

Kittitas County Conservation District

Serving Landowners in Kittitas County Since 1942

October 2019



Kittitas County Conservation District
2211 W Dolarway, Suite #4
Ellensburg, WA 98926

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Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition Releases Interactive Map for Homeowners

Landowner Report
Report date: Sep 17, 2019
Approximate report location: 39 Leo Lane, Cle Elum, Washington 98922, United States

WILDFIRE IN KITTITAS COUNTY

Thank you for taking the time to report your wildfire preparedness actions.

This report summarizes the wildfire risk in the vicinity of your property, as reported on the Kittitas County Fire Adapted map.

Even if the fire risk in your area appears low, be aware that all locations in Kittitas County are at risk from embers created by a wildfire.

KNOW YOUR FOREST

You reported that the forest in your area is primarily made up of **Ponderosa Pine** with fire return intervals of **8-15 years**. Learn more about forest types here: bit.ly/2K4hMB.

UNDERSTAND YOUR RISK

Wildfire risk varies by location throughout Kittitas County.

According to State of Washington data, wildfire risk in your area is **Very High**. The average number of fire starts per year in your area is **6.4**. Since 1973, **4** large wildfires have burned in your area.

Average fire starts per year within a 10-mile radius of your location: **6.4**

Number of large wildfires over 100 acres within a 10-mile radius of your location since 1973: **4**

General wildfire risk in your area: **Very High**

Visit Kittitas County's Fire Adapted map to explore fire risk and other critical data.

YOUR RESOURCES

Your Fire District:
Cle Elum Fire Department
509-933-7235
bit.ly/2Lj1ei

Your FIREWISE USA® Recognized Community:
Hidden Valley Vistas
Learn More About the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC):
bit.ly/2KxACWU
bit.ly/2IOUAMT

Free Onsite Risk Consultations
A free risk consultation is available through the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
509-925-3352 x204 (KCCD)
509-925-0974 (DNR)

Kittitas County Community Wildfire Protection Plan
bit.ly/2YRwbVi

Maps & Data
bit.ly/2Llmols

Visit Kittitas County's Fire Adapted map to explore fire risk and other critical data.

Participation in the on-line map results in a personalized fire plan like this emailed directly to you.

Homeowners in Kittitas County can access information about their land and explore their wildfire preparedness through an on-line interactive website called the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities map. This map includes information about past fires, forest health, and how to create and maintain defensible space. The site provides a personal fire plan and an opportunity to request a free consultation with trained staff from the Kittitas County Conservation District or the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Fall is a great time for homeowners to revisit or create their own plan for maintaining vegetation within the defensible space around their homes. Taking action now will ease the spring workload and leave you more prepared as next fire season approaches. Early fall evenings offer an opportunity to gather your family and discuss what happens if there is a wildfire and how you will stay safe during evacuation. These are critical preparation actions that improve safety for homes and families and help first responders who will suppress future fires in and around our communities.

Visit the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Map (<https://kittitasfireadapted.mapseed.org>) to

get started now on your personal fire plan and learn about becoming more fire adapted in your neighborhood. This interactive site has users answer questions about their home and property, and users are able to upload photos of their own preparedness actions to help encourage others in the community.

The Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities map is the result of local, state and national discussion to provide education and connect landowners with resources to better protect their homes and create and maintain defensible space in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The WUI is where development meets natural vegetation. Areas adjacent to the WUI are in the "Ember Zone", an area where the wind driven embers from a wildland fire as far as a mile away can threaten property and lives. Homeowners in these areas can greatly reduce the risk of their house catching fire by implementing defensible space. These actions com-

See *Defensible*, Page 4

Voluntary Stewardship Program Underway



KCCD District Manager Anna Lael presents the Voluntary Stewardship Program at the Saddle Mountain Supply grower meeting earlier this year.

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is well underway and is being implemented by the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD). VSP is a non-regulatory, incentive-based approach to protecting critical areas on agricultural lands, while maintaining agriculture viability. VSP allows farmers and ranchers to continue agricultural practices without regulation under Kittitas County's Critical Areas Ordinance by promoting voluntary stewardship strategies and practices that protect critical areas and maintain and enhance agricultural viability. To date, the goals and objectives set out by the Kittitas County VSP Work Plan are on track to be met or exceeded.

