



Kittitas County Conservation District



Annual Work Plan for 2027
Contact: Anna Lael, District Manager
anna.lael@kccd.net and 509-925-3352 ext. 7

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Acronym Guide

BPA	Bonneville Power Administration	NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
CID	Cascade Irrigation District	OFF	Office of Farmland Preservation
CWDG	Community Wildfire Defense Grant	RCP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources	SRFB	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
DOE	Washington Department of Ecology	VSP	Voluntary Stewardship Program
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	WDFW	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
EWC	Ellensburg Water Company	WRCD	Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council
FBRB	Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board	WCC	Washington Conservation Corps
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	WSSC	Washington State Conservation Commission
KCCD	Kittitas County Conservation District	WSIC	West Side Irrigating Company
KCT	Kittitas Conservation Trust	YBIP	Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
KCWP	Kittitas County Water Purveyors	YTAHP	Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program
KFACC	Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition		
KRD	Kittitas Reclamation District		
MCF	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, and 2026 is fourth consecutive drought year. CID, EWC, WSIC and other smaller water purveyors are not pro-ratable, but they depend highly on return flows from KRD and are 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 2,850 acres of cropland in Kittitas County, placing 4,657 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. Efforts to enhance and protect agricultural land and operations are vital to improving the resiliency of 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, 2019, 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; flood damage repair and protection; 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 2025. The Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council with the [KFACC](#) began 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: 630 acres (15 producers) treated with efficient irrigation systems; three certified Heritage Gardens; one season of stream flow diversion monitoring completed.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 200 landowners contacted; one sign-up for RCPP resulting in 12 applications; one sign-up for Small Projects Cost Share resulting in 8 applications, one mid-year and one annual report each for RCPP 2326 and RCPP 3149; 12 conservation plans; 20 Heritage Gardens plans; three engineering reports completed

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

Water Quantity Activities for FY2027	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>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	70.0	\$227,710	WSCC <u>RCPP Contributions and NRCS Supplemental Agreement</u>
<i>Implement RCPP project 3149 "Upper Yakima River Water Supply and Fish Habitat Improvements" including producer sign-ups and on farm improvements; and design and planning for Cascade Irrigation District and West Side Irrigating Company.</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	238.0	\$2,254,108	Ecology and WSCC <u>RCPP Contributions and NRCS Supplemental Agreement</u>
<i>Conduct Small Project Cost Share sign-up and implement 4 to 5 contracts on 30 acres to improve water use efficiency.</i>	July 2026 to May 2027	CP, PM, DM, PE, RT	28.0	\$59,965	<u>WSCC Natural Resource Investment</u>
<i>Develop two (2) irrigation efficiency improvement projects on 200 acres and develop one to two new projects with preference for trust water components.</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	CP, PM, NPM	35.5	\$25,664	<u>WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies</u>
<i>Continue to monitor stream flow in Manastash Creek and assist with the operation of the irrigation water diversions.</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	PM, DM	53.5	\$31,024	Interlocal Agreement with KR D
<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>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM	6.0	\$4,341	<u>Yakima Basin Integrated Plan</u>
<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>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	PM, CP, PE, DM	6.0	\$3,286	

Seek financial assistance for Teanaway River pump stations at Lambert Road and Red Bridge Road for replacement of VFD pumps and controls.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM	2.0	\$1,428	
Monitor drought conditions, provide assistance as needed and seek funding for drought mitigation activities to the greatest extent possible.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM, CP, NPM	14.0	\$8,050	<u>Drought Declaration</u>
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 update of goals and benchmarks for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	NPM, DM, RT	73.0	\$57,622	WSCC VSP via Kittitas County
Continue to participate in the Kittitas County Water Conservancy Board	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	CP	6.0	\$3,076	
Implement Heritage Gardens program and outdoor water conservation outreach effort for Kittitas County Municipalities	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, OA, RT	89.0	\$66,114	

Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forest Health

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

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Implement 800 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, WSCC, DNR/USFS, Private Funds

