

## **PUD Management and Spending are Out of Control**

I have lived in Okanogan County my entire life. Never before have I seen such reckless spending by the Okanogan County PUD. We are being bled dry. Our money and good paying jobs are being lost, sent out of county to contractors of every description. We are firing good people and replacing them with expensive high tech software and gadgets or lackeys that toe the company line.

As cattlemen and ranchers we watch closely what we spend. We have no choice if we want to survive and pass our lands on to the next generation. The Okanogan PUD is borrowing and spending money we do not have and passing the debt onto the ratepayers. Good managers avoid that mistake at all cost.

In 2010, Okanogan PUD issued municipal bonds valued at \$32.5 million dollars, raising our total debt to over \$40.5 million dollars with annual debt service today at 3.7 million dollars. That money was spent to build the new headquarters, install the “smart meters” we did not need and to pay overpriced law firms to fight against its own ratepayers opposing the Twisp-Pateros -Transmission line and the Re-electrification of Enloe Dam. Prior to 2001 our PUD was largely debt free, operating efficiently on the revenue received from utility sales of electricity.

Enloe Dam stands alone as the most outrageous waste of ratepayer money in the history of the PUD. We have already spent \$14 million dollars on the license and we have not completed many major requirements stipulated by FERC. The PUD now plans to borrow \$15 million dollars in the next few months and within 2 years has plans to borrow an additional \$45 million dollars for construction of the Enloe Powerhouse. Our Public Utility District will be carrying approximately \$100 million dollars of debt. We will be spending over 8 million dollars annually in debt service alone. This is the definition of poor management. The man at the top running this utility should be fired. He is not operating in the best interest of the Public Utility District or the people of Okanogan County.

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