The Work Plan was completed and approved in May 2018 and includes protection and enhancement objectives to be met by both 2020 and 2025. A recent interim report submitted to the Washington State Conservation Commission, documented 169 stewardship practices implemented from 2017 through June 2019 in partnership with federal, state and local programs that are available to landowners and producers. The practices implemented realized benefits including improving water use efficiency, reducing irrigation induced erosion, opening previously blocked habitat for listed fish species, improving instream and upland habitat conditions, and

See *VSP*, Page 6



April 28, 1937- Wind erosion with fine soil blowing off fields that have been prepared for seeding. Tom Hamilton farm, 14 miles southeast of Ellensburg.

Who is the Kittitas County Conservation District?

The Kittitas County Conservation District works with local landowners and land managers (public and private) to conserve natural resources that are vital to our economy and our quality of life. At the heart of our work are collaborative efforts to partner with landowners, public agencies, tribes and the general public to create and maintain resilient working landscapes through voluntary incentive based measures. We are also a political subdivision of the state organized under RCW 89.08.

Our District's roots run deep in the community. The Kittitas Conservation District was created in 1942, followed by the Cle Elum Conservation District in 1948, as part of a national response to the Dust Bowl. The two districts combined in the 1960's to create the Kittitas County Conservation District. Although we have County in our name, we are not part of County government. We are separate entity with a Board of Supervisors who are volunteers and a staff primarily supported by grant funding.

We have many partners from small local non-profits all the way to federal agencies and everything in between. One of our oldest partners is the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service. Today, we are located in the same building as the USDA Service Center that includes both NRCS and the Farm Service Agency.

For more information on the history of the KCCD, visit <https://www.kccd.net/history>



KCCD's website has been updated. Check it out at <https://www.kccd.net>

KCCD Annual Election & Appointments for Board Members

Each Conservation District in Washington is governed by a board of five members, referred to as "supervisors." Three supervisors are elected locally by the public. Two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. At least two of the elected and one of the appointed supervisors must be local landowners or operators of a farm. The term of office is three years. Supervisors serve without compensation — they are volunteers.

All Conservation District elections occur in the first quarter of the calendar year (January-March). The notice of intent to set the election for the Kittitas County Conservation District is typically published in November and the resolution setting the election and designating the elections officer is passed at the December monthly meeting. The election is usually held in early February. Please follow <https://www.kccd.net/elections> for information about the 2020 election. Applications for appointed positions are held by the Washington State Conservation Commission and are due March 31, 2020.

Kittitas County Conservation District

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mark Moore - Chair (Elected - term expires 2022)

Lynn Brown - Vice Chair (Appointed - term expires in 2020)

Jeff Brunson - Auditor (Elected - term expires in 2021)

Bill Boyum - Member (Appointed - term expires in 2022)

Matt Eslinger - Member (Elected - term expires in 2020)

DISTRICT STAFF

Anna Lael - District Manager

Miranda Nash - Financial Manager

Mark Crowley - Conservation Planner

Sherry Swanson – Manastash Project Manager

Ryan Roberts - District Engineer

Brent Dixon - Natural Resource Project Manager

Wendy Mee - Resource Technician

Nathan Longoria - Resource Technician

MEETINGS

Board meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month at the District office. The schedule for the year is as follows:

April through October - 7:00 a.m.

November through March - 1:00 p.m.

Meeting notices are also posted on the District web page (<https://www.kccd.net/district-documents>) and at the District office. Additional special meetings are held as needed throughout the year.

For more information or to receive e-mail notifications of meetings, contact Miranda at 925-3352 ext 201 or m-nash@conservewa.net

PLANNING DOCUMENTS

The District's Long Range Plan 2017-2021 and Annual Plan of Work for FY 2020 (July 2019 to June 2020) are available at <https://www.kccd.net/district-documents> or at the District office.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program Applications Due November 22

The Kittitas County Conservation District announces a November 22, 2019 application deadline for assistance with on-farm irrigation system improvements, livestock management practices (fences, watering facilities) and riparian and instream habitat. 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.

