



FY2023 (7/1/22 – 6/30/23) Annual Work Plan Kittitas County Conservation District

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Mission of the Kittitas County Conservation District

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

Vision of the Kittitas County Conservation District

- 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 & 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.

Natural Resource Priorities

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

- **Water Quantity (Insufficient Water)**
 - Drought resiliency and efficient use of irrigation water is the highest priority in Kittitas County. Nearly all streams are over allocated, creating low flows both to supply irrigation needs and support resident and anadromous fisheries as well as streamside and floodplain vegetation. The [Kittitas Reclamation District](#) (KRD), encompassing 59,000 acres, is pro-rated during water short years. Cascade Irrigation District, Ellensburg Water Company, Westside Irrigating Company and other smaller water purveyors may have non-pro-ratable rights, but they depend highly on return flows from KRD and so are also significantly impacted in water short seasons. Water use efficiency is a high priority of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service ([NRCS](#)) whose [2012 State Resource Assessment](#) ranked "Inefficient use of irrigation water" the number one priority in the area. The [Irrigation Efficiencies Program](#) has contracted projects on 2,800 acres of cropland placing 4,529 acre-feet in the [Washington Trust Water Rights Program](#) in 11 streams since 2002. The 30-year Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan ("Integrated Plan") is being implemented by [US Bureau of Reclamation](#) and the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) in conjunction with the Yakama Nation and Yakima River basin stakeholders (including the Kittitas County Conservation District). The Integrated Plan's benefits include "Providing more water for stream flows that fish need to survive" and "Providing greater water supply reliability for farmers and communities."
- **Forest Health**
 - Fuel loads, insect damage and development into the wildland urban interface in combination with topography and the weather patterns have created substantial resource concerns in forestland as documented in the [Kittitas County Wildfire Protection Plan](#) (2018). Approximately 75,000 acres of high to extreme fire hazard areas are identified on private lands in that plan. In addition, the NRCS 2012 State Resource Assessment identified "undesirable plant productivity and health", "degraded habitat condition", "excessive plant pest pressure", and "wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation" on forestland as priority resource concerns.

The [NRCS](#), [Washington Department of Natural Resources](#), [Washington Fire Adapted Community Learning Network](#), local fire districts and [Kittitas County](#) are working on these issues as well. Home sites and communities within the wildland urban interface are of particular focus and efforts are necessary to establish [fire adapted communities](#) who accept fire as part of the natural landscape and work continuously to improve the resiliency of the landscape. Collaboration with [Teanaway Community Forest Advisory Committee](#) is underway to assist with grazing and water quality concerns, as well as habitat restoration opportunities, both of which crossover into the Water Quality and Fish & Wildlife concerns.

▪ **Water Quality**

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

▪ **Range Health**

- Rangelands provide a diversity of ecosystems and also provide diverse and significant economic benefits. Livestock grazing occurs on private and state-owned range areas. NRCS’s 2012 State Resource Assessment identified “undesirable plant productivity and health”, “degraded habitat condition”, and “excessive plant pest pressure” on rangeland as priority resource concerns. The [NRCS](#), [WSU Extension Kittitas County](#), [Washington Department of Natural Resources](#), [Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#), and [Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Board](#) are working to assist with range monitoring as well as providing technical and/or financial assistance to landowners and users.

▪ **Soil Quality & Health**

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

▪ **Fish & Wildlife**

- Species that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or listed by Washington State as threatened or endangered or species of concern are priority resource issues. Mid-Columbia Summer Steelhead, Bull Trout, and Greater Sage Grouse are all listed as threatened species under ESA and by the State. The Gray Wolf is listed as endangered under ESA and by the State.

