



Kittitas County Conservation District



Annual Work Plan for 2025
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Acronym Guide

BPA	Bonneville Power Administration	NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
CID	Cascade Irrigation District	NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
CWDG	Community Wildfire Defense Grant	OFFP	Office of Farmland Preservation
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources	RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
DOE	Washington Department of Ecology	SRFB	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	VSP	Voluntary Stewardship Program
EWC	Ellensburg Water Company	WDFW	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
FBRB	Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board	WRCD	Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	WSSC	Washington State Conservation Commission
KCCD	Kittitas County Conservation District	YBIP	Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
KCT	Kittitas Conservation Trust	YTAHP	Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program
KCWP	Kittitas County Water Purveyors		
KFACC	Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition		
KRD	Kittitas Reclamation District		
MCF	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group		

Mission

- Provide leadership, technical, educational and financial assistance to landowners and land users in their utilization and management of natural resources.

Vision

- The Kittitas County Conservation District is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical and education assistance in Kittitas County; and by local state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.

Natural Resource Priorities

The KCCD's focus is on creating and maintaining resilient landscapes across Kittitas County. This effort addresses natural resource concerns and priorities detailed below. KCCD programs work across these resource concerns, as resilient landscapes are not limited to a single resource issue or concern.

Water Quantity (Insufficient Water)

- *Drought resiliency and efficient use of irrigation water is the highest priority in Kittitas County. Nearly all streams are over allocated, creating low flows to supply irrigation needs and support resident and anadromous fisheries as well as streamside and floodplain vegetation. The KRD, encompassing 59,000 acres, is pro-rated during water short years. CID, EWC, Westside Irrigating Company and other smaller water purveyors may have non-pro-ratable rights, but they depend highly on return flows from KRD and are also significantly impacted in water short seasons. Water use efficiency is a high priority of the USDA NRCS whose 2012 State Resource Assessment ranked "Inefficient use of irrigation water" the number one priority in the area. The Irrigation Efficiencies Program has contracted projects on 2,800 acres of cropland in Kittitas County, placing 4,529 acre-feet in the Washington Trust Water Rights Program in 11 streams since 2002. The 30-year Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan ("YBIP") is being implemented by US Bureau of Reclamation and DOE in conjunction with the Yakama Nation and Yakima River basin stakeholders (including KCCD). YBIP's benefits include "Providing more water for stream flows that fish need to survive" and "Providing greater water supply reliability for farmers and communities."*

Forest Health

- *Fuel loads, insect damage and development into the wildland urban interface in combination with topography and the weather patterns have created substantial resource concerns in forestland as documented in the Kittitas County Wildfire Protection Plan (2022). Approximately 75,000 acres of high to extreme fire hazard areas are identified on private lands in that plan. The NRCS 2012 State Resource Assessment identified "undesirable plant productivity and health", "degraded habitat condition", "excessive plant pest pressure", and "wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation" on forestland as priority resource concerns. As part of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Central and Eastern Washington, the Department of Natural Resources is evaluating and prioritizing the restoration needs of forests and developing strategies to make them more resilient to wildfires, diseases, insect infestation, and the effects of climate change. Planning areas have been identified and Landscape Evaluation Summaries completed which include fire risk, burn probabilities, and opportunities for treatments that maximize forest health and wildfire mitigation. One of DNR's goals is to incentivize forest health treatments, such as removing the smaller trees*

overcrowding a forest, by increasing the demand for small-diameter timber, as well as forest biomass. Exploration of opportunities to use biomass for economic development is needed.

Water Quality

- More than 700 miles of streams and rivers flow through forestland, rangeland, irrigated agricultural lands and urban lands in Kittitas County. Water quality is important in these waterways to ensure public health, provide irrigation water, and as habitat for salmonids and resident fish species as well as upland wildlife species. Water quality degradation is a Priority Resource Concern in the [2012 State Resource Assessment](#). The assessment describes both sediment and nutrients in ground water and surface water in crop, forest and other associated agricultural lands. In Kittitas County, the water quality degradation- “excessive sediment” priority involves 63,500 acres and the “excessive nutrients” involves 15,000 acres, within the 63,500 acres. In addition, the DOE is responsible for several [Water Cleanup Plans \(TMDLs\)](#) addressing chlorine, ammonia-N, BOD (5-day), fecal coliform/bacterial contamination, temperature; organochlorine pesticides, suspended sediments, and turbidity. [WSU Extension Kittitas County](#) is working to assist producers with water quality and livestock management in order to protect and improve water quality by reducing the potential for bacterial contamination. They have produced a [water quality risk assessment tool](#) that explains the relationships among livestock grazing effects, riparian condition, and surface water quality and helps farmers determine the relative risk of negatively affecting water quality. The KCCD and [NRCS](#) are working with irrigated agriculture producers to assist with conversions to more efficient irrigation systems thereby reducing the potential water quality impacts of tailwater on rill irrigated lands. The [KCWP](#) works to monitor water quality in canals and streams across Kittitas County providing important data. [MCF](#), [KCT](#), [Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District](#) and the [Yakama Nation](#) are implementing habitat projects that address water quality as well.