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

This is the third of four sign-ups. The first two (2017 and 2018) resulted in a total of 15 contracts for more than \$1.7 million with landowners to improve irrigation water use efficiency on more than 850 acres of cropland in Kittitas County.



More than a dozen landowners have contracted for on-farm improvements like this sprinkler irrigation system through the RCPP project since 2017



KCCD's Sherry Swanson (l) and NRCS Engineer Lynelle Knehans inspect a completed EQIP project in 2018

Healthy Forest Reserve Program Applications Due October 31

In August 2019, KCCD announced the October 31, 2019 application deadline to sign-up for the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP). Land enrolled in HFRP easements must be privately owned and restore, enhance or measurably increase the recovery of threatened or endangered species, improve biological diversity or increase carbon storage.

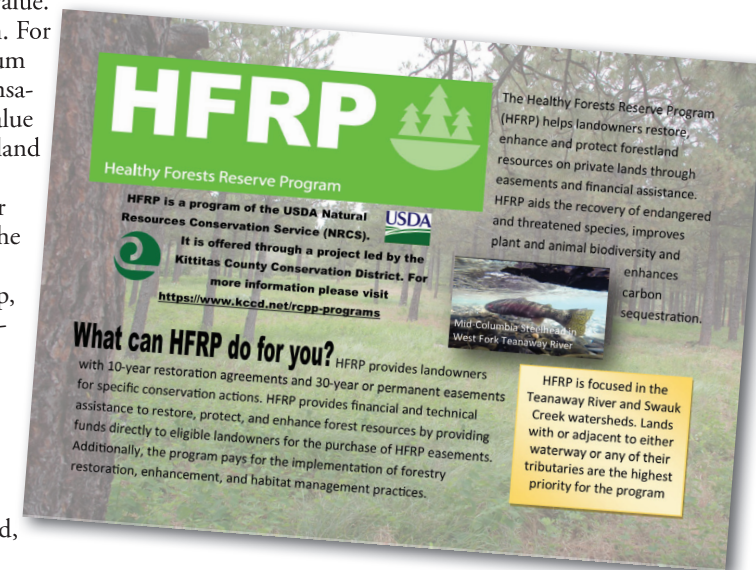
Funding for HFRP is provided through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The program provides financial and technical assistance to restore, protect, and enhance forest resources by providing funds directly to eligible landowners for the purchase of HFRP easements. Additionally, NRCS pays for the implementation of forestry restoration, enhancement, and habitat management practices.

HFRP is focused in the Teanaway and Swauk Watersheds with a priority on private lands including or adjacent to the Teanaway River or Swauk Creek and any of their tributaries. HFRP includes provisions for forest conservation easements and habitat restoration to benefit mid-Columbia Summer Steelhead. Landowners who enroll in the HFRP

will be paid up to 100% of the appraised easement value. Easements can be 30 years or permanent in duration. For permanent easements and easements for the maximum duration available under State law, easement compensation provides up to 100 percent of the fair market value of the enrolled land less the fair market value of the land encumbered by the easement. Restoration payments provide up to 100 percent of the restoration costs for the permanent easements and up to 75 percent for the 30-year easements.

HFRP applicants must provide proof of ownership, or an operator (tenant) must provide written concurrence from the landowner of tenancy for the period of the HFRP restoration agreement in order to be eligible.

Applications are being accepted now and instructions are available here: <https://www.kccd.net/rcpp-programs>. Interested landowners should contact the District at 509-925-3352 or 2211 W Dolarway Road, Ellensburg for more information.



These programs are available in Kittitas County through 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 project was one of 88 high impact projects across the country that was approved for funding through RCPP in December 2016. For

more information on that project, visit <https://www.kccd.net/rcpp>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohib-

ited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Defensible - continued from page 1

pleted by individuals, neighborhoods and communities help to build and sustain a fire adapted community.

This map was developed by the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) as part of the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC). KFACC is a local group of partners with a mission to increase

community resiliency to wildfire by providing education, planning, and technical assistance for implementing activities with the people that live, work, and recreate in Kittitas County. The Kittitas County Conservation District utilized funding from a Washington Department of Natural Resources grant to create the map. The map was developed and reviewed by KFACC members including

KCCD, DNR, county fire districts and departments, the cities of Roslyn and Cle Elum, Kittitas County, US Forest Service, Suncadia, Washington Farm Forestry Association and The Nature Conservancy.

