

Don Smith Joins KPUD As New Engineer

Don Smith recently joined the Klickitat PUD (KPUD) team as its newest engineer. Don comes to KPUD from Chelan County PUD and has worked for six public utility districts and Puget Sound Energy in the past 30 years.

He has held many engineering positions: from planning and protection to distribution, transmission and substation design. He also has worked as a geographic information system (GIS) application engineer/

consultant, and is looking forward to assisting our GIS effort.

Don recently moved to Goldendale. He has three adult children. In his spare time, Don has many hobbies, including growing orchids, steelhead fishing, photography and building wooden furniture.

Don has delayed his retirement for two years to embark on this exciting new challenge for KPUD, where he will design several substation and transmission projects. ■



Don Smith

Helping Protect Our Turkey Friends

KPUD recently was involved in a project to reduce outages. But the project also will help protect a few turkeys in the process.

Gary Pratt of Broken Oaks Equine Retirement Center has had 20 to 30 turkeys spending a lot of time on his farm on Oak Creek Road. Pratt says the turkeys moved in about three years ago, and everyone in the community has enjoyed watching out for the new neighbors.

However, the turkeys have had some trouble making their way past the power lines that run across Gary's farm. They roost in a grove of oak trees and fly to a nearby hillside during the day.

There have been five incidents involving turkeys meeting up with electric utility facilities, which can knock the power out for a few seconds when the breakers trip.

Pratt was concerned about the problem, so he contacted Jeff Thayer, assistant operations manager for KPUD.

While working on another job in



Left, turkeys at Gary Pratt's place now know to stay away from electric facilities. Photo courtesy of Gary Pratt. Right, KPUD lineman Martin Taylor wraps a colored guy guard around power lines so the birds can see the lines better as they fly to a nearby hillside. Photo by Andrew Christiansen of The Goldendale Sentinel.

that area on January 16, KPUD's construction crew scheduled an hour and a half outage so they could install yellow guy guards, wrapped with red tape around the four power lines. This improved the visibility of the lines so the birds can identify them.



Pratt says the plan has worked so far, and he has not seen any turkeys venture toward the power lines.

He says he appreciates KPUD's willingness to become involved and handle his concerns.

We guess the turkeys are pretty happy, too. ■