

# Kittitas County Conservation District System of Rates & Charges

## 2018 Report of Activities

April 2019

*This page is intentionally blank*

April 2019

Kittitas County Conservation District System of Rates & Charges

## 2018 Report of Activities

**Prepared by**

Kittitas County Conservation District  
2211 West Dolarway Road, Suite 4  
Ellensburg, Washington 98926

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Background .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Kittitas County Conservation District.....	1
1.1.1	History.....	1
1.1.2	Governance Structure .....	2
1.2	District Funding.....	3
1.2.1	System of Rates & Charges .....	4
<b>2</b>	<b>2018 Report.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1	Financial Report .....	7
2.2	Activities Report.....	8
2.2.1	Administration .....	8
2.2.2	District Operations .....	8
2.2.3	Educational Assistance .....	9
2.2.4	Technical Assistance .....	11
2.2.5	Financial Assistance .....	14
2.2.6	Contingency Funds .....	14
<b>3</b>	<b>Leveraging of Funds.....</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1	Summary of Leveraged Funds.....	15
3.2	Pursuit of Leveraged Funds.....	17

## TABLES

<b>Table 1.</b>	<b>Rates Charged for Non-Irrigated Parcels .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Table 2.</b>	<b>Rates Charged for Irrigated Parcels.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Table 3.</b>	<b>2018 budget and actual expenditures of funds collected through the system of rates &amp; charges. ....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Table 4.</b>	<b>Descriptions of the leveraged funds expended in 2018.....</b>	<b>16</b>

## FIGURES

<b>Figure 1.</b>	<b>Map of the Cle Elum and Kittitas Soil Conservation Districts. ....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Figure 2.</b>	<b>Annual revenue for the last five years . ....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Figure 3.</b>	<b>Annual expenditures. ....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Figure 4.</b>	<b>The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Districts define the boundaries of irrigated and non-irrigated lands.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Figure 5.</b>	<b>The Kittitas County Assessor utilizes the Department of Revenue land use codes. ....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Figure 6.</b>	<b>Annual revenue and expenditures for local funds collected through the special assessment (2007-2016) and the system of rates &amp; charges (2017-2018). ....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Figure 7.</b>	<b>Federal, state, local and private funds leveraged by the District with the special assessment and the system of rates &amp; charges.....</b>	<b>15</b>





## 1 Background

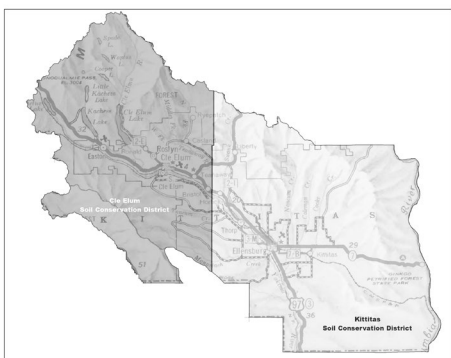
### 1.1 Kittitas County Conservation District

The Kittitas County Conservation District ("District") is an independent public agency established in 1942 under Chapter 89.08 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) to assist landowners and operators to protect and enhance natural resources. The District serves all unincorporated areas of Kittitas County, as well as the City of Cle Elum and the City of Roslyn. Roslyn was added to the District in 2018, after the Roslyn City Council petitioned to join and the District Board and then the Washington State Conservation Commission approved the petition.

#### 1.1.1 History

On March 21, 1942, more than 400 Kittitas Valley landowners visited nine polling stations to vote overwhelmingly in favor of forming the Kittitas Conservation District. It was a beginning, but it was also the culmination of years of work at the federal, state and local levels not only to bring attention to the impacts of soil erosion but to do something about it.

The USDA Soil Erosion Service (SES) established a demonstration project in the Badger Pocket area



**Figure 1.** Map of the Cle Elum and Kittitas Soil Conservation Districts.

southeast of Ellensburg in 1936. Similar demonstration projects were being conducted across the nation. The projects were limited to 5-years and as the Badger Pocket project was coming to an end in 1941, it became apparent to the farmers that the conservation work should continue. Formation of a conservation district was a way to do that, while adding a significant element of local control. The vote in March of 1942 followed a series of well attended public hearings.

The Cle Elum Soil Conservation District followed suit in 1947, establishing the District with a unanimous vote by 77 landowners. In 1962 the Kittitas and Cle Elum Districts combined to form the Kittitas County Conservation District.

### 1.1.2 Governance Structure

Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government, much like school districts. Each conservation district is governed by a board of five supervisors. Supervisors are local residents who serve voluntarily without pay. Three are elected by local citizens and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC). Supervisors may come from many different occupations, but by law, three of the five supervisors must be landowners or farm operators.

The powers and duties of supervisors are detailed in RCW 89.08.210. They include employing staff; keeping full and accurate records; working with the legislative body of any municipality or county near or within the district; and appointing advisory committees as may be needed.

The corporate status and powers of districts are described in RCW 89.08.220. Districts may do surveys, research and investigations to determine improvement needs for natural resources; conduct education and demonstration projects related to those improvements; and, through agreements with landowners, agencies, etc., carry out those improvements on lands within the district with the permission of the landowner. Conservation districts must keep current a comprehensive long-range program as well as an annual plan of work, which together are officially recognized as the authorized program of the district. The long-range program takes into consideration a broad array of land uses and resource concerns including farming, grazing, forestry, parks and recreation, potable water supplies, water for agriculture, minimal flow, and industrial uses, control of soil erosion, flood hazard reduction, protection of open space and scenery, protection of fish and wildlife, and the prevention or reduction of sedimentation and other pollution in rivers and other waters. Districts must also keep the public, agencies and occupiers of land informed of the works and activities planned and their purposes, of the income and expenditures, and of the results achieved annually. The District does so through newsletters, meetings, events, social media, and a website ([www.kccd.net](http://www.kccd.net)).