NRCS's 2012 State Resource Assessment identifies "Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife" as a priority resource concern in the state, including Kittitas County. The [2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan](#) was written locally and was formally incorporated into NOAA's Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan (2009). The [Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan](#), September 2012, complements and supports the pending US Fish & Wildlife Service Bull Trout Recovery Plan by providing detailed population information and proposing actions to benefit bull trout in the Yakima basin. The [Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program](#) has been working on fish passage and fish screen projects since 2003. KCCD is a founding member of the Core Team and a major project sponsor. Base funding is provided through the [Bonneville Power Administration](#) via the [Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council](#) and matched primarily through the [Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#), [Ecology](#), and local partners. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan includes the goals of "Protecting over 200,000 acres of currently unprotected forest, shrub steppe, and river habitat" and "Enhancing habitat along the Yakima River and its tributaries" an effort intended to benefit fish and wildlife. Other KCCD partners also working to address fish recovery goals include the [Yakama Nation](#), [Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group](#), [Kittitas Conservation Trust](#), and the [Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District](#). The [South Central Washington Shrub Steppe/Rangeland Partnership](#) is also focusing on Sage Grouse habitat in a 2.7-million-acre landscape that includes eastern Kittitas County.

▪ **Working Lands Protection**

- An assessment of tax parcels within the KCCD boundaries indicates that between 2016 and 2021, there was an increase of nearly 11% indicating subdivision of larger parcels. The tax parcels classified as residential with improvements valued greater than \$50,000 increased by 30% in that same time period reflecting the home building boom. From 2010 to 2019, Kittitas County's population grew 17.2%, exceeding the state's 13.2% growth rate during the same time. Rapid population growth in the County accelerated as the pandemic allowed telework so workers could reside in less-densely populated areas. This growth is a significant challenge to working landscapes in Kittitas County. The loss of agricultural land is a substantial concern to the viability of agriculture in Kittitas County. Work to enhance and protect agricultural land and operations is vital to improving the resiliency of remaining working lands.

▪ **Disaster Response**

- Natural hazards are common in Kittitas County including flood, fire, and weather (snow, rain, wind, drought). Recent events have caused millions of dollars in damages including the 2009 and 2011 floods, wildfires (Taylor Bridge, Jolly Mountain, etc.), and droughts. It's imperative that partners (local, state, federal) work together to continuously build capacity to improve resiliency in the face of natural disasters. High priorities include wildfire resiliency for homes, protecting public infrastructure, and evacuation routes.

Information – Education Priorities

KCCD will provide educational opportunities for students (K-12), landowners, land managers and the general public regarding natural resource priorities and improving landscape resiliency with objectives of reaching 80% of landowners/users in Kittitas County through a website, bi-annual newsletters, social media platforms (e.g. Facebook), workshops, public meetings and field days; and reaching at least 50% of students (K-12) in Kittitas County by supporting Agriculture Appreciation Day each April and specific classroom curriculum ([Wheat Week](#)) and assisting with events hosted by other local partners (Salmon Days, [KEEN](#), etc.).

District Operations Priorities

KCCD will maintain capacity to deliver programs that meet the needs of landowners and resource users and sustain the reputation for being a locally led problem solving group by annually meeting the Accountability Requirements of the Conservation Accountability and Performance Program (CAPP) with the Washington State Conservation Commission; successfully completing all necessary audits; securing new grant funds for on-the-ground activities; maintaining and improving staff technical certifications through the Center for Technical Development and other available training opportunities; and maintaining KCCD facilities for long term financial stability.



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Program Areas:

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quantity

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

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: 80 acres treated with efficient irrigation systems; 0.75 cubic feet per second of irrigation and stock water entered into the Trust Water Rights Program; one season of stream flow diversion monitoring completed

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 80 landowners contacted; one sign-up for RCPP resulting in 20 applications; one mid-year and one annual report for RCPP 2326 and one final report for RCPP 1672; 8 conservation plans

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service RCPP Funds, and KCCD Local Funds

Water Quantity Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>In partnership with the Yakama Nation, complete the RCPP project 1672 "Yakima Basin Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway", including tracking partner contributions related to irrigation efficiency upgrades, and monitoring project effectiveness and final reporting.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>20.0</i>	<i>\$12,329</i>	<i>Funded by WSCC RCPP Contributions</i>
<i>Conduct Small Project Cost Share sign-up and implement 4 to 6 contracts to improve water use efficiency.</i>	<i>July 2022 to May 2023</i>	<i>CP, PM, DM, PE, RT</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>\$36,398</i>	<i>Funded by WSCC Natural Resource Inventory Grant</i>
<i>In partnership with the Yakama Nation, implement RCPP project 2326 "Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership", including executing a supplemental agreement with NRCS, conducting a producer sign-up and working toward contracting of irrigation efficiency projects, as well as tracking partner contributions and monitoring project effectiveness.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>128.0</i>	<i>\$89,111</i>	<i>Supplemental Agreement with USDA NRCS for TA</i>
<i>Implement one (1) irrigation efficiency improvement project with a Trust water components on 80 acres and develop cost share contracts for 1 to 3 new projects with Trust Water components.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>CP, PE, DM</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>\$181,684</i>	<i>Ecology YBIP, WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies</i>
<i>Work with stock water right holders and Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project to acquire stockwater and/or convert to groundwater sources in order to reduce winter diversions from Manastash Creek</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>PM, DM</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>\$577,373</i>	<i>Ecology Manastash Restoration Grant</i>