Range Health

- Rangelands provide a diversity of ecosystems and also provide diverse and significant economic benefits. Livestock grazing occurs on private and state-owned range areas. NRCS’s 2012 State Resource Assessment identified “undesirable plant productivity and health”, “degraded habitat condition”, and “excessive plant pest pressure” on rangeland as priority resource concerns. The [NRCS](#), [WSU Extension Kittitas County](#), [DNR](#), [WDFW](#), and [Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board](#) are working to assist with range monitoring as well as providing technical and/or financial assistance to landowners and users.
- After the 2020 wildfire season that burned a half million acres of shrubsteppe habitats, the Washington State Legislature appropriated funds and directed WDFW to work with DNR and WSCC to restore and protect shrubsteppe habitat amid the threat of wildfires. The effort was named the [Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative](#) (WSRRI). The [WSRRI Long Term Strategy’s](#) focus is to conserve and restore wildlife habitats, enhance wildfire preparedness and response, and support working lands in Washington’s shrubsteppe landscape.

Soil Quality & Health

- Soil quality and health impacts agricultural production, particularly in the 90,000 acres of irrigated crop and pastureland in Kittitas County. Soil quality, including nutrients and the prevention of soil erosion are important resource concerns. The NRCS 2012 State Resource Assessment identified soil erosion (“sheet, rill and wind erosion”) as the number one resource concern in the state and the Central area ranked it the #2 priority resource concern. The [NRCS](#) and [WSU Extension Kittitas](#)

County are also working on soil erosion and nutrient concerns, as is the Organization of Kittitas County Timothy Hay Growers & Suppliers.

Fish & Wildlife

- Species that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or listed by Washington State as threatened or endangered or species of concern are priority resource issues. Mid-Columbia Summer Steelhead, Bull Trout, and Greater Sage Grouse are listed as threatened species under ESA and by the State. Gray Wolf is listed as endangered under ESA and by the State. NRCS's 2012 State Resource Assessment identifies "Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife" as a priority resource concern in the state, including Kittitas County. The 2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan was written locally and was formally incorporated into NOAA's Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan (2009). The Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan, September 2012, complements and supports the pending US Fish & Wildlife Service Bull Trout Recovery Plan by providing detailed population information and proposing actions to benefit bull trout in the Yakima basin. YTAHP has been working on fish passage and fish screen projects since 2003. KCCD is a founding member of the Core Team and a major project sponsor. Base funding is provided through BPA via WRCD and matched primarily through the SRFB, FBRB, and local partners. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan includes the goals of "Protecting over 200,000 acres of currently unprotected forest, shrub steppe, and river habitat" and "Enhancing habitat along the Yakima River and its tributaries" an effort intended to benefit fish and wildlife. Other KCCD partners also working to address fish recovery goals include the Yakama Nation, MCF, KCT, and the Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District. The South Central Washington Shrub Steppe/Rangeland Partnership is also focusing on Sage Grouse habitat in a 2.7-million-acre landscape that includes eastern Kittitas County.

Working Lands Protection

- An assessment of tax parcels in the KCCD boundaries indicates that between 2016 and 2021, there was an increase of nearly 11% indicating subdivision of larger parcels. The tax parcels classified as residential with improvements valued greater than \$50,000 increased by 30% in that same time period reflecting the home building boom. From 2010 to 2019, Kittitas County's population grew 17.2%, exceeding the state's 13.2% growth rate during the same time. The 2022 US Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture indicates that between 2017 and 2022, Kittitas County lost 27% of farms and 4% or 7,300 acres of land in agriculture. In the 5 years prior to that, the 2017 Census of Agriculture, documented a loss of 5.8% or 10,000 acres of farmland. The loss of agricultural land is a substantial concern to the viability of agriculture in Kittitas County. Work to enhance and protect agricultural land and operations is vital to improving the resiliency of remaining working lands.

