Kittitas County Voluntary Stewardship Program

Watershed Group Meeting
November 7, 2025 10AM to Noon
KCCD Conference Room

Join In-person or virtually via Zoom at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85859215310?pwd=S3lVowV6MnRa2vSx38aDJdSqjIHgDK.1

Meeting ID: 858 5921 5310
Passcode: 272634
Dial in: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Review Meeting Minutes

- October 24, 2025

Ten Year Report

VSP VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Submit Reporting for Kittitas

Washington State Conservation Commission

County Information | Goals Benchmarks | Critical Areas | Agricultural Viability | Adaptive Management | All Display | Work Plan Quick Look

County Basic Information

Please add in your basic information below regarding the main submitter of this report and the general information from the county's work group approval.

Submitter Full Name: Anna Lael

Submitter Email: anna.lael@kccd.net

Date Submitted: 12/31/2001

Report Type: 5-Year Report

Report Period Ending Date: November 17, 2025

Has the county work group approved the content and submittal of this report?

Yes

County Work Group Approval Date: 12/31/2001

Are you using regulatory backstop to protect any critical areas?

Choose all that apply

Please describe how the regulatory backstop(s) are protecting the applicable critical area(s)

Add explanation here....

0/3000

Did the watershed work group assert that the work plan's PROTECTION goals and benchmarks have been met during the past reporting period (e.g. 5 years)?

Protection Goals Met

Yes

2.3.2 *Critical Areas Functions and Values*

VSP legislation requires that work plans develop goals and benchmarks to protect and enhance critical area **functions and values** (RCW 36.70A.720(1)(e)). The key functions and values provided by the five critical areas in the County can be summarized into four major functions, which include: 1) water quality, 2) hydrology, 3) soil, and 4) habitat (Figure 2-1). Each critical area provides one or more of these key functions and values (Table 2-4). This section provides an overview of the functions and values and Section 3 will further describe the relationship between critical areas and their functions and values.

Table 2-4
Critical Areas Functions

Critical Areas	Key Functions			
	Water Quality 	Hydrology 	Soil Function 	Habitat 
Wetlands	•	•		•
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas	•	•	•	•
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	•	•		
Geologically Hazardous Areas (Erosion)	•	•	•	•
Frequently Flooded Areas	•	•	•	•

Table 4-1
Examples of Critical Areas Stewardship Practices in Kittitas County (Implemented Under NRCS)

Example Practice	Applicability	Description	Critical Area Functions[1]		Agricultural Viability
Irrigation Water Management	Irrigated	Managing water volume, frequency, and application rate for efficiency	Water Quality	• Reduces runoff and erosion • Reduces transport of nutrients and sediment	• Soil quality • Yield and fertility • Reduced inputs
			Hydrology	• Reduces degradation of surface and groundwater resources	
			Soil	• Manages leaching of salt and chemicals below the root zone	
Nutrient Management	Dryland Irrigated	Managing application of nutrients to minimize loss to runoff	Water Quality	• Reduces nutrients in surface and groundwater due to matching plant needs to the amount, timing, and placement of nutrients	• Soil quality • Yield and fertility • Reduced input costs
			Habitat	• Optimizes health and vigor of desired plant species • Increases food and cover for wildlife	
Aquatic Organism Passage[2]	Irrigated	Modification or removal of barriers to aquatic species	Habitat	• Allows aquatic organisms to migrate to find cover and shelter • Increase the amount of habitat available for feeding and breeding	• Regulatory relief • Continued access to irrigation water
Managed Grazing	Rangeland Irrigated	Managing grazing and vegetation harvest to improve plant communities and manage weeds	Water Quality	• Reduces runoff and erosion • Reduces transport of nutrients and sediment	• Soil quality and conservation • Weed management • Yield and fertility
			Hydrology	• Increases infiltration and water availability	
			Soil	• Decreases water and wind erosion due to increased vegetation cover • Reduces stream erosion through enhanced riparian vegetation	
			Habitat	• Improves and maintains health and vigor of desired plant species • Restores desired habitats, such as shrub-steppe	

Note:

1. Functions are defined by the NCRS CPPE matrix for each practice. See Section 5.2 and Table 5-6 for additional discussion and details on how practices provide benefits to these critical area functions, based on the NRCS CPPE scores.
2. Aquatic organism passage includes practices that improve the ability of all aquatic organisms that use streams for migration. This includes anadromous fish, resident fish, and any other aquatic species which rely on in stream passage.