<i>Through an agreement with the Kittitas Reclamation District, continue to monitor stream flow in Manastash Creek and assist with the operation of the three irrigation water diversions.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>PM, DM</i>	<i>80.0</i>	<i>\$36,680</i>	<i>Kittitas Reclamation District</i>
<i>Attend meetings and monitor activities under the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan to identify opportunities to partner with other stakeholders and for funding to implement KCCD priorities.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$3,640</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide assistance with the surveys and reports associated with Section 106 consultations.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>\$38,451</i>	<i>NACD Technical Assistance Grant</i>
<i>Assist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Ellensburg Field Office to provide technical assistance to Kittitas County producers and KRD with conservation planning and BMP implementation through EQIP-WaterSMART initiative contracts</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>PM, CP, PE, DM</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>\$5,329</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Continue participation in the Kittitas County Water Conservancy Board</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,221</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Implement the "Heritage Gardens" program funded through the Municipal Subcommittee of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan via Ecology and the Benton Conservation District</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>87.0</i>	<i>\$46,037</i>	<i>Benton CD Agreement (Ecology Funds)</i>

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Quality

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

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Reduce tailwater returns to TMDL compliance points by converting 80 acres to sprinkler irrigation; reduce sediment and nutrient movement to waterways by applying PAM to 900 acres; improve riparian habitat on 16 acres

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 80 producers contacted resulting in 5 applications to RCPP, 12 VSP assessments and 6 conservation plans; maintenance of 6 acres of riparian planting along Wilson Creek and Naneum Creek; and install planting on 8 acre riparian planting along the Yakima River.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, Ecology, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service RCPP Funds, and KCCD Local Funds

Water Quality Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Continue to develop and maintain a project list and seek funding for on-farm irrigation system improvements (e.g. sprinkler conversions) to work toward TMDL goals</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, CP, PM</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>\$3,483</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and transport to waterways - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program to growers by providing cost share assistance 12 landowners for PAM and PAM applicators on approximately 900 acres</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>RT, FM, DM</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>\$5,983</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds:</i> <i>Kittitas County Public Works</i>

Improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and transport to waterways - Implement one (1) sprinkler conversion project prioritized based on impacts to TMDL goals.	July 2022 to June 2023	CP, PE, PM, DM, FM, Consultant	11	\$125,099	Ecology YBIP, WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies
In partnership with the Yakama Nation, complete the RCPP project "Yakima Basin Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway", including tracking partner contributions related to irrigation efficiency upgrades, monitoring project effectiveness, and reporting.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, PM, CP, FM, RT, NPM	15.5	\$10,807	Funded by WSCC RCPP Contributions
Support Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's restoration and protection of riparian forest plantings along the Yakima River, Sorenson Creek, Fogarty Ditch and the development of other project sites.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, PM, Crew	13	\$30,773	Funded by WSCC RCPP Contributions
As part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), continue to promote, plan and implement projects to improve riparian habitat where agricultural practices intersect critical areas; continue to produce VSP assessments for producers utilizing technical expertise, GIS capabilities and drone technology; and continue to collect and analyze monitoring data for reporting purposes.	July 2022 to June 2023	NPM, DM, RT	84	\$48,310	Funded by WSCC VSP Grant via Kittitas County; Partner with Mid-Columbia RFEF for habitat work
Assist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Ellensburg Field Office to provide technical assistance to Kittitas County producers and KRD with conservation planning and BMP implementation through EQIP-WaterSMART initiative contracts	July 2022 to June 2023	PM, CP, PE, DM	3.5	\$1,788	Funded by KCCD Local Funds
Coordinate with the groups/agencies currently monitoring water quality- Meet with Kittitas County Water Purveyors and Ecology to coordinate activities as needed.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM	6	\$7,693	Funded by KCCD Local Funds

