



# Kittitas County Conservation District System of Rates & Charges

## 2017 Report of Activities

April 2018

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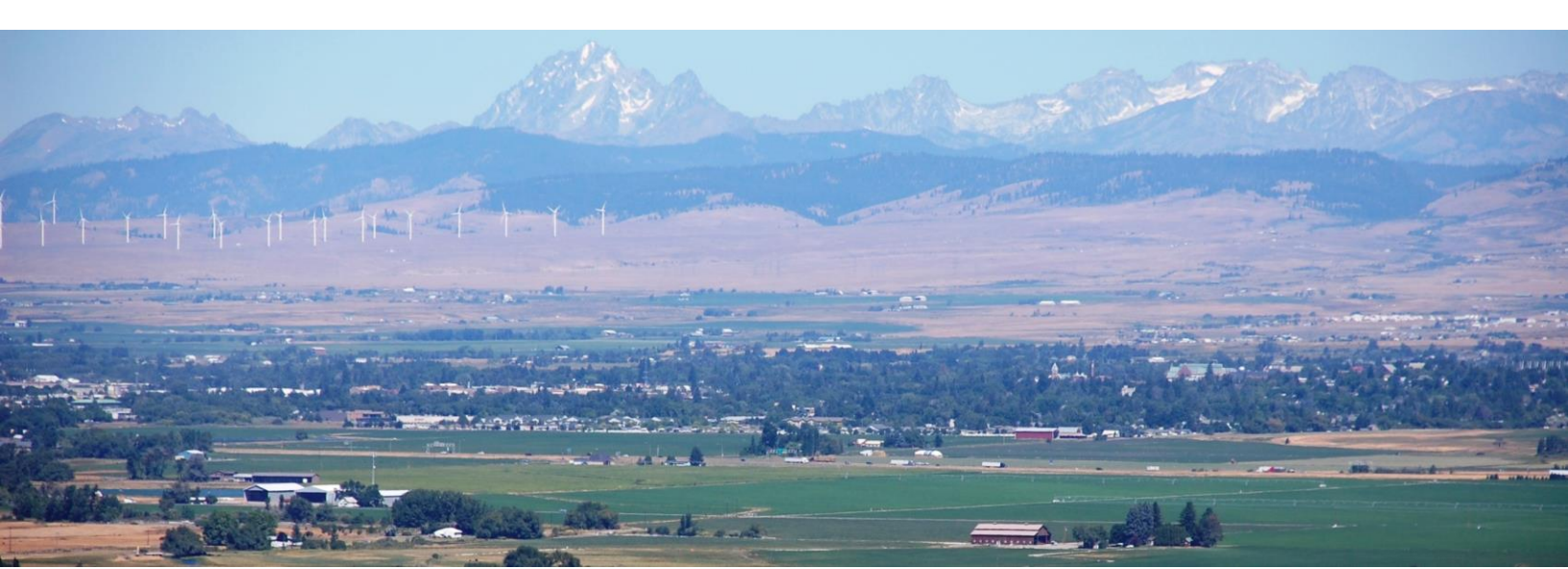
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# 1 Background

## 1.1 Kittitas County Conservation District

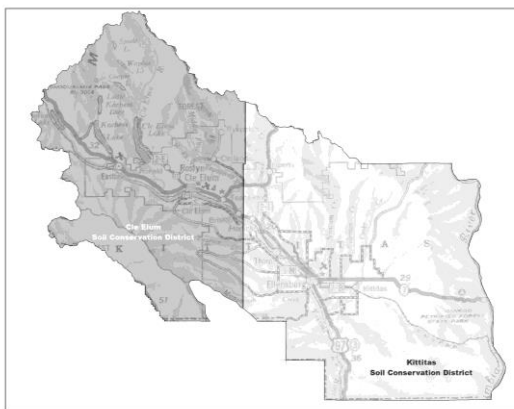
The Kittitas County Conservation District (“District”) is an independent public agency established in 1942 under Chapter 89.08 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) to assist landowners and operators to protect and enhance natural resources. The District serves all unincorporated areas of Kittitas County, as well as the City of Cle Elum.

### 1.1.1 History

On March 21, 1942, more than 400 Kittitas Valley landowners visited nine polling stations to vote overwhelmingly in favor of forming the Kittitas Conservation District. It was a beginning, but it was also the culmination of years of work at the federal, state and local levels not only to bring attention to the impacts of soil erosion but to do something about it.

The USDA Soil Erosion Service (SES) established a demonstration project in the Badger Pocket area southeast of Ellensburg in 1936. Similar demonstration projects were being conducted across the nation. The projects were limited to 5-years and as the Badger Pocket project was coming to an end

in 1941, it became apparent to the farmers that the conservation work should continue. Formation of a conservation district was a way to do that, while adding a significant element of local control. The vote in March of 1942 followed a series of well attended public hearings.



**Figure 1.** Map of the Cle Elum and Kittitas Soil Conservation Districts.

The Cle Elum Soil Conservation District followed suit in 1947, establishing the District with a unanimous vote by 77 landowners. In 1962 the Kittitas and Cle Elum Districts combined to form the Kittitas County Conservation District.

### 1.1.2 Governance Structure

Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government, much like school districts. Each conservation district is governed by a board of five supervisors. Supervisors are local residents who serve voluntarily without pay. Three are elected by local citizens and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). Supervisors may come from many different occupations, but by law, three of the five supervisors must be landowners or farm operators.

The powers and duties of supervisors are detailed in RCW 89.08.210. They include employing staff; keeping full and accurate records; working with the legislative body of any municipality or county near or within the district; and appointing advisory committees as may be needed.

The corporate status and powers of districts are described in RCW 89.08.220. Districts may do surveys, research and investigations to determine improvement needs for natural resources; conduct education and demonstration projects related to those improvements; and, through agreements with landowners, agencies, etc., carry out those improvements on lands within the district with the permission of the landowner. Conservation districts must keep current a comprehensive long-range program as well as an annual plan of work, which together are officially recognized as the authorized program of the district. The long-range program takes into consideration a broad array of land uses and resource concerns including farming, grazing, forestry, parks and recreation, potable water supplies, water for agriculture, minimal flow, and industrial uses, control of soil erosion, flood hazard reduction, protection of open space and scenery, protection of fish and wildlife, and the prevention or reduction of sedimentation and other pollution in rivers and other waters. Districts must also keep the public, agencies and occupiers of land informed of the works and activities planned and their purposes, of the income and expenditures, and of the results achieved annually. The District does so through newsletters, meetings, events and a website ([www.kccd.net](http://www.kccd.net)).

