**What’s up at the PUD in January?**

About a year ago Ferry County PUD had just recovered from an extended outage resulting from a tree getting into the BPA transmission line on Sherman pass. At that time the PUD, with the help of our County Commissioners, went to work with both the BPA and the Forest Service, both to change the way the BPA and the PUD respond to such outages and to get some clarification from the Forest Service regarding the removal of trees adjacent to the right-of-way that might endanger the BPA transmission line.

As a result of those meetings we have come a long way toward solving the closely-related issues of danger trees, unexpected outages, fire danger and response time to outages and fires when they do occur. Not every issue has been solved, but some have been lessened and we are working to improve what remains.

The most notable improvement has been the tree removal along the Sherman Pass right-of-way that has been ongoing since mid-December. In spite of the unusually cold weather, the BPA has had crews removing hundreds of danger trees along the most troublesome part of the line, and they intend to continue throughout the spring and summer to identify and remove trees which present the danger of both electrical outages and fires.

While this work is being done, the BPA and the Forest Service are working to establish an ongoing protocol and policy regarding the maintenance of this line that is so critical to the customers of Ferry County PUD. I will pass along progress reports as this project continues.

Until next month,

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