



# Kittitas County Conservation District



Annual Work Plan for 2024  
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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>	Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>DNR</b>	Washington Department of Natural Resources	<b>OFP</b>	Office of Farmland Preservation
<b>DOE</b>	Washington Department of Ecology	<b>RCP</b>	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
<b>EQIP</b>	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	<b>SRFB</b>	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
<b>EWC</b>	Ellensburg Water Company	<b>USDA</b>	US Department of Agriculture
<b>FBRB</b>	Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board	<b>VSP</b>	Voluntary Stewardship Program
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>WDFW</b>	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
<b>KCCD</b>	Kittitas County Conservation District	<b>WRCD</b>	Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council
<b>KCT</b>	Kittitas Conservation Trust	<b>WSSC</b>	Washington State Conservation Commission
<b>KCPW</b>	Kittitas County Public Works	<b>YBIP</b>	Yakima Basin Integrated Water Management Plan
<b>KCWP</b>	Kittitas County Water Purveyors	<b>YTAHP</b>	Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program
<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. Most of the 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. 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 that small-diameter timber, as well as forest biomass. Opportunities need to be explored in Kittitas County to utilize biomass for economic development.

## 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. During the 2021 legislative session, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$2.35 million to the WDFW to restore and protect shrubsteppe habitat in Eastern Washington amid the threat of wildfires. The new effort is named the Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI). The WSRRI is making policy recommendations, identifying spatial priorities, and setting strategic direction to create a shrubsteppe landscape more resilient to fire, to better respond to wildland fire when it occurs, and to restore habitat after fires.

## 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. The 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 within 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. Rapid population growth in the County accelerated as the pandemic allowed telework. This growth is a significant challenge to working landscapes in Kittitas County. 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 damages including the 2009 and 2011 floods, wildfires (Taylor Bridge, Snag Canyon, Colockum-Tarps, Jolly Mountain, Ryegrass Coulee, Vantage Hwy, etc.), and droughts (2001, 2005, 2015). It's imperative that partners (local, state, federal) work together to continuously build capacity 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 will lead an update of the Kittitas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The current 2019 HMP expires on September 15, 2024.

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

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 50 landowners contacted; one sign-up for RCPP resulting in 20 applications; one mid-year and one annual report for RCPP 2326; 10 conservation plans; and one PL-566 Preliminary investigation feasibility report.

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

Water Quantity Activities for FY2023	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Complete the RCPP project "Yakima Basin Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway" on-farm irrigation projects.	Jul 2023 to Dec 2023	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	3.8	\$14,534	WSCC <u>RCPP Contributions</u>
Conduct Small Project Cost Share sign-up and implement 4 to 6 contracts to improve water use efficiency.	Jul 2023 to May 2024	CP, PM, DM, PE, RT	28.0	\$51,777	WSCC Natural Resource Investment
Partner with the Yakama Nation to "Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership" RCPP, including contracting irrigation projects	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	128.0	\$133,632	WSCC and NRCS Supplemental Agreement
Implement one (1) irrigation efficiency improvement project with a Trust water component and develop cost share contracts for 1 to 3 new projects	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	CP, PE, DM	33.5	\$142,462	DOE YBIP and/or WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies
Work with stock water right holders and Trout Unlimited to acquire Manastash Creek winter stockwater	Jul 2023 to Dec 2023	PM, DM	7.1	\$571,616	DOE Manastash Grant
Monitor stream flow in Manastash Creek and assist with the operation of the irrigation water diversions.	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	PM, DM	56.0	\$28,979	Interlocal Agreement with KRD
Attend meetings and monitor activities of the YBIP to identify opportunities for funding and partnering to implement KCCD priorities.	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, PM	6.0	\$3,986	
Work with the NRCS to provide assistance with the surveys and reports associated with Section 106 consultations.	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, PM	47.5	\$23,699	<u>NACD TA Grant</u>