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Fish & Wildlife

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

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Eight (8) fish passage barriers removed, four (4) irrigation diversions screened

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 12 meetings of the YAHP Core Team, 2 design reports, 4 final bid ready designs, 12 VSP assessments, 2 applications to RCPP-EQIP, and one Easement Monitoring Report

Funding Source(s): Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Ecology, Washington State Conservation Commission, RCO-Salmon Recovery Funding Board, RCO- Fish Barrier Removal Board, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service RCPP Funds

Fish & Wildlife Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
YAHP - Continue to participate in the Core Team and develop projects with private landowners, determining project needs and securing funding.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, PE, RT, FM, NPM	60.0	\$27,668	Funded by BPA Funds via WRC&D

YTAHP - Maintain riparian planting areas associated with current and past fish screen and passage projects	July 2022 to June 2023	RT, WCC Crews	27.0	\$11,590	Funded by SRFB and BPA Funds via WRC&D
Complete 1 acre cottonwood planting in the Swauk Creek floodplain	July 2022 to June 2023	RT, WCC Crews	18.0	\$14,431	Funded by BPA Funds via WRC&D and SRFB
Finalize design, secure permits and construct fish passage projects on Caribou Creek to remove decommissioned irrigation diversion structures.	July 2022 to November 2022	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	85.0	\$536,069	Funded by FBRB and BPA Funds via WRC&D
Secure permits and construct a fish passage project on Coleman Creek to remove decommissioned irrigation diversion structure.	September 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	69.0	\$124,462	Funded by SRFB and BPA Funds via WRC&D
Continue design work on Coleman Creek and Naneum Creek diversions for fish screen and fish passage as well as on-farm irrigation efficiencies improvements.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	73.0	\$97,304	FBRB and BPA Funds via WRC&D
Continue to work with the Cascade Irrigation District on plans and designs for their canal intersections with Naneum, Coleman and Caribou Creeks	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	59.0	\$135,616	Funded by USFWS, SRFB and YTAHP
Complete the design for the Naneum Creek - Ellensburg Water Company intersection for fish passage.	September 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	56.0	\$44,506	Funded by WSCC RCPP Contribution
Together with the Yakama Nation, implement the RCPP project "Yakima Basin Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway", including tracking partner contributions, monitoring project effectiveness and preparing final reports.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, PM, PE, CP, NPM	7.5	\$3,555	Funded by WSCC RCPP Contribution
Partner with Washington Department of Natural Resources and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to install and remove temporary fencing and maintain other fencing necessary for the grazing activities in the Teanaway Community Forest	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, PM	28.0	\$37,280	Funded by WSCC RCPP Contribution
Together with the Yakama Nation, implement RCPP project 2326 "Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership", including executing a supplemental agreement with NRCS, conducting a producer sign-up and working toward contracting of riparian planting projects, as well as tracking partner contributions and monitoring project effectiveness.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	12.5	\$15,149	Supplemental Agreement with USDA NRCS for TA
Through Voluntary Stewardship program, maintain plantings including 5 acres of riparian and upland areas on Wilson Creek, a half acre on Naneum Creek, a half acre on Whiskey Creek and two small upland plantings.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, PM, Crew	33.0	\$17,862	Funded by WSCC RCPP Contribution; Partner with Mid-Columbia RFEF