#### **MISSION**

*Providing 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 educational assistance in Kittitas County; and by local, state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.*

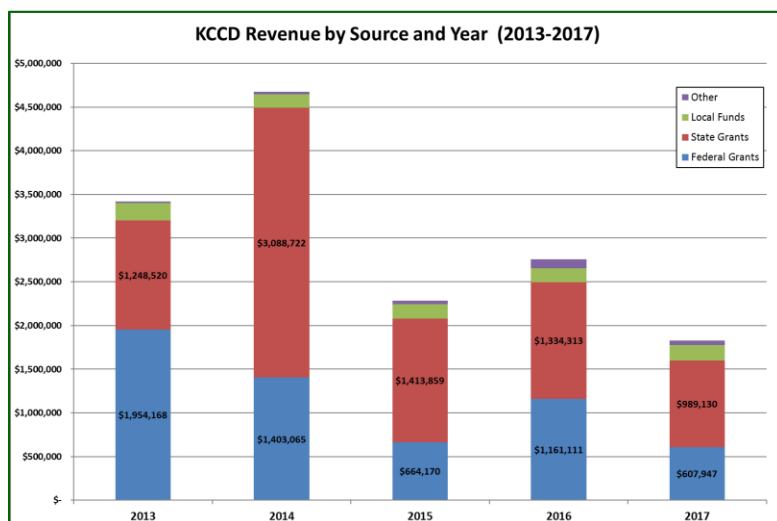
#### **WHO WE SERVE AND WHY**

*We serve the citizens of our community (county, state, country) to ensure the long-term use of natural resources in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner using **non-regulatory, voluntary approaches**.*

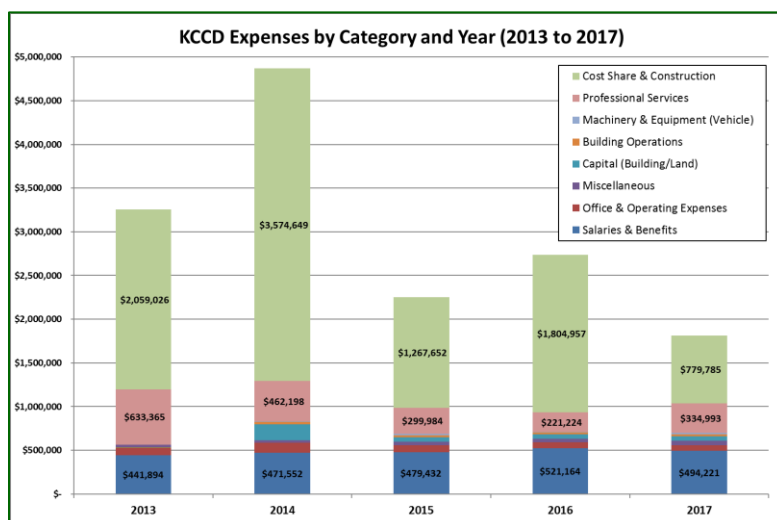
## 1.2 District Funding

The District actively works to secure funding to implement the annual and long-range plans of work. The District secures grants predominantly from state and federal sources such as the Washington State Conservation Commission, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Bonneville Power Administration, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The District also has a local funding option, called Rates & Charges (per RCW 89.08). The local funds are used to secure many of the state and federal grants, so although the local funds are a small part of the overall revenue, they are critical to obtaining those grants.

The District's annual budget varies based on open grant agreements and on the number and scope of on-the-ground activities and programs. In 2017, the District budget was \$1.8 million. Figure 2 and Figure 3 display the 5-year trends for revenues and expenditures.



**Figure 2.** Annual revenue for the last five years has ranged from a high of \$4.6 million to a low of \$1.8 million. Over that time period revenue was 54% state grants, 39% federal grants, 6% local funds (Special Assessment and Rates & Charges) and 2% miscellaneous sources.



**Figure 3.** Annual expenditures vary with the open grants and on-the-ground projects (cost share and construction). Over the last five years, 64% of expenses have been cost share and construction, 13% were professional services (primarily engineering & design for on-the-ground projects), and 23% have been staff and basic operating expenses (wages, office supplies, etc.). Year to year variations in total expenses are primarily due to the variety of projects occurring each year, while general operating expenses are relatively constant, usually varying by less than 5% per year.

## *1.2.1 System of Rates & Charges*

In 2007-2016, the District collected a Special Assessment as allowed by Chapter 89.08.400 RCW. Special assessments were authorized to be imposed for conservation districts to fund activities and programs declared to be of special benefit to lands to conserve natural resources, including soil and water, and may be used as the basis upon which special assessments are imposed. The RCW authorized the county legislative authority of the county in which the conservation district is located to accept the proposed assessment for a period not to exceed ten years in duration. The Kittitas Board of County Commissioners did so in 2006 for a period of 10 years beginning in 2007.