Don't let the first time you educate yourself on wildfire be in the aftermath, join us and be a part of the conversation today!

Fall is Time to Work on Defensible Space

Defensible space is one of the most cost-effective and proven ways to protect your home from wildfire. Fall is definitely here and spending time now can help lessen your workload in the spring. Following these tips can help create a buffer of concentric circles extending outward around your home.

Zone 1: Structural Ignition Zone (0-5' applies to any structures/outbuildings across property) where the goal is to prevent ember penetration and limit combustible material accumulations

- Clean roofs, attic vents and gutters of debris such as dead leaves and pine needles.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles.
- Install 1/8 metal screening over vents (attic, eaves, dryer and foundation).
- Replace or repair any damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows.
- Screen or box in areas below decks or porches. Remove combustible materials adjacent to exterior walls and/or under decks and porches.

Zone 2: Firebreak Zone (5-30') (extend further if located on a slope) where the goal is to limit abundance and connectivity of fuels

- Clear vegetation from under and around stationary propane tanks.
- Create inorganic fuel breaks with driveways, pathways and patios.
- Prune tree canopies up 10' or 1/3 of total height, whichever is less.
- Remove potential ladder fuels under tree canopies. Space trees to ensure a mature canopy no closer than 10' from structures and between canopy drip-lines (the distance increasing with percent slope).
- Create isolated islands of more closely spaced of trees/shrubs (no more than 6 per clump).

Zone 3: Reduced Fuel zone (30-100') where the goal is to influence potential fire behavior so that flames are kept short and low and promote healthy tree communities.

- Thin trees to 5-10' between canopy drip-lines while

maintaining a mixed, healthy composition.

- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees
- Remove damaged, diseased or tall, skinny trees with <30% live crown.
- Prune or remove any lower branches infected with dwarf mistletoe.
- Remove green trees infested with bark beetle, cut for firewood.
- Limb or thin Ponderosa Pine in the fall to give any slash piles time to dry in order to prevent bark beetle infestations.
- Isolate and/or dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter, debris.
- Limit and isolate slash piles (2 per acre) and large downed logs (2-6 per acre) for wildlife.
- Follow all state and local regulations for burning slash.

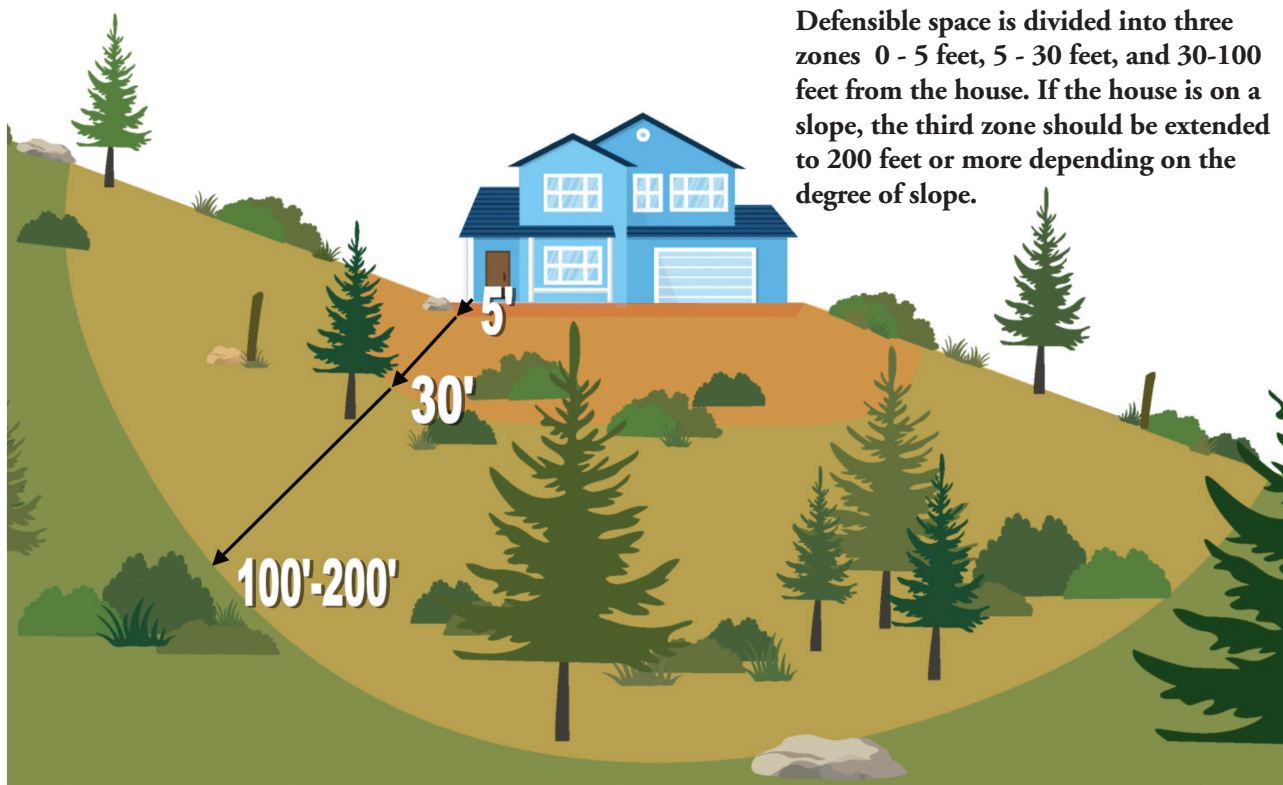
Remember that fire can move very rapidly up hill.

