



**Jefferson County**  
Public Utility District

# A River Runs Through It

**September 2025**

600,000 coho salmon fry are released into the Big Quilcene River system each spring by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Run of the river estuary habitat plays a critical role in the survival of the young salmon.



Now is a watershed moment as the PUD collaborates with Jefferson County, local Tribes, the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, and Jefferson Land Trust on a utility relocation affecting 75 customers south of the lower Big Quilcene River floodplain project. The restoration project aims to reconnect more than 70 acres of historic floodplain in the final mile of river to improve salmon habitat.

The \$25M restoration project is expected to be complete in late-2026 and involves replacement of the existing Linger Longer Rd bridge with a 1,140' elevated roadway to allow for natural movement of the river channel floodplain. The temporary bridge connecting Rodgers St and Muncie Ave will be removed upon completion, and a cul-de-sac is planned for the end of Rodgers St. Downstream, a new bridge will be built to provide Bonneville Power Administration maintenance crews access to the 230,000-volt transmission lines supplying power to the rest of the Olympic Peninsula.

The PUD's role involves removing overhead power and fiber optic lines along Rodgers Street and installing new underground lines beneath the rebuilt Linger Longer Rd bridge.

Utilities relocation involves more than just moving wires. It means installation of new pad mount transformers, upgrading underground vaults, and working with project leads and engineers to connect utilities safely to the new elevated roadway.

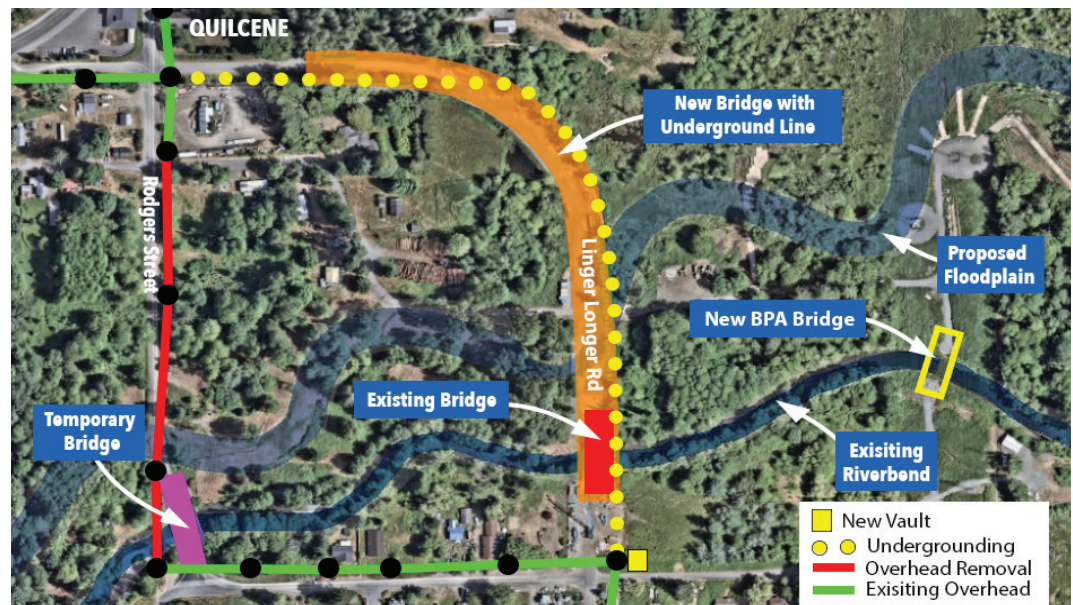
The PUD has played a role in numerous stream restoration projects in eastern Jefferson County in recent years.

One of the larger relocation efforts took place in 2021, when the PUD shifted water and power utilities as part of the WSDOT Indian Island-to-Marrowstone bridge construction project.

Looking ahead, the Chimacum Creek culvert project, scheduled for 2026, includes construction of a 10" water line and electrical infrastructure along Ness' Corner Rd in Port Hadlock. A fish-friendly bypass is scheduled for install to support the endangered summer chum salmon return, which now sees more than 3,000 fish returning annually.