<i>Assist USDA NRCS Ellensburg Field Office to provide technical assistance to Kittitas County producers and KRD for EQIP-WaterSMART and Classic EQIP</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>PM, CP, NPM, PE, DM</i>	<i>16.0</i>	<i>\$7,324</i>	
<i>Seek funding through the USDA NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL-566) program to address water conservation and fish habitat projects with CID, KRD and Westside Irrigating Company.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, Consultants</i>	<i>35.0</i>	<i>\$15,627</i>	
<i>Continue to promote, plan, implement and monitor projects to improve water use efficiencies where ag practices intersect critical areas as part of VSP</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>\$30,241</i>	<i>WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Continue participation in the Kittitas County Water Conservancy Board</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,259</i>	
<i>Implement the "Heritage Gardens" program funded through the Municipal Subcommittee of YBIP</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>72.5</i>	<i>\$31,788</i>	<i>Agreement with Benton CD</i>

## 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 tailwater returns to TMDL compliance points by converting 80 acres to sprinkler irrigation; reduce sediment and nutrient movement to waterways by applying PAM to 900 acres; improve riparian habitat on 12 acres

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 60 producers contacted resulting in 8 applications to RCPP, 12 VSP assessments and 6 conservation plans; maintenance of 6 acres of riparian planting along Wilson Creek, Cooke Creek, Coleman Creek and Naneum Creek; and install plantings on 4 acres along the Yakima River.

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

<b>Water Quality Activities for FY2024</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Continue to develop projects and seek funding for on-farm improvements to achieve TMDL goals</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, CP, PM</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>\$3,994</i>	
<i>Improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and transport to waterways - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>RT, FM, DM</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>\$6,438</i>	<i>Partner with KCPW</i>
<i>Support MCF's restoration of riparian habitat along the Yakima River,</i>	<i>Jul 2023</i>	<i>DM, PM, Crew</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>\$56,683</i>	<i>WSCC Riparian</i>

Sorenson Creek, Wilson Creek and the development of additional projects	to Jun 2024				Funding or VSP
Continue to promote, plan, implement and monitor projects to improve water quality conditions where agricultural practices intersect critical areas as part of VSP	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	NPM, DM, RT	79	\$47,309	WSSC VSP via Kittitas County
Coordinate with the groups/agencies currently monitoring water quality- Meet with KCWP and DOE to coordinate activities as needed	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM	6	\$7,839	

## 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:** Three (3) fish passage barriers removed; four (4) irrigation diversions screened; 1 acre planted; and three fish screen facilities maintained.

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** 12 meetings of the YTAHP Core Team; 6 design reports; 4 bid ready designs; 10 VSP assessments; and one Easement Monitoring Report

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

Fish & Wildlife Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
YTAHP - Continue to participate in the Core Team and develop projects with irrigators/ landowners	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, CP, PE, RT, FM, NPM	62.0	\$29,596	Funded by BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>
YTAHP - Maintain riparian planting areas associated with current and past fish screen and passage projects	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	RT, WCC Crews	22.0	\$10,137	BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>
Complete 1 acre cottonwood planting on Swauk Creek	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	RT, WCC Crews	18.0	\$19,558	Funded by <u>SRFB</u>
Finalize design, secure permits and construct fish passage and screening projects associated with four irrigation diversions on Coleman Creek, Naneum Creek, and Swauk Creek	Jul 2023 to Apr 2024	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	122.0	\$844,119	Funded by <u>FBRB</u> and BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>
Secure permits and construct to remove decommissioned irrigation diversion structure on Coleman Creek.	Sep 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	69.0	\$119,170	Funded by <u>SRFB</u> and BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>
Continue work with the CID on plans and designs for their canal intersections with Naneum Creek, Coleman Creek and Caribou Creek	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	60.0	\$118,936	<u>FBRB</u> and BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>