Disaster Response

- Natural hazards are common in Kittitas County including flood, fire, and weather (snow, rain, wind, drought). Recent events have caused millions of dollars in damage including the 2009 and 2011 floods, wildfires (Taylor Bridge, Snag Canyon, Colockum-Tarps, Jolly Mountain, Ryegrass Coulee, Vantage Hwy, etc.), and droughts (2001, 2005, 2015, 2023, 2024). It's imperative that partners (local, state, federal) work together to improve resiliency in the face of natural disasters. High priorities include wildfire resiliency for homes, protecting public infrastructure, and evacuation routes; and drought resiliency (covered under Water Quantity). In 2024, Kittitas County is leading an update of the Kittitas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with expected completion by August 2024. The Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council will initiate an update of the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in 2024.

Program Areas

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quantity

Goal(s): Improve irrigation water delivery and use efficiencies and improve instream flow conditions in Yakima River tributaries.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: 675 acres treated with efficient irrigation systems; 0.75 cubic feet per second of irrigation entered into the Trust Water Rights Program; one season of stream flow diversion monitoring completed.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 50 landowners contacted; one sign-up for RCPP resulting in 10 applications; one mid-year and one annual report each for RCPP 2326 and RCPP 3149; 10 conservation plans; three engineering reports completed

Funding Source(s): WSCC, DOE, NRCS RCPP Funds, and KCCD Local Funds

Water Quantity Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>In partnership with the Yakama Nation, implement RCPP project 2326 "Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership", implementing irrigation efficiency projects, and tracking partner contributions and monitoring project effectiveness.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>96.0</i>	<i>\$729,686</i>	<i>WSCC <u>RCPP</u> Contributions and NRCS Supplemental Agreement</i>
<i>Implement RCPP project 3149 "Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvements" including initiating design and planning for irrigation water management entities, conducting one producer sign up, and reporting and administrative tasks.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>240.0</i>	<i>\$249,228</i>	<i>WSCC <u>RCPP</u> Contributions and NRCS Supplemental Agreement</i>
<i>Conduct Small Project Cost Share sign-up and implement 5 to 7 contracts to improve water use efficiency.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to May 2025</i>	<i>CP, PM, DM, PE, RT</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>\$79,218</i>	<i><u>WSCC Natural Resource Investment</u></i>
<i>Implement two (2) irrigation efficiency improvement project with a Trust water components on 120 acres and develop cost share contracts for 1 to 2 new projects with Trust Water components.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>CP, PE, DM</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>\$429,320</i>	<i>DOE YBIP and/or <u>WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies</u></i>
<i>Through an agreement with the Kittitas Reclamation District, assist with the operation of the irrigation diversions to on Manastash Creek.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>PM, DM</i>	<i>53.5</i>	<i>\$29,080</i>	<i>Interlocal Agreement with KRD</i>
<i>Attend meetings and monitor activities of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan to identify opportunities to partner with other</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, PM</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$4,206</i>	<i><u>Yakima Basin Integrated Plan</u></i>

<i>stakeholders and for funding to implement KCCD priorities.</i>					
<i>Work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide assistance with the surveys and reports associated with Section 106 consultations.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>44.5</i>	<i>\$22,467</i>	<i><u>NACD TA Grant</u></i>
<i>Assist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Ellensburg Field Office to provide technical assistance to producers and KRD with conservation planning and BMP implementation through EQIP-WaterSMART and Classic EQIP</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>PM, CP, PE, DM</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,498</i>	
<i>Seek financial assistance for Teanaway River pump stations at Lambert Rd and Red Bridge Rd for replacement of VFD pumps and controls.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>\$1,360</i>	
<i>Monitor drought conditions, provide assistance and seek funding for drought mitigation activities to the greatest extent possible.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, PM, CP, NPM</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>\$7,401</i>	<i><u>Drought Declaration</u></i>
<i>Voluntary Stewardship Program - Continue to promote, plan, and monitor projects to improve water use efficiencies where agricultural practices intersect critical areas</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>\$33,548</i>	<i>WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Continue participation in the Kittitas County Water Conservancy Board</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$2,701</i>	
<i>Implement the "Heritage Gardens" program funded through the Municipal Subcommittee of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>83.5</i>	<i>\$36,868</i>	<i>Agreement with Benton CD</i>
<i>Provide general technical assistance including water measuring as requested to irrigation water management entities and producers</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>PM, NPM, CP</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,497</i>	

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forest Health

Goal(s): Increase resiliency of forest lands in Kittitas County

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Fuels reduction will occur on 10 acres in a high-risk areas of Kittitas County

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Attend 12 KFACC meetings; 10 Landowners/managers contacted 3-5 forest assessments; one grant application completed.

