

Kittitas County Conservation District

April 2011

Serving
Landowners in
Kittitas County
Since 1942



Office location:
607 E Mountain View Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926 Phone: (509) 925-8585 ext. 4 Fax: (509) 925-8591 Website: www.kccd.net

Volume VIII Issue 2

Budget Impacts on District Funding

We are watching closely as the federal and state governments continue to grapple with the difficult budget situations. As with most conservation districts across the state, our District searches out and applies for grants to implement our long range and annual plans of work. Our District budget is made up of a mix of both state and federal grant funding, as well as the local Special Assessment funding.

On average over the last five years, state funding made up approximately 58% of the District's annual budget and federal funding was another 35%. That funding comes in the form of grants, primarily through the Washington Conservation Commission, Washington Department of Ecology, Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Bonneville Power Administration.

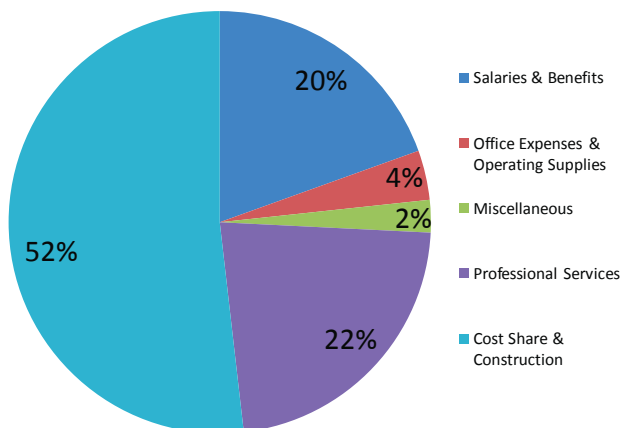
In the last five years, our annual expenses have ranged between \$1.5 million and \$1.8 million with the exception of 2009 at \$3.5 million. Nearly 3/4 of our annual expenses go toward engineering, design and construction of on-the-ground projects, so our annual budgets are closely tied to the progress of individual projects. The high in 2009 was due to several projects that had been delayed finally being constructed all in the same year.



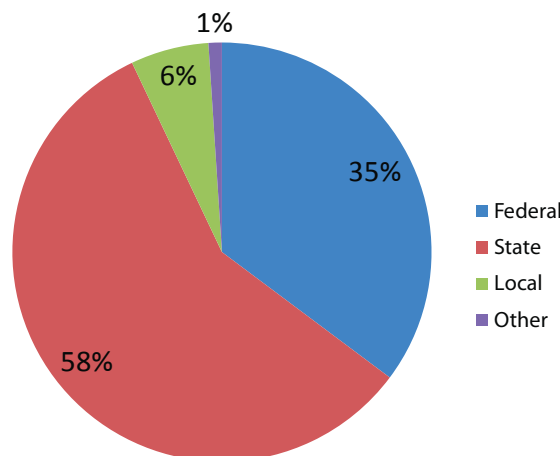
The new Keach/Jensen diversion facility, part of our long running Manastash Creek Restoration Project.

Currently, our District has approximately 20 different active grants in various phases of completion. Those grants have \$5 million in secured funding that will be spent on projects in the next three years. Some of those grants are long running projects (e.g. Manastash Creek Restoration Project) and some are new grants just awarded in the last six months. We expect another approximately \$200,000 to be contracted with granting agencies for new and continuing programs in the next 90 days. The diversity of projects and funding sources keep the District budget strong.

Average District Expense 2006-2010



Average District Revenue 2006-2010



While we fully expect the available grant funding opportunities to be diminished as a result of the budget cuts, strong applications for good projects should still garner funding. There is no expectation that the Small Project Cost Share Program, Firewise Cost Share Program, or PAM Cost Share Program will change significantly.

