



# Stay Hydrated this May

Klickitat PUD Celebrates Drinking Water Week, May 1-7

Drinking Water Week is an annual observance sponsored by the American Water Works Association the first week of May recognizing the critical role drinking water plays in our daily lives. In 1988, AWAA brought Drinking Water Week to the attention of the U.S. government and formed a coalition along with the League of Women Voters, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Rep. Robert Roe and Sen. Dennis DeConcini subsequently sponsored a resolution to name the first week of May as Drinking Water Week. The weeklong observance was declared in a joint congressional resolution signed by President Ronald Reagan.

Klickitat PUD reminds the public of the importance of water conservation during Drinking Water Week. Many regions face drought conditions. It is essential to avoid waste through conservation practices to protect our precious source of water.

**“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.”**

—THOMAS FULLER, 1732



Klickitat PUD Water-Wastewater Department. From left: Operator Mike Krause, Lead Operator Greg Watson, Superintendent Brandon Walter, Operator Noah Halm, Operator Cameron Keith, Operator Rod Kiser and Coordinator Sharon Blodgett.

## Say Thank You to the KPUD Water-Wastewater Department

Stop for a minute to think about all the people and infrastructure that ensure your high-quality drinking water is there when you need it.

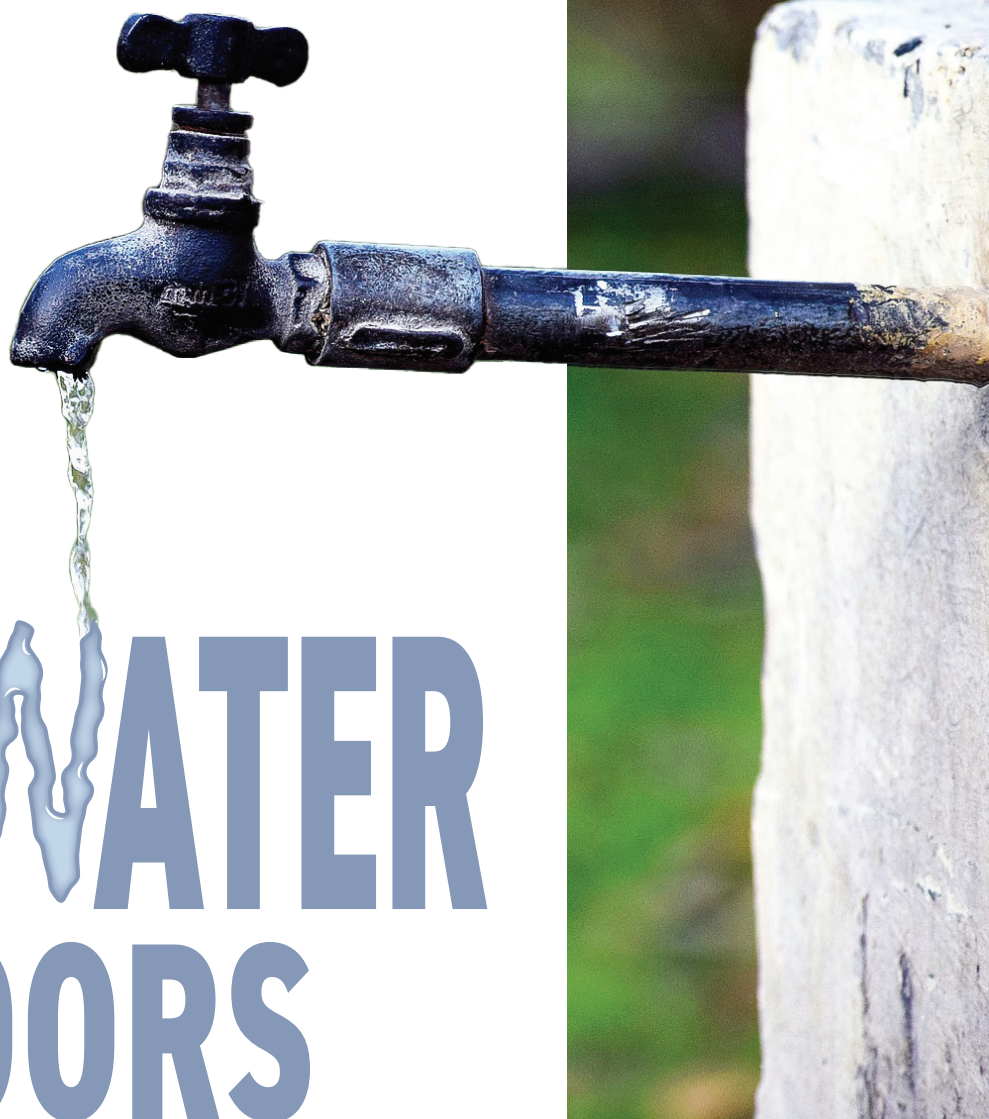
The water-wastewater department works diligently to provide safe, reliable drinking water to the nine rural water systems owned and operated by KPUD. The operators work in the field to complete testing, treatment and repairs for these systems.