Forest Health Activities for FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Continue to secure funding for fire adapted community strategies including fuels reduction and forest health practices in cooperation with KFACC	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, RT, NPM	6.5	\$3,490	<u>KCCD Local Funds</u>
Support biochar demonstrations (particularly flame-capped kilns) with partners and landowners and work to develop either technical or financial assistance if needed.	Jul 2026 to Jan 2027	DM, WP	7.5	\$34,483	<u>CORRIM</u>
Provide technical assistance to assess up to 50 acres of private forestland for forest health and wildfire risks.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	WP, RT	5.5	\$3,444	<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 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, WP, NPM, OA	25.0	\$783,588	USFS via DNR

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 90 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat along 1.0 river mile.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 40 producers contacted resulting in 10 cost share applications; support partners to implement on floodplain/riparian habitat project and to design, plan and permit three riparian/instream habitat projects and assemble prioritization process for and a list of future riparian projects.

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

Water Quality Activities for FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Continue to develop and maintain a project list and seek funding for on-farm irrigation system improvements (e.g. sprinkler conversions) to work toward TMDL goals</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP, PM	5	\$2,587	
<i>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 about 900 acres</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	RT, FM, DM	9	\$6,969	
<i>Support partners restoration and maintenance of riparian forest plantings along the Yakima River, Sorenson Creek, and the Teanaway River; and their development of additional priority riparian projects.</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, NPM, MCF, KCT, YN	57	\$164,096	<u>WSCC Riparian Grant Funding</u>
<i>Provide dairy technical assistance and secure financial assistance as needed.</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	CP, PM	3.5	\$2,305	
<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 update of goals and benchmarks for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	NPM, DM, RT	82	\$52,041	WSCC VSP via Kittitas County
<i>Coordinate with the groups/agencies currently monitoring water quality- Meet with Kittitas County Water Purveyors and Ecology to coordinate activities as needed.</i>	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM	6	\$3,236	WSCC VSP via Kittitas County

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 corrected; one (1) irrigation diversion screened; and two fish screen facilities maintained and improved.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: 12 meetings of the YTAHP Core Team; 3 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

Fish & Wildlife Activities for FY2026	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
YTAHP - Continue to participate in the Core Team and develop projects with private landowners, determining project needs and securing funding.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP, PE, RT, FM, NPM	43.0	\$25,974	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
YTAHP - Maintain riparian planting areas associated with current and past fish screen/passage projects	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	RT, WCC Crews	22.0	\$10,767	BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
Construct fish passage project Naneum Creek and construct fish screen and passage project on Cooke Creek.	Jul 2026 to Apr 2027	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	114.0	\$766,200	Funded by <u>SRFB</u> and BPA Funds via <u>WRC&D</u>
Complete designs for screening and/or passage on one fish passage barrier on Naneum Creek and one irrigation diversion on Coleman Creek	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	32.0	\$170,210	Funded by <u>FBRB</u> , BPA via <u>WRC&D</u> , and RCPP 2329
Partner with Kittitas County Flood Control Zone District to complete designs for one fish passage barrier correction on Whiskey Creek and support Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group in their project to address 2 fish passage barriers on Whiskey Creek	Jul 2026 to Mar 2027	DM, CP	6.3	\$3,191	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&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	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	43.0	\$12,358	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.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	PM, DM	82.0	\$49,672	Funded by WSCC and NRCS Supplemental Agreement
Work with the Kittitas Reclamation District to coordinate projects and activities in priority stream reaches, particularly associated with KRD's stream supplementation program.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM	6.5	\$3,619	KRD Interlocal Agreement
Monitor Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility Conservation Easement in the	Sept 2026	RT, FM	10.0	\$4,634	PSE 5-year Agreement

spring and the fall and produce a monitoring report	to April 2027				
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 update of goals and benchmarks for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM, CP, FM, RT, NPM	92.0	\$66,549	WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County
Support Yakama Nation Fisheries, WDFW & US Fish & Wildlife Service's PIT tag arrays in Yakima River Tributaries	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM	1.5	\$2,890	Data available on www.ptagis.org

