



# Kittitas County Conservation District



Annual Work Plan for 2026  
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## Acronym Guide

<b>BPA</b>	Bonneville Power Administration	<b>NACD</b>	National Association of Conservation Districts
<b>CID</b>	Cascade Irrigation District	<b>NRCS</b>	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>CWDG</b>	Community Wildfire Defense Grant	<b>OFF</b>	Office of Farmland Preservation
<b>DNR</b>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	<b>RCPP</b>	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
<b>DOE</b>	Washington Department of Ecology	<b>SRFB</b>	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
<b>EQIP</b>	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	<b>VSP</b>	Voluntary Stewardship Program
<b>EWC</b>	Ellensburg Water Company	<b>WDFW</b>	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
<b>FBRB</b>	Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board	<b>WRCD</b>	Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>WSCC</b>	Washington State Conservation Commission
<b>KCCD</b>	Kittitas County Conservation District	<b>YBIP</b>	Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
<b>KCT</b>	Kittitas Conservation Trust	<b>YTAHP</b>	Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program
<b>KCWP</b>	Kittitas County Water Purveyors		
<b>KFACC</b>	Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition		
<b>KRD</b>	Kittitas Reclamation District		
<b>MCF</b>	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group		



## Mission

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

## Vision

- The Kittitas County Conservation District is recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical and education assistance in Kittitas County; and by local state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.

## 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. 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 to supply irrigation needs and support resident and anadromous fisheries as well as streamside and floodplain vegetation. The [KRD](#), encompassing 59,000 acres, is pro-rated during water short years. CID, EWC, Westside Irrigating Company and other smaller water purveyors may have non-pro-ratable rights, but they depend highly on return flows from KRD and are also significantly impacted in water short seasons. Water use efficiency is a high priority of the USDA [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 in Kittitas County, 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 (“YBIP”) is being implemented by [US Bureau of Reclamation](#) and [DOE](#) in conjunction with the Yakama Nation and Yakima River basin stakeholders (including KCCD). YBIP’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](#) (2022). Approximately 75,000 acres of high to extreme fire hazard areas are identified on private lands in that plan. 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. As part of the [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Central and Eastern Washington](#), the Department of Natural Resources is evaluating and prioritizing the restoration needs of forests and developing strategies to make them more resilient to wildfires, diseases, insect infestation, and the effects of climate change. Planning areas have been identified and Landscape Evaluation Summaries completed which include fire risk, burn probabilities, and opportunities for treatments that maximize forest health and wildfire mitigation. One of DNR’s goals is to incentivize forest health treatments, such as removing the smaller trees overcrowding a forest, by increasing the demand for small-diameter timber, as well as forest biomass. Exploration of opportunities to use biomass for economic development is needed.*

## 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 as habitat 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 DOE 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 assist producers with 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 [KCWP](#) works to monitor water quality in canals and streams across Kittitas County providing important data. [MCF](#), [KCT](#), [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](#), [DNR](#), [WDFW](#), 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.
- After the 2020 wildfire season that burned a half million acres of shrubsteppe habitats, the Washington State Legislature appropriated funds and directed WDFW to work with DNR and WSCC to restore and protect shrubsteppe habitat amid the threat of wildfires. The effort was named the [Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative](#) (WSRRI). The [WSRRI Long Term Strategy’s](#) focus is to conserve and restore wildlife habitats, enhance wildfire preparedness and response, and support working lands in Washington’s shrubsteppe landscape.

## 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 listed as threatened species under ESA and by the State. 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. [YTAHP](#) 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 [BPA](#) via [WRCD](#) and matched primarily through the [SRFB](#), [FBRB](#), 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](#), [MCF](#), [KCT](#), 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 in 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. The 2022 US Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture indicates that between 2017 and 2022, Kittitas County lost 27% of farms and 4% or 7,300 acres of land in agriculture. In the 5 years prior to that, the 2017 Census of Agriculture, documented a loss of 5.8% or 10,000 acres of farmland. 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 damage including the 2009 and 2011 floods, wildfires (Taylor Bridge, Snag Canyon, Colockum-Tarps, Jolly Mountain, Ryegrass Coulee, Evans Canyon, Vantage Hwy, etc.), and droughts (2001, 2005, 2015, 2023-2025). It's imperative that partners (local, state, federal) work together to improve resiliency in the face of natural disasters. High priorities include wildfire resiliency for homes, protecting public infrastructure, and evacuation routes; and drought resiliency (covered under Water Quantity). In 2024, Kittitas County led an update of the [Kittitas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (HMP) with expected completion in FY26. The Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council the [Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition](#) (KFACC) is beginning the update of the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in 2025 with expected completion in 2026.