Complete the design for the Naneum Creek - EWC intersection for fish passage.	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, CP, PE, Consultants	57.0	\$76,801	Funded by USFWS, <u>SRFB</u> and YTAHP
Completed design for screening and passage on two diversions in Cooke Creek and initiate designs for fish passage barriers on Naneum Creek and Whiskey Creek.	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, CP, PM, PE, Consultants	75.0	\$58,773	BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>
Partner with the Yakama Nation to "Middle Columbia Steelhead Partnership" RCPP, including fish screen, fish passage and riparian planting projects	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, PM, FM, RT, NPM	26.5	\$21,203	Funded by WSCC and NRCS Supplemental Agreement
Monitor stream flow in Manastash Creek and assist with the operation of the three fish screens facilities.	Jan 2024 to Jun 2024	PM, DM	56.5	\$32,420	KRD Agreement
Replace compressors at fish screen facilities on Manastash Creek to improve operations.	Jul 2023 to Mar 2024	DM, PM	15.0	\$65,437	BPA Funds via <u>WRC&amp;D</u>
Work with the KRD to coordinate projects and activities in priority areas and stream reaches	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	PM, DM	6.0	\$2,902	Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u>
Monitor Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility Conservation Easement twice yearly	Oct 2023 to May 2024	RT, OA, DM	17.5	\$6,780	PSE 5-year Agreement
Continue to plan, implement and monitor upland, riparian, & instream habitat projects where ag practices intersect critical areas as part of VSP	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, PM, CP, FM, RT, NPM	82.0	\$61,042	WSCC VSP via Kittitas County
Support Yakama Nation Fisheries, WDFW & US Fish & Wildlife Service's PIT tag arrays in Yakima River Tributaries	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, PM	1.5	\$2,770	

## 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; 10 VSP assessments; 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

<b>Soil Quality &amp; Health Activities for FY2024</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Reduce Irrigation Induced Soil Erosion - Continue to offer the PAM Cost Share program to producers to reduce soil erosion</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>RT, FM</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>\$5,010</i>	<i>Partner with KCPW</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 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, CP</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,422</i>	<i>Funded by <u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>
<i>Develop Cover Crop cost share program to incentive use of cover crop systems for soil health improvements</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>27.0</i>	<i>\$33,410</i>	<i>WSSC 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 VSP</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>\$7,131</i>	<i>WSSC VSP via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Explore opportunities to acquire a no-till drill to rent to producers in Kittitas County</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, CP, NPM</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>\$3,273</i>	<i>WSSC Sustainable Farms &amp; Fields</i>

## Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forest Health

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

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** Fuels reduction will occur on 14 acres in high-risk areas of Kittitas County

**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Attend 12 KFACC meetings; 5 Landowners/managers contacted resulting in three (3) cost share agreements; 3 forest assessments; one grant application completed

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

<b>Forest Health Activities for FY2024</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Continue to secure funding for fire adapted community strategies including fuels reduction and forest health practices as part of KFACC</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, RT, NPM</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$2,840</i>	<i><u>KCCD Local Funds</u></i>
<i>Implement 10 acres of fuels reduction and forest health practices as part of the Collaborative Landscape and Community Resilience in the Cle Elum Priority Landscape Project.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Dec 2023</i>	<i>RT, DM, FM</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>\$57,275</i>	<i>USFS via DNR</i>

<i>Provide financial assistance to two landowners on 4 acres to implement fuels reduction and forest health practices</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Nov 2023</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>\$9,879</i>	<i>Funded by FEMA Grant 4188</i>
<i>Assess 50 acres of private forestland in cooperation with DNR's Landowner Assistance Forester. Assessments will focus on forest health and fire risks.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>NPM, RT</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>\$3,535</i>	
<i>Investigate US Forest Service Community Wood Grant Program for opportunities to complete a feasibility study of potential new markets for wood products and renewable wood energy.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,193</i>	

## Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Range Health

**Goal(s):** By 2024, document positive trend (health) on rangeland in Kittitas County

**Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:** Install 8,100 feet of wildlife friendly fencing;

**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 install 1 mile of wildlife friendly fencing.

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

<b>Range Health Activities for FY2024</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Support and coordinate with NRCS and WSU Extension's efforts to provide technical and financial assistance to rangeland operators.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>CP</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>\$1,582</i>	
<i>Support and coordinate with WSU Extension's monitoring of the grazing plan for the Wild Horse CRM.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>CP, RT</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$1,588</i>	
<i>Continue to plan, implement and monitor projects to improve range health where ag practices intersect critical areas as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>NPM, DM, RT</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>\$3,583</i>	<i>WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Work with landowners impacted by the Vantage Hwy Fire to replace burned fencing with wildlife friendly fencing</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$62,538</i>	<i>Washington ShrubSteppe Restoration &amp; Resiliency Initiative</i>

## District Program Area: Working Lands Protection

**Goal(s):** Preserve heritage and natural resource value of working lands in Kittitas County  
**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Initiate one farmland preservation conservation easement with the Office of Farmland Preservation; participate in twelve (12) partner meetings; and investigate funding opportunities for local USDA processing facilities, biochar and carbon markets, etc.  
**Funding Source(s):** WSCC, KCCD Local Funds