#### **MISSION**

*Providing 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 educational assistance in Kittitas County; and by local, state and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities.*

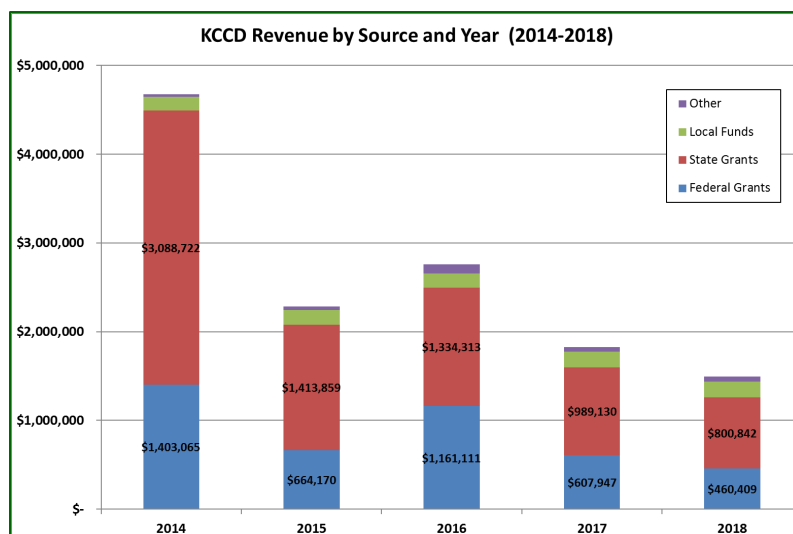
#### **WHO WE SERVE AND WHY**

*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**.*

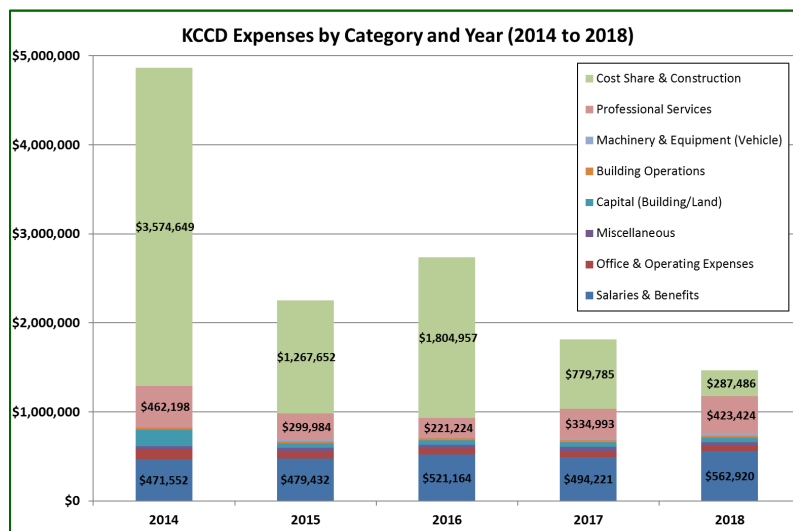
## 1.2 District Funding

The District actively works to secure funding to implement the annual and long-range plans of work. The District secures grants predominantly from state and federal sources such as the Washington State Conservation Commission, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Ecology, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Bonneville Power Administration, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The District also has a local funding option, called Rates & Charges (per RCW 89.08). The local funds are used to secure many of the state and federal grants, so although the local funds are a small part of the overall revenue, they are critical to obtaining those grants.

The District's annual budget varies based on open grant agreements and on the number and scope of on-the-ground activities and programs. In 2018, the District budget was \$1.5 million. Figure 2 and Figure 3 display the 5-year trends for revenues and expenditures.



**Figure 2.** Annual revenue for the last five years has ranged from a high of \$4.6 million to a low of \$1.5 million in 2018. Over that time period revenue was 58% state grants, 33% federal grants, 6% local funds (Special Assessment and Rates & Charges) and 2% miscellaneous sources.



**Figure 3.** Annual expenditures vary with the open grants and on-the-ground projects (cost share and construction). Over the last five years, 59% of expenses have been cost share and construction, 13% were professional services (primarily engineering & design for on-the-ground projects), and 24% have been staff and basic operating expenses (wages, office supplies, etc.). Year to year variations in total expenses are primarily due to the variety of projects occurring each year, while general operating expenses are relatively constant, usually varying by less than 5% per year.

### ***1.2.1 System of Rates & Charges***

In 2007-2016, the District collected a Special Assessment as allowed by Chapter 89.08.400 RCW. Special assessments were authorized to be imposed for conservation districts to fund activities and programs declared to be of special benefit to lands to conserve natural resources, including soil and water, and may be used as the basis upon which special assessments are imposed. The RCW authorized the county legislative authority of the county in which the conservation district is located to accept the proposed assessment for a period not to exceed ten years in duration. The Kittitas Board of County Commissioners did so in 2006 for a period of 10 years beginning in 2007.

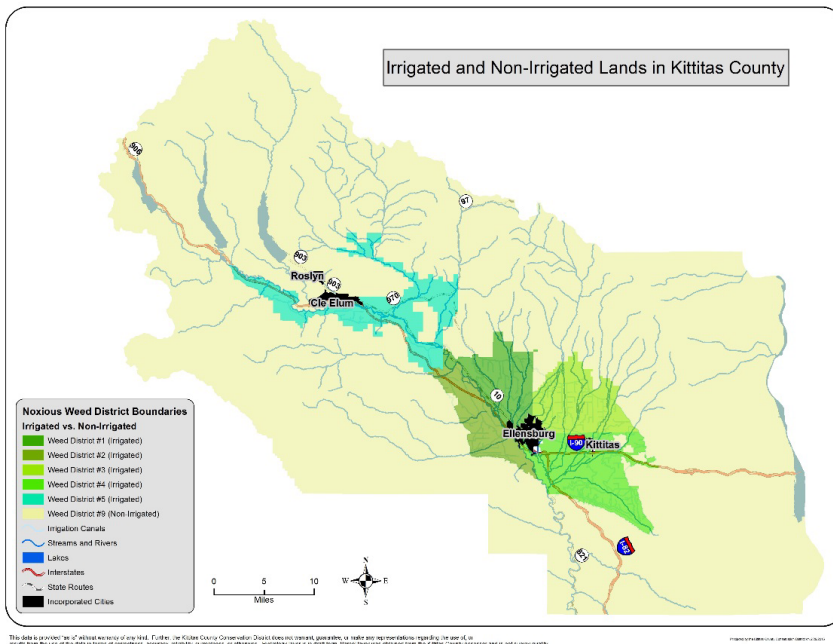
In 2016, the District pursued a renewal of the local funding, but through a new option available through action of the 2012 Legislature. The alternative method of collecting local revenue was called a rate or a charge and is described in RCW 89.08.405. Similar to the special assessment, under rates & charges, each eligible parcel is subject to a charge; there is a cap of \$5 per parcel on eligible parcels to be charged and \$0.10 per acre; and the funding option cannot exceed 10 years.

