

Kittitas County Voluntary Stewardship Program



Watershed Group Meeting

July 23, 2021 10AM to Noon

Armory, Kittitas Valley Event Center

Or virtually via Webex platform at:

<https://kittitascountyconservationdistrict.my.webex.com/kittitascountyconservationdistrict.my/j.php?MTID=mc62cb0cd3623f045a23cd1726c02abbe>

Meeting ID: 182 075 8271

Meeting password: uKFH8tQJD24 (85348875 from phones and video systems)

Dial in: +1 415 655 0001

Review Meeting Minutes

- March 26, 2021



VSP Grant Status

- **Grant Agreement** between Kittitas County and the Conservation Commission – Approved by the BOCC on June 15
 - \$235,000 (slight reduction)
 - July 2021 to June 2023
- **Interlocal Agreement** between Kittitas County and Kittitas County Conservation District - Approved by KCCD on June 10 and the BOCC on June 15
 - \$233,000 (slight reduction)
 - July 2021 to June 2023



Watershed Group Membership

- **Members agreed to serve through the 5 Year Report process**
- **Work with BOCC to appoint or re-appoint members to the group**



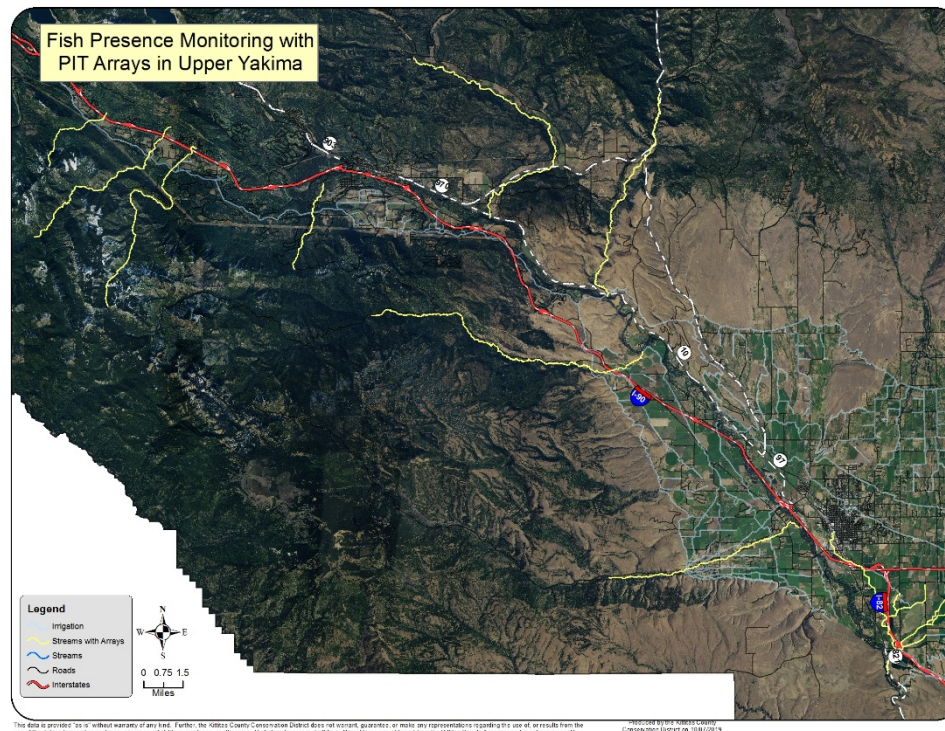
Financial Assistance

- **Cost Share Opportunities**
 - Small Project Cost Share
- **VSP Funding Assistance**
 - Native Planting projects



Monitoring Activities

- High Resolution Change Detection (HRCDD)
- PIT Arrays
 - Wilson/Naneum/Cherry



Reporting Requirements

- **5-Year Report**

- Received letter of concurrence from Carol Smith in early April
- Met with all members of the Technical Panel (WDFW, Ecology, Agriculture and Conservation Commission
- Participated in listening session and follow-up hosted by Carol Smith

- **2 Year**

- Due August 30, 2021 for July 2019 to June 2021 time period
- Duplicate past format and address items specifically listed in Commission Policy Advisory 05-18 (Revised July 2020)



Type	Practice Name	2020 Protection Objective	2020 Enhancement Objective	2011-2020 Data (5 Yr Report)	October 2020 to Present	Total to Date
Water Management	Irrigation Water Management	533 acres	8,521 acres	24,090 acres	1,432 acres	31,510 acres
	Irrigation system automation, regional weather network					
	Sprinkler System, Microirrigation			5,089 acres	898 acres	
	Irrigation Pipeline	6,686 ft	139,904 ft	266,001 ft	40,209 ft	306,210 ft
Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management	76 acres	694 acres	18,833 acres	648 acres	19,481 acres
Soil Management	Conservation Cover, No-till, reduced till, PAM	886 acres	6,141 acres	13,075 Acres	5 Acres	13,080 acres
Range Management	Range Planting/Grazing Mgmt	225 acres	1,786 acres	4,131 acres		4131 acres
	Stock Water/Spring Development	2 facilities	41 facilities	42 facilities	4 facilities	46 facilities
Habitat Management	Herbaceous cover, riparian, wetland, etc.	38 acres	570 acres	854 acres		858 acres
	Tree/Shrub Establishment				4 acres	
Stream Enhancement	Streambank & Shoreline	172 ft	3813 ft	4751 ft		4751 ft
	Fish Passage & screen	1 project	29 projects	38 projects	2 screens	40 projects