	Type	Practice Name	2025 Protection Objectives	2025 Enhancement Objectives	2011-2019 Reported Data	19-21 Biennial Implementation	22-23 Biennial Implementation	24-25 Biennial Implementation	Total Implementation to Date (2011 to 2025)
Indirect Intersects	**Water Management**	Irrigation Water Management/ Sprinkler Renozzle	**2,459 Acres**	**27,489 acres**	15,705 acres	6,879 acres	3,182 acres	2,902 acres	**28,668 acres**
		Sprinkler System	**299 Acres**	**9,406 acres**	5,063 acres	1,979 acres	1,451 acres	961 acres	**9,454.3 acres**
		Irrigation Pipeline	**12,413 ft**	**416,100 ft**	200,671 ft	65,330 ft	49,400 ft	57,725 ft	**373,126 ft**
	Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management	**2,060 acres**	**19,864 acres**	12,851 acres	6,066 acres	1296 acres	0 acres	**20,213 acres**
	Pest Management	Pest Management	**775 acres**	**7,538 acres**	5,217 acres	3,304.9 acres	0 acres	0 acres	**8,521.9 acres**
	Soil Management	Cover Crop	**1424 acres**	**17,550 acres**	10,183 acres	115 acres	207 acres	132.5 acres	**17,673 acres**
		No-Till/Reduced Till							
		Polyacrylamide				2,777 acres	1,170 acres	3089 acres	
	Range Management	Range Planting Prescribed Grazing	**450 acres**	**4,227acres**	3,590 acres	589 acres	52 acres	0 acres	**4,231 acres**
		Stockwater Facility	**3 facilities**	**55 facilities**	39 facilities	7 facilities	9 Facilities	0 Facilities	**55 facilities**
Direct Intersects	**Habitat Management**	Riparian Forest Buffer Tree/Shrub Establishment Wetland Restoration	**59 acres**	**875 acres**	496 acres	7.9 acres	6 acres	3.4 acres	**872 acres**
		Upland Wildlife Habitat Management/Restoration of Rare & Declining Habitat			353 acres	5.7 acres	0 acres	0 acres	
	Stream Enhancement	Streambank Protection Channel Bed Stabilization	**293 ft**	**5,448 ft**	4,008 ft	743 ft	700ft	620 ft	**6,071 ft**
		Aquatic Species Passage And Fish Screen	**2 project**	**51 projects**	26 projects	12 projects	5 Projects	8 Projects	**51 projects**

Type			NRCS Code	Practice Name	Total Implementation to Date (2011 to 2019)	19-21 biennial	22-23 biennial	24-25 biennial	Total
Indirect Intersects	Water Management	Management Practices	449	Irrigation Water Management	15,705	2,608.3	3,182.0	2,485.0	28,668
			E449114Z8	Advanced Automated IWM - Year 1 - Equipment and soil moisture is monitored, recorded and used in dec		389.6			
			E449114Z7	Advanced Automated IWM - Year 2-5, Soil moisture is monitored, recorded and used in decision making		349.8			
			442	Sprinkler Renozzle				417.0	
			WQT01	Irrigation system automation		1,025.0			
			WQT07	Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling		2,506.3			
		Structural Practices	442	Sprinkler System	5,063	1,979.0	1,451.0	961.0	9,454
			441	MicroIrrigation		0.0			
			430	Irrigation Pipeline	200671	65,330.0	49,400.0	57,725.0	373,126.0
	Nutrient Management	Management Practices	590	Nutrient Management	12851	0.0		0.0	20,213.0
			E590118Z	Improving nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient losses to surface water		1,296.0	1,296.0	0.0	
			AIR08	Nitrification inhibitors or urease inhibitors		971.0		0.0	
			WQL04	Plant tissue tests and analysis to improve nitrogen management		348.3		0.0	
			WQL07	Split nitrogen applications, 50% after crop emergence or pasture green up		745.0		0.0	
			WQL11	Precision application technology to apply nutrients		745.0		0.0	
			WQL24	Apply enhanced efficiency fertilizer products		1,960.7		0.0	
	Pest Management	Management Practices	595	Pest Management	5217	1,399.0			8,521.9
			AIR04	Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height, and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift		431.4			
			AIR07	GPS, targeted spray application (SmartSprayer), or other chemical application electronic control technology		971.2			
			PLT19	Herbicide resistant weed management		503.3			
	Soil Management	Management Practices	327	Conservation Cover	10183	4.1		3.0	17,673.5
			329	No - Till					
			340	Cover Crop		110.9	207.0	129.5	
			345	Reduced Till					
			450	Polyacrylamide Application		2,777.0	1,170.0	3,089.0	
	Range Management	Management Practices	550	Range Planting	3590		52.0		4,231.0
			528	Prescribe Grazing		77.0			
			ANM09	Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat		512.0			
		Structural Practices	574	Spring Development	39				55.0
			614	Stock Water Facility		7.0	9.0		
Direct Intersects	Habitat Management	Riparian Forest Buffer	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	496				872.0
			390	Herbaceous Cover					
			612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Riparian Plantings)		7.9	6.0	3.4	
			657	Wetland Restoration					
		Upland	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Upland Plantings)	353	5.7			
			645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management					
			512	Pollinator Habitat					
	Stream Enhancement	Structural Practices	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	4008	371.5	350.0	310.0	6,071.0
			584	Channel Bed Stabilzation		371.5	350.0	310.0	
		Structural Practices	396	Aquatic Species Passage	26	4.0	2.0	3.0	51.0
			587	Structure for Water Control (Fish Screen)		8.0	3.0	5.0	

Cost Share and Project Funding

- $40,000 Capital Funds (Plus more in Operating?)
  - Project Categories
    - Cover Crop
    - Irrigation Efficiencies/Drought Resiliency
    - Reseeding pastures
    - Stockwater options
  - Cost Share % and limits
    - 75%
    - $5,000
  - Timeline
    - Applications Due 12/19/25?

Roundtable

Action Register

- 10 Year Report Draft
- November 14, 2025 Meeting