#### **1.2.1.1 General Approach**

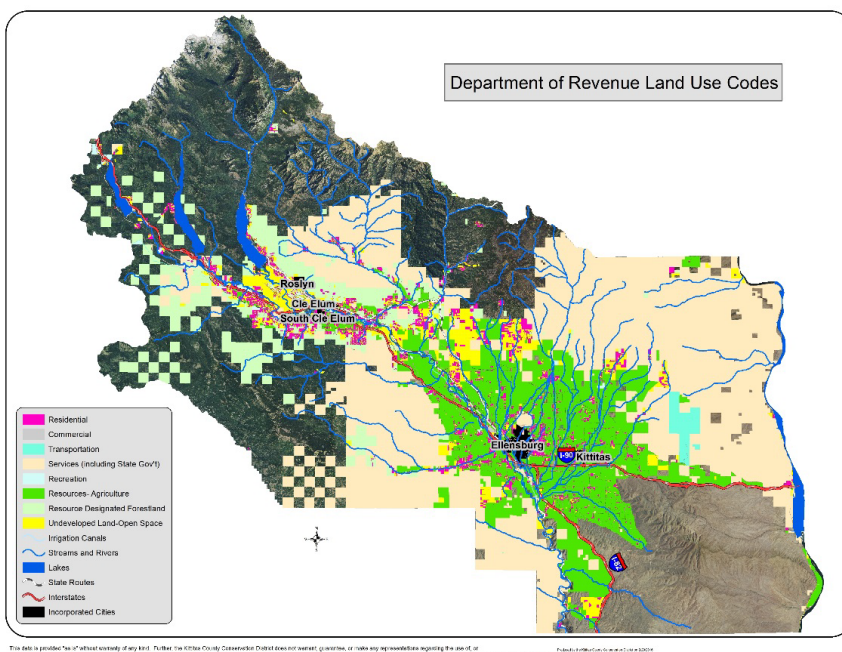
The Kittitas County Conservation District rate structure features distinct rates by land use, based on the services/benefits received from District programs. The District worked to create the rate structure and supporting analysis with the support of the FCS Group. Each District program and associated cost is subject to a three-step allocation process to establish unit costs – the building blocks of rate development. Each priority cost is first allocated between direct and indirect service/benefit provided. Cost recovery is then assigned to either the per parcel or per acre basis. Finally, cost recovery is allocated among customer classes based on the comparative amount of service/benefit enjoyed by each customer class from the resource priority. The Rate Study Report completed in 2016 is available on the District website at <http://www.kccd.net/LocalFunding.htm>.

The general approach was to identify four major land use types, irrigated, non-irrigated, forestland and urban (incorporated municipalities). These land use types tie directly to priority natural resource concerns. A combination of classifications was utilized to identify these land use types. First, similar to the Special Assessment approved in 2006, the boundaries of the local Noxious Weed Districts were utilized to delineate irrigated, non-irrigated and forestlands (see Figure 4). Within these designations, Department of Revenue land use codes assigned by the Kittitas County Assessor were utilized to further differentiate land uses (see Figure 5).





**Figure 4.** The Kittitas County Noxious Weed Control Districts define the boundaries of irrigated and non-irrigated lands. Weed Districts 1-5 (shades of green above) are in the irrigated areas of the County. Weed District 9 (in yellow) encompasses the non-irrigated lands and forest lands.



**Figure 5.** The Kittitas County Assessor utilizes the Department of Revenue land use codes. This map displays the categories of those land use codes.

### 1.2.1.2 Rate Calculation

The land use categories were evaluated based on direct and indirect benefits received and were allocated either no benefit, partial benefit compared to other classes, or full proportional benefit compared to other classes. The full rates are then calculated after subtracting other revenue, such as grant reimbursements, contracts, rental income, and other miscellaneous revenue. To the extent warranted, these offsetting revenues are allocated proportionately. The calculated rates were \$12.05

and \$12.26 for non-irrigated and irrigated parcels respectively. While this would cover the costs of the services and programs less other revenue, the rates would exceed the five dollar per parcel limit prescribed in RCW 89.08.400 and upheld by ESHB 2567. To conform to this cap, the highest rate was decreased to five dollars and the others are decreased proportionately. When the rates are decreased, the lowest per parcel rate becomes \$4.91 and the lowest per acre rate \$0.03. All reduced rates can be seen in the following tables. The per landowner rate for the forest land is \$3.

**Table 1.** Rates Charged for Non-Irrigated Parcels

Land Use Category		Calculated Rates	
		Per Parcel	Per Acre
1	Residential	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
2	Commercial	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
3	Transportation	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
4	Trade	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
5	Services	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
6	Recreational	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
7	Resources AG	\$4.9200	\$0.0300
8	Resources	\$4.9100	\$0.0300
9	Resource Designated Forest Land	\$3.0000	-
11	Undeveloped/Open Space	\$ 4.9200	\$0.0300

**Table 2.** Rates Charged for Irrigated Parcels

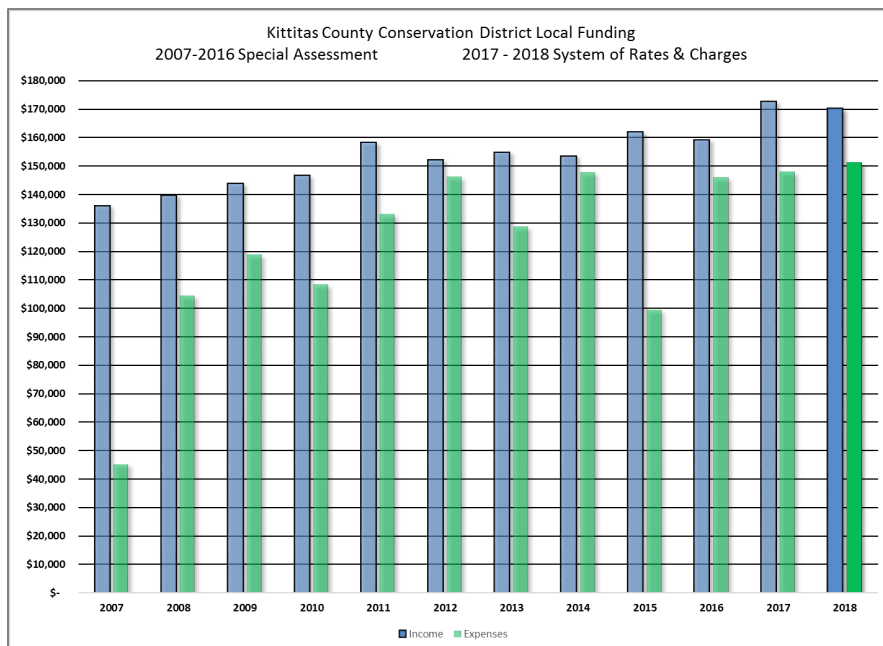
Land Use Category		Calculated Rates	
		Per Parcel	Per Acre
1	Residential	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
2	Commercial	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
3	Transportation	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
4	Trade	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
5	Services	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
6	Recreational	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
7	Resources AG	\$5.0000	\$0.1000
8	Resources	\$4.9900	\$0.1000
9	Resource Designated Forest Land	\$ -	\$ -
11	Undeveloped/Open Space	\$5.0000	\$0.1000