# 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:** 675 acres treated with efficient irrigation systems; 0.75 cubic feet per second of irrigation entered into the Trust Water Rights Program; one season of stream flow diversion monitoring completed.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 50 landowners contacted; one sign-up for RCPP resulting in 10 applications; one mid-year and one annual report each for RCPP 2326 and RCPP 3149; 10 conservation plans; three engineering reports completed

**Funding Source(s):** WSCC, DOE, NRCS RCPP Funds, and KCCD Local Funds

Water Quantity Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>In partnership with the Yakama Nation, implement RCPP project 2326 "Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership", implementing irrigation efficiency projects, and tracking partner contributions and monitoring project effectiveness.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>90.0</i>	<i>\$130,672</i>	<i>WSCC <u>RCPP</u> Contributions and NRCS Supplemental Agreement</i>
<i>Implement RCPP project 3149 "Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvements" including design and planning for Cascade Irrigation District, conducting one producer sign up, and all reporting and administrative functions.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>238.0</i>	<i>\$476,905</i>	<i>Ecology and WSCC <u>RCPP</u> Contributions and NRCS Supplemental Agreement</i>
<i>Conduct Small Project Cost Share sign-up and implement 5 to 7 contracts to improve water use efficiency.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to May 2026</i>	<i>CP, PM, DM, PE, RT</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>\$89,368</i>	<i>WSCC <u>Natural Resource Investment</u></i>
<i>Implement two (2) irrigation efficiency improvement projects on 200 acres and develop one to two new projects with preference for trust water components.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>CP, PE, DM</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>\$604,586</i>	<i>WSCC <u>Irrigation Efficiencies</u></i>
<i>Continue to monitor stream flow in Manastash Creek and assist with the operation of the irrigation water diversions.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>PM, DM</i>	<i>53.5</i>	<i>\$29,494</i>	<i>Interlocal Agreement with KRD</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>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>DM, PM</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$4,194</i>	<i>Yakima Basin <u>Integrated Plan</u></i>



<i>Assist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Ellensburg Field Office to provide technical assistance to producers with conservation planning and BMP implementation through EQIP-WaterSMART as needed.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	PM, CP, PE, DM	6.0	\$3,087	
<i>Seek financial assistance for Teanaway River pump stations at Lambert Road and Red Bridge Road for replacement of VFD pumps and controls.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	DM	2.0	\$1,371	
<i>Monitor drought conditions, provide assistance as needed and seek funding for drought mitigation activities to the greatest extent possible.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	DM, PM, CP, NPM	14.0	\$7,595	<u><a href="#">Drought Declaration</a></u>
<i>Continue to promote, plan, implement and monitor projects to improve water use efficiencies where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP); and complete 10 year reporting requirements for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	NPM, DM, RT	73.0	\$56,318	WSSC VSP via Kittitas County
<i>Continue to participate in the Kittitas County Water Conservancy Board</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	CP	6.0	\$2,810	
<i>Continue "Heritage Gardens" program while seeking long term funding support</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	DM, RT	83.5	\$37,232	

## Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forest Health

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

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** Implement 200 acres of wildfire fuels reduction

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Attend 12 KFACC meetings; 10 Landowners/managers contacted 3-5 forest assessments; one grant application completed.