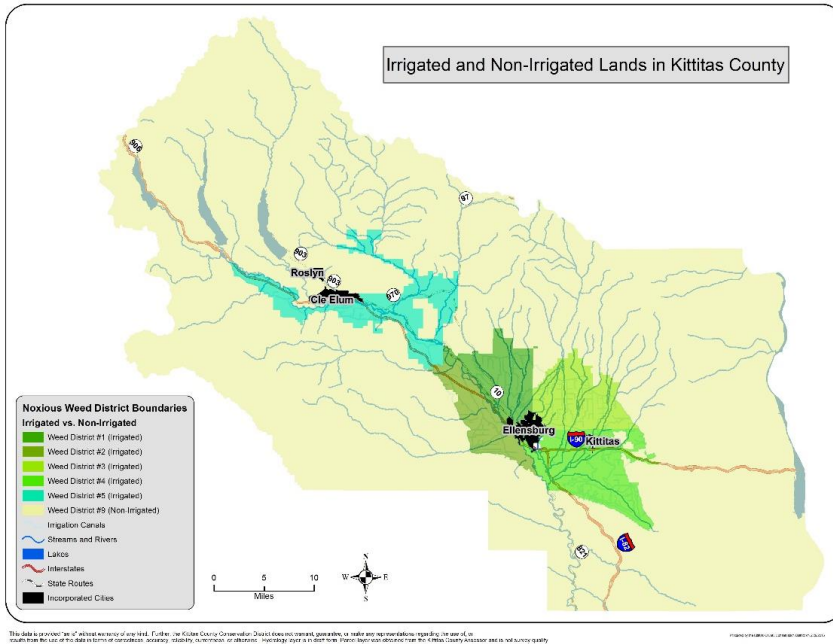
In 2016, the District pursued a renewal of the local funding, but through a new option available through action of the 2012 Legislature. The alternative method of collecting local revenue was called a rate or a charge and is described in RCW 89.08.405. Similar to the special assessment, under rates & charges, each eligible parcel is subject to a charge; there is a cap of \$5 per parcel on eligible parcels to be charged and \$0.10 per acre; and the funding option cannot exceed 10 years.

### **1.2.1.1 General Approach**

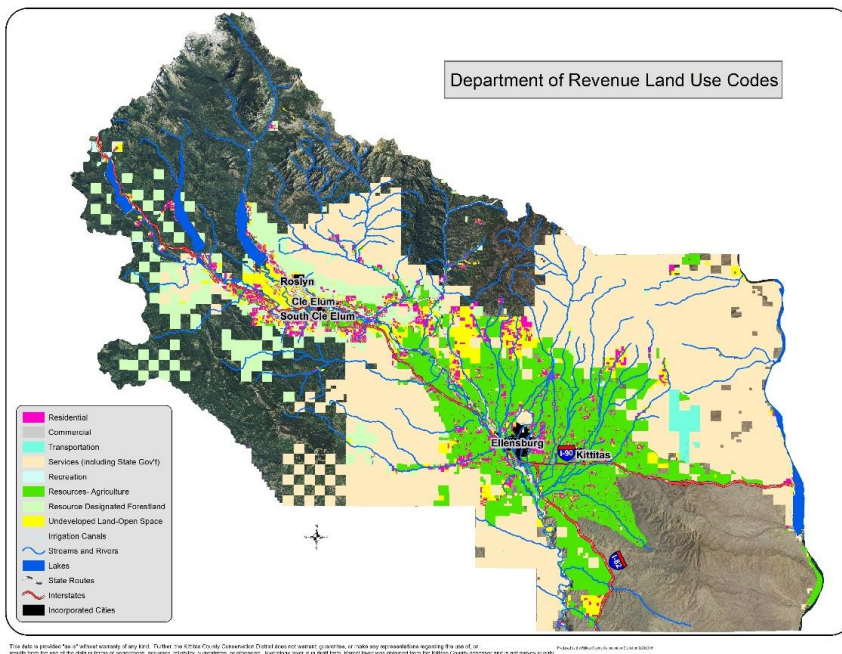
The Kittitas County Conservation District rate structure features distinct rates by land use, based on the services/benefits received from District programs. The District worked to create the rate structure and supporting analysis with the support of the FCS Group. Each District program and associated cost is subject to a three-step allocation process to establish unit costs – the building blocks of rate development. Each priority cost is first allocated between direct and indirect service/benefit provided. Cost recovery is then assigned to either the per parcel or per acre basis. Finally, cost recovery is allocated among customer classes based on the comparative amount of service/benefit enjoyed by each customer class from the resource priority. The Rate Study Report completed in 2016 is available on the District website at <http://www.kccd.net/LocalFunding.htm>.

The general approach was to identify four major land use types, irrigated, non-irrigated, forestland and urban (incorporated municipalities). These land use types tie directly to priority natural resource concerns. A combination of classifications was utilized to identify these land use types. First, similar to the Special Assessment approved in 2006, the boundaries of the local Noxious Weed Districts were utilized to delineate irrigated, non-irrigated and forestlands (see Figure 4). Within these designations, Department of Revenue land use codes assigned by the Kittitas County Assessor were utilized to further differentiate land uses (see Figure 5).





**Figure 4.** The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Districts define the boundaries of irrigated and non-irrigated lands. Weed Districts 1-5 (shades of green above) are in the irrigated areas of the County. Weed District 9 (in yellow) encompasses the non-irrigated lands and forest lands.



**Figure 5.** The Kittitas County Assessor utilizes the Department of Revenue land use codes. This map displays the categories of those land use codes.

### 1.2.1.2 Rate Calculation

The land use categories were evaluated based on direct and indirect benefits received and were allocated either no benefit, partial benefit compared to other classes, or full proportional benefit compared to other classes. The full rates are then calculated after subtracting other revenue, such as grant reimbursements, contracts, rental income, and other miscellaneous revenue. To the extent warranted, these offsetting revenues are allocated proportionately. The calculated rates were \$12.05

and \$12.26 for non-irrigated and irrigated parcels respectively. While this would cover the costs of the services and programs less other revenue, the rates would exceed the five dollar per parcel limit prescribed in RCW 89.08.400 and upheld by ESHB 2567. To conform to this cap, the highest rate was decreased to five dollars and the others are decreased proportionately. When the rates are decreased, the lowest per parcel rate becomes \$4.91 and the lowest per acre rate \$0.03. All reduced rates can be seen in the following tables. The per landowner rate for the forest land is \$3.