## 2 2018 Report

### 2.1 Financial Report

The funds generated by the District's system of rates & charges are collected by the Kittitas County Treasurer with state and local property taxes, just like the special assessment. In 2018, the Treasurer collected \$170,193 and the District expended \$151,240. Annual revenue and expenditures for these local funds since 2007 are displayed in Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Annual revenue and expenditures for local funds collected through the special assessment (2007-2016) and the system of rates & charges (2017-2018).

The expenditure of funds is estimated in an annual budget provided to the Board of County Commissioners. The budget divides the expenses into seven categories including fees for collecting the funds, administration of the funds, District operations, educational assistance, technical

assistance, financial assistance and contingencies. Table 3 displays the categories, descriptions, budget and actual expenditures.

**Table 3.** 2018 budget and actual expenditures of funds collected through the system of rates & charges.

Category	Description	Budget	Actual
<b>Local Funds Collection Fee</b>	5% Collection fee paid to Kittitas County Treasurer	\$ 8,368	\$8,342
<b>Administration</b>	Administration of Local Funds including annual preparation of the tax rolls, and submission of annual reports & budgets	\$ 2,150	\$ 4,791
<b>District Operations</b>	Ensure continuity of basic District operations by supporting staff time and office/operating expenses	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,749
<b>Educational Assistance</b>	Youth, producer/landowner, and general public outreach and education activities	\$ 24,750	\$ 23,455
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	Technical assistance to plan, design, fund and implement practices that improve water use efficiencies and instream flow, water quality, habitat conditions for fish and wildlife, and forest health	\$ 51,232	\$ 28,769
<b>Financial Assistance</b>	PAM, Small Project, Teanaway Grazing or Forest Health/Fuels Reduction Cost Share	\$ 41,617	\$ 2,261
<b>Contingency Funds</b>	Contingency Funds	\$ 16,735	\$ 14,831
	<b>Totals</b>	\$ 167,352	\$153,003

## 2.2 Activities Report

The expenditure of funds in 2018 supported an array of activities, as well as the collection and administration of the funds. The collection of funds is completed by the Kittitas County Treasurer. Per the interlocal agreement between the District and the Board of County Commissioners, five percent of the funds collected are paid to the Treasurer for the costs of collection. The following sections describe the remaining budget categories and activities in 2018 that were funded in whole or in part by the local funds. Appendix A is a map of the county with the activities summarized by township.

### 2.2.1 Administration

Administration of the system of rates & charges includes completion and submittal of the tax rolls to the Kittitas County Assessor's office, monthly tracking of the expenditures, and annual reports.

### 2.2.2 District Operations

District operations includes support of District staff and office expenses. Support of these expenses ensures that the District can keep the federal indirect rate charged on grants at or below 25%. Approximately 10% of the Financial Manager position is funded, as are costs associated with operating the District building at 2211 W Dolarway Road.



### **2.2.3 Educational Assistance**

The District provides many educational opportunities for landowners and the public. In 2018, the District:

- Published newsletter - The newsletter reached 10,000 landowners with a paper version in October 2018. All editions are available here <http://www.kccd.net/announcements.htm>
- Maintained a website ([www.kccd.net](http://www.kccd.net)) and a Facebook page and incorporated story maps ("Wednesday's in the WUI" - <http://www.kccd.net/firewise.htm>)
- Published "virtual tour" calendars - More than 120 calendars were shared with landowners, stakeholders and partners
- Entered the Kittitas County Fair – 2018 Attendance was more than 57,000

The District also coordinated the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day. In addition, the District worked on some new outreach and education activities. This included continuing the video series about wildfire, conducting prescribed fire outreach, and assisting with Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN) and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group youth education events. The next two sub sections detail these activities.

#### **2.2.3.1 Youth Education**

##### **2.2.3.1.1 Elementary Agricultural Appreciation Day**

In 2017, the District agreed to accept the responsibility for organizing and facilitating the annual Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day. This event had previously been organized by the WSU Extension Kittitas County staff, however due to workload and staffing availability, they were not able to continue organizing the event.

The 17th annual Elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day was held April 10th at the Kittitas Valley Event Center. The program invites third-graders, their teachers, and parents to discover the importance of agriculture and the farming life and includes stations offered by several local farm, ranch, and natural resource organizations. The students explore aspects of cattle ranching, raising livestock, dairying, hay and grain production, irrigation, water and soil conservation, and weed control at ten learning stations. They also learn the importance of reducing germs by thoroughly washing their hands.

More than four hundred elementary students from 20 classrooms across the County participated in the program. Teachers, students and parents truly appreciate learning about agriculture in Kittitas County. Evaluations completed by participating teachers indicated that Ag Appreciation day is informative, engaging, and holds the students interests at each station. This can be credited to the great volunteers who put together superior presentations for the students. This year's presenters included Tip Hudson (WSU Extension), Marc Eylar (Kittitas County Noxious Weed Board), Kat Satnik



(Kittitas County Water Purveyors), Wendy Mee (Kittitas County Conservation District), Scott & Michelle Montgomery (Three Peaks Outfitters), Megan Zapel, Tammi Schoenbachler (Washington State Dairy Women), Dairy Ambassador Anna Teachman, Steven Heithusen (Washington Tractor), Jay Herbers (S&S Equipment), Connie Dunnington, Stefanie McCann, and Steve Russell (Ellensburg FFA) and Becky Carollo (Kittitas FFA) and their members. Farm equipment and animals were provided by Washington Tractor, Broadmoor Farms, S&S Equipment, Bill & Lynette Miller, Kat Satnik, Mike & Pam Scott, and Krysta Brashler.