**Funding Source(s):** KCCD Local Funds, WSSC, DNR/USFS

Forest Health Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Continue to secure funding for fire adapted community strategies including fuels reduction and forest health practices in cooperation with KFACC</i>	<i>Jul 2025-Jun 2026</i>	DM, RT, NPM	6.5	\$3,372	<u><a href="#">KCCD Local Funds</a></u>

Monitor biochar demonstrations (particularly flame-capped kilns) with partners and landowners and work to develop either technical or financial assistance if needed.	Jul 2025 to Dec 2025	DM, WP	7.5	\$4,380	USFS via DNR
Provide technical assistance to assess up to 50 acres of private forestland for forest health and wildfire risks.	Jul 2025-Jun 2026	WP, RT	5.5	\$3,384	<u>KCCD Local Funds</u>
Implementation of "Kittitas County Resilient Landscapes", a Community Wildfire Defense Grant Project focused on wildfire fuels reduction on evacuation routes and potential control lines (PCLs).	Jul 2025-Jun 2026	DM, WP, NPM, OA	25.0	\$283,355	<u>KCCD Local Funds</u>

## 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 sediment and nutrient movement to waterways by applying PAM to 900 acres; improve and maintain riparian habitat on nearly 30 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat along 1.84 river miles

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 40 producers contacted resulting in 10 cost share applications; support partners to design, plan and permit three riparian/instream habitat projects and assemble prioritization process for and a list of future riparian projects; provide technical assistance report to a dairy.

**Funding Source(s):** WSCC, DOE, RCPP Funds, and KCCD Local Funds

Water Quality Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
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	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, CP, PM	5	\$2,446	
Improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and transport to waterways - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program and by providing cost share to 12 landowners for PAM and PAM applicators on approximately 900 acres	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	RT, FM, DM	9	\$6,756	
Support Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group's restoration and maintenance of riparian forest plantings along the Yakima River, Sorenson Creek, Wilson Creek and North Fork Teanaway tributaries; and the development of other	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, NPM, MCFEG	57	\$163,925	<u>WSCC Riparian Grant Funding</u>



<i>riparian project prioritization project sites.</i>					
<i>Provide dairy technical assistance and secure financial assistance if needed.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>CP, PM</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>\$2,682</i>	
<i>Continue to promote, plan, implement and monitor projects to improve water quality conditions where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP); and complete 10-year reporting requirements for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>\$50,779</i>	<i>WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Coordinate with the groups/agencies currently monitoring water quality- Meet with Kittitas County Water Purveyors and Ecology to coordinate activities as needed.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>\$8,085</i>	<i>WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>

## 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:** Two (2) fish passage barriers removed; two (2) irrigation diversions screened; and two fish screen facilities maintained and improved.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 12 meetings of the YTAHP Core Team; 6 design reports; 4 bid ready designs; conduct one producer sign up resulting in 10 applications; and one Easement Monitoring Report

**Funding Source(s):** BPA, DOE, WSCC, RCO-Salmon Recovery Funding Board, RCO- Fish Barrier Removal Board, and RCPP Funds

<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife Activities for FY2026</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>YTAHP - Continue to participate in the Core Team and develop projects with private landowners, determining project needs and securing funding.</i>	<i>July 2025 to June 2026</i>	<i>DM, CP, PE, RT, FM, NPM</i>	<i>43.0</i>	<i>\$24,692</i>	<i>Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u></i>
<i>YTAHP - Maintain riparian planting areas associated with current and past fish screen and passage projects</i>	<i>July 2025 to June 2026</i>	<i>RT, WCC Crews</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>\$10,509</i>	<i>BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u></i>
<i>Construct fish passage project Naneum Creek; construct fish passage/screening project on Coleman Creek at Cascade Irrigation District intersection; and construct fish screen and passage project on Cooke Creek.</i>	<i>July 2025 to April 2026</i>	<i>DM, CP, PE, Consultants</i>	<i>137.0</i>	<i>\$3,265,429</i>	<i>Funded by <u>SRFB</u> and BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u></i>