Development and Natural Resource Impacts Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Implement farmland preservation grant for 600-acre conservation easement in the Swauk watershed in partnership with WSCC OFP</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, NPM</i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>\$57,825</i>	<i><u>RCO</u> <u>WWRP-</u> <u>Farmland</u></i>
<i>Continue to develop conservation easement options for interested producers including working with WSCC OFP, KCT, NRCS and other partners</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$3,316</i>	
<i>Through implementation of VSP, continue to work on issues to maintain and enhance agricultural viability (e.g. options for mobile livestock slaughter units, carbon markets, biochar, etc.).</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$3,189</i>	<i>WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>

## District Program Area: Disaster Response

**Goal(s):** Continuously build community capacity to improve resiliency in the face of natural disasters.  
**Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:** Participate in 12 meetings of KFACC; participate in four (4) partner meetings; Install four (4) backup generators; conduct chipping program serving 120 landowners and 10 communities; and participate in HMP update.  
**Funding Source(s):** FEMA, WSCC, DNR, KCCD Local Funds

Development and Natural Resource Impacts Activities for FY2024	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
<i>Work with City of Cle Elum, Kittitas County Fire District #1 and Kittitas County Fire District #6 to install back-up generators</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>24.0</i>	<i>\$308,721</i>	<i>FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant</i>
<i>Partner with Upper Kittitas County Fuels Crew to conduct chipping program in Kittitas County to assist at least 10 communities and 120 landowners.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, RT, UKC Fuels Crew</i>	<i>188.0</i>	<i>\$62,795</i>	
<i>Begin "Kittitas County Resilient Landscapes", a Community Wildfire Defense Grant Project focused on cross-boundary prescribed burning, hardened evacuation routes, and potential control lines (PCLs).</i>	<i>Sept 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, WP, NPM, Consultant</i>	<i>85.0</i>	<i>\$203,430</i>	<i><u>USFS</u> <u>funding</u> <u>via WA</u> <u>DNR</u></i>

<i>Continue to participate in and facilitate (as needed) KFACC and implement the KFACC Plan of Work</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, RT</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>\$11,771</i>	
<i>Participate in update of the Kittitas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>\$1,267</i>	

## 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 600 elementary students contacted and provided information.

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

<b>Education/Outreach Activities for FY2024</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Complete annual newsletter with circulation of 14,000 and occasional electronic newsletters as needed</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, FM, PM, RT</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>\$13,282</i>	
<i>Manage and maintain website and social media sites for public outreach and information about KCCD projects and programs</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, OA, NPM, Contractor</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>\$9,414</i>	
<i>KCCD Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner</i>	<i>Feb 2024</i>	<i>All Staff, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>\$5,003</i>	
<i>Annual presentations at Producer Group meetings (e.g. Kittitas County Hay Growers, Kittitas County Farm Bureau, Kittitas County Cattlemen, etc.)</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>\$4,225</i>	
<i>Kittitas County Fair- Community Education Booth to reach 30,000 attendees</i>	<i>Sept 2023</i>	<i>DM, NPM, FM</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>\$3,436</i>	
<i>Organize and host Agriculture Appreciation Day at Kittitas County Event Center (~400 3rd Grade Students)</i>	<i>Apr 2024</i>	<i>CP, RT, FM, Volunteers</i>	<i>35.0</i>	<i>\$11,171</i>	
<i>Contribute to youth education through "Water on Wheels" with Franklin CD, Ag in the Classroom, Kittitas County Cattlewomen, etc.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, FM, Franklin CD</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>\$1,340</i>	

<i>Assist KEEN and MCF with youth education activities (e.g Salmon Days, 4th Grade Camp, Summer Camp)</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>RT</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>\$1,341</i>	
<i>Continue to implement the Kittitas County VSP Outreach Plan to ensure the agricultural community and other interested parties are aware of VSP</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, CP, NPM, RT</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>\$6,767</i>	<i>WSCC VSP via Kittitas County</i>
<i>Assist with Wildfire Awareness Day events including workshops, materials and coordinating presentations</i>	<i>Feb 2024 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>NPM, RT</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$2,430</i>	<i>Partner with KFACC</i>
<i>Partner with Master Gardeners to provide outreach materials and presentations on the native vegetation in relation to water conservation and fire resistance</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>RT</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>\$2,061</i>	<i>Heritage Gardens and KFACC</i>
<i>Small Acreage Management Program- Reinvigorate educational program offering assistance to landowners (may include Small Ranch Manual, Rural Living Handbook, videos and other media platforms)</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>CP, DM</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>\$12,271</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