Group leaders included Ellensburg and Kittitas FFA members and members of the following 4-H Clubs: Get Up & Go, Stirrups & Irons, Hard to Beat, and Kids & Kritters. Timekeepers were Melanie George and Barb Pettit. The Kittitas County Cattlewomen provided lunches for volunteers working the event, as well as educational materials for the students. The Kittitas Board of County Commissioners and the Kittitas Valley Event Center staff provided the location and great support for this event. Funding to support bus costs was provided by the Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen, Kittitas County Water Purveyors, and Kittitas County Conservation District.

Funding to support bus costs was provided by the Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen, Kittitas County Water Purveyors, and the District. The Board of County Commissioners ensures the availability of the Kittitas Valley Event Center.

#### ***2.2.3.1.2 Other Youth Education Events***

District staff collaborated with the Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN), attending two meetings per month and participating in the following activities:

- Designed and led the fire ecology sessions for the 4th grade classes from the Ellensburg School District at Helen McCabe park.
- Assisted with the Mt. Stuart summer reading program by doing site preparation and assisting the students with planting native seeds on the area cleared. Approximately 30 students were involved.

District staff also assisted Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group on the Salmon Day field trip for the Ellensburg school district classrooms. Staff led one station (about 10 children per station) and assisted students potting plants at the end of day.

District staff also presented wildfire fuels reduction and Firewise materials, developed an informative poster and answered questions during spring and fall public events at the PSE Wild Horse Wind Power Project.

#### **2.2.3.2 Wildfire and Wildlife Videos**

In 2017, the District and the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC) worked together to release a video called "How is Kittitas County a Fire Environment?". This video was in direct response

to the Jolly Mountain Fire and capitalizing on the attention it garnered locally and regionally. That video was followed by another more instructional video for landowners titled "Living with Wildfire: A Defensible Space Guide". It was released in September 2018. A companion video, "Wildlife and Wildfire Resilient Forests – a Ken Bevis Story" was released a month later. Both videos provide instruction in managing forestland to reduce fire risk and improve forest health.

A third video was initiated in 2018, but not released until 2019. It is another instructional video about emergency planning and evacuation in the face of wildfire and is titled "Ready, Set, Go". All videos are available on the KFACC YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCir1nr66r1UTnUxTDI-1jkw/videos>.

Funding for these videos reflects the local interest in educational opportunities for landowners and for the community. The first video was funded by the District, the Kittitas Board of County Commissioners, and The Nature Conservancy (via Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council). The second video was funded by the Suncadia Fund for Community Enhancement. The last video about emergency planning and evacuation was funded by PSE Foundation (via the Kittitas Conservation Trust), the District and the City of Ellensburg's Community Grants Program.

### **2.2.3.3 Prescribe Fire Outreach**

In 2018, District staff assisted with the outreach effort for the Cascadia Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX). The two-week TREX program in Central Washington facilitated peer-to-peer experiential learning for fire professionals, natural resource managers, and others interested in advancing their understanding of prescribed fire. Participants learned, practiced, and shared knowledge, skills and experience in a unique, hands-on training environment. The Cascadia TREX was based out of Cle Elum but did prescribed burns throughout the central cascades. More information on prescribed fire can be found here <http://waprescribedfire.org/>.

The outreach efforts included mailers to landowners in the Roslyn area where one of the prescribed fires occurred on private lands. The mailers included information about TREX and links to a map of the proposed burn areas and air quality monitoring and health warnings.

### **2.2.4 Technical Assistance**

The District provided significant technical assistance to landowners, land managers and partners working in Kittitas County. This is the largest budget item for the District's local funds and supports technical assistance related to water conservation, water quality, fish habitat, forest health and wildfire fuels reduction.

#### **2.2.4.1 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

In cooperation with the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP), and specifically the Yakama Nation, District staff worked with a large group of partners to submit a proposal for funding through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The 5-year project "Yakima Integrated Plan – Toppenish to Teanaway Project" was approved for \$7,540,740, of which \$6,140,740 will be dedicated to projects in Kittitas County. NRCS programs included in this award are the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Healthy Forest Reserve Program.

RCPP requires "partner contributions" and does not fund all work related to the project. Specifically, they do not fund administration, outreach or monitoring. The agreement does fund District staff to complete technical assistance tasks related to specific contracts with landowners, however it does not fund overhead related to any of that staff time. Continuing into 2018, the District's local funds were used to support staff time to complete these unfunded tasks and to cover overhead related to the technical assistance work. In May of 2018, the Washington State Conservation Commission provided a grant with funds contributed to the RCPP project. This grant covered the previously unfunded tasks, but District local funds continued to support overhead related to the technical assistance work.

The second sign-up for cost share through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program occurred in November 2018. Thirty-five applications were received, up from the 23 applications received in 2017. District staff continue to work on conservation plans for the highest ranked applications in the first sign-up and then started the planning process for the highest ranked in the second sign-up.

In 2018, a sign-up was also held for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). One application was received from Kittitas County and Forterra for the Hairpin Ranch Project.

#### **2.2.4.2 Forest Health and Wildfire Fuels Reduction**

In 2018, the District had no active grants with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for cost share or on-the-ground work with landowners. This was the first time this occurred in more than six years. DNR changed their strategy to implement fuels reduction work through partners, choosing to keep the cost share funding and landowner agreements with them. District staff provided technical assistance in contacting landowners, conducting assessments and coordinating with DNR staff.

The funding available through the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership, a cooperative effort between the USDA agencies, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service is available in our County here through the "Washington – All Lands, All Hands: Building Resilient Landscapes and Fire Adapted Communities in Washington's East Cascades" project. In Kittitas County, forest landowners in priority areas along South Cle Elum Ridge, North Cle

Elum Ridge, and the Teanaway applied directly to NRCS for three years ending last year. In addition, funds are available directly through DNR in 2018-2020. In 2018, eight landowners' projects were completed on 26 acres with the DNR funds. Another dozen landowners are on the list for potential future projects.