Kittitas County Conservation District

Board of Supervisors

Mark Moore - Chair (Elected - term expires in 2013)

Lynn Brown - Vice Chair (Appointed - term expires in 2011)

Jeff Brunson - Auditor (Elected - term expires in 2012)

Bill Boyum - Member (Appointed - term expires in 2013)

Ron Gibb - Member (Elected - term expires in 2014)

District Staff

Anna Lael - District Manager

Sara Leist - Financial Manager

Suzanne Wade - GIS Specialist

Mark Crowley - Resource Technician II

Ryan Roberts - District Engineer

Sherry Swanson - Project Manager

Brent Dixon - Resource Technician

Board meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. The schedule for the rest of the year:

May 12	7:00 PM
June 9	7:00 PM
July 14	7:00 PM
August 11	7:00 PM
September 8	7:00 PM
October 13	7:00 PM
November 10	1:00 PM
December 8	1:00 PM

Meeting notices are also posted on the KCCD web page and at the KCCD office. Additional special meetings are occasionally held throughout the year. For more information or to receive e-mail notifications of meetings, contact Anna or Sara at 925-8585 ext 4 or sara-leist@conserveva.net.

Keep up with current activities! Follow our blog

<http://kittitascd.blogspot.com/>

or follow us on Facebook!

Plant Sale a Success

The 14th Annual Roy & Marge Bach Memorial Conservation Plant Sale was a great success! We filled over 180 orders (including pre-orders and walk-in's) with nearly 7,000 trees and shrubs. A big thank you to our volunteers (Darlene, Jonelle, Ken, Crystal, Brent and all the Master Gardeners!).

Each year, hundreds of elementary school students across Kittitas County benefit from the proceeds of the Plant Sale. The proceeds are used to fund activities from planting trees and shrubs on school property, to buying science kits, to field trips highlighting local and regional natural resources. Over the years, funds have been provided to individual teachers and classes as well as for other broader groups. The Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day, hosted by WSU Extension is a great example. Funds are provided to bus third graders from around the county to the Kittitas County Event Center. Once there, kids have the opportunity to visit stations that teach them about livestock, crops, and conservation in our County. In 2010, three applications were approved, including the Ag Appreciation bus costs, support for 5th Grade Camp, and a project on Lake Easton to clean up and provide garbage receptacles for fishing line. In 2011, four more applications were approved including science kits focused on composting, Ag Appreciation bus costs, support for Cle Elum-Roslyn High School Key Club's fundraising dinner to kick off a new green initiative centered on recycling and energy conservation and support for the Earth-Day mini unit at Mt. Stuart Elementary.

The KCCD named the plant sale in honor of Roy & Marge Bach. Roy was an avid outdoorsman and friend of the KCCD. Marge was the KCCD secretary for 30 years, retiring in 2000. After Marge's retirement, she continued to volunteer each year to help with the plant sale. The KCCD continues to receive donations in their honor to the Plant Sale fund.



Annual Meeting 2011

The Kittitas County Conservation District's Annual Meeting is our opportunity to recognize partners, cooperators and volunteers for their outstanding contributions to work of the District. 2010's recipients were honored at the February 3rd Annual Meeting.

Partners recognized for their work in 2010 include Lisa Pelly (Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited) and Jennifer Scott (Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife). Lisa has assisted with projects related to the Manastash Creek Restoration Project over the last several years. In 2010, she secured a significant amount of funding for a sprinkler conversion project and she continues to work with KCCD staff and the Manastash Creek Steering Committee to implement additional conservation projects. Jennifer Scott works on the Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (YTAHP) in both Kittitas and Yakima Counties. She provides essential assistance with environmental permit acquisition. Without her dedicated work, many of the YTAHP projects in Kittitas County would not occur.



Award Winners Left to Right: Volunteers Crystal Kossow and Ken Titus; and Conservation Award Winners Martin Bernal (Hillcrest Farms), Lisa Pelly (Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project), Larry Fugle (Wagon Wheel Community), and Jennifer Scott (Dept. of Fish & Wildlife).

KCCD recognized Hillcrest Farms for projects that were completed and initiated in 2010. Hillcrest Farms worked on a project to add a fish screen and fish passage to an irrigation diversion on Coleman Creek in 2009 and early 2010. The project was functional for the 2010 irrigation season. It resulted in an additional 0.5 miles of stream habitat available for rearing salmonids on Coleman Creek. In the fall of 2010, construction began on the Cherry Creek project. Hillcrest Farms maintains an irrigation diversion on Cherry Creek that is shared with a neighboring landowner. The overall project will provide access to additional stream miles and protect fish from entrainment in the irrigation system. KCCD also recognized Larry Fugle, a landowner in the Wagon Wheel Community. Larry helped our roving chipper crew by using some of his own equipment to speed up the hauling of chipped materials during a Firewise project that took place in the Wagon Wheel Community.