<b>District Operations Activities for FY2024</b>	<b>Target Dates</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Time (Days) Required</b>	<b>Estimated Funding</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<i>Complete 12 monthly meetings and 4 special meetings of the Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>74.0</i>	<i>\$26,672</i>	
<i>Complete Supervisor elections and appointments, and recruit one new Associate Supervisor</i>	<i>Nov 2023 to Mar 2024</i>	<i>DM, FM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>\$9,454</i>	
<i>Complete financial and administrative functions including monthly accountant reports, meeting minutes, payroll, tracking funding and</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>154.0</i>	<i>\$77,239</i>	

<i>expenditures, vouchering all grant sources, maintaining district files &amp; documents and managing inventory</i>					
<i>Complete Annual Financial Report, Annual Plan of Work, and Annual Report of Accomplishments.</i>	<i>Aug 2023 to May 2024</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>\$13,632</i>	
<i>Complete financial and accountability audit for calendar years 2020-2022</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Sep 2023</i>	<i>DM, FM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>\$30,350</i>	
<i>Review and update KCCD Operations Handbook (Purchasing &amp; Contracting, Personnel, Cost Share policies) as needed.</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, OA, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>\$1,278</i>	
<i>Complete employee evaluations and review of salaries/wages</i>	<i>Mar 2023 to May 2024</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>\$3,696</i>	
<i>Complete Annual Report of Activities for KCCD System of Rates &amp; Charges and conduct an annual meeting with the Kittitas Board of County Commissioners to discuss on-going programs and projects</i>	<i>Feb to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>\$4,814</i>	
<i>Complete tax rolls with Kittitas County Assessor for KCCD System of Rates &amp; Charges</i>	<i>Dec 2023 to Jan 2024</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>\$1,900</i>	
<i>Meet with Roslyn and Cle Elum City Council and/or staff to prioritize technical assistance and develop natural resource related projects and programs</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>DM, Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>\$2,112</i>	
<i>Provide Engineering Services to North Central Engineering Cluster (Okanogan, Cascadia, South Douglas, &amp; Foster Creek CDs) for various natural resource projects</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>PE, DM, FM</i>	<i>99.0</i>	<i>\$169,754</i>	<i><u>WSSC Professional Engineer Grant</u></i>
<i>Staff training (WADE, Conservation Planning, Public Works Contracting, Firewise/Fire Adapted Communities, etc.)</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>All Staff</i>	<i>24.0</i>	<i>\$12,589</i>	
<i>Supervisor training (WADE, WACD, etc.)</i>	<i>Jul 2023 to Jun 2024</i>	<i>Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>\$2,227</i>	

Maintain and operate District office facilities including financial records (receiving rent, utilities payments, etc.), lawn & building maintenance	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, FM, RT, Board of Supervisors	36.0	\$98,641	KCCD Indirect Funds USDA Lease WSCC Lease
Manage leases of office space for the USDA Service Center and WSCC Regional Manager	Jul 2023 to Jun 2024	DM, Board of Supervisors	7.0	\$4,363	

**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 (vacant)  
**PM-** Manastash Project Manager (Sherry Swanson) **NPM-** Natural Resources Project Manager (Brent Dixon)  
**WP-** Wildfire Preparedness Program Manager (new position)

## Budget

The Kittitas County Conservation District budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) is displayed as both program budgets and an object budget. These budgets are a guide to income and expenditures in FY2024 and may change significantly based on grant awards, actual program implementation and project construction.