Funding Source(s): KCCD Local Funds, WSCC, DNR,

Forest Health Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Continue to secure funding for fire adapted community strategies including fuels reduction and forest health practices in cooperation with KFACC</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>\$3,299</i>	<i><u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>
<i>Provide financial and technical assistance to implement 10 acres of fuels reduction and forest health practices as part of the Collaborative Landscape and Community Resilience in the Cle Elum Priority Landscape Project.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Dec 2024</i>	<i>DM, WP</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>\$54,262</i>	<i>USFS via DNR</i>
<i>Provide technical assistance to assess up to 50 acres of private forestland for forest health and wildfire risks.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>WP, RT</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>\$3,381</i>	<i><u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>
<i>Investigate US Forest Service Community Wood Grant Program for opportunities to complete a feasibility study of potential new markets for wood products and renewable wood energy.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,240</i>	<i><u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quality

Goal(s): Meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals in Kittitas County

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Reduce sediment and nutrient movement to waterways by applying PAM to 900 acres; improve and maintain riparian habitat on nearly 30 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat along 1.84 river miles

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 40 producers contacted resulting in 10 cost share applications; support partners to design, plan and permit three riparian/instream habitat projects and assemble prioritization process for and a list of future riparian projects; provide technical assistance report to a dairy.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, DOE, RCPP Funds, and KCCD Local Funds

Water Quality Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Continue to develop and maintain a project list and seek funding for on-farm irrigation system improvements (e.g. sprinkler conversions) to work toward TMDL goals</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, CP, PM</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>\$2,391</i>	
<i>Improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and transport to waterways - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program providing cost share assistance to 12 landowners on 900 acres</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>RT, FM, DM</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>\$6,609</i>	

Support Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's restoration and protection of riparian plantings along the Yakima River, Sorenson Creek, and Wilson Creek; design and permitting of projects on North Fork Teanaway tributaries; and development and prioritization of additional riparian projects.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, NPM, MCFEG	57	\$411,436	<u>WSCC Riparian Grant Funding</u>
Provide technical support to a dairy operation and seek financial assistance if needed.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	CP, PM	4.5	\$5,226	
Voluntary Stewardship Program - Continue to promote, plan and monitor projects to improve water quality conditions where agricultural practices intersect critical areas.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	NPM, DM, RT	82	\$49,270	WSCC VSP via Kittitas County
Coordinate with the groups/agencies currently monitoring water quality- Meet with Kittitas County Water Purveyors and Ecology to coordinate and support activities as needed to maintain current data collection.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM	6	\$8,011	WSCC VSP via Kittitas County

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Fish & Wildlife

Goal(s): Increase the quantity and quality of fish and wildlife habitat in Kittitas County.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Two (2) fish passage barriers removed; two (4) irrigation diversions screened; and three fish screen facilities maintained and improved.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 12 meetings of the YTAHP Core Team; 6 design reports; 4 bid ready designs; conduct one producer sign up resulting in 10 applications; and one Easement Monitoring Report

Funding Source(s): BPA, DOE, WSCC, RCO-Salmon Recovery Funding Board, RCO- Fish Barrier Removal Board, and RCPP Funds

Fish & Wildlife Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
YTAHP - Continue to participate in the Core Team and develop projects with private landowners, determining project needs and securing funding.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, CP, PE, RT, FM, NPM	43.0	\$23,994	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
YTAHP - Maintain riparian planting areas associated with current and past fish screen and passage projects	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	RT, WCC Crews	22.0	\$10,336	BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
Construct fish passage project Naneum Creek to remove lowermost barrier.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	35.0	\$172,003	Funded by <u>SRFB</u> and BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>

