



## Overview

### Region

Idaho

### Industry

Government

### Customer Profile

The North Latah County Highway District is located in rural northwestern Idaho near the Idaho-Washington border. They focus on roadside maintenance and repair, bridges, culverts as well as dealing with storm drainage, snow removal and erosion control.

### Business Situation

North Latah County Highway District needed durable and versatile attachments to replace their cylinder-style swing coupler and thumb combination to increase the productivity and versatility of their excavators used to maintain their county road system.

### Solution

North Latah County Highway District purchased two each of Helac Corporation's PowerTilt Swing Attachments and PowerGrip Multi-Purpose Jaw Buckets for their CAT excavators which allowed them to complete a variety of roadside maintenance and repair projects faster and with a better finished appearance than accomplished previously with the cylinder-style swing coupler and thumb combination.

## Helac Attachments Application Success Story

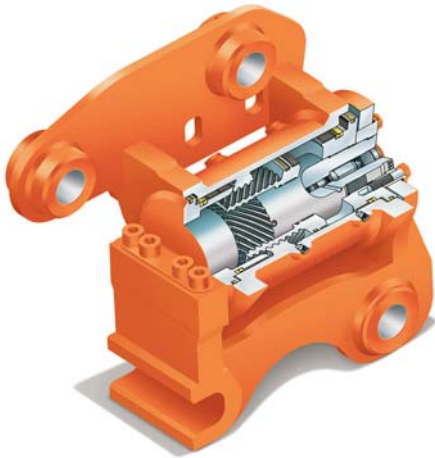
### North Latah County Highway District Increased Productivity and Appearance of Finished Projects With PowerTilt<sup>®</sup> and PowerGrip<sup>®</sup>

“With PowerTilt and PowerGrip we complete a variety of roadside maintenance and repair projects faster and with a better finished appearance than before!”

— Paul Stubbs, Road Supervisor, North Latah County Highway District

After witnessing first hand what the PowerTilt Swing Attachment and the PowerGrip Multi-Purpose Jaw Bucket could do for a neighboring county's public works department, Paul Stubbs, Road Supervisor with the North Latah County Highway District proposed the acquisition of PowerTilt and PowerGrip to his county commissioners. After receiving budget approval, Stubbs' team had procured the productivity enhancing attachments they coveted, in the form of two PowerTilts and two PowerGrips for their CAT excavator fleet.





“We switched to the PowerTilt and PowerGrip combination from our previous cylinder-style swing coupler and thumb setup and we’re really pleased with the performance. PowerTilt allows us to hold the PowerGrip Jaw Bucket at the perfect angle for sloping and ditching work without drift.”



— Tom Carter, Operator  
North Latah County  
Highway District

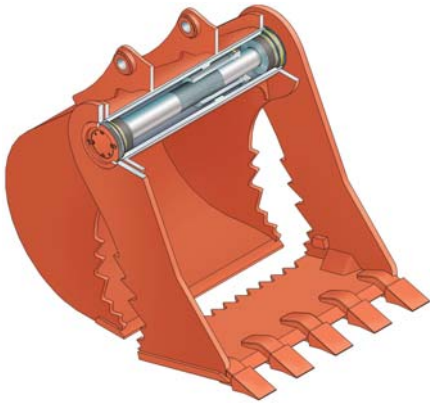
## Broad Spectrum of Tasks with Helac Attachments

Every day poses new challenges for the North Latah County Highway District and it was imperative to find attachments that could work to keep up with the skilled team maintaining the North Latah County infrastructure. Paul Stubbs mentioned that “on any given day his team may need to widen roads,



slope banks, clean ditches, replace culverts, remove brush or trim trees.” PowerTilt and PowerGrip allow the highway district to move seamlessly between these tasks without skipping a beat. “With PowerTilt and PowerGrip we complete a variety of roadside maintenance and repair projects faster and with a better finished appearance than before,” said Paul Stubbs.

Before using the PowerTilt and PowerGrip combination, clearing brush and trees with the cylinder-style swing coupler and thumb combination was cumbersome, lacking gripping capability when rotated and involved a significant disturbance to roadside vegetation, resulting in a less-than-tidy finished look. However, with PowerTilt and PowerGrip you can use the PowerGrip’s jaw functionality through the full range of PowerTilt’s rotation. “Tree and brush removal is less invasive due to the ability of grabbing the brush at the base and pulling it out instead of having to dig the root system out. Branches



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— Paul Stubbs, Road Supervisor  
North Latah County Highway District

of trees can be snapped off with PowerGrip, leaving the tree, which has garnered positive feedback from county residents,” said Stubbs.

Equipment operator Tom Carter agrees with Stubbs favorable impressions of Helac’s attachments. “We switched to the



PowerTilt and PowerGrip combination from our previous cylinder-style swing coupler and thumb setup and we’re really pleased with the performance. PowerTilt allows us to hold the PowerGrip Jaw Bucket at the perfect angle for sloping and ditching work

without drift,” said Carter. PowerGrip’s multi-purpose functionality is a tremendous time-saver since it can seamlessly transition between grading with the smooth lip, clamming material to move it out of the way, to trenching like a conventional digging bucket and functioning like a thumb or grapple.

### **A New Angle on Culvert Installation and Repair**

With the PowerTilt and PowerGrip combination and an excavator an equipment operator can handle all steps of culvert installation or replacement more efficiently and safely than ever before. The operator angles the PowerGrip Jaw Bucket with PowerTilt and scarifies the road surface with the corner of the bucket. Then the operator simply digs out the weakened soil or substrate to the depth of the existing culvert or to the appropriate trench dimensions for the new culvert installation. When replacing an old culvert, Paul Stubbs values the safety enhancements offered by PowerTilt and PowerGrip. “Previously, culverts were lifted and stood on end to clean them out with chains which created some potential hazards. We can now grab the culvert with PowerGrip and rotate it with PowerTilt, dumping any loose material out, virtually eliminating the risk of an uncontrolled event.”

## For More Information

For more information about Helac Corporation's construction equipment attachments, call 800.797.8458. To access information using the World Wide Web, go to: [www.helac.com](http://www.helac.com).

For more information about North Latah County Highway District go to: [www.latah.id.us](http://www.latah.id.us)

PowerTilt and a PowerGrip have quickly made their mark for the North Latah County Highway District and the team expects that their opinions of Helac's attachments will only increase as they log more hours using them. As Stubbs summed up, "The PowerGrip Multi-Purpose Jaw Bucket really impressed me and our team with the tremendous maneuverability of its gripping action relative to a hydraulic thumb. I would rate both PowerGrip and PowerTilt very high on all accounts."



PowerTilt is available for equipment up to 75,000 lbs in eight sizes with standard rotation of up to 180 degrees. Each model is designed for a specific class of machinery and individually customized to fit the carrier. PowerGrip buckets are available for equipment up to 20 tons, in three sizes, with bucket width ranges from 24 inches to 48 inches in the trenching profiles and 48 inches or 60 inches in the ditching profiles.



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PowerTilt - US Patents #4906161 and #5447095, Canada #1303553 and #2153961  
and corresponding international patents.  
PowerGrip - US Patent #6370801 and #6612051 corresponding international patents pending.