Reporting Requirements

The biennial report should include a summary of how plan implementation is affecting each of the following:

1. The protection and enhancement of critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted;
2. The maintenance and improvement of the long-term viability of agriculture;
3. Reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses;
4. The maximization of the use of voluntary incentive programs to encourage good riparian and ecosystem stewardship as an alternative to historic approaches used to protect critical areas;



Reporting Requirements

5. The leveraging of existing resources by relying upon existing work and plans in counties and local watersheds, as well as existing state and federal programs to the maximum extent practicable to achieve program goals;
6. Ongoing efforts to encourage and foster a spirit of cooperation and partnership among county, tribal, environmental, and agricultural interests to better assure the program success;
7. Ongoing efforts to improve compliance with other laws designed to protect water quality and fish habitat; and
8. A description of efforts showing how relying upon voluntary stewardship practices as the primary method of protecting critical areas and does not require the cessation of agricultural activities.



Discussion Topics

- Drought Conditions
 - June 22, Secretary Vilsack declared 14 Washington counties as primary natural disaster areas due to drought
 - July 14, Ecology declared drought emergency in most of the state

“As soon as you can evaluate drought impact on your operation, be sure to contact your local FSA office to timely report all crop, livestock and farm infrastructure damages and losses. To expedite FSA disaster assistance, you will likely need to provide documents, such as farm records, herd inventory, receipts and pictures of damages or losses”

Mike
Mandere,
Acting State
Executive
Director for
FSA

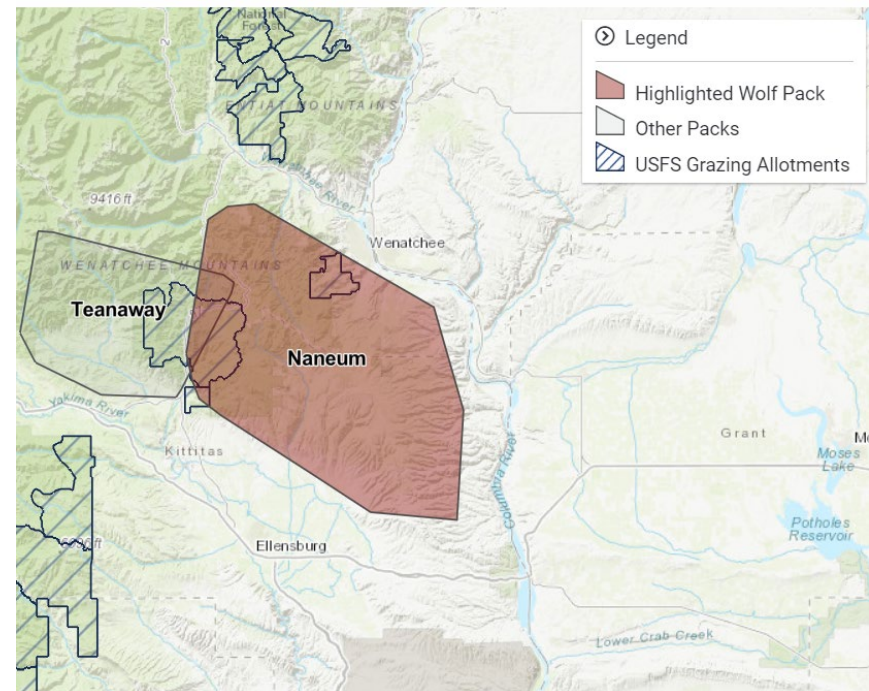
Gus Jensvold augustas.jensvold@usda.gov

Chrissy Devries christine.devries@usda.gov



Discussion Topics

- Naneum Wolf Pack Activity
 - 2020 - Carcass dumping confirmed attractant on north edge of Kittitas Valley (Schnebly, Coleman, etc)
 - May 7, 2021 confirmed depredation of calf
 - June 15, 2021 WDFW hosted meeting to discuss carcass composting
- VSP Watershed Group Response?
 - *Outreach*
 - *Composting Demonstrations*
 - *Composting Facility Feasibility Study*



Discussion Topics

- Kittitas County Critical Areas Ordinance Update
 - 15 Minute Video on County Website:
<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cao/default.aspx>
 - Planning Commission [Study Session](#) July 13, 2021
 - Ordinance tentatively set to be submitted to Board of County of Commissioners on August 10, 2021

17A.01.030 Applicability

1. Except as provided in subsection 3 and 4 below, the provisions of this Title shall apply to any alteration or development within the unincorporated portion of Kittitas County, and outside of Shoreline jurisdiction, as determined by the Shoreline Master Program (KCC Title 17B). No development shall be constructed, located, extended, modified, converted, or altered, or land subdivided without full compliance with this Title.
2. Compliance with these regulations does not remove an applicant's obligation to comply with applicable provisions of any other Federal, State, or local law or regulation.
3. [Private lands where agricultural activities are conducted, as defined in RCW 90.58.065, within the Upper Yakima and Alkali-Squilchuck WRIAs are managed by the Kittitas County Voluntary Stewardship Program \(VSP\), and not regulated by this Title.](#) ~~Agricultural activities conducted on private agricultural lands within the Upper Yakima and Alkali-Squilchuck waters are regulated by the Kittitas County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), and not this Title if the landowner has opted into the VSP and the VSP program is active.~~
4. Any activities, alterations or development located within any Shoreline of the State within the unincorporated portion of Kittitas County are subject to the provisions of the Shoreline Master Program (KCC Title 17B) and not this Title.



Action Register

- 2 Year Report draft and distributed for review/comment