Complete designs for screening and/or passage on two fish passage barriers on Naneum Creek, one irrigation diversion on Coleman Creek, and one irrigation diversion on Cooke Creek.	July 2025 to June 2026	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	37.0	\$223,470	Funded by <u>FBRB</u> , BPA via <u>WRC&amp;D</u> , and RCPP 2329
Complete compressor replacement at MWDA diversion on Manastash Creek and seek funding for Keach/Jensen diversion compressor replacement to improve operations	July 2025 to March 2026	DM, PM	25.0	\$14,073	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>
Implement RCPP project 3149 "Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvements with WSCC and Ecology contribution funds including conducting one producer sign up for potential fish screen, fish passage and riparian planting components	July 2025 to June 2026	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	43.0	\$11,559	Funded by WSCC and NRCS Supplemental Agreement
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.	July 2025 to June 2026	PM, DM	43.5	\$27,954	Funded by WSCC and NRCS Supplemental Agreement
Work with the Kittitas Reclamation District to coordinate projects and activities in priority areas and stream reaches, particularly associated with KRD's stream supplementation program.	July 2025 to June 2026	DM, PM	6.5	\$3,434	KRD Interlocal Agreement
Monitor Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility Conservation Easement in the spring and the fall and produce a monitoring report	Sept 2025 to April 2026	RT, FM	10.0	\$4,447	PSE 5-year Agreement
Continue to promote, plan, implement and monitor projects to improve upland, riparian, & instream habitat where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP); and complete 10 year reporting requirements for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	July 2025 to June 2026	DM, PM, CP, FM, RT, NPM	92.0	\$64,697	WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County
Support Yakama Nation Fisheries, WDFW & US Fish & Wildlife Service's PIT tag arrays in Yakima River Tributaries	July 2025 to June 2026	DM, PM	1.5	\$2,847	Data available on <u>www.ptagis.org</u>

## 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.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 20 landowners will be contacted resulting in 5 cost share agreements; and two grant applications to be submitted for a no till drill and cover crops program.

**Funding Source(s):** KCPW, WSCC, and KCCD Local Funds

Soil Quality & Health Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<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>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>RT, FM</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>\$5,513</i>	<i>Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>
<i>Offer agronomy expertise to local growers- Coordinate with NRCS and other technical partners to facilitate direct assistance to producers, especially in the use of cover crops</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>DM, CP</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,540</i>	<i>Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>
<i>Develop projects through Sustainable Farms &amp; Fields for cost share program to incentive use of cover crop systems for soil health improvements</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>\$6,282</i>	<i>WSCC Sustainable Farms &amp; Fields</i>
<i>Explore acquiring a no-till drill to rent to producers in Kittitas County through Sustainable Farms &amp; Fields</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>DM, CP, NPM</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>\$3,533</i>	<i>WSCC Sustainable Farms &amp; Fields</i>
<i>Continue to promote, plan, implement and monitor projects to improve soil health where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP); and complete 10 year reporting requirements for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.</i>	<i>Jul 2025 to Jun 2026</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>\$17,795</i>	<i>WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County</i>

## Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Range Health

**Goal(s):** By 2026, document positive trend (health) on rangeland in Kittitas County

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** Grazing management on 1,000 acres

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Attend two meetings; and assist with two days of field monitoring activities; contact 5 landowners resulting in 3 VSP assessments; and monitor use of virtual fencing.

**Funding Source(s):** WSCC and KCCD Local Funds



Range Health Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Support and coordinate with NRCS and WSU Extension's efforts to provide technical and financial assistance to rangeland operators.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	CP	3.5	\$1,720	
Support and coordinate with WSU Extension's monitoring of the grazing plan for the Wild Horse CRM.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	CP, RT	4.0	\$1,729	
Work with partners on virtual fence demonstration project in Wild Horse CRM project area.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, CP	2.5	\$1,279	<u>WA Shrub Steppe Restoration &amp; Resiliency Initiative</u>
Work with landowners interested in wildlife friendly fencing (including virtual fence) and secure funding from Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM	3.0	\$1,611	
Continue to plan, implement and monitor projects to improve range health where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP); and complete 10 year reporting requirements for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	NPM, DM, RT	7.0	\$9,349	WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County

## 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 easement acquisition for one farmland preservation conservation easement with the Office of Farmland Preservation and initiate appraisal for another; and participate in two partner meetings

**Funding Source(s):** WSCC, KCCD Local Funds

Working Lands Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Complete farmland preservation grant for 600 acre conservation easement in the Swauk Prairie in partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, NPM	13.0	\$57,037	<u>RCO WWRP-Farmland</u>
Implement farmland preservation grant for 300 acre conservation easement in the Thorp Community area in partnership with the Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, NPM	10.0	\$35,438	Pending application through WSCC