Volunteers primarily assist with two activities, the KCCD Annual Board of Supervisors Election and the Roy & Marge Bach Memorial Conservation Plant Sale. In 2010, the following individuals served as Polling Officers during the election: Sandi Chavez, Judy Howard, Bea Cates, Larry Cates, Michelle Loun, and Ken Titus.

The Plant Sale is an annual spring event. The success of the plant sale is due in part to the volunteers that help with the sorting prior to the sale and assistance during the plant pick-up days. Volunteers sort the seedlings in a refrigerated trailer donated by a friend of the KCCD. On the days customers pick up their orders, members of the WSU Master Gardener's Program are available to answer questions and provide information. If all this work was completed by paid staff from the KCCD, the amount of funding available for educational programs would be greatly reduced. For their work in 2010, the following volunteers were honored by the KCCD: Ken Titus, Crystal Kossow, Jonelle Bull, Darlene Carlton, Betty Cervine, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), WSU Master Gardeners, Brent Reitmeier and Mel Shenyer.

Finally, service pins are awarded by our state association. This year three Board members were presented 5 and 20 year pins for their service on the Board of Supervisors.



Board members receiving service pins: Jeff Brunson (5 year pin), Mark Moore (20 year pin) and Ron Gibb (5 year pin).

Information from the Farm Service Agency

DCP Sign up and Advance Payments

Enrollment for the 2011 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) has begun and will continue through June 1, 2011. Advance payments of 22% on the 2011 DCP program are currently available if you are interested. The remaining 78% of your DCP payment will be issued after October 1, 2011.



CRP General Sign up

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is offering a general sign up period from March 14, 2011 through April 15, 2011. This is the second consecutive year that USDA has offered a general CRP sign up. Landowners enrolled in the CRP program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible farmland. Land that is not currently enrolled in CRP can be offered during sign-up if all eligibility requirements are met. CRP participants with contracts expiring this fall can make new contract offers during the sign up period. Contracts awarded during this general sign up will become effective October 1, 2011. For more information, please contact Betty or Brent at (509) 925-8585 ext 2 or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/crp>.

Acreage Reporting for 2011

Acreage reporting time will soon be here. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits in a variety of programs.

Failed acreage must be reported within 15 days of the disaster event and before disposition of the crop. Prevented planting must be reported no later than 15 days after the final planting date.

For your convenience, letters will be sent out soon indicating the date and time you can come in to report your 2011 acreage.

Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices. DCP contract signatures for enrollment are due by the sign up deadline of June 1, 2011. For more information producers can contact Betty or Brent at (509) 925-8585 ext 2.

Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Election News and Results

The Kittitas County Conservation District Election Supervisor resolved on February 18, 2011, to inform the voting public that the incumbent, Ronald Gibb, was re-elected to the currently open seat by reason of being the only person filing for the position by the filing deadline of February 17, 2011. Therefore, no poll site, absentee balloting, or mail balloting was performed on March 17, 2011, pursuant to WAC 135-110-370. For further information, please contact the KCCD at 509-925-8585, ext. 4

March also brought the end of election season, as any applications for appointed position on our Board were due to the Washington Conservation Commission on March 31, 2011. For further information, please contact the KCCD at 509-925-8585, ext. 4



Ron Gibb, Board member



Visit KCCD on the web at kccd.net

Agricultural Burn Information

According to the Department of Ecology's (DOE) website (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/agricultural_homepage.htm), permits are required to do any agricultural burning. Agricultural burning is setting fire to:

- Crop residue after harvest in order to reduce excess plant material and hinder pest infestations
- Fruit tree debris from orchards after pruning or tree removal
- Cereal grain (wheat, barley, corn and oats) stubble after harvest

Although you can obtain burn permits for agricultural burning at our office, we do this as a service to the landowners in the area and have no regulatory authority. Any questions regarding burning should be directed to Ecology and your local fire department. The following information was sent to the District regarding burning. For more information see Ecology's website or call the Washington Agricultural Burn Hotline at 1-800-406-5322 .