Homes located on a slope should at least double the widths of zones 2 and 3 to be an effective defensible space.

Safe access and egress is vital for both homeowners and emergency responders alike. Provide driveways which extend beyond the defensible space zones with a 10' wide, zone 2 type buffer on both sides.

Would you like help determining what actions you should take towards creating defensible space?

Help is always available through the KCCD (509-925-3352, ext. 204) or the Washington Department of Natural Resources (509-925-0974). Staff can do a site visit with you to assess your property and suggest actions you can take to reduce your fire risk.



Defensible space is divided into three zones 0 - 5 feet, 5 - 30 feet, and 30-100 feet from the house. If the house is on a slope, the third zone should be extended to 200 feet or more depending on the degree of slope.

Landscaping For Fire

Landscaping can be beautiful and fire resistant at the same time. Fall is a good time to consider some changes that will help your defensible space.

Mulches: consider using inorganic, non-combustible mulching material such as gravels or decorative rocks rather than wood bark mulch, especially within 5' of any structure. Organic mulches could be used in isolated, island plantings in zones 2 or 3.

Existing Vegetation: evaluate existing vegetation in relationship to flammability. Plants within this category often have some of the following characteristics:

- High resin content
 - Low moisture content
 - High percent dead fuel material
 - High surface area to volume ratio (fine-textured)
- Arborvitaes, Firs, Hemlocks, Junipers, Pines, Spruces and Yews fall into this category and are highly flammable. If you have them, ensure that they are well away from any structure, isolated, healthy and kept cleaned up. Consider replacing highly fire prone vegetation with more fire resistant vegetation. Plants with low flammability often have some of the following characteristics:

- High soap or salt content
- High moisture content in leaves
- Little seasonal build-up of dead vegetation
- Low, compact form

Consider replacing more fire prone vegetation with fire resistant vegetation. Following is a partial list of more



Incorporating native vegetation, especially wild flowers can add beautiful color to a landscape and are fire resistant.

fire resistant plant options:

Groundcover: sedums, woodland strawberry, ice plant, speedwell, Dianthus species

Vines: sweet peas, grapes, trumpet honeysuckle, hops

Herbaceous: asters, blanket flower, blue flax, poppies, columbine, daylilies, hardy geraniums

Shrubs: mock orange, sumac, snowberry, barberry, serviceberry, elderberry, chokecherry

Deciduous trees: maples, hawthorns, gambel oak, Mt. Ash

Non-turf grasses: blue fescue, junegrass

Consistent maintenance is absolutely essential to a fire resistant landscape. Any plant allowed to grow unchecked and that is poorly maintained can become a fire hazard. Practice, "if it is brown, trim it down" and remember that "Lean, Clean and Green" are the essentials to a fire-resistant landscape. Contact Wendy at 925-3352 ext. 204 for more information or to schedule a site visit.



