



# Kittitas County Conservation District

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 Legislative District: 13 Congressional District: 8

## Other Accomplishments



Published on YouTube a short video titled "Kittitas County: A Fire Environment" to educate landowners about fire risks. Photo by Kittitas Fire Adapted Communities Coalition



Completed the Voluntary Stewardship Program work plan for Kittitas County with the Watershed Group.



Completed a 12-inch diameter buried pipeline that is 1,960 feet long and serves six landowners in the Manastash area.

## 2018 FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

### Regional Conservation Partnership Program



First of 23 producers to sign up for the RCPP Environmental Quality Incentives Program cost share funding in October 2017.

### Resource Challenge

Water conservation, drought resiliency, water quality degradation, and inadequate habitat for Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed fish species are major resource challenges in the upper Yakima River watershed. Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) is continually working to assist a list of producers with 4,000 acres of rill irrigated lands who want to convert to the more efficient sprinkler irrigation systems, as well as landowners needing fish screens, fish passage, and fish habitat assistance.

### Project Summary and Results

In partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, KCCD applied for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funds for a five-year project called "Yakima Integrated Plan - Toppenish to Teanaway." The project was awarded \$7.5 million, of which \$6 million is designated for Kittitas County for both financial and technical assistance to producers. The agreements were signed in September 2017. Twenty-three applications were received in the first sign-up. Eight were funded, providing \$770,000 in financial assistance. Annual sign-ups will continue through 2020.

### New Cost Share Funding for On-Farm Improvements 2017-2021



Areas of Kittitas County eligible for funding for irrigation upgrades, fish habitat improvements, and conservation easements.

### Key Partners

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Washington State Conservation Commission; Washington State Department of Ecology; Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; Washington State Department of Natural Resources; Kittitas County; Trout Unlimited; Forterra

## Priorities for 2019...

- ▶ Complete an instructional video about defensible space and another about preparing for and evacuating in response to a wildfire.
- ▶ Provide cost share to 10-15 landowners to convert to more efficient sprinkler irrigation systems on 700-800 acres.
- ▶ Remove three fish passage barriers that will open two miles of habitat, and install fish screens on four irrigation diversions.