ONLY NATURAL VEGETATION MAY BE BURNED**

Land Clearing:

Burning from projects that clear the land surface so it can be developed, used for a different purpose, or left unused. e.g. Tearing out orchard for development, clearing trees to build home. * Land clearing burning not allowed inside the UGA (Urban Growth Area).

Special Burn:

Other outdoor burning that does not fit into Land Clearing or Agricultural categories. Residential piles larger than 4ft x 4ft x 3ft outside the UGA or non residential burning. * Special permits may not be issued for residential burning inside the UGA.

Fire Training:

Burning for Firefighter instruction fires. Typically residential homes donated for training. Permits required for residential homes inside the UGA only. *Permit and Asbestos Notification form required for commercial structures inside the UGA.

Storm and Flood Debris:

Natural debris deposited on lands and burned on such lands by storm or flood that resulted in Declared Emergency in past two years. *May be issued inside the UGA with emergency declaration by city, county or state.

AG Spot Burn Permit:

Generally for areas that are ½ Acre or less in size e.g. small weed patches, spots of heavy residue. Good for up to 10 cumulative acres and 1 total acre at a time. \$25.00 fee.

AG Orchard Tear-Out:

Tearing out orchard trees on land that is going to stay in agriculture. Also issued for orchards with certified pest infestation. \$2.25/Acre \$50.00 Minimum fee

AG Field burn:

Issued for agriculture field burning if it meets Best Management Practices. \$2.25/Acre \$25.00 Minimum fee

Legal Types of Burning That Do Not Require a Permit from Ecology:

Outdoor Burning (WAC 173-425)

1. Residential: Under 4ft x 4ft x 3 ft outside the UGA
2. Recreational: Cooking fires or campfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes with fuel load under 3 ft in diameter and 2 ft in height.
3. Tumbleweeds: Typically Russian Thistle or Mustard must be broken off and blown about by the wind.

Agricultural Burning (WAC 173-430) Only Commercial Ag Operation (sells fruit and claims on taxes)

1. Orchard Pruning's: Not whole trees or grafted trees
2. Organic Debris along Fence lines: Areas unworkable by equipment
3. Organic Debris Along or In Irrigation Ditches: Areas unworkable by equipment
4. Organic Debris blown by wind: Tumbleweeds



Cost-Share Programs Offered to

Small Project Cost Share



A landowner used funding from the Small Cost Share Program to help install pipe to deliver KRD water.

The KCCD's annual Small Project Cost Share Program will be offered again this year with applications available beginning August 3rd. The program provides both technical design and financial assistance. The maximum funding available to an individual landowner contract is 50% of the project cost, up to \$3,000.

Examples of funded projects include sprinkler conversions, riparian planting projects, gated pipe projects and piping delivery ditches. Seven projects were implemented under last year's cost share totaling \$18,000.

Applications will be available at the office, or you can download an application from our website, kccd.net from August 2nd through September 16th. Applications must be received at the office by 4:30 p.m. September 16th, 2011. Contact Mark Crowley at 925-8585 ext. 4 for more information.

Firewise Cost Share

The KCCD is offering fire protection cost share assistance on a yearly basis as funding is available to qualified landowners. Applications for fire protection cost share will be available August 3rd and accepted until September 8th. Projects can include, but are not limited to, Firewise home assessments and plans, fuel reduction projects or Firewise workshops. Last year over \$20,000 was distributed for Firewise projects under this cost share program.

Interested parties can pick up an application at the KCCD office or download one from our website (kccd.net) beginning August 2, 2011.

Completed applications must be received at the office by 4:30 p.m. August 31st. Contact Suzanne at 509 925-8585 ext. 113 or email suzanne-wade@conserve.wa.net if you have questions.



The WCC (Washington Conservation Corp) operates a roving chipper to chip fuels left along the road by landowners in the Wagon Wheel Community.

Assist Landowner within our District Boundaries.