<i>Through an agreement with the Kittitas Reclamation District, continue to monitor stream flow in Manastash Creek and assist with the operation of the three fish screens facilities association with irrigation water diversions.</i>	<i>Jan 2023 to June 2023</i>	<i>PM, DM</i>	<i>45.5</i>	<i>\$25,859</i>	<i>Funded by Kittitas Reclamation District Agreement</i>
<i>Work with the Kittitas Reclamation District to coordinate projects and activities in priority areas and stream reaches</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>\$3,295</i>	<i>Funded by KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Monitor Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility Conservation Easement in the spring and the fall and produce a monitoring report</i>	<i>Sept 2022 to April 2023</i>	<i>RT, FM</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>\$4,381</i>	<i>PSE 5-year Agreement</i>
<i>Seek funding through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) program to address water conservation and fish habitat projects with water management entities (Cascade Irrigation District, Kittitas Reclamation District and Westside Irrigating Company).</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, Consultants</i>	<i>35.0</i>	<i>\$34,385</i>	<i>Funded by KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>As part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), continue to promote, plan and implement projects to improve upland & riparian habitat where agricultural practices intersect critical areas; continue to produce VSP assessments for producers utilizing technical expertise, GIS capabilities and drone technology; and continue to collect & analyze monitoring data for reporting purposes.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM, CP, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>98.5</i>	<i>\$69,526</i>	<i>Funded by WSCC VSP Grant via Kittitas County; Partner with Mid-Columbia RFEQ for habitat work</i>

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Soil Quality & Health

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

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Irrigation induced soil erosion reduced by 1,500 - 2,000 tons on 1200 acres, explore crop nutrient management through chlorophyll monitoring

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 20 landowners will be contacted resulting in 5 cost share agreements and 10 VSP assessments; one report for Chlorophyll monitoring

Funding Source(s): Kittitas County Road Fund, Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service RCPP Funds, and KCCD Local Funds

Soil Quality & Health Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Offer agronomy expertise to local growers- Coordinate with NRCS for direct and individual communication between NRCS agronomist and growers interested in soil quality & health and especially in the use of cover crops</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, CP</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,366</i>	<i>Funded by KCCD Local Funds and WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Reduce Irrigation Induced Soil Erosion - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program to growers to reduce soil erosion by providing cost share assistance 9 landowners for PAM and PAM applicators on approximately 1200 acres</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>RT, FM</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>\$4,557</i>	<i>Funded by KCCD Local Funds</i>

<i>Continue to produce Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) assessments for producers conducting agricultural practices in critical areas (including geologic hazard areas) per the VSP approved Work Plan utilizing technical expertise, GIS capabilities and drone technology</i>	July 2022 to June 2023	NPM, DM, RT	15.0	\$8,282	Funded by KCCD Local Funds ; KC Public Works
<i>Coordinate with Kittitas County Hay Growers & Suppliers to document use of chlorophyll meters to assist with crop nutrient management in-season.</i>	July 2022 to June 2023	RT, DM	7.0	\$2,769	Funded by KCCD Local Funds

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forest Health

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

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Fuels reduction will occur on 12 acres in high risk areas of Kittitas County

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Attend 12 KFACC meetings, 10 Landowners/land managers contacted resulting in three (3) cost share agreements

Funding Source(s): KCCD Local Funds, FEMA Grant, Washington State Conservation Commission

Forest Health Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Continue to seek out and secure funding for fire adapted communities' strategies including fuels reduction and forest health practices with private landowners coordinated with public lands treatments in cooperation with KFACC Partners</i>	July 2022- June 2023	DM, RT, NPM	4.0	\$1,943	Funded by KCCD Local Funds
<i>Provide financial and technical assistance to three landowners on 12 acres to implement fuels reduction and forest health practices.</i>	July 2022 to December 2022	NPM, RT, DM, FM	49.0	\$77,842	FEMA Grant matched by Washington Emergency Management Division
<i>Assess 50 acres of private forestland in cooperation with DNR's local Landowner Assistance Forester. Assessments will focus on forest health and wildland fire risks.</i>	July 2022- June 2023	NPM, RT	4.0	\$2,226	Funded by KCCD Local Funds

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Range Health

Goal(s): By 2022, document positive trend (health) on rangeland in Kittitas County

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Assistance will be provided to three livestock producers

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Attend two meetings; conduct sign-up for RCPP-EQIP for grazing priorities; and assist with two days of field monitoring activities.