Sharon Blodgett and Brandon Walter work together to schedule the crew, keep the systems in compliance, field new connection inquiries and much more.

Russ Patton is Klickitat PUD's project engineer and has worked at the utility since 2005. Russ works behind the scenes and often goes unrecognized for his many contributions to our water systems. His job includes planning projects for the KPUD W-WW system, including repairs and improvements.

Most recently, Russ has developed a corrosion control project at the Glenwood Water System that is near completion. He also has been engineering a mainline rebuild for a section in the Ponderosa Park water system.

# 12 WAYS to Save WATER OUTDOORS



Every day, on average, Americans use a total of 40 billion gallons of freshwater. Around the house, up to 70% of that water is used in landscaping. That's why saving water outside the home is as important as it is inside. Here are some places you can conserve water:

- ▶ Garden hose nozzles. The spray from a garden hose nozzle can be directed onto the plants or shrubs that need more water. When you wash your car, use a hose nozzle to turn off the water and save more than 100 gallons.
- ▶ Brooms. Use a broom to clean your driveway or sidewalk between rain showers. Sweep up the dirt and spread it over your lawn or put it in the garbage. This will keep dirt from entering storm sewer catch basins.
- ▶ Rain gauge. Let Mother Nature do the watering for you. A rain gauge is a low-cost, reliable device for measuring the water your lawn gets from rainfall. If you receive an inch or more within a week, you can skip your next watering.
- ▶ Sprinklers. Sprinkler timers can be set to shut off your sprinkler after a set amount of time. Use sprinklers that throw big drops of water close to the ground. Smaller drops of water and mist often evaporate before they hit the ground. Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
- ▶ Soil aerator. This inexpensive tool punches holes in lawns so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- ▶ Shut-off device. Nothing wastes water like sprinklers in the rain. Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
- ▶ Screwdriver. Use a long screwdriver as a soil probe to test soil moisture. If you can push it easily into your lawn for several inches, don't water. Proper lawn watering can save thousands of gallons of water annually.
- ▶ Rain barrels. Put the water from your downspout to good use by catching it in a mosquito-proof rain barrel. Plants love rainwater because it doesn't contain chlorine and is warmer than tap water. Furthermore, using rainwater can help you save water and money on your water bill.
- ▶ Gutter diverters. A gutter diverter is designed to work with a rain gutter downspout. It has a switch that diverts the water to the landscape or to the a barrel.
- ▶ Rain chains. Rain chains can replace downspouts and channel water into specific locations, such as a basin or a rain barrel. They're pleasing to look at, and they slow water down, reducing splashing and erosion.
- ▶ Hose bibs. Hose bibs are the faucets on the outside of your home where you connect your garden hoses. We notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks.
- ▶ Hose washers. Replacing a hose washer often fixes leaky garden hose connections.