**Table 1.** Rates Charged for Non-Irrigated Parcels

Land Use Category		Calculated Rates	
		Per Parcel	Per Acre
1	Residential	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
2	Commercial	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
3	Transportation	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
4	Trade	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
5	Services	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
6	Recreational	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
7	Resources AG	\$4.9200	\$0.0300
8	Resources	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
9	Resource Designated Forest Land	\$3.0000	-
11	Undeveloped/Open Space	\$ 4.9200	\$0.0300

**Table 2.** Rates Charged for Irrigated Parcels

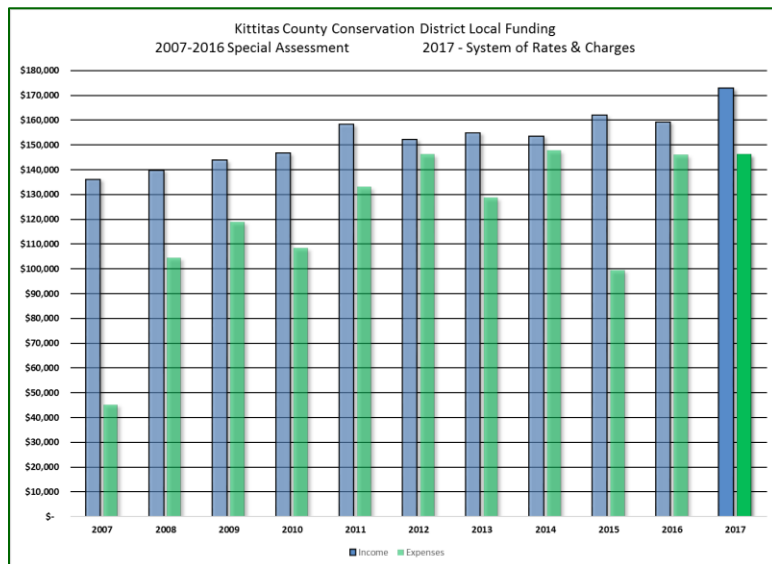
Land Use Category		Calculated Rates	
		Per Parcel	Per Acre
1	Residential	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
2	Commercial	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
3	Transportation	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
4	Trade	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
5	Services	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
6	Recreational	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
7	Resources AG	\$5.0000	\$0.1000
8	Resources	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
9	Resource Designated Forest Land	\$ -	\$ -
11	Undeveloped/Open Space	\$5.0000	\$0.1000



## 2 2017 Report

### 2.1 Financial Report

The funds generated by the District’s system of rates & charges are collected by the Kittitas County Treasurer with state and local property taxes, just like the special assessment. In 2017, the Treasurer collected \$172,741 and the District expended \$147,944. Annual revenue and expenditures for these local funds since 2007 are displayed in Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Annual revenue and expenditures for local funds collected through the special assessment (2007-2016) and the system of rates & charges (2017).

The expenditure of funds is estimated in an annual budget provided to the Board of County Commissioners. The budget divides the expenses into seven categories including fees for collecting the funds, administration of the funds, District operations, educational assistance, technical assistance, financial assistance and contingencies. Table 3 displays the categories, descriptions, budget and actual expenditures.

**Table 3.** 2017 budget and actual expenditures of funds collected through the system of rates & charges.

Category	Description	Budget	Actual
<b>Local Funds Collection Fee</b>	5% Collection fee paid to Kittitas County Treasurer	\$ 8,304	\$ 8,304
<b>Administration</b>	Administration of Local Funds including annual preparation of the tax rolls, submission of annual reports & budgets and completion of renewal process	\$ 1,800	\$ 4,677
<b>District Operations</b>	Ensure continuity of basic District operations by supporting staff time and office/operating expenses	\$ 23,472	\$ 21,484
<b>Educational Assistance</b>	Youth, producer/landowner, and general public outreach and education activities	\$ 17,650	\$ 20,432
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	Technical assistance to plan, design, fund and implement practices that improve water use efficiencies and instream flow, water quality, habitat conditions for fish and wildlife, and forest health	\$ 50,392	\$ 62,999
<b>Financial Assistance</b>	PAM, Small Project, Teanaway Grazing or Forest Health/Fuels Reduction Cost Share	\$ 47,850	\$ 16,679
<b>Contingency Funds</b>	Contingency Funds	\$ 16,607	\$ 13,370
	<b>Totals</b>	\$ 166,075	\$ 147,944

## 2.2 Activities Report

The expenditure of funds in 2017 supported an array of activities, as well as the collection and administration of the funds. The collection of funds is completed by the Kittitas County Treasurer. Per the interlocal agreement between the District and the Board of County Commissioners, five percent of the funds collected are paid to the Treasurer for the costs of collection. The following sections describe the remaining budget categories and activities in 2017 that were funded in whole or in part by the local funds. Appendix A is a map of the county with the activities summarized by township.

### 2.2.1 Administration

Administration of the system of rates & charges includes the renewal of this local funding option at the sunset of the special assessment in 2016, completion and submittal of the tax rolls to the Kittitas County Assessor's office, monthly tracking of the expenditures, and annual reports. In 2017, some expenses carried over from the renewal process in 2016 as a consultant was utilized to assist with the rates analysis, the overall process and submittal of the tax rolls. The District worked with neighboring conservation districts to increase the efficiency and lower the cost of the consultant's work. Some of that joint work extended into 2017.

### 2.2.2 District Operations

District operations includes support of District staff and office expenses. Support of these expenses ensures that the District can keep the federal indirect rate charged on grants at or below 25%.

Approximately 10% of the Financial Manager position is funded, as are costs associated with operating the District building at 2211 W Dolarway Road.

### **2.2.3 Educational Assistance**

The District provides many educational opportunities for landowners and the public. In 2017, the District:

- Published newsletters - The newsletters reach 10,000 landowners with a paper version in July and 300 individuals signed up for the electronic versions published twice per year. All editions are available here <http://www.kccd.net/announcements.htm>
- Maintained a website ([www.kccd.net](http://www.kccd.net)) and a Facebook page and incorporated story maps ("Wednesday's in the WUI" - <http://www.kccd.net/firewise.htm>)
- Published "virtual tour" calendars - More than 100 calendars were shared with landowners, stakeholders and partners
- Attended producer meetings – This includes the Kittitas County Hay Growers and the Kittitas County Cattlemen
- Entered the Kittitas County Fair – 2017 Attendance was more than 55,000

In addition, the District worked on some new outreach and education activities. This includes the Elementary Agricultural Appreciation Day and initiating a video about the Jolly Mountain Fire and the general fire environment of the County. The next two sub sections detail these activities.