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission and KCCD Local Funds

Range Health Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Support and coordinate with NRCS and WSU Extension's efforts to provide technical and financial assistance to rangeland operators.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>\$1,521</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Support and coordinate with WSU Extension's monitoring of the grazing plan for the Wild Horse CRM.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>CP, RT</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$1,527</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>As part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), continue to produce VSP assessments for producers utilizing technical expertise, GIS capabilities and drone technology; and continue to collect & analyze monitoring data for reporting purposes.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$2,226</i>	<i>WSSC VSP Grant via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Work with livestock operators to establish or improve stock watering facilities on rangeland.</i>	<i>July 2022 to May 2023</i>	<i>RT, DM</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>\$301</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>

District Program Area: Working Lands Protection

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

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Complete one grant application with the Conservation Commission; participate in four (12) partner meetings; and investigate funding opportunities for local USDA processing facilities

Funding Source(s): Washington State Conservation Commission, KCCD Local Funds

Development and Natural Resource Impacts Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Complete application process through Washington State Conservation Commission for a farmland preservation grant for a 600 acre conservation easement in the Swauk watershed</i>	<i>July 2021 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, NPM</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$3,417</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Continue to work with partners to develop conservation easement options for interested producers including working with Kittitas Conservation Trust, Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District, Forterra, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Trust for Public Lands, WSSC- Office of Farmland Preservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and others</i>	<i>July 2021 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$3,162</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Through implementation of VSP, continue to work on issues to maintain and enhance agricultural viability (e.g. options for mobile livestock slaughter units).</i>	<i>July 2021 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>\$3,111</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>

District Program Area: Disaster Response

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

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Participate in 12 meetings of KFACC; participate in four (4) partner meetings; Install four(4) backup generators; conduct chipping program with KCFD 7 serving 120 landowners and 10 communities.

Funding Source(s): FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant 5182, Washington State Conservation Commission, KCCD Local Funds

Development and Natural Resource Impacts Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Work with City of Cle Elum, City of Roslyn, Kittitas County Fire District 1 and Kittitas County Fire District 6 to construct back-up generators and to reduce wildfire fuels to improve community resiliency.</i>	<i>July 2021 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>33.0</i>	<i>\$313,787</i>	<i>Hazard Mitigation Grant</i>
<i>Partner with Kittitas County Fire District No. 7 to conduct chipping program in Kittitas County to assist at least 10 communities/neighborhoods and 120 landowners.</i>	<i>July 2021 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, RT, Consultant</i>	<i>24.0</i>	<i>\$48,656</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Continue to participate in and facilitate the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC) and work to implement the Plan of Work</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>\$9,619</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Monitor drought conditions and pursue funding to provide assistance if needed.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM, CP</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>\$619</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>

District Program Area: Education/Outreach

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

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 12,000+ landowners contacted and provided information resulting in 20-30 individual program referrals; 60,000 attendees at the Kittitas County Fair reached; 3 grower/landowner meetings; maintenance of on-line VSP map portal; and 800 elementary students contacted and provided information.

Funding Source(s): KCCD Local Funds, Washington State Conservation Commission, Donations

Education/Outreach Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Complete annual newsletter with circulation of 14,000 and occasional electronic newsletters as needed</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, FM, PM, RT</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>\$8,983</i>	<i>WSCC Implementation</i>
<i>Manage and maintain website and social media sites for public outreach and information about KCCD projects and programs</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, Contractor</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>\$8,678</i>	<i>WSCC Implementation</i>