Secure permits and construct a fish passage and screening project on Coleman Creek at the Cascade Irrigation District to address a creek/canal intersection.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	108.0	\$2,286,109	Funded by <u>FBRB</u> , BPA via <u>WRC&D</u> , and RCPP 2329
Replace compressors at fish screen facilities on Manastash Creek and install an automated brush on the Keach/Jensen diversion to improve operations	Jul 2024 to Mar 2025	DM, PM	25.0	\$310,840	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
Maintain Swauk Creek plantings and monitor/modify headgate structure as needed.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	10.0	\$6,574	Funded by <u>SRFB</u> and YTAHP
Complete the design for the Naneum Creek - Ellensburg Water Company intersection for fish passage.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	58.0	\$77,473	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
Complete designs for screening and/or passage on 2 irrigation diversions (Cooke Creek and Coleman Creek), and fish passage for 1 road culvert on Naneum Creek.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, CP, PM, PE, Consultants	100.0	\$186,645	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
Together with the Yakama Nation, implement RCPP project 2326 "Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership", including implementing projects that include fish screen, fish passage and riparian planting components.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	23.5	\$120,539	Funded by WSCC and NRCS Supplemental Agreement
Implement RCPP project 3149 "Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvements with WSCC and Ecology contribution funds including conducting one producer sign up for potential fish screen and passage, and/or riparian planting components	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	41.0	\$10,575	Funded by WSCC and NRCS Supplemental Agreement
Through an agreement with the Kittitas Reclamation District, continue to monitor stream flow in Manastash Creek and assist with the operation of the three fish screens facilities.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	PM, DM	43.5	\$27,710	KRD Interlocal Agreement
Work with the Kittitas Reclamation District to coordinate projects and activities in priority areas and stream reaches	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, PM	6.5	\$3,336	Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u>
Monitor Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility Conservation Easement in	Sept 2024	RT, FM	10.0	\$4,347	PSE 5-year Agreement

<i>the spring and the fall and produce a monitoring report</i>	<i>to May 2025</i>				
<i>Voluntary Stewardship Program - Continue to promote, plan, and monitor projects to improve upland, riparian, & instream habitat where agricultural practices intersect critical areas</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, PM, CP, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>92.0</i>	<i>\$66,892</i>	<i>WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Support Yakama Nation Fisheries, WDFW & US Fish & Wildlife Service's PIT tag arrays in Yakima River tributaries</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, PM</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>\$2,827</i>	<i>Data available on www.ptaqis.org</i>

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Soil Quality & Health

Goal(s): Maintain soil productivity and health to meet or exceed NRCS soil quality criteria

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Irrigation induced soil erosion reduced by 1,500 - 2,000 tons on 1200 acres; one compost.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 20 landowners will be contacted resulting in 5 cost share agreements; and two grant applications to be submitted for a no till drill and cover crops program.

Funding Source(s): KCPW, WSCC, and KCCD Local Funds

Soil Quality & Health Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Reduce Irrigation Induced Soil Erosion - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program to reduce soil erosion by providing cost share to nine landowners for PAM and PAM applicators on approximately 1200 ac.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>RT, DM, FM</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>\$5,194</i>	<i>Partner with KCPW</i>
<i>Offer agronomy expertise to local growers- Coordinate with NRCS and other technical partners to facilitate direct assistance to producers, especially in the use of cover crops</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, CP</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,497</i>	<i>Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>
<i>Develop projects through Sustainable Farms & Fields for cost share program to incentive use of cover crop systems for soil health improvements</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>\$6,409</i>	<i>WSCC Sustainable Farms & Fields</i>
<i>Explore acquiring a no-till drill to rent to producers in Kittitas County through Sustainable Farms & Fields</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, CP, NPM</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>\$3,473</i>	<i>WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Implement one soil health project through Sustainable Farms & Fields for compost application</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>CPM, DM</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$29,923</i>	<i><u>WSCC Sustainable Farms & Fields</u></i>

<i>Continue to promote, plan and monitor projects to improve soil health where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>\$8,322</i>	<i>WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County</i>
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Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Range Health

Goal(s): By 2026, document positive trend (health) on rangeland in Kittitas County

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Install 5,800 feet of wildlife friendly fencing;

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Attend two meetings; and assist with two days of field monitoring activities; contact 5 landowners resulting in 3 VSP assessments; and monitor use of virtual fencing.

Funding Source(s): WSCC and KCCD Local Funds

Range Health Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Support and coordinate with NRCS and WSU Extension’s efforts to provide technical and financial assistance to rangeland operators.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>\$1,668</i>	
<i>Support and coordinate with WSU Extension’s monitoring of the grazing plan for the Wild Horse CRM.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>CP, RT</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$1,664</i>	
<i>Work with partners on virtual fence demonstration project in Wild Horse CRM project area.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, CP</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>\$1,240</i>	<i><u>WA Shrub Steppe Restoration & Resiliency Initiative</u></i>
<i>Work with landowners impacted by the Vantage Hwy Fire to install wildlife friendly fencing with funding from Washington Shrub Steppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$83,650</i>	
<i>Continue to plan and monitor projects to improve range health where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>\$3,345</i>	<i>WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County</i>

District Program Area: Working Lands Protection

Goal(s): Preserve heritage and natural resource value of working lands in Kittitas County

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Complete appraisal for one farmland preservation conservation easement with the Office of Farmland Preservation and initiate another; participate in two (2) partner meetings; and investigate funding opportunities for local USDA processing facilities, biochar and carbon markets, etc.