In addition, DNR has funding for a chipper program. District staff are assisting with recruitment of participants and tracking of work. DNR is providing the chipper and crews (either DNR or Washington Conservation Corps crews).

#### **2.2.4.3 Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition**

In May 2017, the District and a large group of stakeholders met at the Swauk Teanaway Grange and formed the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition (KFACC). KFACC has met monthly since its inception and includes more than 20 agencies and organizations including local fire districts, private non-profits, Kittitas County, state and federal agencies.

In 2018, KFACC continued to develop as an organization. The group completed a charter, elected officers, worked on membership, and developed the 2019 strategic plan. KFACC also completed the process of securing a fiscal sponsorship with the Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D).

At the request of KFACC, the District led the effort to update the County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) with funding provided through the Kittitas County Public Works (\$22,000) and Kittitas County Sheriff's Office (\$6,000). The update was completed and the CWPP included in the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan update which was submitted for approval in December 2018.

#### **2.2.4.4 Prescribed Fire**

In addition to the outreach efforts for the Cascadia TREX, District staff also assembled a monitoring plan for the private lands where prescribed fire was implemented in 2018. The monitoring plan consists of photo points and measurements that will be conducted over several years. The data may be used to inform future interpretive signage in the area.

#### **2.2.4.5 Chlorophyll Meter and the Kittitas County Hay Growers**

The District continued to work with the Organization of Kittitas County Timothy Hay Growers & Suppliers to use a meter to measure chlorophyll content or "greenness" of different hay crops under different fertilizer scenarios. This effort is based on work by WSU Extension where they worked to determine in season optimum nitrogen rate for sustainable hay production.

#### **2.2.4.6 USDA Service Center**

The District has provided office space for the USDA Service Center consisting of the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for more than four years. The USDA

agencies can only pay utilities until they are able to conduct a formal lease process for space. This process has been delayed several times since the original agreement with the District expired in 2016. Although the District did send a letter in 2017 advising the agencies to vacate the office by June 30, 2018, that date came and went without any action on their part. The District sent that letter at the encouragement of NRCS staff so that they could use it as leverage to push their leasing staff to move more quickly. That didn't work and the District does not want the agencies to close the local office forcing local landowners to travel to Ephrata and Yakima for service. Discussions continue with NRCS area and state office staff to resolve the situation.

In the meantime, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) offered Technical Assistance grants nationwide to Districts to assist in the NRCS field offices due to the severe staff shortages that most offices are facing. Each state prioritized field offices and applications were submitted. The District was the #2 priority in Washington State and received funding to hire a technician to be placed in the Ellensburg field office. That position was filled in May 2018 and was funded to assist with the NRCS workload for one year.

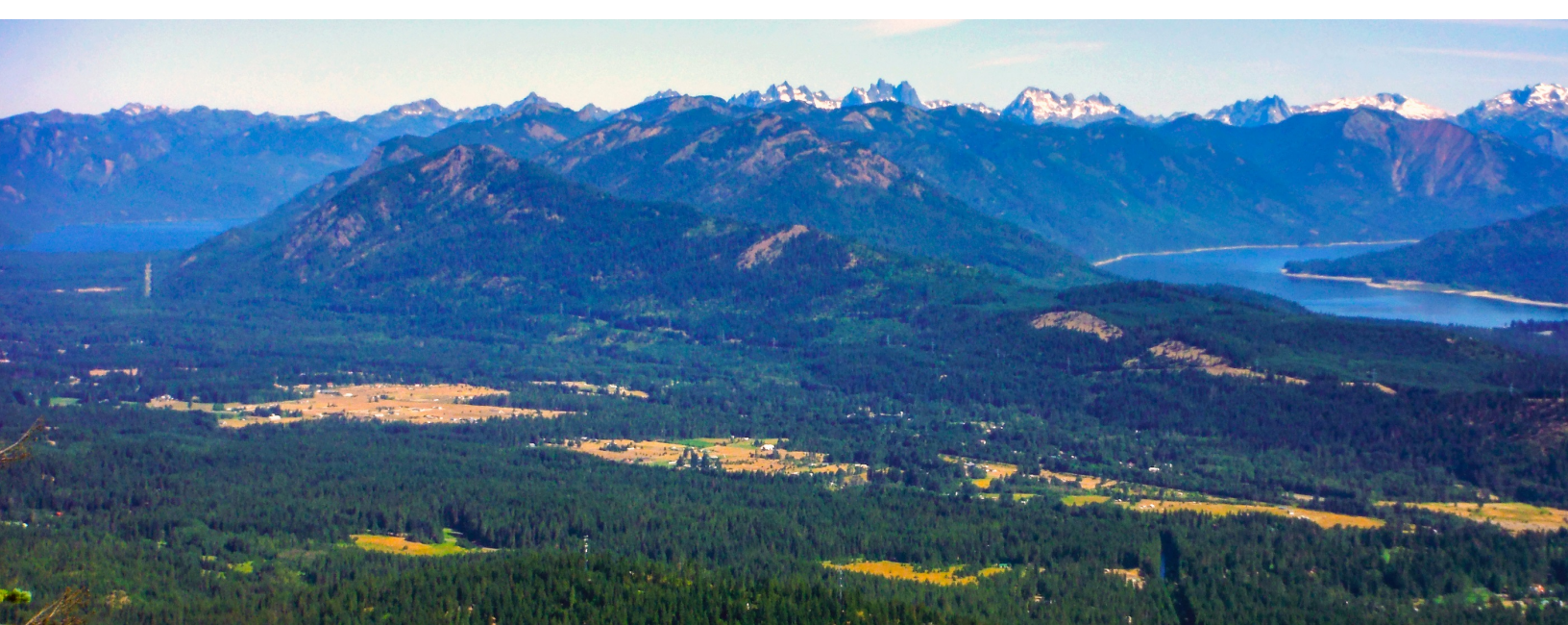
### *2.2.5 Financial Assistance*

Although significant funding was budgeted for financial assistance, only a small portion was actually expended in 2018. This includes cost share to five private landowners for Polyacrylamide (PAM) application for irrigation water induced soil erosion. This includes funding from the District's local funds (rates & charges) and Kittitas Public Works. The District did complete three small projects with Conservation Commission funding. The District did not have funds available for fuels reduction work as had been typical in the past. Those funds had been provided through grants with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), however DNR determined that they would prefer to hold the landowner agreements themselves. District staff did conduct outreach as well as technical assistance with DNR funds to recruit cost share participants into the DNR programs.