Organize and host Agriculture Appreciation Day at Kittitas County Event Center (~400 3rd Grade Students) including coordinating stations and providing materials to students.	April 2023	CP, RT, FM, Volunteers	31.0	\$9,282	KCCD Local Funds and Donations
Contribute to youth education through "Water on Wheels" with Franklin CD, Ag in the Classroom, Kittitas County Cattlewomen, etc.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, FM, Franklin CD	0.5	\$1,329	KCCD Local Funds
Assist KEEN and Mid Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group with youth education activities (e.g Salmon Days, 4th Grade Camp, Summer Camp)	July 2022 to June 2023	RT	3.0	\$1,081	KCCD Local Funds
Provide continuing assistance to the Thorp School District including crop production area, greenhouse and wildlife planting, and documenting project to encourage other districts in County to do similar projects	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, NPM, PE, RT	7.0	\$2,989	KCCD Local Funds
Continue to implement the Kittitas County VSP Outreach Plan to ensure the agricultural community and other interested parties are involved in all aspects of VSP	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, CP, NPM, RT	10.0	\$5,926	WSCC VSP Grant via Kittitas County
Annual presentations at Producer Group meetings (e.g. Kittitas County Hay Growers, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen	July 2022 to June 2023	DM	6.0	\$3,371	KCCD Local Funds
Assist with Wildfire Awareness Day events including workshops, materials and coordinating presentations	February 2023 to June 2023	NPM, RT	3.0	\$1,744	DNR, FAC Grants
Small Acreage Management Program- Reinvigorate educational program offering technical assistance to small acreage landowners in cooperation with WSU Extension and NRCS (may include Small Ranch Manual, Rural Living Handbook, videos and other media platforms)	July 2022 to June 2023	CP, DM	9	\$12,478	KCCD Local Funds
Kittitas County Fair- Community Education Booth to reach 60,000 attendees	Sept 2022	DM, NPM, FM	7.0	\$2,791	KCCD Local Funds
KCCD Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner	Feb 2023	All Staff, Board of Supervisors	7.0	\$3,287	

District Program Area: District Operations

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

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

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

District Operations Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Complete Supervisor elections and appointments, and recruit one new Associate Supervisor</i>	<i>Nov 2022 to March 2023</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>\$3,557</i>	<i>WSCC Implementation Grant</i>
<i>Complete 12 monthly meetings and 4 special meetings of the Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>67.0</i>	<i>\$20,457</i>	<i>WSCC Implementation Grant and KCCD Indirect Funds</i>
<i>Perform timely vouchering for all grant sources, track funding and expenditures, complete payroll functions, and manage staff</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>FM, DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>124.0</i>	<i>\$67,726</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds and Indirect Funding</i>
<i>Complete Annual Financial Report, Annual Plan of Work, and Annual Report of Accomplishments.</i>	<i>August 2022 to May 2023</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>\$7,847</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds and Indirect Funding</i>
<i>Complete single federal audit for calendar year 2021</i>	<i>July 2022 to September 2022</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>\$21,543</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds and Indirect Funding</i>
<i>Review and update KCCD Operations Handbook (Purchasing & Contracting, Personnel, Cost Share policies) as needed.</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$915</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Complete employee evaluations and review of salaries/wages</i>	<i>March 2022 to May 2023</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>\$1,522</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Complete Annual Report of Activities for KCCD System of Rates & Charges and conduct annual meeting with the Kittitas Board of County Commissioners to discuss on-going programs, projects and funding</i>	<i>March 2023</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>\$3,980</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Complete tax roll updates with Kittitas County Assessor for KCCD System of Rates & Charges</i>	<i>Dec 2022 to January 2023</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,807</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Meet regularly with Roslyn and Cle Elum City Council and/or staff to prioritize technical assistance and develop natural resource related projects and programs</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$2,016</i>	<i>KCCD Local Funds</i>
<i>Provide Engineering Services to North Central Engineering Cluster (Okanogan, Cascadia, South Douglas, & Foster Creek CDs) for various natural resource improvement projects</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>PE, DM, FM</i>	<i>104.0</i>	<i>\$74,779</i>	<i>WSCC Professional Engineer Grant</i>
<i>Staff training (WADE, Conservation Planning, Public Works Contracting, Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities, etc.)</i>	<i>July 2022 to June 2023</i>	<i>All Staff</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>\$10,524</i>	<i>Various Grants</i>

Supervisor training (WADE, WACD, etc.)	July 2022 to June 2023	Board of Supervisors	12.0	\$1,665	WSCC Imp Grant/ KCCD Local Funds
Maintain and operate District office facilities including financial records (receiving rent, utilities payments, escrow payments, etc.), lawn care, building maintenance and communications with tenants.	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, FM, RT, Board of Supervisors	34.0	\$92,246	KCCD Indirect Funds USDA Lease WSCC Lease
Manage leases of office space for the USDA Service Center (Natural Resources Conservation Service & Farm Service Agency) and WA State Conservation Commission Regional Manager	July 2022 to June 2023	DM, Board of Supervisors	4.0	\$3,307	USDA Lease WSCC Lease

Person Responsible Key:

