

# NEWS RELEASE

## Kittitas County Conservation District

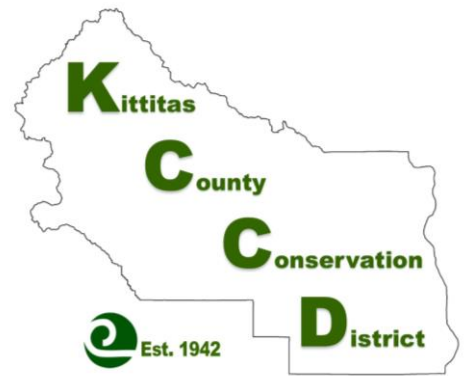
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## Application Cut-off Date for Agricultural Land Easement Program Announced

ELLENSBURG, Wash. (May 18, 2018) – The Kittitas County Conservation District announces a June 22, 2018 application deadline to sign-up for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) through the “Yakima Integrated Plan- Toppenish To Teanaway” project. This sign-up is specific to Kittitas County and is funded through the USDA’s [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#).

Funding for ACEP is provided through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS provides funds to conservation partners (e.g. state or local agencies, non-profits) to purchase conservation easements on private working lands. This program helps keep working lands working, especially in areas experiencing development pressure.

Landowners continue to own their property but voluntarily enter into a legal agreement with a cooperating conservation partner to purchase an easement. The cooperating entity applies for matching funds from NRCS for the purchase of an easement from the landowner, permanently protecting its agricultural use and conservation values. Landowners do not apply directly to NRCS for funding under this program.

Applications are being accepted immediately. Application instructions are available here: <http://www.kccd.net/rcpp.htm>. Interested conservation partners should contact the District at 509-925-3352 or 2211 W Dolarway Road, Ellensburg for more information.

The “Yakima Integrated Plan- Toppenish To Teanaway” project was one of 88 high impact projects across the country that was approved for funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership

Program in December 2016. For more information, visit the project webpage at <http://www.kccd.net/rcpp.htm>.

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