### *2.2.6 Contingency Funds*

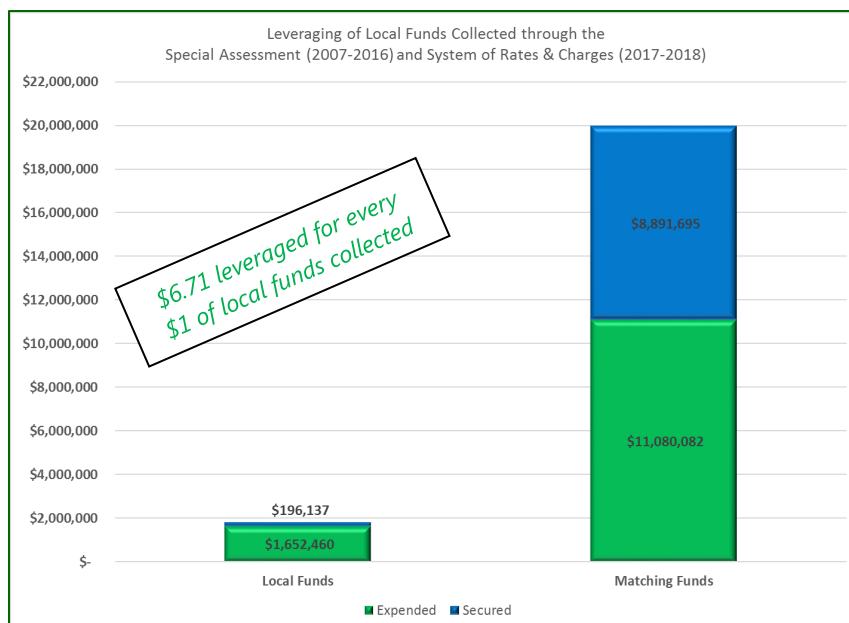
A portion of the budget for 2018 was held as contingency funds. Those funds were utilized for the purchase of a field vehicle to replace an aging vehicle owned by the District. The older vehicle was sold on Public Surplus and the expenditure in this report is less the auction sale revenue for that vehicle.





### 3 Leveraging of Funds

Each year, the District leverages additional resources with the local funds collected through the Special Assessment (2007 to 2016) and now the system of rates & charges (2017-2026). Between 2008 and 2017, expended matching funds and resources totaled \$9,958,602. In 2018, an additional \$1,119,665 in matching funds were expended, bringing the total expended leveraged funds to just over \$11 million. For all expended funds from 2007 to 2018, the District leveraged \$6.70 in federal, state and private funds for every dollar of local funds. There is another \$8.86 million in leveraged funds secured for the future use.



**Figure 7.** Federal, state, local and private funds leveraged by the District with the special assessment and the system of rates & charges.

#### 3.1 Summary of Leveraged Funds

The leveraged funds are from a variety of sources and come to the District both directly and indirectly and or are contracted directly with private landowners. The federal sources include the

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, and Federal Emergency Management Administration. The state sources include the State Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, and the Department of Natural Resources. Private sources include Puget Sound Energy, PSE Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen and Kittitas County Water Purveyors. The funds are further described in Table 4 below.

**Table 4.** Descriptions of the leveraged funds expended in 2018.

Source	Agency/Group	Description	Amount
State Funds	State Conservation Commission	Sprinkler conversion projects, Cultural resources surveys, Technical Assistance funds, and District Operations support	\$ 134,172
		Voluntary Stewardship Program – funding via Kittitas County	\$ 109,658
		Regional Conservation Partnership Program Contributions	\$ 39,486
	Department of Ecology	Yakima Basin Integrated Plan – Habitat and Water Conservation Subcommittee Grants primarily for Manastash Project activities	\$ 309,162
	Department of Natural Resources	Technical assistance funds to help Firewise Communities and support KFACC	\$ 3,615
	Department of Transportation	Funds for sign plan for the Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway completed by KEEN	\$ 5,000
Federal Funds	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Utilities payments for office space	\$ 4,175
		Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) - Technical Assistance	\$ 32,016
		National Association of Conservation Districts - Technical Assistance to Ellensburg Field Office	\$ 59,000
		Salmon Restoration (previously “Future Directions”) – Cost share funding directly to private landowners for fish habitat/stream flow projects	\$ 223,083
	USDA Forest Service	Cooperative Fire Assistance and Cooperative Forestry Assistance via Department of Natural Resources including technical assistance for Joint Chiefs projects	\$ 15,683
		Cooperative Fire Assistance and Cooperative Forestry Assistance via the Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council for Fire Adapted Communities	\$ 21,733
		Joint Chiefs Projects – Cost share funding directly to private forest landowners by the Department of Natural Resources	\$ 28,988
	Homeland Security	County Wildfire Protection Plan update funding through Kittitas County Public Works and the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office	\$ 28,261
	FEMA	Grant fund via Kittitas County for fuels reduction	\$ (1,071)
Local funds	Kittitas County Board of Commissioners	Contribution to the “How is Kittitas County a Fire Environment” video and to the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition	\$6,000
Private/Other Funds	Puget Sound Energy	Wild Horse Wind Facility easement monitoring	\$ 4,568
	PSE Foundation	video via KCT	\$ 10,000
	The Nature Conservancy	Via RC&D	\$ 2,381

	Suncadia Fund for Community Enhancement	Support of video "Living with Wildfire: A defensible space guide"	\$ 10,500
	Kittitas County Farm Bureau	School bus costs for Elementary Agricultural Appreciation Day	\$ 400
	Kittitas County Cattlemen		\$ 400
	Kittitas County Water Purveyors		\$ 350
	Landowners	Cost share by the landowners involved in sprinkler conversion, water quality improvement, and wildland fire fuels reduction work	\$ 73,919

## 3.2 Pursuit of Leveraged Funds

District staff continually research and apply for funds to implement projects and programs developed through landowner contacts and partnering efforts. In 2018, the following applications were submitted:

### Department of Natural Resources:

District staff continued working with DNR staff to secure Joint Chiefs funding through the "Washington – All Lands, All Hands: Building Resilient Landscapes and Fire Adapted Communities in Washington's East Cascades" project. Funds were originally requested in this proposal for fuels reduction work on private lands. Although not initially provided when the proposal was funded three years ago, the funds were eventually provided from the US Forest Service to DNR. DNR now has the responsibility to disburse these funds to conservation districts in the region originally included in the proposal. District staff worked to complete the application process prescribed by DNR to access these funds. A \$250,000 request was submitted with the landowner cost share administered by DNR and outreach and assessment work completed by the District. The request was approved and an agreement for \$30,000 for District staff time was executed for 2018-2020.