Funding Source(s): WSCC, KCCD Local Funds

Working Lands Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Implement farmland preservation grant for 600-acre conservation easement in the Swauk watershed in partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, NPM	13.0	\$56,718	<u>RCO WWRP-Farmland</u>
Implement farmland preservation grant for 300 acre conservation easement in the Thorp Community area in partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, NPM	10.0	\$5,156	Pending application through WSCC
Continue to work with partners to develop conservation easement options and secure funding for interested landowners.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM	6.0	\$3,753	
Through implementation of Voluntary Stewardship Program, continue to work on issues to maintain and enhance agricultural viability (biochar, processing facilities, carbon markets)	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM	5	\$3,295	WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County

District Program Area: Disaster Response

Goal(s): Continuously build community capacity to improve resiliency in the face of natural disasters.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Implement 500 acres of wildfire fuels reduction

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Participate in 12 meetings of KFACC; participate in four (4) partner meetings; Install three (3) backup generators; conduct chipping program serving 200 landowners and 10 communities; and participate in HMP and CWPP updates.

Funding Source(s): FEMA, WSCC, DNR, KCCD Local Funds

Disaster Response Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Work with Cle Elum/Roslyn Police Dept., Kittitas County Fire District 1 and Kittitas County Fire District 6 to construct back-up generators for community wildfire resiliency.	Jul 2024 to Mar 2025	DM, WP, Consultant	23.0	\$292,223	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant
Partner with Upper Kittitas County Fuels Crew to conduct annual chipping program in Kittitas County to assist at least 10 communities/ neighborhoods and 200 landowners.	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, RT, OA, NPM, WP	190.0	\$109,302	WSCC Forest Health and Community Resiliency
Implementation of "Kittitas County Resilient Landscapes", a Community Wildfire Defense Grant Project focused on cross-boundary prescribed burning,	Jul 2024 to Jun 2025	DM, WP, NPM, RT	241.0	\$808,193	<u>USFS funding via WA DNR</u>

<i>hardened evacuation routes, and hardened potential control lines (PCLs) on private and municipal roads.</i>					
<i>Continue to participate in and facilitate (as needed) the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC) and work to implement the Plan of Work</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, WP, RT</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>\$11,014</i>	
<i>Participate in completion of the Kittitas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>\$340</i>	
<i>Participate in update of the Kittitas County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) led by the Washington RC&D through KFACC.</i>	<i>Sept 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, WP, RT</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$3,409</i>	<u>USFS CWDG</u>

District Program Area: Education/Outreach

Goal(s): Provide educational opportunities for students (K-12), landowners, land managers and the general public regarding natural resource priorities and improving landscape resiliency.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 14,000+ landowners contacted and provided information resulting in 20-30 individual program referrals; 60,000 attendees at the Kittitas County Fair reached; 3 grower/landowner meetings; maintenance of on-line resources (website, etc); and 420 elementary students contacted and provided information.

Funding Source(s): KCCD Local Funds, WSCC, Donations

Education/Outreach Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Complete annual newsletter with circulation of 14,000 and occasional electronic newsletters as needed</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, FM, PM, RT</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>\$14,239</i>	
<i>Manage and maintain website and social media sites for public outreach and information about KCCD projects and programs</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, OA, NPM, Contractor</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>\$9,147</i>	
<i>KCCD Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner</i>	<i>Feb 2025</i>	<i>All Staff, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>\$5,249</i>	
<i>Annual presentations at Producer Group meetings (e.g. Kittitas Co Hay Growers, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen, etc.)</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>\$4,507</i>	
<i>Kittitas County Fair- Community Education Booth to reach 30,000 attendees</i>	<i>Sept 2024</i>	<i>DM, NPM, FM</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>\$3,638</i>	
<i>Organize and host Agriculture Appreciation Day at Kittitas County Event Center (~400 3rd Grade Students) including coordinating</i>	<i>April 2025</i>	<i>CP, RT, FM, Volunteers</i>	<i>26.0</i>	<i>\$6,904</i>	

