

Get Ready for Spring the Right (of Way) Way

Look Up, Look Down

Trees are a vital part of any rural or urban setting's quality of life. If you are getting ready to plant trees, bushes or shrubs, look around to see where overhead power lines may hinder future growth.

Call Klickitat PUD for assistance on tree selection and placement. Remember that a 2-foot tall fir seedling can grow to more than 100 feet tall and 30 to 50 feet wide.

After you have looked up, look down for underground service. Never assume underground utility lines are buried deeper than you plan to dig. In some cases, utility lines are very close to the surface.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Landscaping your yard to hide transformers and underground utilities makes the equipment hard to find. This makes outages last longer and is unsafe for workers.

Underground utility locating is free. There is no reason not to call. 811 is the new national number to call for line locating requests. Washington state law allows utilities three days to respond to your request, so planning ahead is best.

Right-of-Way Maintenance is Year Round

Trees growing near power lines can be a safety hazard and a major cause of power outages.

According to the Revised Code of Washington, any time a potential threat exists that could cause damage to electric facilities from trees and vegetation, an electric utility is required to remove the hazard. With growth rates of 8 to 10 feet a year on some species, it is a full-time job just staying ahead of annual growth.

If there are trees in the KPUD right of way, call to discuss your options. Limbs and trees within 10 feet of distribution electrical lines and 23 feet of transmission lines will be cut back. This helps ensure reliable electric service, and will be done at no cost to you. See graphic on page 29 for planting specifications.

Right-of-way easements grant KPUD the authority to trim trees without property-owner permission to provide for a safe and reliable electric system. However, KPUD respects the property of its customer-owners and, in most cases, will notify the property owner of the need for tree work before trimming is done. In unusual or emergency situations, it may be necessary to trim trees without first notifying the property owner to restore service or eliminate safety hazards.

The extent of trimming required is determined by the tree's

growth rate, the movement of trees and conductors in bad weather, and the voltage of the lines. KPUD employs a professional tree-trimming crew that includes a certified arborist, Foreman Dale Stelter. Dale also helps determine if the tree is diseased, dead or dying and, depending on the proximity of the tree to electric facilities, if removal of the entire tree is required.

Could You Get There?

What do an accessible right of way and your lights being on faster in an outage have in common? They are related because most tree-related outage times can be greatly reduced if the right of way is clear of trees and brush. Brush and trees inhibit visual inspections, and vehicle and foot traffic.

When is the last time you walked the right of way on your property? Are all of the poles easily accessible?

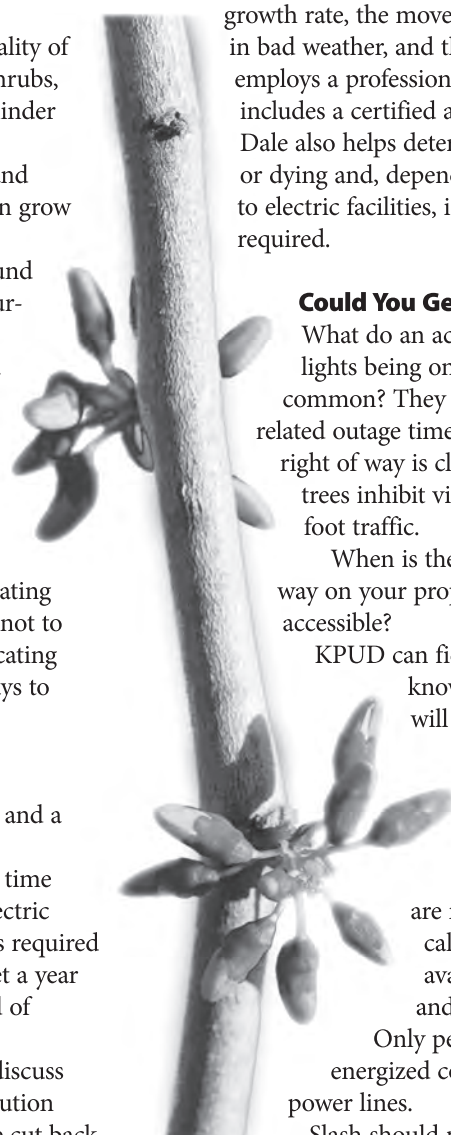
KPUD can field check your situation, let you know when our maintenance crews will be in your area and, make suggestions for clearing and maintaining your right of way.

Safe logging Saves Lives!

If Klickitat PUD power lines are near your harvest area, please call for consultation. Options are available to help you work safely and help the lights stay on.

Only people qualified to work near energized conductors should work around power lines.