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board:

KCCD initially submitted two proposals to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) in 2018. Both had been previously submitted for funding. The first was a proposal requesting funding for engineering & design and construction of a siphon at the Ellensburg Water Company intersection with Whiskey Creek and restoration of Whiskey Creek from the canal to Bender Road. The Whiskey Creek application was withdrawn early as the negotiations between Kittitas County, the Ellensburg Water Company, adjacent private landowners and the developer of the Black Horse site were too dynamic to put into a proposal at that time.

The second was a proposal for fish passage and fish screen work at irrigation diversions that are the lowermost barriers on Cooke Creek. That application was selected for funding (\$396,812) and the agreement for the project executed in 2019.

### Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB):

The District was contacted by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife in 2016 regarding fish passage barriers. WDFW was interested in all barriers (on public land and private) as part of the effort to address the culvert decision. District staff worked together with WDFW and Kittitas County to get a suite of projects that included irrigation diversions, road culverts, and irrigation district intersections with creeks on the list for funding. In the first round, one project was funded through FBRB. It is the irrigation diversion on Coleman Creek in Olmstead Park. The agreement for those funds was executed in 2018 for \$606,762.

District staff continue to work with WDFW and have four identified projects on the current list under consideration by the 2019 Legislature:

- #5 - Coleman Cr Kittitas Co CD \$1,306,080
- #13 - Cooke Cr (2 barriers) Kittitas Co CD \$688,543
- #22 - Caribou Cr (2 barriers) Kittitas Co CD \$355,334
- #27 - Parke Cr (2 barriers) Kittitas Co CD \$302,953

See the full project list here:

[https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/fbrb/rfa\\_jan2018/2019-21-fish-passage-projects.pdf](https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/fbrb/rfa_jan2018/2019-21-fish-passage-projects.pdf)

#### City of Ellensburg

The District applied to the City of Ellensburg for a community grant to assist with efforts by the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. The application was approved and the funding slated for the emergency planning and evacuation video.

#### PSE Powerful Partnerships

The District worked with KFACC and the Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council to apply for a PSE Powerful Partnerships grant. PSE supports the essential work happening in their communities through this competitive application process. The application was approved, providing a lump sum contribution of \$5,000 and the PSE team will provide informative and educational content to share with stakeholders on a monthly basis.

#### PSE Foundation

The District staff worked with the Kittitas Conservation Trust to apply for funds through the Puget Sound Energy Foundation. The application was approved and \$10,000 provided toward the production and editing of a video about emergency preparedness and evacuation. Interviews for the video included Kittitas County Sheriff's Office Commander Darren Higashiyama, Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue Chief John Sinclair, and landowners who experienced levels of evacuation orders during previous events.

#### Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D):

District staff worked with the RC&D to obtain a \$20,469 Washington Fire Adapted Communities grant to complete blog posts, webinars, outreach strategies for the County Wildfire Protection Plan, a Teanaway Resident meeting, and update to the Hidden Valley Fire Adapted Community literature. This grant also funded staff training opportunities like attendance at the 2018 WUI conference.

#### Federal Emergency Management Administration – Washington EMD:

In 2014, the Kittitas County Fire Marshal's office applied for funding and that application was approved for nearly \$250,000. A similar application was submitted in the next funding cycle, but due to delays in the decision-making process, no action was taken on the application until 2016. KCCD was notified in 2017 that the second application was being funded as well. Through 2017, it remained in the permitting and approval process. EMD was prepared to award the agreement in January 2018 but discovered that the Kittitas County Hazard Mitigation Plan had expired and the update had not yet been completed. When the HMP update is approved by FEMA, EMD may award the project.

#### Federal Emergency Management Administration – Washington EMD:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding was available for every Fire Mitigation Assistance Grant (FMAG) declared during calendar years 2017 and 2018 within the state of Washington. In Kittitas County there were two (Jolly Mountain and Ryegrass Coulee). District staff assembled an application for these funds together with several partners. The request totaled \$479,157. This is the list of subprojects included in the application:

- Back-up generators for Kittitas County Fire District #6; City of Roslyn, Cle Elum and South Cle Elum Police Department; and City of Cle Elum City Hall
- Back-up generator hook-up for Fire District #1
- Defensible space (fuels reduction) for alleys, trails and rights-of-way for City of Cle Elum and City of Roslyn; Kittitas Valley Hospital District; and Ronald
- Biomass Pile Removal for City of Cle Elum

The pre-application was submitted in September 2018 and the application was due in early January 2019.

#### Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW)

Each year, the Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) program selects a limited number of communities to receive consulting-based services related to wildfire planning and the wildland-urban interface (WUI). District staff assisted with an application for the City of Cle Elum, but it was not selected for award.

#### National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD):

The NACD offered grants to the conservation districts nationwide to provide a technician to assist the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service with their workload. The District worked with the Washington Association of Conservation District and the NRCS state office to submit an application. The Ellensburg Field office was the #2 priority in the state, just behind the Ephrata field office. The application was approved for funding.



## **Appendix A**

### 2018 Map of District Activities



Kittitas County Conservation District  
2018 Activities and Projects

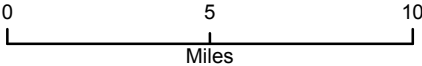
*This map displays on-the-ground activities and projects of the KCCD in 2018. It does not include district-wide projects and programs like the Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition. It also does not include individual technical assistance provided to landowners, such as firewise home assessments, conservation planning, and other more general assistance.*

On-The-Ground Projects/Activities

- Polyacrylamide (PAM)
- Irrigation System Upgrades
- Fish Screen/Fish Passage
- Riparian Restoration & Monitoring
- Forest Fuels Reduction
- Easement Monitoring
- Stream Flow Monitoring
- Project Engineering & Design
- Prescribe Fire

**Legend**

- Activities by Township/Range
- VSP Community Areas
- Kittitas County
- Incorporated Cities
- Firewise USA Communities
- Lakes
- Rivers and Streams
- Interstates



Map data sources: GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community