Object	Budget
<b>Salaries &amp; Wages</b>	<b>\$540,498</b>
<b>Personnel Benefits</b>	<b>\$220,482</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$124,665</b>
Office & Operating Supplies	\$81,958
Fuel Consumed	\$6,500
Small Tools & Minor Equipment	\$15,400
Repairs and Maintenance (Vehicles)	\$20,807
<b>Services</b>	<b>\$2,097,025</b>
Professional Services	\$602,487
Travel	\$7,500
Insurance	\$16,500
Utilities	\$29,961
Property Taxes	\$7,314
Rates & Charges Collection	\$8,716
Staff & Board Training	\$4,648
Miscellaneous	\$9,739
Project Construction	\$1,410,160
<b>Debt Repayment</b>	<b>\$83,332</b>
Building Loan	\$81,252
Copy Machine Contract	\$2,080
<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>\$914,600</b>
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,025,602</b>

Fund Source	Ending Date (mo/year)	Total Grant/Program Budget	Expected Income in FY 2024
<b>Direct Federal Funds</b>			
USDA NRCS - RCPP Supplemental Agreement TA	Dec-25	\$175,000	\$85,000
USDA NRCS - 10 Year Lease & TI	Annual	\$74,747	\$74,747
<b>Indirect Federal Funds</b>			
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via RC&D)	Mar-24	\$316,855	\$281,543
Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program (BPA via RC&D)*	Mar-25	\$270,500	\$26,689
RCO SRFB -- Swauk Creek Screening & Passage	Dec-23	\$268,691	\$18,000
NACD Technical Assistance Grant	Sep-23	\$61,388	\$20,000
FEMA- Kittitas County Fuels Reduction Project	Nov-23	\$246,094	\$9,900
FEMA - KCCD Defensible Space & Infrastructure	Mar-25	\$411,298	\$317,471
USFS DNR -- Landscape Scale Restoration	Jul-25	\$59,525	\$59,525
USFS DNR -- Community Wildfire Defense Grant*	Sep-28	\$10,000,000	\$203,430
<b>State Funds</b>			
WSCC Implementation Grant	Jun-24	\$128,935	\$128,935
WSCC Natural Resource Investment	Jun-25	\$116,000	\$75,000
WSCC Irrigation Efficiencies	Jun-25	\$13,000	\$13,000
WSCC Professional Engineering	Jun-24	\$200,000	\$200,000
WSCC Community Wildfire Resiliency*	Jun-24	\$30,000	\$30,000
WSCC RCPP Contribution (K1847)	Jun-24	\$1,669,600	\$25,000
WSCC RCPP Contribution (22-28-RP)	Jun-25	\$430,931	\$190,000
WSCC Salmon Restoration Funding^	Jun-25	\$50,000	\$50,000
WSCC Voluntary Stewardship Program	Jun-25	\$238,000	\$116,000
WSCC - Office of Farmland Preservation*	Jun-25	\$70,000	\$57,825
WSCC - Sustainable Farms and Fields^	Jun-25	\$90,000	\$90,000
WSCC - WSRRI Fire Restoration^	Jun-24	\$62,538	\$62,538
WSCC - Regional Mgr Rent	Oct-24	\$3,300	\$3,300
WA ECY -- Manastash Pipelines Project	Dec-23	\$2,141,165	\$573,625
WA ECY -- Upper Yakima RCPP Efficiency Improvement	Jun-25	\$400,000	\$209,010
RCO-SRFB --- Yakima Targeted Investments	Mar-24	\$883,088	\$822,500
RCO-BAFBRB -- EWC at Naneum Creek	Jun-25	\$844,406	\$5,658
RCO-BAFBRB -- Cascade ID at Coleman Creek	Jun-25	\$1,481,227	\$2,000
RCO-BAFBRB -- Naneum Creek at McCullough*	Jun-26	\$205,300	\$1,000
<b>Local/Private Funds</b>			
Kittitas Reclamation District	Biennial	\$112,868	\$56,434
Benton Conservation District - Heritage Garden Program	Dec-23	\$90,100	\$33,849
Kittitas County Road Funds- PAM Cost Share	Annual	\$5,000	\$2,500
Kittitas County Local Funds (Rates & Charges)	Annual	\$174,317	\$174,317
Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse Conservation Easement	Annual	\$7,500	\$5,214
Donations for Agriculture Appreciation Day	Annual		\$1,150
Interest Income	Annual		\$442
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$21,331,372</b>	<b>\$4,025,602</b>

\*Grants not formally contracted but expected in FY24

^Grants to be applied for in FY24