Slash should not be piled and burned on power line rights of way. When replanting, observe dedicated easements and rights of way on the property. Don't plant in these areas. Tall growing trees will be cut down in the next maintenance cycle. ■



On the Schedule

Summer 2011 will include routine tree-trimming maintenance in the Northwestern Lake area of White Salmon, Spring Creek Road in Husum and the Husum area.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

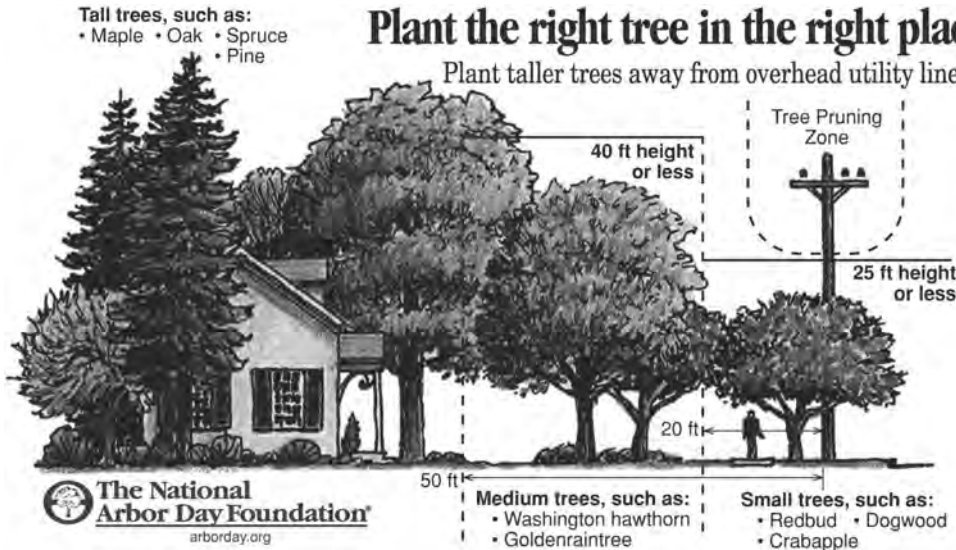
May

- 3**—KPU D Customer Meeting with Snowden Council, 7 p.m. at Cherry Lane Fire Station, Husum.
- 6-8**—Fourth Annual Columbia Gorge Fiddle Contest, Hood River.
- 7**—Season opening of Gorge Heritage Museum, Bingen.
- 7**—Spring Plant Sale, at the Gorge Heritage Museum, 202 E. Humboldt St., Bingen, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Any questions, call (509) 493-3228.
- 8**—Hike Klickitat Mineral Springs, three miles round trip, with Klickitat Trail Conservancy, www.klickitat-trail.org/events.htm.
- 10**—KPU D commission meeting, 2 p.m.
- 11**—Open house for National Electrical Safety Month, KPU D offices in Goldendale and White Salmon.
- 14**—Outdoor sculpture exhibit, Maryhill Museum of Art (through September).
- 14-15**—Gorge Artists Open studio, Hood River.
- 14-15**—High Prairie Firehouse Sale, 783 Centerville Hwy., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 15**—Swale Canyon wildflower bike ride with Klickitat Trail Conservancy, www.klickitat-trail.org/events.htm.
- 18**—KPU D customer meeting with Kiwanis, 7 a.m. at the Luau, Goldendale.
- 21-22**—Rose City Gun and Knife Show, Portland Expo Center.
- 21**—Hike from Lyle to Fisher Hill Bridge, four miles round trip, with Klickitat Trail Conservancy, www.klickitat-trail.org/events.htm.
- 22**—Windsurfing Association swap meet, 8 a.m. at Windance, Hood River.
- 24**—KPU D commission meeting, 2 p.m.
- 26**—KPU D customer meeting with High Prairie Council, 7 p.m., Struck Road Fire Hall, Lyle.

To have an event listed in the Community Calendar, call Kathy at (509) 773-7606.

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



The above graphic shows the minimum distant trees should be planted near power poles to ensure no interference.

Be Power Friendly When Planting Trees

Trees beautify homes and property, but care should be taken when planting trees near power lines.

Each year, power outages are caused by storms that bring trees or limbs down on lines.

You can help minimize outages by taking a

power-friendly approach to landscaping. Avoid planting trees under power lines.

If you are planting within 30 feet of a power line, plant trees that will grow no higher than 25 feet. Larger trees should be planted more than 30 feet from lines. ■

The Month of May Shines Spotlight on Safety

Klickitat PUD is celebrating Safe Drinking Water Week and the month of May being National Electrical Safety Month.

Customers are encouraged to visit KPU D offices in Goldendale and White Salmon during an open house Wednesday, May 11, for free refreshments and informational material.

In celebrating electrical safety month, KPU D wants to remind its customers to inspect their homes to make sure they are free of electrical accidents waiting to happen.



Have additional outlets installed. Don't take a chance on overloading circuits and creating a fire hazard.

The key to preventing potentially fatal accidents is awareness.

- Plugs should fit fully and securely into outlets, but should not be forced.
- Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets to protect children.
- If an outlet or switch wall plate is hot or discolored by heat, shut off the circuit and have it checked by a professional.
- Have additional outlets installed where you need them instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. ■