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
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	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	RT, FM	8.5	\$5,725	Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u>
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	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP	3.0	\$1,625	Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u>
Develop cost share proposed projects through Sustainable Farms & Fields to incentive use of cover crop systems for soil health improvements for funding in FY28	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP, NPM	3.0	\$1,728	WSCC Sustainable Farms & Fields
Partner with producer to Implement compost project through Kittitas County through Sustainable Farms & Fields	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP, NPM	1.8	\$55,579	WSCC Sustainable Farms & Fields
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 update of goals and	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	NPM, DM, RT	14.0	\$18,177	WSCC <u>VSP</u> via Kittitas County

benchmarks for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.					
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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 2026 to Jun 2027	CP	3.5	\$1,823	
Support and coordinate with WSU Extension's monitoring of the grazing plan for the Wild Horse CRM.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	CP, RT	4.0	\$1,838	
Work with landowner to secure funding for stockwater project on Yakima Canyon pastures	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, PM, PE	2.0	\$1,296	<u>WA Shrub Steppe Restoration & 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 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP, NPM	3.0	\$1,708	
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 update of goals and benchmarks for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	NPM, DM, RT	7.0	\$9,563	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 FY2027	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 WSCC's Office of Farmland Preservation	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, NPM	13.0	\$17,232	<u>RCO WWRP-Farmland</u>

Continue to work with partners to develop conservation easement options and secure funding for interested landowners of varying sizes.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM	6.0	\$3,968	Pending applications through WSCC
Through implementation of Voluntary Stewardship Program, continue to work on issues to maintain and enhance agricultural viability; and complete update of goals and benchmarks for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM	5.0	\$4,138	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; install stream bank stabilization measures on 1,000 feet of bank on Teanaway and Yakima Rivers.

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 FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Implement the Emergency Watershed Protection Program to stabilize streambanks along the Yakima River and Teanaway River where the December 2025 flood event damage poses an imminent threat to life and property.	Jul 2026 to Oct 2026	DM, NPM, PE, Consultant	80.5	\$1,650,693	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 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, RT, OA, NPM, UKC Fuels Crew	188.0	\$43,824	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 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, WP, NPM, RT, OA	248.5	\$2,137,223	<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 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, WP, RT	18.5	\$11,447	
Implement post-fire restoration by addressing areas impacted by wildfires since 2021 through soil stabilization, invasive species control and, in limited situations, removal of hazard trees.	Jul 2026 to Dec 2026	DM, FM, NPM, PE, RT, Consultants	9.9	\$24,986	
Participate in update of the Kittitas County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) led by the Washington RC&D through KFACC.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, WP, RT	4.0	\$2,506	<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 FY2027	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 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, FM, PM, RT	12.5	\$14,739	
Manage and maintain website and social media sites for public outreach and information about KCCD projects and programs	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, OA, NPM, Contractor	9.5	\$8,003	
KCCD Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner	Feb 2027	All Staff, Board of Supervisors	11.5	\$5,586	
Annual presentations at Producer Group meetings (e.g. Kittitas County Hay Growers, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas Co Cattlemen, etc.)	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM	8.0	\$4,743	
Kittitas County Fair- Community Education Booth to reach 30,000 attendees	Sept 2026	DM, NPM, FM	9.0	\$3,882	
Organize and host Agriculture Appreciation Day at Kittitas County Event Center (~400 3rd Grade Students) including coordinating stations and providing materials to students.	Apr 2027	CP, RT, FM, Volunteers	26.0	\$7,511	
Contribute to youth education through "Water on Wheels" with Franklin CD, Ag in the Classroom, Kittitas County Cattlewomen, etc.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, FM	0.5	\$1,381	
Assist KEEN and MCF with youth education activities (e.g. Salmon Days, 4th Grade Camp, Summer Camp)	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	RT	3.5	\$1,517	
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 update of goals and benchmarks for Kittitas County VSP Work Plan.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, CP, NPM, RT	11.0	\$7,153	WSCC VSP via Kittitas County
Assist with Wildfire Awareness Day events including workshops, materials and coordinating presentations	Feb 2027 to Jun 2027	NPM, RT	4.0	\$2,422	Partner with KFACC