PAM Cost Share Program

The Kittitas County Conservation District, with funding from the Washington Conservation Commission and Kittitas County, is continuing to offer a cost share program for private landowners interested in reducing soil erosion through the use of Polyacrylamides (PAM). The cost share rate is 50% with a limit of \$1,000 per applicant (50% of \$2,000 in receipted PAM purchases). Any fields where PAM is used are eligible for the program.

PAM has been proven through numerous local field trials to reduce sediment levels in tailwater by as much as 80%. PAM is most commonly applied to sweet corn, potatoes, small grain and new seeding hay crops. It is an effective method to minimize the loss of soil and nutrients as well as reducing silt deposition in county maintained road ditches and improving the quality of tailwater entering streams and eventually the Yakima River.

Again this season, cost share for PAM application devices is available. The cost share rate is 50% with a limit of \$150 per cooperator (50% of \$300 in receipted purchases of PAM applicators). This brings total cost share payments to a maximum of \$1,150 per cooperator per year. Please call Brent at 925-8585 ext. 4 for more information.



Photo courtesy of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Current KCCD Projects Funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Manastash Creek Diversion Consolidation

This project includes the construction of the consolidated pipeline, an 8,000 linear foot system delivers irrigation water to the Hatfield, Reed and Anderson ditches. Construction is tentatively slated to begin in the fall of 2011.

Teanaway 3M Ditch Project

This project addresses the conversion of a gravity diversion ditch to individual small pump diversions. The 3M Ditch intake on the Teanaway River included a gravel push-up dam that impacted fish passage during summer and fall low flows. The individual small pump diversions will require a pump, electrical services and pipelines to deliver the water to the current irrigation systems at each of the five water right holders' respective properties. Construction of the first pump stations is expected in 2011.

Manastash Barriers

This project includes the removal of a passage barrier on Manastash Creek, as a part of the continuing work implemented through the Manastash Creek Restoration Project. With its removal, steelhead will have access to an additional 1.5 miles of habitat in a stream that likely historically supported a significant steelhead population and is considered essential in the recovery of Mid Columbia Summer Steelhead. It is also a significant step in toward the removal of all barriers in Manastash Creek.

Teanaway River – Red Bridge Road Project

This project addresses the correction of a fish passage barrier on the mainstem Teanaway River that may block fish passage into the majority of the Teanaway watershed. The barrier is created as a result of damage created during the January 2009 flood event. A head cut dropped the elevation of the Teanaway River to a point that forced water right holders to create rock and gravel dams to direct water into their pump station. This project proposes to construct four channel spanning rock weirs to stabilize the streambed and return the river to an elevation that allows water to flow to the pump station. The project will benefit summer steelhead, spring chinook and bull trout who migrate into the Teanaway River to spawn and rear.

Upper Kittitas Aquifer Study Begins Next Week

TACOMA, Wash. — A groundwater study that will look at groundwater in Upper Kittitas County aquifers is set to begin this week, and well owners are asked to play an important part in the study.

An ongoing USGS Yakima River Basin study indicates that groundwater and surface water are interconnected, but the aquifers and other geologic layers beneath the upper part of Kittitas County are not well understood. In cooperation with Kittitas County and the Washington State Department of Ecology, the USGS is conducting a major study of the western Kittitas County groundwater-flow system to provide current, complete scientific information for making good decisions about managing this important resource.

USGS field crews are planning to measure water levels in over 100 water wells throughout the upper part of the county in order to get a clear picture of how much ground water is there, and where it is.

“We’ll be working in the basin for about three weeks, starting April 20,” said Matt Ely, USGS hydrologist and project chief for the study. To get an accurate, scientific assessment of the basin’s groundwater, as many well measurements as possible are needed. The USGS is asking individual well owners to help out by allowing their wells’ levels to be measured.

“Well owners play a big part in getting an accurate assessment,” Ely said. “Information from their wells is the cornerstone in estimating total ground-water availability for all residents of the upper county.”

The USGS field crew of about 5 scientists will begin measurements this week and will continue through May 13. More information about the USGS study is available on-line at <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/kittitasgw/>.



Study area.

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