#### **2.2.3.1 Elementary Agricultural Appreciation Day**

In 2017, the District agreed to accept the responsibility for organizing and facilitating the annual Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day. This event had previously been organized by the WSU Extension Kittitas County staff, however due to workload and staffing availability, they were not able to continue organizing the event. The 16th annual Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day was held April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. More than four hundred elementary students from 20 classrooms across the County participated this year. The program invites third-graders, their teachers and parents to discover the importance of agriculture and the farming life and includes stations offered by several local farm, ranch, and natural resource organizations. The students explore aspects of cattle ranching, raising livestock, dairying, hay and grain production, irrigation, water and soil conservation, and weed control at ten learning stations. They also learn the importance of thoroughly washing their hands.

Evaluations completed by participating teachers indicated that Ag Appreciation day is informative, engaging, and holds the students interests at each station. This is credited to a great group of volunteers who put together quality presentations for the students. Presenters included Tip Hudson (WSU Extension), Marc Eylar (Kittitas County Noxious Weed Board), Kat Satnik (Kittitas County Water



Purveyors), Lance Downing (Kittitas County Conservation District), Scott Montgomery (Three Peaks Outfitters), Dairy Ambassador Alicia Smaciarz (Washington State Dairy Association), Julie Sorensen (WSU Extension), Connie Dunnington, Stefanie McCann, and Steve Russell and his Ellensburg FFA members. Farm equipment and animals were provided by Washington Tractor, Broadmoor Farms, Pat & Linda Clerf, Charlene Andrews, Cookie Preston, Kat Satnik, and Three Peaks Outfitters. Additional volunteers helping during the day of the event included Melanie George, Megan Welker and members of the following 4-H Clubs: Get Up & Go, Country Roots, Fairview, Valley Crafty Critters, Clover Rovers, Royal Riders, and On Target. The Kittitas County Cattlewomen provided lunches for volunteers working the event, as well as educational materials for the students. The Board of County Commissioners agreed to provide the venue for the event without charge.

Funding to support bus costs was provided by the Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen, Kittitas County Water Purveyors, and the District.

### **2.2.3.2 Jolly Mountain and the Wildfire Environment Video**

After the Jolly Mountain Fire, District staff attended an after-action review hosted by the US Forest Service at the Cle Elum Ranger District. Attendees included first responders as well as stakeholders in the community. It was clear that the Jolly Mountain Fire incident offered an opportunity to use a very real and very recent experience to educate the community on the fire environment and the resources available to the landowners. Work on the video began in December 2017, after funding was pieced together from partners including Kittitas County, The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources. The final video (completed in March 2018) is available at <https://youtu.be/3EbuRaOdxoM>.

## **2.2.4 Technical Assistance**

The District provided significant technical assistance to landowners, land managers and partners working in Kittitas County. This is the largest budget item for the District's local funds and supports technical assistance related to water conservation, water quality, fish habitat, forest health and wildfire fuels reduction.

### **2.2.4.1 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

In cooperation with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP), and specifically the Yakama Nation, District staff worked with a large group of partners to submit a proposal for funding through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). NRCS allows only one project applicant, so in 2016, the District partnered with the Yakama Nation who submitted a proposal to do work on their reservation and in the upper Yakima watershed. The proposal requested more than \$9 million for a 5-year project. In December 2016, NRCS offered an award of 80% of the requested amount. This equates to \$7,540,740, of which \$6,140,740 will be dedicated to projects in Kittitas County. NRCS programs included in this award

are the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Healthy Forest Reserve Program.

Although it was believed that it was possible to sign the actual project agreement with NRCS as co-leads, as negotiation process moved forward for the project, NRCS would allow only one entity to sign. The District is specifically mentioned in the agreement as the lead for all work in Kittitas County, but the Yakama Nation is only signatory to the agreement. RCPP requires "partner contributions" and does not fund all work related to the project. Specifically, they do not fund administration, outreach or monitoring. The agreement does fund District staff to complete technical assistance tasks related to specific contracts with landowners, however it does not fund overhead related to any of that staff time. So, in 2017, the District's local funds were used to support staff time through the negotiation period for the agreement which wasn't actually signed until September 29, 2017; staff time for the outreach to producers and setting up the sign-up period and screening and ranking criteria; and for the overhead costs related to the specific technical assistance work beginning in October 2017. The first sign-up was for cost share through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. A total of 23 applications were received and then screened and ranked. District staff began work on the conservation plans for the top eight applications.

#### **2.2.4.2 Forest Health and Wildfire Fuels Reduction**

District staff supported the completion of work under three grants from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and one from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) via Kittitas County. These grants included wildfire fuels reduction work through cost share and the Fire District chipping crews, as well as assistance to Firewise Communities and potential Firewise Communities. The DNR grants expired in May and the FEMA funds were committed to specific projects, leaving the District with no funding to continue to complete homesite assessments or to line up work for the fall season. While other sources were being pursued, landowners were referred to DNR for assistance.

There was also funding available through the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership, a cooperative effort between the USDA agencies, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service. Funding is available here through a proposal called "Washington – All Lands, All Hands: Building Resilient Landscapes and Fire Adapted Communities in Washington's East Cascades". In Kittitas County, forest landowners in priority areas along South Cle Elum Ridge, North Cle Elum Ridge, and the Teanaway have had the opportunity to apply directly to NRCS for three years. Additional funds will be available through this proposal via DNR in 2018 and the District will be directly involved in the implementation of those funds.

#### **2.2.4.3 Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition**

In May 2017, the District and a large group of stakeholders met at the Swauk Teanaway Grange to discuss wildland fire. The meeting was organized by the Washington Resource Conservation &

Development Council (RC&D). The Washington State Conservation Commission provided Ray Ledgerwood to facilitate the meeting. The result of that meeting was the formation of the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC). KFACC has met monthly since its inception and includes more than 20 agencies and organizations including local fire districts, private non-profits, Kittitas County, state and federal agencies. The District provided funding for continued facilitation of meetings by the RC&D.

At the request of KFACC, the District began to lead the effort to update the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The CWPP had not been updated since it was completed in 2009. A subcommittee of KFACC was formed to assist the District and participate in the update process.