<i>Partner with Master Gardeners to provide outreach material and presentations on the native vegetation and water conservation (Heritage Gardens) and fire resistance (KFACT)</i>	<i>Jul 2026 to Jun 2027</i>	<i>RT</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>\$2,321</i>	<i><u>Heritage Gardens</u> and <u>KFACT</u></i>
<i>Small Acreage Management Program- Reinvalidate educational program for small acreage landowners in cooperation with WSU Extension and NRCS (may include Small Ranch Manual, Rural Living Handbook, videos and other media platforms)</i>	<i>Jul 2026 to Jun 2027</i>	<i>CP, DM</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>\$13,429</i>	<i>Partner with WSU Extension and NRCS</i>

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 FY2027	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Complete 12 monthly meetings and 4 special meetings of the Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>Jul 2026 to Jun 2027</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>74.0</i>	<i>\$30,157</i>	
<i>Complete Supervisor elections and appointments, and recruit one new Associate Supervisor</i>	<i>Jan to Mar 2027</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>\$10,671</i>	
<i>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</i>	<i>Jul 2026 to Jun 2027</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>199.0</i>	<i>\$110,862</i>	
<i>Complete Annual Financial Report, Annual Plan of Work, and Annual Report of Accomplishments.</i>	<i>Aug 2026 to May 2027</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>\$17,444</i>	
<i>Complete federal, financial and accountability audit for calendar year 2025</i>	<i>Jul 2026 to Sept 2026</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>34.0</i>	<i>\$24,334</i>	
<i>Review and update KCCD Operations Handbook (Purchasing & Contracting, Personnel, Cost Share policies) as needed.</i>	<i>Jul 2026 to Jun 2027</i>	<i>DM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$1,470</i>	
<i>Complete employee evaluations and review of salaries/wages</i>	<i>Mar 2026 to May 2027</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>\$4,178</i>	

Complete Annual Report for KCCD System of Rates & Charges; conduct meeting with the Kittitas Board of County Commissioners; and renew system of rates & charges.	Jul 2026- Jun 2027	DM, Board of Supervisors	30	\$32,459	
Complete tax roll updates with Kittitas County Assessor for KCCD System of Rates & Charges	Dec 2026 to Jan 2027	DM	3.0	\$2,142	
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 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, Board of Supervisors	5.0	\$2,390	
Provide Engineering Services through a PE position to North Central Engineering Cluster	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	PE, DM, FM	129.0	\$146,046	<u>WSCC Professional Engineer Grant</u>
Staff training (WADE, Conservation Planning, Public Works Contracting, Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities, etc.)	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	All Staff	24	\$13,961	
Supervisor training (WADE, WACD, etc.)	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	Board of Supervisors	12.0	\$2,552	
Maintain and operate District office facilities including financial records (receiving rent, utilities payments, etc.), lawn care, building maintenance, etc.	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, FM, RT, Board of Supervisors	36.0	\$100,232	KCCD Indirect Funds USDA Lease WSCC Lease
Manage leases of office space for the USDA Service Center and WSCC Regional Manager	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, Board of Supervisors	7.0	\$4,744	USDA Lease WSCC Lease
Share resources (drone services, GIS mapping, etc.) with various conservation districts through inter-district agreements	Jul 2026 to Jun 2027	DM, NPM	10.5	\$1,400	

Person Responsible Key:

DM- District Manager (Anna Lael) **FM-** Financial Manager (Emily Love) **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 2027 (Jul 1, 2026 – Jun 30, 2027) is displayed as both program budgets and an object budget. These budgets are a guide to income and expenditures in FY2027 and may change significantly based on grant awards, actual program implementation and project construction.