Continue to work with partners to develop conservation easement options and secure funding for interested landowners.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM	6.0	\$3,805	
Through implementation of Voluntary Stewardship Program, continue to work on issues to maintain and enhance agricultural viability; and complete 10 year reporting requirements for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM	5	\$4,013	WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County

## District Program Area: Disaster Response

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

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** Implement 600 acres of wildfire fuels reduction

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Participate in 12 meetings of KFACC; participate in four partner meetings; Install three backup generators; conduct chipping program serving 200 landowners and 10 communities; and participate in HMP and CWPP updates.

**Funding Source(s):** FEMA, WSCC, DNR, KCCD Local Funds

Disaster Response Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Work with Cle Elum/Roslyn, Kittitas County Fire District 1 and Kittitas County Fire District 6 to complete back-up generators for community wildfire resiliency.	Jul 2025 to Mar 2026	DM, WP, Consultant	13.5	\$165,000	FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant
Partner with Upper Kittitas County Fuels Crew to conduct chipping program in Kittitas County to assist at least 10 communities/neighborhoods and 120 landowners.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, RT, OA, NPM, UKC Fuels Crew	188.0	\$48,238	WSCC Forest Health and Community Resiliency
Implementation of "Kittitas County Resilient Landscapes", a Community Wildfire Defense Grant Project focused on wildfire fuels reduction on evacuation routes and potential control lines (PCLs).	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, WP, NPM, RT, OA	213.0	\$1,453,544	<u>USFS funding via WA DNR</u>
Continue to participate in and facilitate (as needed) the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC) and work to implement the Plan of Work	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, WP, RT	18.5	\$11,213	
Adopt updated Kittitas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM	0.5	\$343	
Participate in update of the Kittitas County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) led by the Washington RC&D through KFACC.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, WP, RT	8.0	\$4,717	<u>USFS CWDG</u>

## 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:** 14,000+ 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 resources (website, etc.); and 420 elementary students contacted and provided information.

**Funding Source(s):** KCCD Local Funds, WSCC, Donations

Education/Outreach Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Complete annual newsletter with circulation of 14,000 and occasional electronic newsletters as needed	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, FM, PM, RT	12.5	\$14,419	
Manage and maintain website and social media sites for public outreach and information about KCCD projects and programs	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, OA, NPM, Contractor	9.5	\$7,819	
KCCD Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner	Feb 2026	All Staff, Board of Supervisors	11.5	\$5,372	
Annual presentations at Producer Group meetings (e.g. Kittitas County Hay Growers, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen, etc.)	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM	8.0	\$4,547	
Kittitas County Fair- Community Education Booth to reach 30,000 attendees	Sept 2025	DM, NPM, FM	9.0	\$3,707	
Organize and host Agriculture Appreciation Day at Kittitas County Event Center (~400 3rd Grade Students) including coordinating stations and providing materials to students.	Apr 2026	CP, RT, FM, Volunteers	26.0	\$7,091	
Contribute to youth education through "Water on Wheels" with Franklin CD, Ag in the Classroom, Kittitas County Cattlewomen, etc.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, FM, Franklin CD	0.5	\$1,368	
Assist KEEN and Mid Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group with youth education activities (e.g. Salmon Days, 4th Grade Camp, Summer Camp)	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	RT	3.5	\$1,444	
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; and complete 10 year reporting requirements for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, CP, NPM, RT	11.0	\$6,867	WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County
Assist with Wildfire Awareness Day events including workshops, materials and coordinating presentations	Feb 2026 to Jun 2026	NPM, RT	4.0	\$2,373	Partner with <u>KFACC</u>



Partner with Master Gardeners to provide outreach material and presentations on the native vegetation and water conservation (Heritage Gardens) and fire resistance (KFACC, etc.)	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	RT	5.5	\$2,211	<u>Heritage Gardens</u> and <u>KFACC</u>
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)	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	CP, DM	12	\$13,077	Partner with WSU Extension and NRCS