## Salmon Restoration Projects

Project Name	Year
Kilisut Harbor (Marrowstone Bridge)	2020-21
Leland Creek (Hwy 101)	2022
Swansonville Culvert Replacement	2023
Big Quilcene Restoration	2025-26
Chimacum Creek Culvert Replacement	2026





**Meet the Intern: Michael Petta**  
Michael, who penned the lead article for this newsletter, spent the summer working with JPUD's engineering team. He assisted with new service staking, field verifications, and joint-use trench inspections. He is a 2023 Port Townsend High graduate who now attends the University of WA. He is majoring in Electrical Engineering with a minor in applied math. Beyond his internship, Michael enjoys backpacking and hiking the Olympics and Cascades.



PUD interns have access to Energy Northwest's internship program for training & networking opportunities.



## Annual Budget Hearing Oct 6th @ 5PM

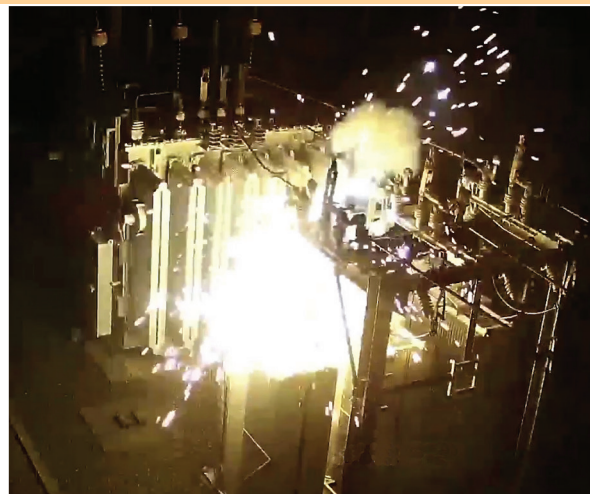
The hearing will be held both online and in person and is hosted at the PUD's 310 Four Corners Road headquarters. Public comments and questions may be submitted during or ahead of the hearing. This hearing continues utility financial discussions and provides a detailed overview of the proposed budget for the 2026 fiscal year. A meeting link is provided on [jeffpud.org/events](https://jeffpud.org/events).

## Fur, Feathers & Fried Circuits

It was 2:33am on August 13th and an intruder lurked in the darkness of the Dana Roberts Substation in Port Townsend. The trespasser squeezed through the fence, scaled a voltage regulator and attempted to high wire across the substation when tragedy struck. In an instant, sparks lit up the sky. The scene was not only visible but could be heard from some distance away as the substation and service for approx 2,500 customers went dark.

Line crew arrived on scene to find the unfortunate infiltrator, a large rat, atop the regulator. Incidents involving rats, squirrels, and birds are not uncommon in the field, but contacts within substations are rare occurrence.

JPUD works to mitigate against animal-line contacts with regularly scheduled pest control at substations and by installing covers around transformer and regulator connection points, however small animals can still manage to find ways around these devices.



Caught on camera: A late night outage caused by a rat in the Dana Roberts Substation in PT.

## What is Your Energy Burden & How can Utilites Help?

Energy waste puts a strain on both your wallet and the power grid. To help address this, the State of Washington has asked utilities to implement a Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) as part of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). We are surveying homeowners to help focus our priorities for clean energy implementation and it starts by helping our customer-owners reduce their energy burden.

Reaching the State of WA goal for the CEIP means utilities must operate on 100% carbon-free energy by 2045, and one of the quickest and most cost-effectives ways to achieve this goal is through improved efficiency around the home. Jefferson PUD is closing in on the goal with 96% carbon-free electricity supplied by the Bonneville Power Administration. The brief survey helps utilities identify inefficiency on the home front, while helping to address equity issues, ensuring benefits are distributed fairly and burdens are minimized for vulnerable populations. Please visit: [jeffpud.org/2025-clean-energy-survey](https://jeffpud.org/2025-clean-energy-survey)

### We're here to serve you!

The PUD is governed by a 3-member Board of Commissioners elected by the citizens of Jefferson County to alternating 6-year terms.

PUD Districts are the same as County Commissioners

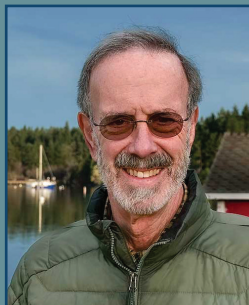
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