



# KITTITAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Legislative District: 13 Congressional District: 8

## Other accomplishments:



The 16th annual elementary Agriculture Appreciation Day involved over 400 third graders and their parents from around the county.



Kittitas County Fire Districts operated a roving chipper that assisted 20 communities and 200 landowners with fuels reduction.



A gravity irrigation diversion was converted to a pump station with fish screen. The passage barrier was removed on Naneum Creek.

## 2017 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

### MANASTASH CREEK RESTORATION: REED DIVERSION DAM REMOVAL



Reed Diversion dam in Manastash Creek created a significant fish passage barrier into more than 20 miles of habitat.

#### Resource challenge

The Manastash Creek Restoration Project began over 15 years ago to address fish passage for mid-Columbia summer steelhead, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Access to more than 25 miles of Manastash Creek was blocked by gravity irrigation diversion dams and lack of instream flow. Over several years irrigation diversions were rebuilt with fish screens and fish passage structures until just one barrier remained — the Reed Diversion dam.

#### Project summary and results

Over the last decade, work by the Kittitas County Conservation District and countless partners has resulted in the construction of new irrigation water diversion facilities designed with proper screens to prevent fish from entering the irrigation ditches and incorporating fish passage structures. In 2014, pipelines were constructed to allow the water diverted at the Reed Diversion dam to be diverted at one of the new facilities. This meant the Reed Diversion dam was no longer needed and could be removed, fully restoring passage into Manastash Creek. The project to remove it was completed in December 2016.



Manastash Creek after removal of the Reed Diversion dam. In early 2017, adult steelhead were detected above the site.

**Key partners:** Washington Department of Ecology; Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Kittitas Reclamation District; Yakama Nation; Yakima Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Working Group

## MORE WORK TO DO

- ▶ Complete the Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan for priority Kittitas County watersheds.
- ▶ Implement the Regional Conservation Partnership Program project beginning with a producer sign-up for on-farm cost-share for drought/water efficiencies, water quality, and fish habit improvements.
- ▶ Complete an update of the county-wide Fire Protection Plan, in cooperation with the Kittitas Fire-Adapted Communities Coalition.