

"Just don't forget the paddles, especially for the kids!" Scott says with a laugh.

From fish passage and shoreline restoration to bald eagle habitat and educating the next generation, Scott's work helps protect the natural resources that make Pend Oreille County such a special place to live, work and play.



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Plan Ahead: Prepare for the Next Storm

Winter storms can bring strong winds, snow and power outages to Pend Oreille County. While PUD crews work around the clock to restore power as safely and quickly as possible, a little preparation at home can make a big difference.

Build a Storm Preparedness Kit

Be ready to spend at least three days without power.
Your emergency kit should include:

- Three days of food and drinking water.
- Flashlights and extra batteries.
- A battery-powered or hand-crank radio.
- Backup phone chargers or portable power banks.
- Warm clothing, blankets and extra supplies for pets.
- First-aid supplies and necessary medications.

Plan Ahead for Medical Needs

If you rely on electrically powered medical equipment or refrigerated medications, make a plan before a storm hits.

- Arrange for backup power for essential medical equipment.
- Know how to safely store medications that require refrigeration.
- Identify a nearby location where you can stay warm if you lose heat.
- Have a communication plan with family, friends and neighbors.

A little preparation goes a long way.
Take time now to make a plan, gather supplies and help keep your family safe when the next storm rolls through.

2027 PUD Calendars Are Here!

Our 2027 calendars are ready!
Stop by either PUD location to pick up your free copy during the week:

- **Newport Administration Building:** Drive-through or lobby, Monday–Thursday, 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- **Box Canyon Visitor Center:** Monday–Thursday, 6 a.m.–4:30 p.m.



This year's calendar features photos submitted by customers from across Pend Oreille County. Thanks to everyone who shared their pictures and helped make this year's calendar special!

HOPE for the Holidays

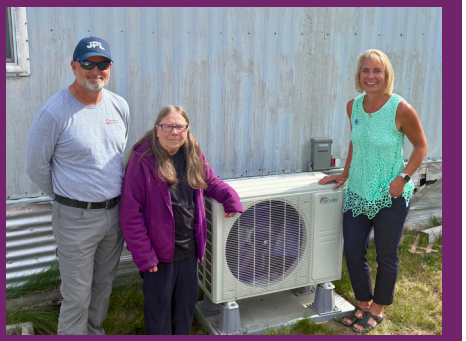
As the temperatures drop and heating bills climb, Pend Oreille PUD's HOPE Program (Helping Out Pend Oreille with Efficiency) is helping local families make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient.

The income-qualified program recently completed its first pilot project at Lazy Acres Mobile Home Community in Newport, where nearly 20 homes received energy-saving improvements. Through a partnership with 509Energy, upgrades included weatherization, duct sealing, heat pumps and other improvements designed to reduce energy use and lower heating costs.

Funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and administered by the PUD, HOPE provides eligible customers with access to energy efficiency improvements at little to no cost. The PUD hopes to expand the program to the Cusick and Ione areas in 2027.

To qualify, customers must meet income requirements (at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level), live in an existing single-family home within the PUD service area and use electricity for at least 50% of their home's heating.

Interested in learning more? Contact the PUD Conservation Team at 509-447-3137 or conservation@popud.org to find out if you qualify and whether funding is available.



Pictured: Todd Williams - 509Energy, Eldonna Steckler – PUD Customer, & Amber Gifford – PUD Conservation Manager.

Funding is limited, and participation is subject to eligibility, PUD approval and available BPA funding. Please contact the PUD before starting any project.

CONNECT WITH US!

Main Line:	**509-447-3137**	
North County:	509-446-3137	
South County:	509-242-3137	
TDD:	800-833- 6388	

24-Hour Automated Phone Line: 844-971-1058

Commissioners:

Curt Knapp:	cknapp@popud.org	509.671.1111
Dave Rick:	drick@popud.org	509.671.7952
Troy Moody:	tmoody@popud.org	509.991.1327

Website: **www.popud.org**

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Tue, Dec 1 - Newport
Tue, Dec 15 - Newport

Thur, Dec 24 & 31
PUD Offices Closed
Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!