Junipers are resinous and highly flammable making them susceptible to burning embers. They should be avoided in the defensible space near homes.



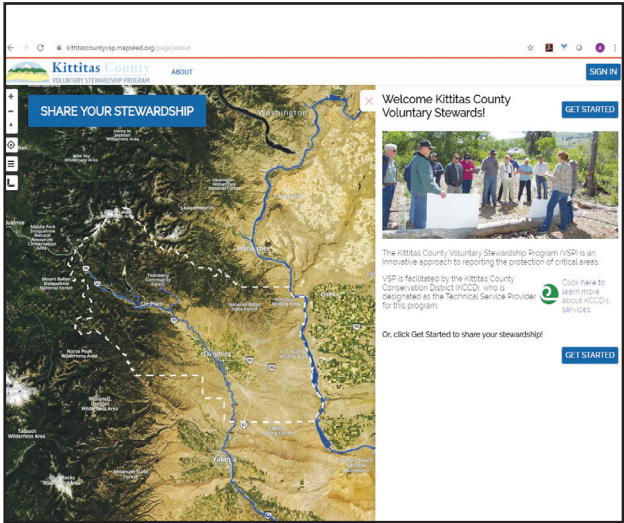
Rock and walkways provide great defensible space and can be intermixed with groundcover and shrub plantings for an attractive look.

Community Invited to Pint Night



Join the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC) for Pint Night at the Iron Horse Brewery on Tuesday October 29 from 4PM to 9PM. KFACC is a local organization committed to a more fire adapted community for all. That means that our communities are ready for all stages - before, during and after fire. Through our partners and members, we work together to bring grant programs for fuels reduction and educational materials for Kittitas County. Come meet KFACC partners and have a conversation about what you can do to prepare yourself or how you can participate in KFACC. Have a pint and support the cause!

VSP - continued from page 1



improving grazing conditions. The projects included protections for all five critical areas (wetlands, habitat conservation areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, geologically hazardous areas, and frequently flooded areas).

Stewardship practices are broadly defined as any practice that, when implemented, further protects critical areas directly or indirectly, and maintains or improves agricultural viability whether or not they meet a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice or other standard recognized by VSP. Successful implementation of VSP will require that the agricultural community demonstrate their ability to protect critical areas potentially impacted by agricultural activities using voluntary approaches.

All private landowners who conduct agricultural practices on their property are strongly encouraged to

learn more about the five critical areas and whether they are present where agricultural practices are occurring. KCCD now has an on-line interactive map (<https://kittitascountyvsp.mapseed.org>) that landowners may use to review critical areas relative to their property. It also includes a survey where landowners may report stewardship practices they've implemented (whether they are funded through state and federal programs or self-funded). Any stewardship practices shared by a landowner will only be reported together with all other reported data at the watershed level. Data collected by the KCCD is generally exempt from the Public Records Act and privacy of individual landowners will be maintained.

If landowners prefer, KCCD staff can complete a more detailed VSP inventory that includes a summary of all critical areas, suggestions of stewardship practices to implement and documenting practices already implemented that can count toward the Work Plan goals. Interested landowners may contact Brent Dixon at the KCCD office (925-3352 ext. 3 or brent-dixon@conservewa.net) to request a VSP inventory.

For more information, visit www.kccd.net/voluntary-stewardship-program



Agricultural Appreciation Day a Success

The 18th annual Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day was held on Tuesday April 9, 2019 with all 3rd grade classrooms in Kittitas County attending. The Kittitas County Conservation District extends a great thank you to the school administrators and teachers for believing in the importance of students learning the value of agriculture in our County. Ag Day is provided to the schools at no cost through generous donations from the Kittitas County Cattlemen's Association, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Timothy Hay Growers & Suppliers, and the Kittitas County Water Purveyors to cover the transportation expenses. The Kittitas County CattleWomen provide lunch for the station presenters. The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners and Kittitas Valley Event Center ensure the facilities are available for this event. This year's event consisted of ten stations with 10 minute presentation about: Crops (KCCD, Wendy Mee), Livestock (Ellensburg FFA, C&A Livestock, and Jayme Ritter), Hay (Ellensburg FFA), Wagon Ride (Three Peaks Outfitters, Megan Zapel, and Graysen Cook), Farm Equipment (Washington Tractor, Broadmoor Farms, Steven Heithusen, and Andrew Meyer), Noxious Weed