#### **2.2.4.4 Jolly Mountain Fire**

The Jolly Mountain Fire burned more than 34,000 acres in the upper watershed of the Teanaway River and into the Cle Elum River watershed in August and September of 2018. This fire was started by lightning and although it burned slowly at first, it then spread rapidly and resulted in the evacuation of more than 1500 homes. District staff assisted in the Emergency Operations Center and attended regular meetings held by the Incident Management Teams.

The District staff also held meetings of local partners to talk about post-fire response and community needs. Specifically, the District worked with local, state and federal partners to assess the risk for flooding and debris flows. In addition to the Burn Area Erosion Risk (BAER) analysis, the US Geological Survey (USGS) also conducted an emergency debris flow assessment in the burn area at the request of the District. The National Weather Service staff did site visits and worked with the District as well. At the end of these assessments and coordination, the District was unable to secure the funding necessary to install the proposed stream flow gauge on the Middle Fork Teanaway River. Resources for homeowners were provided on the District website for those in or near the burn area who should watch the weather and be aware of potentially increased risk of flood damage.

#### **2.2.4.5 Chlorophyll Meter and the Kittitas County Hay Growers**

The District continued to work with the Organization of Kittitas County Timothy Hay Growers & Suppliers to use a meter to measure chlorophyll content or "greenness" of different hay crops under different fertilizer scenarios. This effort is based on work by WSU Extension where they worked to determine in season optimum nitrogen rate for sustainable hay production.

#### **2.2.4.6 USDA Service Center**

The District continues to provide office space for the USDA Service Center consisting of the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The USDA agencies are working toward advertising a formal lease for space, however they have been delayed for three years in doing so. The District sent a letter last winter advising the agencies to vacate the office by June 30,

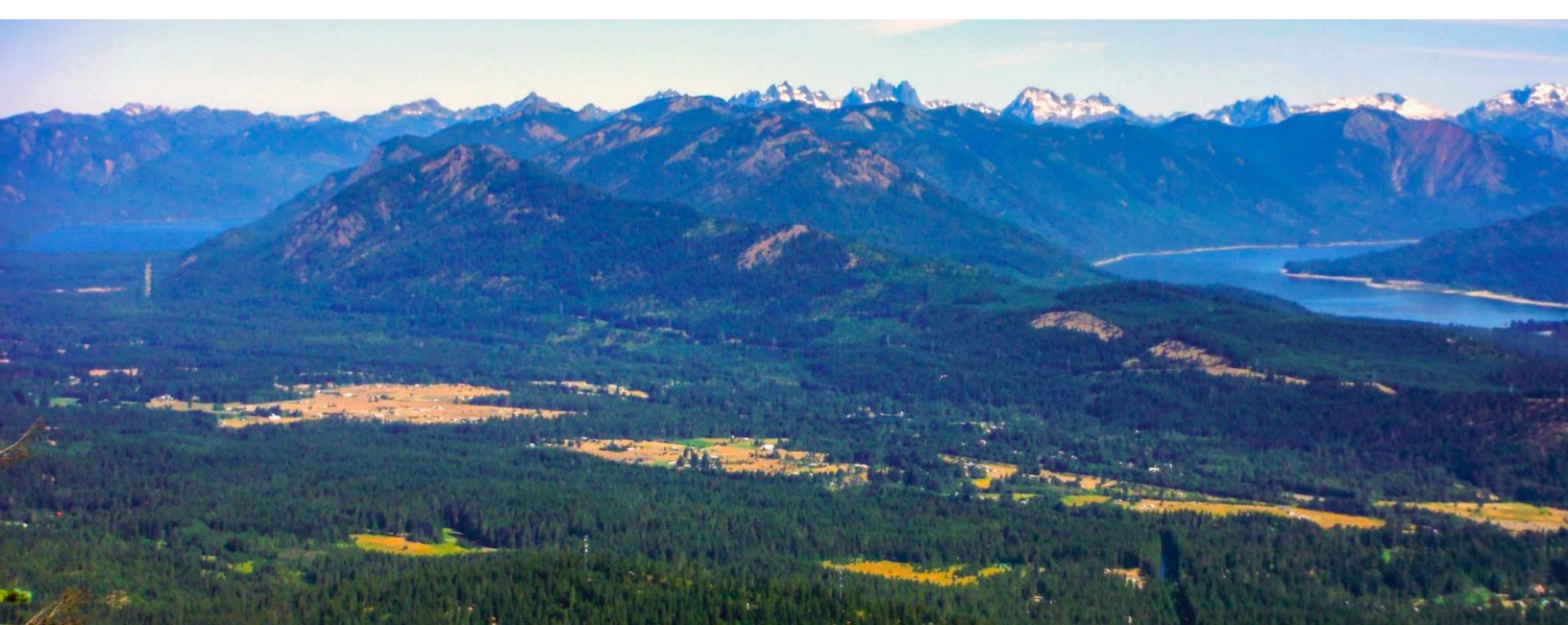
2018 as the original two-year timeline for this arrangement expired in 2016. The letter was sent at the encouragement of NRCS staff so that they could use it to encourage their leasing staff to move more quickly. Unfortunately, the leasing staff's response was that there will be another two to three-year delay. In the meantime, if the District does force them to vacate, both agencies will close the local office meaning that landowners will need to work with offices in Ephrata and Yakima.

### *2.2.5 Financial Assistance*

Although significant funding was budgeted for financial assistance, only about one third was actually expended. This includes cost share to private landowners through the Small Projects and Polyacrylamide (PAM) Cost share, and support of the wildfire fuels reduction work. In 2017, five small projects were completed and the landowners were paid \$15,738 from local funds and the Conservation Commission. PAM cost share was provided to five landowners on 755 acres, saving nearly 2,700 tons of soil. PAM cost share is provided through local funds and the Kittitas County Public Works. The fuels reduction work was completed by Kittitas County Fire District No. 7 and Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue crews utilizing a rented chipper in June and July. This work was completed after the expiration of the remaining grants from the Department of Natural Resources.

