

KITTITAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishments



Heritage gardens

Through the Heritage Gardens Program, Kittitas County Conservation District assisted 29 landowners and helped establish three demonstration gardens. Landowners received a site visit and a plan to convert their spaces to low water use native vegetation with an emphasis on pollinators. The District worked with Washington State University's Master Gardener's to conduct workshops and participate in local outreach events.

Photo Caption: Kittitas County Conservation District's Wendy Mee (pink hat) pointing out native species to attendees of the Master Gardener workshop at the Heritage Gardens demonstration site at the Kittitas Valley Event Center.



Wildfire fuels reduction and Community Wildfire Resiliency

The District partners with the Upper Kittitas County Fuels Crew to provide chipping services to homeowners in the high priority area of Northern Kittitas County. Each year, approximately 200 homeowners participate, pruning and limbing their trees and shrubs and piling materials for the crew to chip.

Photo Caption: Landowners pile their materials in an easily accessible location for the Upper Kittitas County Fuels crew to chip.



Fish passage restored in Yakima River Tributaries

Kittitas County Conservation District completed three projects addressing fish passage on Coleman Creek and Naneum Creek near Ellensburg. On both creeks, the lowermost barriers were corrected and collectively passage into 3.2 miles of habitat for Mid-Columbia River Summer Steelhead, Spring Chinook and Coho were restored.

Photo Caption: Coleman Creek fish passage and screening project. This structure replaced the irrigation diversion that was unscreened and a fish passage barrier. The new diversion has fish screens incorporated (silver panels on left side) and is constructed to allow year-round fish passage.

Other accomplishments



In the shrub steppe of eastern Kittitas County, around Skookumchuck Creek, 8,000 feet of fence were retrofitted to be wildlife friendly and another 2000 feet were removed.



Along North Cle Elum Ridge, 571 acres of fuels reduction work was completed with six landowners utilizing Community Wildfire Defense Grant funds.



In the Kittitas Valley, 326 acres of sprinkler conversions on irrigated cropland were completed with Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program funds.