(Noxious Weed Board, Marc Eyler), Hand Washing (Stefanie McCann and Connie Dunnington), Technology (Kittitas FFA), Water (Water Purveyors, Kat Satnik), and Dairy (Ellensburg FFA). Seven senior 4-H members from Get Up & Go, Country Roots, Fairview, and This N That 4-H clubs and five members from Kittitas FFA served as group leaders. The time and enthusiasm of all these volunteers are greatly appreciated.

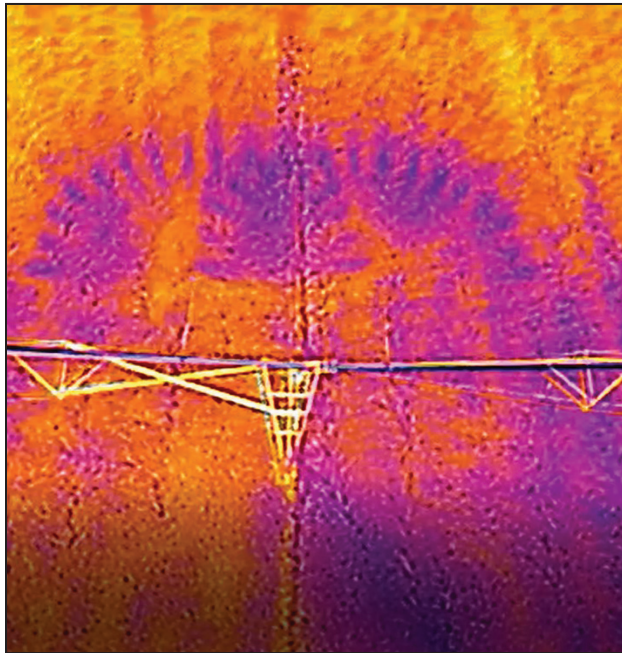


The Kittitas County VSP Watershed Group leads and guides the implementation of the VSP Work Plan. They are responsible to ensure that the goals and benchmarks meet the intent of the program while protecting and enhancing agriculture in Kittitas County. The Watershed Group includes representatives of agriculture, tribes and environmental interests. Current members include representatives of the Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Organization of Kittitas County Timothy Hay Growers, Kittitas County Cattlemen, Cascade Irrigation District, Kittitas Reclamation District, individual farmers from upper county, lower county, dryland and small acreages, Swauk-Teaway Grange, Yakama Nation, Kittitas Conservation Trust, Trout Unlimited and Washington Water Trust. The next meeting of the Watershed Group is October 25, 10-noon at the Armory Room A and is open to the public. For more information visit: <https://www.kccd.net/kittitas-county-watershed-group>

Drought Assistance

Although irrigation season is over, there are still technical services available through the KCCD to address drought conditions. The drought emergency as declared by the Governor is active through the end of the year. Drought assistance funding allowed KCCD to purchase a drone and thermal camera as well as additional flow monitoring equipment.

The drone and camera are available for the purposes of assessing fields for water use efficiency. The thermal data can show areas with water issues, crop irregularities, and more. Flights this summer showed malfunctioning nozzles on sprinkler systems and leaky gates and pipes. In water short years, this data is especially valuable to help irrigators tightly manage the water



Thermal camera images indicate uneven watering due to a malfunctioning nozzle. Detecting these issues allows producers to make corrections early before the indicator is crop damage.

supply while meeting the crop needs as best possible. In addition to assistance during drought conditions, the drone flights are available to assist with general farm planning and assessments of irrigation water use and crop conditions. Contact Brent Dixon at 925-3352 ext. 202 to set up a site visit and drone flight.