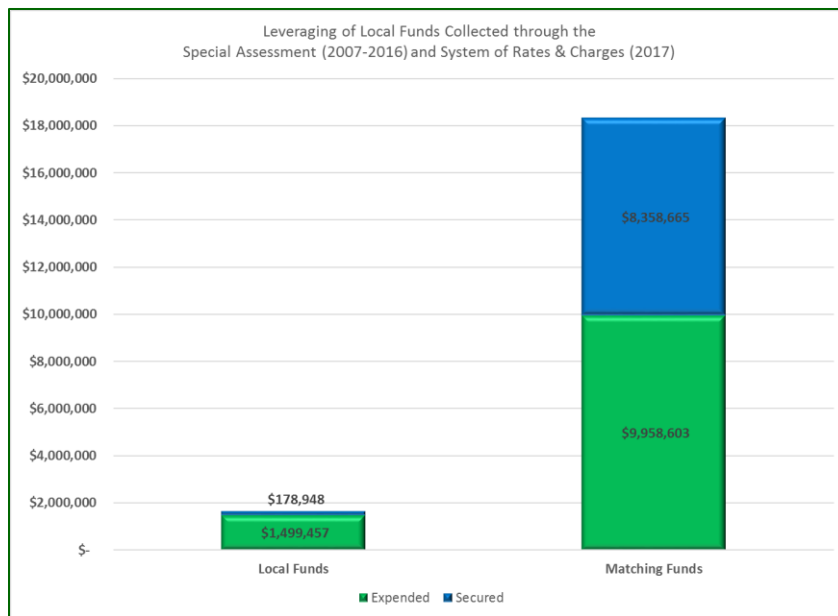
### *2.2.6 Contingency Funds*

A portion of the budget for 2017 was held as contingency funds. Those funds were utilized for the purchase of a field vehicle to replace an aging vehicle owned by the District. The older vehicle was sold on Public Surplus and the expenditure in this report is less the auction sale revenue for that vehicle.



### 3 Leveraging of Funds

Each year, the District leverages additional resources with the local funds collected through the Special Assessment (2007 to 2016) and now the system of rates & charges (2017-2026). Between 2008 and 2016, expended matching funds and resources totaled \$8,422,615. In 2017, an additional \$1,535,987 in matching funds were expended, bringing the total expended leveraged funds to \$9.96 million. For all expended funds from 2007 to 2017, the District leveraged \$6.64 in federal, state and private funds for every dollar of local funds. There is another \$8.36 million in leveraged funds secured for the future use.



**Figure 7.** Federal, state, local and private funds leveraged by the District with the special assessment and the system of rates & charges.

#### 3.1 Summary of Leveraged Funds

The leveraged funds are from a variety of sources and come to the District both directly and indirectly and or are contracted directly with private landowners. The federal sources include the



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Federal Emergency Management Administration, Bureau of Land Management. The state sources include the State Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, and the Department of Natural Resources. Private sources include Puget Sound Energy, PSE Foundation, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen and Kittitas County Water Purveyors. The funds are further described in Table 4 below.

**Table 4.** Descriptions of the leveraged funds expended in 2017.

Source	Agency/Group	Description	Amount
State Funds	State Conservation Commission	Sprinkler conversion projects, district operations support, Firewise, Cultural resources surveys, and Jolly Mountain Fire staff support	\$324,613
	Department of Ecology	Yakima Basin Integrated Plan – Habitat and Water Conservation Subcommittee Grants primarily for Manastash Project activities	\$318,510
	Department of Natural Resources	Wildfire Fuels Reduction and Firewise Communities	\$98,671
Federal Funds	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Utilities payments for office space	\$4,500
	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Joint Chiefs – cost share funding directly to private forest landowners	\$46,900
	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Future Directions – cost share funding directly to private landowners for fish habitat/stream flow projects	\$388,675
	FEMA	Grant fund via Kittitas County for fuels reduction	\$54,223
	BLM	Grant funds via the Washington RC&D for Fire Adapted Communities	\$7,603
Private/Other Funds	Puget Sound Energy	Wild Horse Wind Facility easement monitoring	\$4,101
	PSE Foundation	Funds for emergency planning by the District	\$10,000
	Kittitas County Farm Bureau	School bus costs for Elementary Agricultural Appreciation Day	\$360
	Kittitas County Cattlemen		\$360
	Kittitas County Water Purveyors		\$350
	Landowners	Cost share by the landowners involved in sprinkler conversion, water quality and wildland fire fuels reduction work	\$277,120

### 3.2 Pursuit of Leveraged Funds

District staff continually research and apply for funds to implement projects and programs developed through landowner contacts and partnering efforts. In 2017, the following applications were submitted:

#### Department of Natural Resources:

District staff continued working with DNR staff to secure Joint Chiefs funding through the "Washington – All Lands, All Hands: Building Resilient Landscapes and Fire Adapted Communities in

Washington's East Cascades" project. Funds were originally requested in this proposal for fuels reduction work on private lands. Although not initially provided when the proposal was funded three years ago, the funds were eventually provided from the US Forest Service to DNR. DNR now has the responsibility to disburse these funds to conservation districts in the region originally included in the proposal. District staff worked to complete the application process prescribed by DNR to access these funds. A \$250,000 request was submitted with the landowner cost share funds to be administered by DNR and the outreach and assessment work to be completed by the District for Kittitas County. An agreement and availability of the funds to private landowners is expected in 2018.

#### Bureau of Land Management:

An application was submitted to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wildland Urban Interface Community Fire Assistance program for the "Kittitas County Wildland Urban Interface Community Wildfire Protection Plan" in August 2017. The application requested \$30,000 for an update of the County Wildfire Protection Plan. It was not selected for funding.

#### Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D):

District staff worked with the RC&D to obtain a \$6,000 Washington Fire Adapted Communities grant to complete education and outreach activities including blog posts, webinars, and completing outreach strategies for the County Wildfire Protection Plan. This grant also funded staff training opportunities.