<i>stations and providing materials to students.</i>					
<i>Contribute to youth education through "Water on Wheels" with Franklin CD, Ag in the Classroom, Kittitas County Cattlewomen, etc.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, FM, Franklin CD</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>\$1,355</i>	
<i>Assist KEEN and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group with local youth education activities (e.g. Salmon Days, 4th Grade Camp, Summer Camp)</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>\$1,390</i>	
<i>Continue to implement the Kittitas County VSP Outreach Plan to ensure the agricultural community and other interested parties are involved in all aspects of VSP</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, CP, NPM, RT</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>\$6,740</i>	<i>WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Assist with Wildfire Awareness Day events including workshops, materials and coordinating presentations</i>	<i>Feb 2025 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>NPM, RT</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$2,319</i>	<i>Partner with <u>KFACC</u></i>
<i>Partner with Master Gardeners and WA Native Plant Society to provide outreach materials and presentations on native vegetation for water conservation and fire resistance</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>RT</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>\$2,136</i>	<i><u>Heritage Gardens</u> and <u>KFACC</u></i>
<i>Small Acreage Management Program- Reinvigorate educational program offering technical assistance to small acreage landowners with WSU Extension and NRCS (may include Small Ranch Manual, Rural Living Handbook, videos and other media platforms)</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>CP, DM</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>\$12,948</i>	<i>Partner with WSU Extension and NRCS</i>

District Program Area: District Operations

Goal(s): Complete operations in a time and fund efficient manner consistent with Washington State Conservation Commission guidelines.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 12 -16 Board meetings conducted, positive results for Conservation Accountability and Performance Program, and successful completion of financial reports and audits; multiple landowners contacted in 5 conservation districts to assist engineering/design; recruit one associate supervisor; and maintain system of Rates & Charges

Funding Source(s): All grants indirect charges, KCCD System of Rates & Charges, Washington State Conservation Commission, Tenant Leases

District Operations Activities for FY2025	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Complete 12 monthly meetings and 4 special meetings of the Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>74.0</i>	<i>\$28,129</i>	

<i>Complete Supervisor elections and appointments, and recruit one new Associate Supervisor</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>\$10,026</i>	
<i>Complete financial and administrative functions including monthly accountant reports, meeting minutes, payroll, tracking funding and expenditures, vouchering for all grant sources, maintaining district files & documents and manage inventory</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>199.0</i>	<i>\$99,682</i>	
<i>Complete Annual Financial Report, Annual Plan of Work, and Annual Report of Accomplishments.</i>	<i>Aug 2024 to May 2025</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>\$15,598</i>	
<i>Review and update KCCD Operations Handbook (Purchasing & Contracting, Personnel, Cost Share policies) as needed.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$1,351</i>	
<i>Complete employee evaluations and review of salaries/wages</i>	<i>Mar 2024 to May 2025</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>\$3,926</i>	
<i>Complete Annual Report of Activities for KCCD System of Rates & Charges and conduct annual meeting with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss on-going programs, projects and funding</i>	<i>Feb 2025 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>\$5,102</i>	
<i>Complete tax roll updates with Kittitas County Assessor for KCCD System of Rates & Charges</i>	<i>Dec 2024 to Jan 2025</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$2,040</i>	
<i>Meet regularly with Roslyn and Cle Elum City Council and/or staff to prioritize technical assistance and develop natural resource related projects and programs</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$2,242</i>	
<i>Provide Engineering Services to North Central Engineering Cluster (Okanogan, Cascadia, South Douglas, & Foster Creek CDs) for natural resource improvement projects augmented by interdistrict agreement with Snohomish CD.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>PE, DM, FM</i>	<i>144.0</i>	<i>\$208,033</i>	<u>WSSC Professional Engineer Grant</u>
<i>Staff training (WADE, Conservation Planning, Public Works Contracting,</i>	<i>Jul 2024</i>	<i>All Staff</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>\$13,107</i>	

<i>Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities, MRCS/SAO etc.)</i>	<i>to Jun 2025</i>				
<i>Supervisor training (WADE, WACD, etc.)</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>\$2,379</i>	
<i>Maintain and operate District office facilities including financial records (receiving rent, utilities payments, etc.), lawn care, building maintenance, etc.</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, FM, RT, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>36.0</i>	<i>\$99,112</i>	<i>KCCD Indirect Funds USDA Lease WSCC Lease</i>
<i>Manage leases of office space for the USDA Service Center and WSCC Regional Manager</i>	<i>Jul 2024 to Jun 2025</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>\$4,544</i>	<i>USDA Lease WSCC Lease</i>

Person Responsible Key:

DM- District Manager (Anna Lael) **FM-** Financial Manager (Dayna Wilkinson) **OA** – Office Administrator (Miranda Nash)
CP- Conservation Planner (Mark Crowley) **RT-** Resource Technician (Wendy Mee) **PE-** District Engineer (vacant)
PM- Manastash Project Manager (Sherry Swanson) **NPM-** Natural Resources Project Manager (Brent Dixon)
WP- Wildfire Preparedness Program Manager (Tony Craven)

Budget

The Kittitas County Conservation District budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025) is displayed as both program budgets and an object budget. These budgets are a guide to income and expenditures in FY2025 and may change significantly based on grant awards, actual program implementation and project construction.