## 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; recruit one associate supervisor; and maintain 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 FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Complete 12 monthly meetings and 4 special meetings of the Board of Supervisors	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors	74.0	\$28,901	
Complete Supervisor elections and appointments, and recruit one new Associate Supervisor	Nov 2025 to Mar 2026	DM, FM, Board of Supervisors	24.5	\$10,214	
Complete financial and administrative functions including monthly accountant reports, meeting minutes, payroll, tracking funding and expenditures, vouchering for all grant sources, maintaining district files & documents and manage inventory	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors	199.0	\$106,605	
Complete Annual Financial Report, Annual Plan of Work, and Annual Report of Accomplishments.	Aug 2025 to May 2026	DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors	43	\$16,604	
Complete single federal financial and accountability audit for calendar year 2024	Jul 2025 to Sept 2025	DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors	34.0	\$23,864	
Review and update KCCD Operations Handbook (Purchasing & Contracting, Personnel, Cost Share policies) as needed.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, OA, Board of Supervisors	4.0	\$1,404	

Complete employee evaluations and review of salaries/wages	Mar 2025 to May 2026	DM, Board of Supervisors	8.0	\$4,009	
Complete Annual Report of Activities for KCCD System of Rates & Charges; conduct annual meeting with the Kittitas Board of County Commissioners to discuss on-going programs, projects and funding; and initiate process to renew system of rates & charges.	Nov 2025-Jun 2026	DM, Board of Supervisors	30	\$31,829	
Complete tax roll updates with Kittitas County Assessor for KCCD System of Rates & Charges	Dec 2025 to Jan 2026	DM	3.0	\$2,056	
Meet regularly with Roslyn and Cle Elum City Council and/or staff to prioritize technical assistance and develop natural resource related projects and programs	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, Board of Supervisors	5.0	\$2,284	<u>WSCC Professional Engineer Grant</u>
Provide Engineering Services to North Central Engineering Cluster (Okanogan, Cascadia, South Douglas, & Foster Creek CDs) for various natural resource improvement projects augmented by interdistrict agreement with Snohomish CD.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	PE, DM, FM	144.0	\$158,185	
Staff training (WADE, Conservation Planning, Public Works Contracting, Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities, etc.)	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	All Staff	24	\$13,457	
Supervisor training (WADE, WACD, etc.)	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	Board of Supervisors	12.0	\$2,443	
Maintain and operate District office facilities including financial records (receiving rent, utilities payments, etc.), lawn care, building maintenance, etc.	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, FM, RT, Board of Supervisors	36.0	\$99,673	KCCD Indirect Funds USDA Lease WSCC Lease
Manage leases of office space for the USDA Service Center and WSCC Regional Manager	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, Board of Supervisors	7.0	\$4,607	USDA Lease WSCC Lease
Share resources (drone services, GIS mapping, etc.) with various conservation districts through inter-district agreements	Jul 2025 to Jun 2026	DM, NPM	10.5	\$1,336	

**Person Responsible Key:**

**DM-** District Manager (Anna Lael) **FM-** Financial Manager (Dayna Wilkinson) **OA** – Office Administrator (Miranda Nash)

**CP-** Conservation Planner (Mark Crowley)   **RT-** Resource Technician (Wendy Mee)   **PE-** District Engineer (Christi Fisher)  
**PM-** Manastash Project Manager (Sherry Swanson)   **NPM-** Natural Resources Project Manager (Brent Dixon)  
**WP-** Wildfire Preparedness Program Manager (Tony Craven)



# Budget

The Kittitas County Conservation District budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (Jul 1, 2025 – Jun 30, 2026) is displayed as both program budgets and an object budget. These budgets are a guide to income and expenditures in FY2026 and may change significantly based on grant awards, actual program implementation and project construction.