The flow monitoring equipment purchased complements the existing KCCD equipment to measure stream, canal and ditch flows. KCCD now has a Son-Tek HydroBoard which allows faster and more accurate measurements in creeks and canals. It works with the FlowTracker that KCCD has used for several years. The FlowTracker is an acoustic doppler velocimeter, which means it measures both depth and velocity and provides real time measurements of flow in cubic feet per second (cfs). KCCD can conduct flow measures on virtually any flowing water to help irrigators with water management. Contact Sherry Swanson at 925-3352 ext. 206 if you are interested in flow monitoring assistance.

These services will be offered next year as well, so keep that in mind as you plan your next season.



The hydroboard allows for faster and more accurate measurements of flow in canals and creeks.



NRCS Welcomes New Staff


The Ellensburg NRCS field office will be home to a new Resource Conservationist, Holly Taylor. Holly comes to Ellensburg from Fort Benton, Montana and has more than 10 years of experience working with private landowners and partner organizations. She has experience working with cropland as well as range and various other land uses. She has also spent more than 2 years in the Peace Corps and has a Master's degree in natural resource management. Holly can be reached 925-8585 ext. 3.

Funds Available for Conservation Projects through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service



Typical projects include those associated with private non-industrial forests, range, agricultural land, and other land uses associated with private lands. Sign-ups for NRCS programs are continuous throughout the year, however, producers who meet the application cut off periods (once announced for fiscal year 2020) receive priority consideration. Specifically the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals. Producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land in the form of increased energy efficiency, irrigation improvements, forest health treatments, rangeland improvements and other structural and management conservation practices.

Please visit your local NRCS office for more information about our programs or keep your eyes on the WA NRCS website for updates! <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/>

Kittitas County Conservation District is a Valuable Partner in Hazard Mitigation



2019 Kittitas County Hazard Mitigation Plan
VOLUME 1: PLANNING-AREA-WIDE ELEMENTS
Kittitas County Public Works Department
January 2019



Contributed by the Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District

In Kittitas County we are not strangers to the natural hazards that can put our communities at risk. In the past several years, wildfire has been front and center and affected the entire county. Even those who have not directly seen wildfire move across their property, or have been forced to evacuate, or who have been called to help defend our homes and our communities, have been impacted as smoke has filled our skies and hazardous air quality closed our schools. Drought and flood are two additional hazards that our county routinely addresses. We cannot prevent all hazards, but through planning, partnerships, and project implementation we can take concrete steps to make our communities more resilient. This year, Kittitas County, four incorporated cities (Ellensburg, Cle Elum, South Cle Elum, and Roslyn) and nine special purpose districts (the Conservation District, plus three fire districts, two utility districts, two school districts, and two hospital districts) updated the Kittitas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). This plan has recently been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Vitally, the adoption of this updated plan makes these planning partners eligible for federal grant funding to reduce risks through mitigation.

We have a better plan because of our planning partners participation and the knowledge, insight, and perspectives they all brought to the process. As reflected in the HMP, the Kittitas County Conservation District is a valuable partner in Hazard Mitigation. The HMP highlights the critical role of the Conservation District in increasing the public awareness of risks and the leadership of District can and has taken leading emergency stabilization actions and helps prevent or lessen the impacts from flooding post wildfire. KCCD programs such as the Wildfire Fuels Reduction program and the Voluntary Stewardship Program result in precisely the type of on the ground work that makes a difference during natural hazards.

Additional information about the HMP is available online at:
<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/public-works/hazard-mitigation-plan/default.aspx>

Kittitas County Emergency Management Launches Everbridge Alert System

Get alerted about emergencies and other important notifications by signing up for Kittitas County’s Emergency Alert system. This system enables the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Management to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, wildfires, unexpected road closures, police activity, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. When they issue a notification about a potential safety hazard or situation involving locations that you care

about (your home, workplace, schools), you will receive time-sensitive messages on the voice or text/email communication methods that you have registered. You can register as many or as few delivery methods as you like, such as your home, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages and more. You pick the notification method, they will send you the alerts. Sign up online or download the Everbridge mobile app.
<https://member.everbridge.net/index/337829242601599>



Scan this code to sign up for Kittitas County Sheriff’s Emergency Notifications.”