DM- District Manager (Anna Lael) **FM-** Financial Manager (Dayna Wilkinson) **PM-** Project Manager (Sherry Swanson)
NPM- Natural Resources Project Manager (Brent Dixon) **PE-** District Engineer (vacant)
CP- Conservation Planner (Mark Crowley) **RT-** Resource Technician (Wendy Mee)



Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



FY2023 Annual Budget (7/1/22 – 6/30/23)

Kittitas County Conservation District

Object	Budget
Salaries & Wages	\$462,364
Personnel Benefits	\$180,071
Supplies	\$106,187
Office & Operating Supplies	\$73,130
Fuel Consumed	\$4,750
Small Tools & Minor Equipment	\$7,500
Repairs and Maintenance (Vehicles)	\$20,807
Services	\$1,519,420
Professional Services	\$575,687
Travel	\$5,775
Insurance	\$15,210
Utilities	\$28,658
Property Taxes	\$7,199
Rates & Charges Collection	\$8,616
Staff & Board Training	\$4,500
Miscellaneous	\$3,775
Project Construction	\$870,000
Debt Repayment	\$83,332
Building Loan	\$81,252
Copy Machine Contract	\$2,080
Cost Share	\$935,500
Contingency	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$3,336,874

Fund Source	Ending Date (mo/year)	Total Grant/Program Budget	Expected Income in FY 2023
Direct Federal Funds			
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - RCPP FY21*	Apr-26	\$457,920	\$45,000
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - 10 Year Lease & TI	Annual	\$74,747	\$74,747
Indirect Federal Funds			
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via RC&D)	Mar-22	\$265,142	\$225,000
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via RC&D)*	Mar-23	\$270,500	\$24,500
Salmon Recovery Funding Board - Swauk Creek Screening & Passage	Dec-23	\$268,691	\$18,000
NACD Technical Assistance Grant	Sep-22	\$61,388	\$15,545
FEMA- Kittitas County Fuels Reduction Project	Nov-22	\$246,094	\$79,753
FEMA - KCCD Defensible Space and Infrastructure Grant	Mar-23	\$411,298	\$324,045
State Funds			
WA State Conservation Commission Implementation Grant	Jun-23	\$117,823	\$117,823
WA State Conservation Commission Natural Resource Investment	Jun-23	\$78,666	\$45,735
WA State Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiencies	Jun-23	\$13,000	\$13,000
WA State Conservation Commission Professional Engineering	Jun-22	\$200,000	\$200,000
WA State Conservation Commission Community Wildfire Resiliency*	Jun-23	\$40,000	\$40,000
WA State Conservation Commission RCPP Contribution (K1847)	Jun-23	\$1,669,600	\$475,000
WA State Conservation Commission RCPP Contribution (22-28-RP)	Jun-23	\$210,992	\$50,000
WA State Conservation Commission Voluntary Stewardship Program	Jun-23	\$238,000	\$109,000
WA State Conservation Commission - Regional Mgr Rent	Oct-22	\$3,300	\$3,300
WA Dept. Ecology - Manastash Pipelines Project	Jun-22	\$2,141,165	\$504,845
WA Dept. Ecology - Upper Yakima RCPP Efficiency Improvements	Jun-23	\$400,000	\$150,000
WA Dept. Ecology - Heritage Garden Program (via Benton CD)	Jun-23	\$90,100	\$46,037
Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Yakima Targeted Investments)	Mar-24	\$883,088	\$162,155
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board Caribou Creek)	Jun-22	\$355,334	\$355,334
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (EWC at Naneum Creek)	Jun-25	\$844,406	\$15,000
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (CID at Coleman Creek)	Jun-25	\$1,481,227	\$5,000
Local/Private Funds			
Kittitas Reclamation District	Annual	\$56,434	\$56,434
Kittitas County Road Funds- PAM Cost Share	Annual	\$5,000	\$2,500
Kittitas County Local Funds (Rates & Charges)	Annual	\$172,315	\$172,315
Puget Sound Energy - Wild Horse Facility Conservation Easement	Annual	\$7,500	\$5,214
Donations for Agriculture Appreciation Day	Annual		\$1,150
Interest Income	Annual		\$442
TOTAL		\$11,063,729	\$3,336,874