		Fund Source	Ending Date (mo/year)	Total Grant/Program Budget	Expected Income in FY 2026
		<b>Direct Federal Funds</b>			
		USDA NRCS - RCPP 2326 Supplemental Agreement TA	Dec-25	\$175,000	\$85,000
		USDA NRCS - RCPP 2326 Supplemental Agreement FA	Dec-26	\$562,699	\$562,699
		USDA NRCS - RCPP 3149 Partner Agreement	Oct-29	\$1,520,635	\$120,000
		USDA NRCS - 10 Year Lease	Annual	\$41,400	\$41,400
		<b>Indirect Federal Funds</b>			
		Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via WRC&D)	Mar-26	\$246,758	\$216,758
		Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via WRC&D)*	Mar-27	\$250,000	\$30,000
		FEMA - KCCD Defensible Space & Infrastructure*	Mar-26	\$411,298	\$165,000
		USFS DNR -- Community Wildfire Defense Grant	Sep-28	\$10,000,000	\$1,738,000
		<b>State Funds</b>			
		WSCC Implementation Grant	Jun-26	\$126,713	\$126,713
		WSCC Natural Resource Investment	Jun-27	\$78,000	\$71,600
		WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies	Jun-27	\$850,000	\$667,000
		WSCC Professional Engineering	Jun-26	\$224,000	\$224,000
		WSCC Forest Health Community Wildfire Resiliency^	Jun-27	\$30,000	\$15,000
		WSCC RCPP Contribution (22-28-RP)	Jun-27	\$892,728	\$560,000
		WSCC RCPP Contribution (24-28-RP)	Jun-27	\$1,400,000	\$200,000
		WSCC Riparian Grant ^	Jun-27	\$224,000	\$164,000
		WSCC - Office of Farmland Preservation (Swauk)	Jun-26	\$123,000	\$85,000
		WSCC - Office of Farmland Preservation (Foothills)*	Jun-26	\$131,000	\$25,000
		WSCC - Sustainable Farms and Fields*	Jun-26	\$20,000	\$15,000
		WSCC - WA Shrubsteppe Restoration & Resiliency^	Jun-26	\$20,000	\$20,000
		WSCC - Regional Mgr Rent	Jun-26	\$3,300	\$3,300
		WA ECY -- RCPP 3149 Efficiency Improvement^	Jun-26	\$100,000	\$0
		SRFB - Cooke Creek RM 4.25 Screening & Passage^	Jun-28	\$499,476	\$475,476
		RCO-BAFBRB -- EWC at Naneum Creek	Sep-26	\$128,372	\$45,000
		RCO-BAFBRB -- Cascade ID at Coleman Creek	Sep-26	\$1,934,427	\$1,934,427
		RCO-BAFBRB -- Naneum Creek at McCullough	Jun-26	\$205,300	\$30,000
		RCO-BAFBRB -- Coleman Creek 4.7	Sep-28	\$733,899	\$1,500
		<b>Local/Private Funds</b>			
		Kittitas Reclamation District	Biennial	\$112,868	\$56,434
		WSCC Voluntary Stewardship Program	Jun-27	\$450,000	\$215,000
		WSCC Voluntary Stewardship Program (Capital Projects)^	Jun-27	\$183,000	\$10,000
		Kittitas County Local Funds (Rates & Charges)	Annual	\$174,750	\$130,000
		Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse Conservation Easement	Annual	\$5,000	\$4,568
		Donations for Agriculture Appreciation Day	Annual		\$1,150
		Interest Income	Annual		\$442
		<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$21,857,622</b>	<b>\$8,039,467</b>
		*Grants not formally contracted but expected in FY26			
		^Grants to be applied for in FY26			
Object	Budget				
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>\$643,135</b>				
<b>Personnel Benefits</b>	<b>\$262,351</b>				
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$177,000</b>				
Office & Operating Supplies	\$150,000				
Fuel Consumed	\$7,500				
Small Tools & Minor Equipment	\$13,500				
Repairs and Maintenance (Vehicles)	\$6,000				
<b>Services</b>	<b>\$4,702,862</b>				
Professional Services	\$747,987				
Travel	\$7,500				
Insurance	\$19,573				
Utilities	\$11,500				
Property Taxes	\$7,314				
Rates & Charges Collection	\$8,738				
Staff & Board Training	\$4,648				
Miscellaneous	\$12,500				
Project Construction	\$3,883,102				
<b>Debt Repayment</b>	<b>\$84,452</b>				
Building Loan	\$81,252				
Copy Machine Contract	\$3,200				
<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>\$2,139,650</b>				
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,039,449</b>				