

NEWS RELEASE

Kittitas County Conservation District

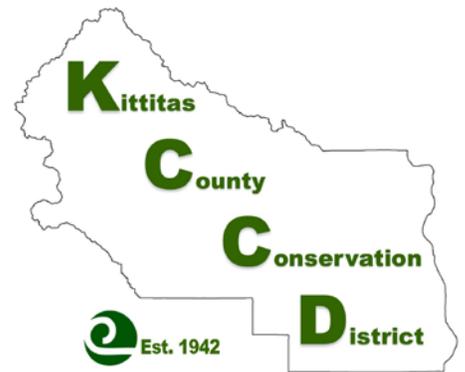
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Second Application Cut-off Date for 5-Year Program Announced

ELLENSBURG, Wash. (September 28, 2018) – The Kittitas County Conservation District announces a November 2, 2018 application deadline for the second sign-up period for the “Yakima Integrated Plan- Toppenish To Teanaway” project. This project is a five-year effort to address insufficient water/drought, water quality degradation, and inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife in priority areas in Kittitas County through the USDA’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

The Kittitas County Conservation District is accepting applications immediately. Interested farmers, ranchers or landowners should contact the District at 509-925-3352 or 2211 W Dolarway Road, Ellensburg.

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

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

The first sign-up period was conducted in 2017 and resulted in more than \$750,00 in seven contracts with landowners to improve irrigation water use efficiency on nearly 500 acres of cropland in the Kittitas Valley. This second sign-up is expected to fund a similar number of contracts.

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

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