Object	Budget
Salaries & Wages	\$630,845
Personnel Benefits	\$257,338
Supplies	\$133,400
Office & Operating Supplies	\$101,000
Fuel Consumed	\$9,000
Small Tools & Minor Equipment	\$15,400
Repairs and Maintenance (Vehicles)	\$8,000
Services	\$5,052,912
Professional Services	\$869,553
Travel	\$7,500
Insurance	\$18,500
Utilities	\$32,150
Property Taxes	\$7,314
Rates & Charges Collection	\$8,738
Staff & Board Training	\$4,648
Miscellaneous	\$12,723
Project Construction	\$4,091,786
Debt Repayment	\$83,332
Building Loan	\$81,252
Copy Machine Contract	\$2,080
Cost Share	\$1,287,500
Contingency	\$45,000
TOTAL	\$7,490,327

Fund Source	Ending Date (mo/year)	Total Grant/Program Budget	Expected Income in FY 2025
Direct Federal Funds			
USDA NRCS - RCPP 2326 Supplemental Agreement TA	Dec-25	\$175,000	\$85,000
USDA NRCS - RCPP 2326 Supplemental Agreement FA	Dec-26	\$562,699	\$462,699
USDA NRCS - RCPP 3149 Partner Agreement	Oct-29	\$1,520,635	\$60,000
USDA NRCS - 10 Year Lease	Annual	\$41,400	\$41,400
Indirect Federal Funds			
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via WRC&D)	Mar-25	\$641,703	\$609,711
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via WRC&D)*	Mar-25	\$280,000	\$29,919
RCO SRFB -- Swauk Creek Screening & Passage	Dec-24	\$268,691	\$6,574
NACD Technical Assistance Grant	Sep-24	\$61,388	\$21,000
FEMA - KCCD Defensible Space & Infrastructure	Mar-25	\$411,298	\$292,223
USFS DNR -- Landscape Scale Restoration	Jul-25	\$59,525	\$50,000
USFS DNR -- Community Wildfire Defense Grant*	Sep-28	\$10,000,000	\$808,193
State Funds			
WSCC Implementation Grant	Jun-24	\$205,935	\$205,935
WSCC Natural Resource Investment	Jun-25	\$103,522	\$75,000
WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies	Jun-25	\$936,000	\$680,000
WSCC Professional Engineering	Jun-25	\$250,000	\$250,000
WSCC Forest Health Community Wildfire Resiliency	Jun-25	\$246,101	\$109,302
WSCC RCPP Contribution (22-28-RP)	Jun-25	\$892,728	\$670,000
WSCC RCPP Contribution (24-28-RP)	Jun-25	\$400,000	\$200,000
WSCC Riparian Grant	Jun-25	\$415,466	\$411,436
WSCC Drought	Jun-25	\$262,170	\$2,850
WSCC - Office of Farmland Preservation	Jun-25	\$123,000	\$56,718
WSCC - Sustainable Farms and Fields*	Jun-25	\$30,000	\$30,000
WSCC - WSRRI Fire Restoration	Jun-24	\$112,750	\$83,650
WSCC - Regional Mgr Rent	Jun-25	\$3,300	\$3,300
WA ECY -- Upper Yakima RCPP Efficiency Improvement	Jun-25	\$400,000	\$340,000
WA ECY -- RCPP 3149 Efficiency Improvement	Jun-25	\$100,000	\$0
RCO-SRFB --- Yakima Targeted Investments	Mar-24	\$883,088	\$81,784
RCO-BAFBRB -- EWC at Naneum Creek	Jun-25	\$844,406	\$0
RCO-BAFBRB -- Cascade ID at Coleman Creek	Jun-25	\$1,481,227	\$1,481,227
RCO-BAFBRB -- Naneum Creek at McCullough*	Jun-26	\$205,300	\$1,000
Local/Private Funds			
Kittitas Reclamation District	Biennial	\$112,868	\$56,434
Benton Conservation District - Heritage Garden Program	Jun-25	\$59,762	\$32,812
WSCC Voluntary Stewardship Program	Jun-25	\$461,250	\$116,000
Kittitas County Local Funds (Rates & Charges)	Annual	\$174,750	\$130,000
Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse Conservation Easement	Annual	\$5,000	\$4,568
Donations for Agriculture Appreciation Day	Annual		\$1,150
Interest Income	Annual		\$442
TOTALS		\$22,730,961	\$7,490,327