Object	Budget
Salaries & Wages	\$724,180
Personnel Benefits	\$231,661
Supplies	\$187,000
Office & Operating Supplies	\$160,000
Fuel Consumed	\$7,500
Small Tools & Minor Equipment	\$13,500
Repairs and Maintenance (Vehicles)	\$6,000
Services	\$3,684,064
Professional Services	\$773,987
Travel	\$7,500
Insurance	\$19,600
Utilities	\$11,500
Property Taxes	\$7,314
Rates & Charges Collection	\$8,686
Staff & Board Training	\$1,700
Miscellaneous	\$14,277
Project Construction	\$2,839,500
Debt Repayment	\$84,452
Building Loan	\$81,252
Copy Machine Contract	\$3,200
Cost Share	\$4,690,000
Contingency	\$45,000
TOTAL	\$9,646,357

Fund Source	Ending Date (mo/year)	Total Grant/Program Budget	Expected Income in FY 2027
Direct Federal Funds			
USDA NRCS - RCPP 2326 Supplemental Agreement TA	Dec-25	\$219,845	\$8,500
USDA NRCS - RCPP 3149 Supplemental Agreement FA	Oct-29	\$10,000,000	\$1,800,000
USDA NRCS - RCPP 3149 Supplemental Agreement TA	Oct-29	\$1,520,635	\$120,000
USDA NRCS - Emergency Watershed Protection	Oct-26	\$1,635,300	\$1,635,300
USDA NRCS - 10 Year Lease	Annual	\$41,400	\$41,400
Indirect Federal Funds			
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via WRC&D)	Mar-26	\$235,821	\$216,758
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via WRC&D)*	Mar-27	\$250,000	\$30,000
USFS DNR -- Community Wildfire Defense Grant	Sep-28	\$10,000,000	\$2,920,812
State Funds			
WSSC Implementation Grant	Jun-27	\$126,713	\$126,713
WSSC Natural Resource Investment	Jun-27	\$107,770	\$62,000
WSSC Irrigation Efficiencies	Jun-27	\$548,200	\$450,000
WSSC Professional Engineering	Jun-27	\$237,500	\$237,500
WSSC Forest Health Community Wildfire Resiliency^	Jun-27	\$59,875	\$22,000
WSSC RCPP Contribution (22-28-RP)	Jun-27	\$892,728	\$575,000
WSSC RCPP Contribution (24-28-RP)	Jun-27	\$800,000	\$310,000
WSSC Riparian Grant ^	Jun-27	\$201,261	\$175,000
WSSC - Office of Farmland Preservation (Swauk)	Jun-27	\$123,000	\$17,759
WSSC - Sustainable Farms and Fields^	Jun-27	\$55,630	\$55,630
WSSC - Regional Mgr Rent	Jun-27	\$3,300	\$3,300
WA ECY -- RCPP 3149 Efficiency Improvement^	Jun-29	\$1,000,000	\$2,500
WA ECY -- Heritage Gardens	Sep-27	\$100,000	\$75,000
WA DNR -- Post Fire Response*	Dec-26	\$25,000	\$24,650
RCO-BAFBRB -- EWC at Naneum Creek	Sep-26	\$128,372	\$2,300
RCO-BAFBRB -- Cascade ID at Coleman Creek	Sep-26	\$2,445,320	\$40,000
RCO-BAFBRB -- Naneum Creek at McCullough	Jun-26	\$205,300	\$182,660
RCO-BAFBRB -- Coleman Creek 4.7	Sep-28	\$733,899	\$1,500
Local/Private Funds			
Kittitas Reclamation District	Biennial	\$112,868	\$49,000
WSSC Voluntary Stewardship Program	Jun-27	\$448,893	\$288,506
Kittitas County Interlocal Agreement for Whiskey Creek/EWC	Mar-27	\$123,110	\$2,500
Kittitas County Local Funds (Rates & Charges)	Annual	\$173,715	\$173,715
CORRIM	Jan-27	\$50,000	\$40,000
Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse Conservation Easement	Annual	\$6,000	\$4,000
Donations for Agriculture Appreciation Day	Annual		\$1,700
Interest Income	Annual		\$665
TOTALS		\$32,611,454	\$9,696,368