#### Salmon Recovery Funding Board:

KCCD submitted three proposals to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in 2017 with a total request of \$758,009. First was a proposal requesting funding for engineering & design and construction of a siphon at the Ellensburg Water Company intersection with Whiskey Creek and restoration of Whiskey Creek from the canal to Bender Road. The second was a proposal for fish passage work at irrigation diversions on the lowermost barriers on Cooke Creek. The third was a proposal to begin planning on the Thorp Mill Ditch side channel to the Yakima River. None of the three projects were funded.

#### National Fish & Wildlife Foundation:

The District applied to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Wells Fargo Resilient Communities: Regional Adaptation Grants for the "Kittitas County Wildland Community Resiliency and Forest Restoration" project. This was a \$250,000 proposal to complete fuels reduction work in priority areas of Kittitas County. It was not selected for funding.

#### Federal Emergency Management Administration – Washington EMD:

In 2014, the Kittitas County Fire Marshal's office applied for funding and that application was approved for nearly \$250,000. A similar application was submitted in the next funding cycle, but due to delays in the decision-making process, no action was taken on the application until 2016. KCCD was notified in 2017 that the second application was being funded as well. Through 2017, it remained in the permitting and approval process.

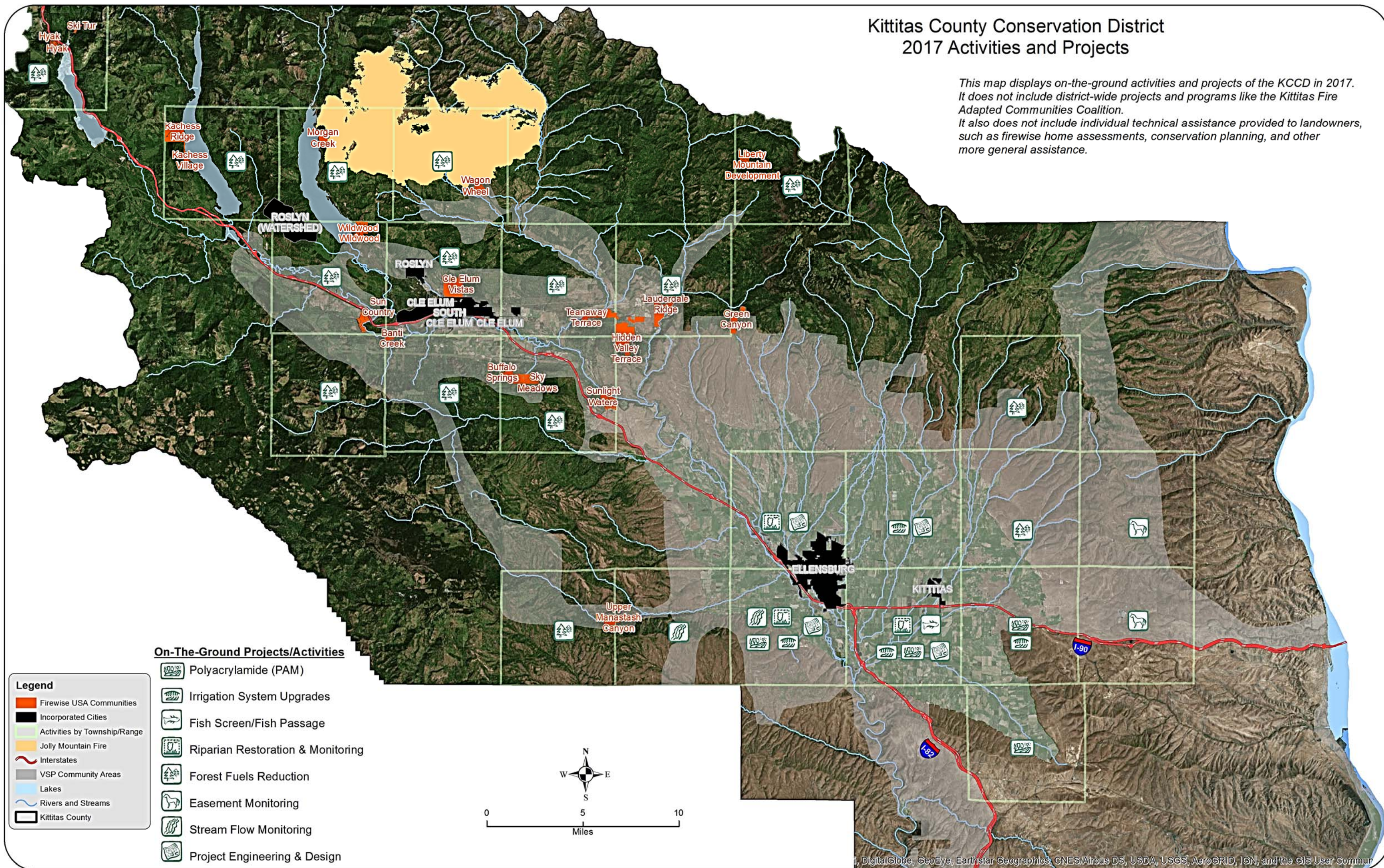
## **Appendix A**

2017 Map of District Activities









# Kittitas County Conservation District 2017 Activities and Projects

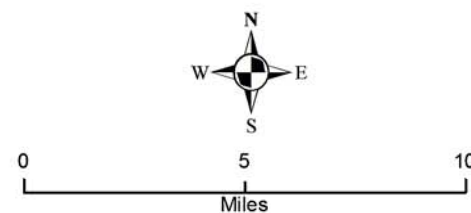
*This map displays on-the-ground activities and projects of the KCCD in 2017. It does not include district-wide projects and programs like the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. It also does not include individual technical assistance provided to landowners, such as firewise home assessments, conservation planning, and other more general assistance.*



### On-The-Ground Projects/Activities

-  Polyacrylamide (PAM)
-  Irrigation System Upgrades
-  Fish Screen/Fish Passage
-  Riparian Restoration & Monitoring
-  Forest Fuels Reduction
-  Easement Monitoring
-  Stream Flow Monitoring
-  Project Engineering & Design

- ### Legend
-  Firewise USA Communities
  -  Incorporated Cities
  -  Activities by Township/Range
  -  Jolly Mountain Fire
  -  Interstates
  -  VSP Community Areas
  -  Lakes
  -  Rivers and Streams
  -  Kittitas County



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