

## White Salmon Adds Branch Manager

After working for two years in the Engineering Department of Klickitat PUD, Ron Schultz has been promoted to White Salmon branch manager.

Ron, who was born and raised in White Salmon, will continue with his engineering projects, and also take on the day-to-day operations of the White Salmon office.

He will work with the crews and engineers on scheduling. He also will manage outages and oversee KPUD operations for Bingen, White Salmon, Lyle, Glenwood and Dallesport customers.

"It will be very helpful to have a single, local person as the point of contact for issues in White Salmon," says Jim Smith, engineering manager. "Ron can focus the engineers and the crews on their jobs, while he makes sure that problems get solved."

Ron will work with new General Manager

Tom Svendsen and Operations Manager Ron Ihrig in his role as branch manager, and will continue to work for Jim in Engineering the rest of the time.

Ron says the time split won't work out evenly each week, but overall he expects to spend about a quarter of his time on management, and the rest on engineering projects.

There has not been a branch manager in White Salmon for several years, since Bob Havig retired.

Some of the position responsibilities have changed because of Ron's specialty as the metering and substation maintenance engineer.

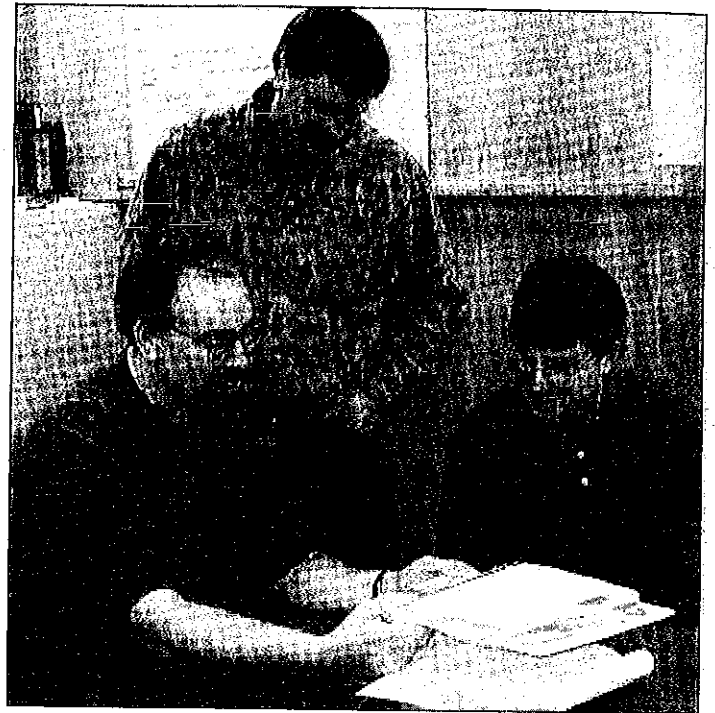
"I felt as the new general manager that the PUD needed a strong presence in the White Salmon area," says Tom. "I wanted to have a branch manager to bring all the services we provide from that office together in a cohesive man-

ner. I believe Ron Schultz can provide the necessary leadership to do just that in White Salmon."

Scheduling of new construction is another area on which Ron will focus. When customers are ready for work and have paid their fees, they

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*White Salmon Branch Manager Ron Schultz, left, discusses outage responses with Operations Manager Ron Ihrig, standing, and Engineering Manager Jim Smith.*

are put on a work schedule. During the busy summer months, determining the order the projects get done is a tricky process. Ron will help the engineers with that process.

Sometimes crews arrive on site to find they can't start work for some reason, and the schedule needs to be modified. Ron will work to ensure customers are served within 15 days of their "ready date."

"When there are protection and coordination problems, the crew can give it to me, and I can work with Jim to solve the problems," says Ron. "I provide a continuity from the discovery of the

problem to the implementation of a solution. I can follow up on issues while the crew is continuing to work."

Ron also will work on coordinating the White Salmon and Goldendale offices. Although there will always be differences in the two offices, he believes some projects would go more smoothly if they were modeled on the Goldendale method.

While Ron misses working with the Goldendale staff, he says he is looking forward to the challenges of the branch manager position, and the work he will be doing with the communities on the west end of Klickitat County. ■