



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

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News Release

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March 15 Sign-up Deadline for Toppenish to Teanaway Project

ELLENSBURG, Wash. (February 15, 2019) – The Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) announces a March 15, 2019 application deadline for the second sign-up period for the “Yakima Integrated Plan- Toppenish to Teanaway” project.

This project is a five-year effort to address insufficient water/drought, water quality degradation, and inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife in priority areas in Kittitas County.

KCCD is accepting applications immediately. Interested farmers, ranchers or landowners should contact the KCCD at 509-925-3352 or 2211 W Dolarway Road, Ellensburg, WA.

Funding is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. EQIP is a voluntary, technical and financial assistance program designed to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners/managers; improve irrigation efficiency; reduce soil erosion; improve water quality; and improve fish habitat in priority streams. The program pays for a portion of the cost of conservation practices implemented by the farmer or rancher.

Although this sign-up is being conducted by KCCD, all requirements of the EQIP program must still be met. Each applicant must establish themselves as a USDA customer and complete all USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility requirements prior to the application cut-off date. For more information about these requirements, contact the local NRCS field office at 2211 W Dolarway Road, Suite 6, Ellensburg or 509-925-8585 ext. 115.

The first sign-up period was conducted in 2017 and resulted in more than \$750,00 in seven contracts with landowners to improve irrigation water use efficiency on nearly 500 acres of cropland in the

Kittitas Valley. This second sign-up is expected to fund a similar number of contracts.

The “Yakima Integrated Plan- Toppenish to Teanaway” project was one of 88 high impact projects across the country that was approved for funding through NRCS’ Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in December 2016. For more information, visit the project webpage at www.kccd.net/rcpp.htm.

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